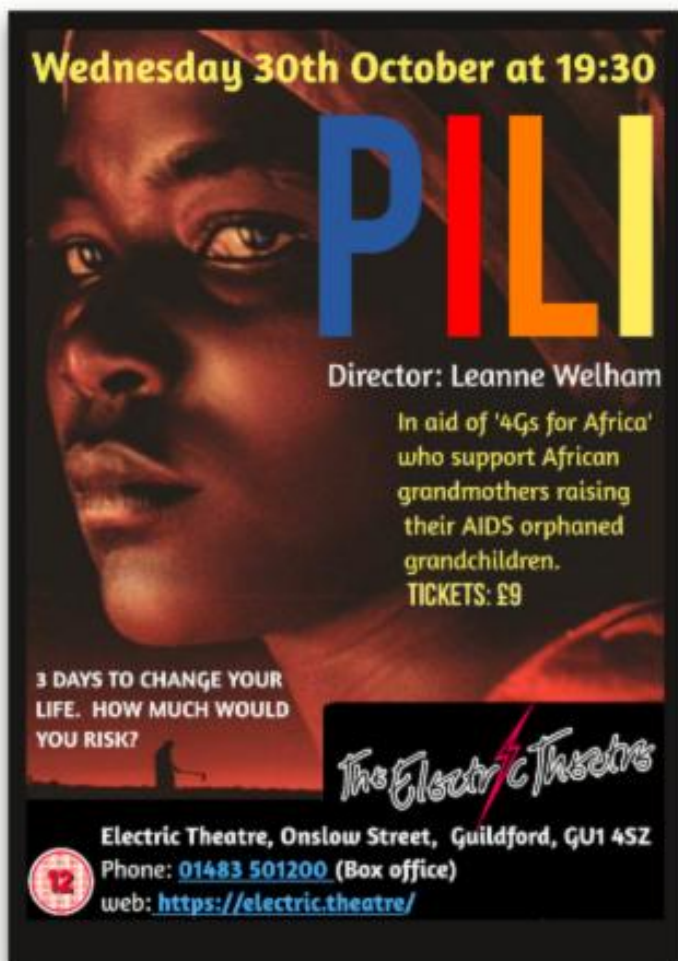


Wednesday 30th October at 19:30



PILI

Director: Leanne Welham

In aid of '4Gs for Africa' who support African grandmothers raising their AIDS orphaned grandchildren.
TICKETS: £9

3 DAYS TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE. HOW MUCH WOULD YOU RISK?

The Electric Theatre

Electric Theatre, Onslow Street, Guildford, GU1 4SZ
 Phone: 01483 501200 (Box office)
 web: <https://electric.theatre/>

"IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCES"
 Pamela Hutchinson, sight & sound

"AN ASTONISHING MOVIE WITH AN INCREDIBLE MESSAGE"
 ocmoviereviews

Pili lives in rural Tanzania, struggling to feed her two children and manage her HIV-positive status. Desperate to raise the funds to rent a kiosk, she is forced to make difficult decisions with ever-deepening consequences. How much will she risk to change her life?

The film's director Leanne Welham plans to attend for a Q & A session after the screening.
 This film will be screened in Swahili with English sub-titles.

The film, nominated for a BAFTA award, is shown in collaboration with 4Gs for Africa, a local group that raises awareness about the impact of AIDS on African communities and raises funds to support African grandmothers caring for their orphaned grandchildren.

If you would like to support the work of the "4Gs for Africa" please visit: www.grandmothers4.org



Grandmothers have emerged as the unsung heroes of Africa. These magnificently courageous women bury their own children and then look after their orphaned grandchildren, calling on astonishing reserves of love.
 Stephen Lewis



PILI

83 minutes In Swahili with English subtitles

Synopsis

Pili lives in rural Tanzania, working in the fields for less than \$1 a day to feed her two children. Her husband left her when she discovered her HIV-positive status during her second pregnancy, refusing to take a test himself. Fearing the stigma of HIV/AIDS, she struggles to manage her HIV status in secret and her health deteriorates. When the opportunity arises to rent a sought-after kiosk, Pili is desperate to raise the funds to pay the deposit and seeks a loan from the women's savings group in her village. This proves quite a challenge though as she does not fulfil all the requirements for a loan. With only two days to find the deposit, Pili is forced to make increasingly difficult decisions with ever-deepening consequences. How much will she risk to change her life and gain greater financial security for herself and her children?

Themes

The film addresses several themes:

- The stigma of HIV/AIDS and how people try to hide their status e.g. going to a clinic far from home and at considerable expense to avoid local gossip

- The need for better education and awareness about HIV/AIDS
- The importance of regular tests and treatment
- The value of mutual support networks
- Poverty, hardship and the day-to-day struggle for families dependent on precarious, low incomes
- Gender inequality and the childcare responsibilities of women
- Orphans and vulnerable children
- Sexual exploitation of women
- Importance of women's empowerment
- The role of savings groups in helping women achieve greater independence and financial security
- The high value placed on education if children are to enjoy a better future

Although the film addresses such serious topics and sends a powerful message, it does so in an often entertaining manner and is easy to watch. The story moves at a good pace, presenting a realistic yet respectful portrayal of everyday life in an impoverished community affected by HIV/AIDS.

Background

The film is a unique collaboration between the film-makers and the women who feature in the film. The narrative is based on their real-life stories and the cast features only one trained actor. 70% of the cast are themselves HIV-positive and all locations such as the AIDS clinics which feature are real.

The film is produced by Sophie Harman, Reader in International Politics at Queen Mary University of London, who has a special interest in global health issues with a special focus on Africa. She has been active for many years in advocacy work on HIV/AIDS and is a trustee of the Tanzanian HIV/AIDS charity "Trans Tanz".

The film is due for general release in the UK in May 2018 and at a later date in other countries. The aim is to show the film to a range of audiences in several countries to raise awareness of the impact and challenges posed by HIV/AIDS at grassroots level in Africa and the need for a holistic, social response as well as medical treatment. It is suitable for audiences with little prior knowledge of the subject-matter as well as those more closely involved with the fight to turn the tide on HIV/AIDS.