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INK SARIS

GLAND/INDIA
10
MIN
Kim Longinotto
OD Amber Latif, Girjashanker Vohra
IM Kim Longinotto
Ollie Huddleston
IS Midival Punditz
INT SOURCE Women Make Movies, 462
adway, Suite #500, New York NY 10013.
MAIL: kf@wmm.com.
Hindi with subtitles.

Acclaimed British filmmaker Kim Longinotto (**The Day I Will Never Forget**, SFIFF 2002) begins her latest unflinching portrait of gutsy everyday heroines with a line from Indian Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore: “When old words die out on the tongue, new memories break forth from the heart.” For 20 years now, Sampat Pal Devi has been battling the insults, violence, discrimination and sexual abuse routinely visited on married and single women of the untouchable caste. This intimate portrait, shot by the filmmaker herself with unblinking compassion, captures the founder of the Gulabi (or “Pink”) Gang tirelessly challenging husbands, fathers-in-law and policemen in her home state of Uttar Pradesh. In one illuminating case, Devi intercedes on behalf of a pregnant woman whose fiancé was pressured by his father to abandon her. She confronts the older man—clearly not used to having his authority questioned by a woman—and refuses to leave until she gets her way. Devi incorporates lodging, counseling and inspiration as part of her mission, and the filmmaker does not shy from showing the financial and personal strain of a 24/7 calling. To the contrary, the most searing scene is arguably a nasty argument between Devi and her husband, who claims fame and notoriety have gone to her head. Knocked off her pedestal, she is touchingly vulnerable and acutely real. Longinotto has enormous admiration for her subjects but little interest in glorifying them. She recognizes that all social progress is the work of ordinary human beings, flaws and all.

—Michael Fox



KIM LONGINOTTO

Born in London in 1952, Kim Longinotto is a widely acclaimed chronicler of ordinary women fighting entrenched societal injustice. Her extensive body of work includes a pair of films made in Africa, **Sisters in Law** and **Rough Aunties**, as well as **Gaea Girls** (SFIFF 2000) and **Divorce Iranian Style** (SFIFF 1998). Longinotto received the Inspiration Award at the 2010 Sheffield Doc/Fest, where **Pink Saris** also won the Special Jury Award.

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SFIFF 2011

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THU APR 28 6:15 KABUKI