



A Small Act

How one individual can make a difference

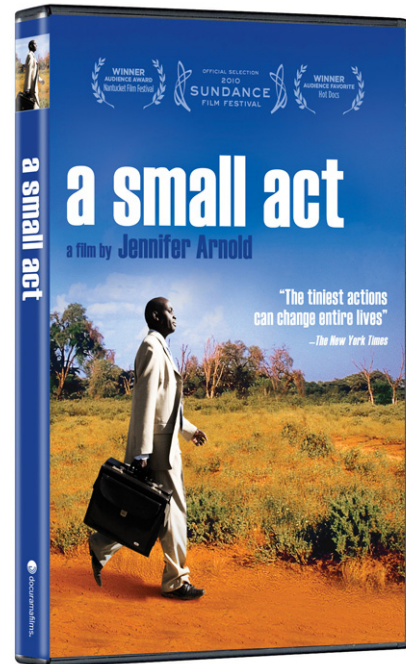
"If you do something good, it can spread in circles, like rings on the water."

- Hilde Back.

'A Small Act' is an award-winning documentary by Jennifer Arnold about the Hilde Back Education Fund in Kenya - the extraordinary story of how it began, and how it provides children with education and hope today.

Purple Cake Day's ongoing partnership in 2014 with the Hilde Back Education Fund will enable more Kenyan children from poor families to get the education they need to change their future.

For information about how to hold a Purple Cake Day licenced fundraising screening of this film at your school or local theatre email to: film@purplecakeday.org. *Due to the length (1 hr) and content level, this film is recommended only for secondary level students and adults. Teachers' education resources and worksheets based on the film 'A Small Act' are also available to stimulate critical thinking in students.



"A Small Act is such a powerful film to use in classrooms around the globe. It demonstrates how individuals can make a profound difference in the world."

- Marc Skvirsky, Facing History and Ourselves.

FILM AWARDS

- ★ 2011 Emmy Nomination Best Documentary
- ★ Official Selection 2010 Sundance Film Festival
- ★ Winner 2010 Humanitas Prize for Documentary
- ★ Official Selection Los Angeles Film Festival 2010



Director Jennifer Arnold, Chris Mburu, Hilde Back and Jane Wanjiru Muigai during the Sundance Film Festival





Chris's story



Chris Mburu was a bright child from a poor family living in rural Kenya. His family was unable to afford the fees for education, and Chris could not hope for much more than working the fields like them. Then things changed.

An anonymous donation arrived from a sponsor in Sweden. The donor gave \$15 a month – which was all it took to make it possible for Chris to attend secondary school.

He excelled, was accepted to Harvard University and graduated with a degree in Law. He now works as a human rights specialist for the United Nations, and travels all over the world helping people and communities in need.

Chris never forgot the generosity that made it all possible. He went searching for the woman who paid for his education – and he found Hilde Back.

Hilde, a holocaust survivor who had fled her home as a child for a life in Sweden, never expected to hear from Chris all these years later – much less that he would tell her that he was founding an education fund in her name.

Chris's experience inspired the Hilde Back Education Fund (HBEF), which helps bring education and hope to children in the same situation.

Hilde's Small Act has enabled Chris to make a big difference in the lives of many Kenyans, including Patrick, Ruth, and Caroline, whose stories are followed in the film.

Patrick and Ruth's story



Ruth and Patrick are just two of thousands of children in Kenya who dream of getting an education and breaking the cycle of poverty they were born into.

'A Small Act' follows Patrick and Ruth as they study hard in the hopes of qualifying for a scholarship and being able to continue school.

Patrick is a bright and enthusiastic 13-year-old from a small Kenyan village. He is a top student in his year eight (intermediate) class.

Patrick lives with his Mum and Grandmother. He often has to miss school to work, or to care for his Mum who is sick. This means Patrick sometimes has a challenge keeping up with homework. Patrick believes in education and knows that "Education is the only thing that can change somebody's life".

Ruth is 14 years old and lives with her Mum and Grandmother in the same village. Ruth is also a top student in her class. Ruth's Mum went to secondary school but had to stop because her family could no longer afford it. Like Patrick, Ruth can't always go to school because she often needs to work to bring in money for the family.

Both children do their best to study when they're not working or looking after family members. They often study at night by lamplight as they have no electricity in their houses.

Your support and participation in Purple Cake Day brings children like Patrick and Ruth education and hope to break the poverty cycle.

Watch 'A Small Act' to find out what happens to Patrick and Ruth and other children like them.

