

FATAL PROMISES - Today, Fatal Promises will screening at the UNAFF

Dear FP-Friends,

it has been a while since the Fatal Promises Team has send out an update on all our activities and that has been in part because we have been incredibly busy with all our endeavors, be it our campus tour through four states or the interactive theater experience (see blog below), I had the great privilege to direct. September and October was filled with screenings, awareness raising events and more. We are very grateful to all our supporters, who keep contacting us and asking us to bring Fatal Promises to their city, campus, community. We could not do our work without you and you are an important part in the fight against Human Trafficking. Please, keep reaching out to us and we will try to work with you and bring the film to you.

For more information please like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter.

Best,
Kat

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

~Margaret Mead

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Screenings

Screening Dates- USA

For regular updates on screenings and more information, please sign up to our newsletter by emailing us at fp@greenkatproductions.com

October 24th, 2011

UNA Film Festival
Aquarius Theatert
Palo Alto, CA
Time: 9:15pm
Tickets: www.unaff.org or at the door

November 1st, 2011

Suffolk Law School- Boston,MA
Venue:Function Room
120 Tremont Street
Time 4:30pm
Tickets: FREE and OPEN to the public

November 15th, 2011

York College, Pennsylvania
Venue: York College of Pennsylvania
441 Country Club Road
Tickets: FREE and OPEN to the Public

Screening Dates -Europe

October 25th, 2011

Menschenrechts Film Festival Klagenfurt
Venue: Volkskino
Kinogasse 3, Klagenfurt
Time: 6:40pm
Tickets: FREE

November 25th, 2011

Salzburger Tage gegen Gewalt an Frauen
Venue:TBA
Time: 7pm
Tickets: TBA

Blog

How in the hell did I get myself in this situation on 11th October?

I as me, the seasoned journalist, know exactly how but I, as my character, from Columbia in South America don't.

I, the journalist, took part in an interactive theater experience at the Wiesenthal Center in New York on October 11th, an event that was created in cooperation between the Museum of Tolerance and Freedom Week. The experience was conceived by Freedom Week founder Ann Lien and Fatal Promises director Kat Rohrer. Both women, seasoned in their advocacy work against Human Trafficking, were looking for a new and unique way to convey the plight of trafficking victims and share their stories.

This is how "Walking in their Footsteps" was born. An interactive theater piece, which assigns each audience member a character and then guides them, with the help of actors, through the different stages a human trafficking victim goes through.

I was assigned a character from Columbia. Me as the Columbian had just wanted to believe those recruiters who promised work in the USA, well paid and with enough money left to send home to the family – and ended up in slavery.

Me, the Columbian and two other women, one assigned to be from the Phillipines, the other from somewhere else, listened to all the sweet talk about nine to five jobs, about the chance to get an education on the side, about all the money we could support our families with. I should have left right then and there because they promised me a job in the fields and talked about nine to five. I should have known. Since when are they working the fields for just those limited hours? Me the Columbian and the other two women did not ask any questions even when they took our actual IDs. Did not think of anything bad, just wanted the opportunity to earn more money than at home where there is no work and no way to feed a family.

At the third stop of the theater, we were tied up, yelled at, verbally brutalized, threatened and coerced. Me as the Columbian wanted to resist but even I, the journalist, who is well aware of trafficking and it's pit falls, did not come up with more than some weak rebuttals, when the "traffickers" tried to get under my skin.

I, the journalist, looked around and saw others on their knees, doing, without resistance what they were told to do, I knew I was not going to get on my knees not matter what the actors would do, taking safety in the fact that I knew they were not allowed to touch me, a certainty, which is not shared by real victims of trafficking. By that stage identities had already been blurred and it was harder to keep up a wall and keep telling yourself that this was "just a play". Was it me or was it the Columbian?

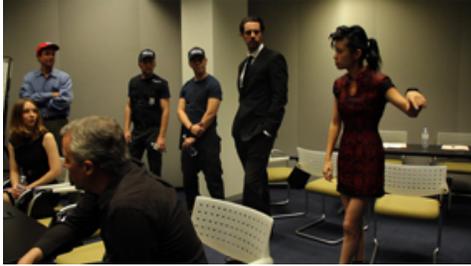
Both were forced to clean things on the floor, threatened and humiliated by an actress, watching other people go through the same thing. Not one fighting back with considerable strength? Even audience member who "tried to escape" where quickly brought back by the skillful actors. Why was one on the floor all the time? Why did she not stand up?

What an experience – even when the police came in and rounded us up, which signalized the fifth and last stage of the experience, the victimization, just like in real life, continued. Like in real life the audience felt a sense of relief when they saw the "officers" first only to be shocked again when they were not believed.

When the theater experience of "Walking in the footsteps" was over and we were handed our IDs that most of us, unwittingly and easily gave up, and hand wipes were handed out, we all felt we needed to wipe ourselves clean of the experience. Even well informed abolitionists, who came that night, left the performance as changed people. The de-briefing and Q&A that followed, was not only a relief, it was an absolute necessity- to let the adrenalin subside, to regain one's full identity and to start to come to terms with the experience. All this is a testimony to the project itself and the marvelous (for lack of a better word) job these actors and actresses in the roles of recruiters, traffickers, slave owners and police men had done.

Freedomweek and GreenKat Productions are hoping to raise the funds to put "Walking in their footsteps" up for a multi night run.

Stay tuned at: www.fatalpromises.com



What you can do!

At a lot of our screenings we are asked what each one can do to help and whereas the main focus always seems to be trafficking for sexual exploitation, which is without a doubt the most rampant form of trafficking, we can not underestimate the growing number of labor trafficking victims.

When it comes to abolishing labor trafficking there is actually a lot we as consumers can do on an every day basis. One of which is to find out which companies use slave labor and send them a message by not only not buying their products but also by letting them know that this is the reason why we don't buy their products.

There are a some great websites that can help you figure out what your slavery footprint is.

Here are a few:

www.slaveryfootprint.com
www.free2work.org
www.chainstorereaction.com/

Human Trafficking in the News

[Riviera Beach church provides safe haven for victims of human trafficking](#)

[Garden Plain teacher/coach arrested for human trafficking](#)

[Human traffickers eye kids for more profit](#)

[Maryland Man Sentenced in Sex Trafficking Case](#)

www.fatalpromises.com