

CHRISTINE NESBITT HILLS

Curriculum Vitae as at March 2008

PO Box 2115, Grahamstown, South Africa, 6140
tel +27 46 622 5084 cell +27 83 940 5548
christine@mediapix.za.net
mail@christinesbitt.com
www.christinesbitt.com/portfolio.html
www.christinehills.co.za
www.mediapix.za.net

PROFILE

Christine Nesbitt Hills is a South African independent photographer and videographer, focused on development journalism, based in the Eastern Cape of South Africa and working Africa-wide. Her passions are the developing world and Africa in particular. Her experience includes news, feature, documentary, development project reportage and travel assignments in many African countries, east and west Europe, the Middle East, South America and Australia.

Born in Holland in 1971 of Geordie parents, Christine grew up under the harsh historical contradictions of apartheid in South Africa. Studying photography in the nation's capital, her part-time newspaper darkroom job as a student in the late 1980's and early 1990's led to a career in journalism. Christine worked her way through the ranks of the country's major newspapers, at the coal-face, sometimes literally, of South Africa's dramatic changes.

Christine's first West African assignment in Liberia in 1997, for the South African broadsheet daily, The Star, the country's most visionary photo department, was to prove to be a major influence in her life. Attracted to the region's vibrant culture and political turmoil, Christine vowed to return to record the region's history, with the plight of voiceless children and women in war-stressed societies a major concern for her. It was in 1998 that her interest in development journalism deepened through her first assignment for Unicef in Sierra Leone, opening up further work in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Christine's pictures were published worldwide during her time working for the international wire service The Associated Press, based first in Europe and then in West Africa. Assignments were varied: from the Sydney Olympics to Kosovo's election; the World Curling Championships in Glasgow; Gulf Air crash in Bahrain; marching season in Belfast; Norse festivals in the Shetland Islands; the Africa Cup of Nations in Mali; ebola stories; the farm invasions in Zimbabwe; insurrection in the Ivory Coast; rebellion in the Central African Republic; civil strife in Liberia and Sierra Leone; the death of Laurent Kabila; the Ivory Coast insurrection & subsequent war. During Christine's time based in West Africa, besides photographing news and features, she coordinated a photo stringer base in the bureau's region of 22 countries.

Since her return to South Africa, Christine lives with her partner in Grahamstown, a small university town in the Eastern Cape, where Paul teaches television journalism and they grow their own organic garden vegetables. Christine concentrates on putting her skills to use in development journalism in sub-Saharan Africa, working amongst the rural poor, refugees, the internally displaced, former child soldiers, women and girl victims of sexual violence and the desperately impoverished. Christine has moved her photography from news to that of a more socio-documentary nature, in addition to a growing skills base in video: camera, sound & editing.

Christine is involved in photo and video projects of a diverse nature, mostly within the development field, locally and Africa-wide. Collaboration with individuals has produced three rural developmental training documentaries, and a three part Public Service Announcement (PSA) series for Unicef Angola amongst others. Her photographic work for Unicef led to the selection of work in an exhibition at the UN Headquarters in New York : Children of Darfur, photographs by Ron Haviv, Shehzad Noorani and Christine Nesbitt.

The common theme of a desire to document and inform runs through her work.

STILLS EXHIBITIONS INCLUDE:

- Star Photographer's Portrait exhibition, Johannesburg, South Africa 1997
- Concerned Photographers Group Human Rights exhibition, Johannesburg, South Africa 1998
- Fuji Photo Press Awards travelling exhibition, Judges' selection news singles category, South Africa 1998
- "Children of Darfur: Ron Haviv, Shehzad Noorani & Christine Nesbitt" at the UN Headquarters, New York, USA 2005
- "African Migrations: Images of a Continent in Motion" a group projected exhibition curated by AMO's David Larsen, Zanzibar Film Festival, Stonetown, Zanzibar, 2005
- "African Migrations: Images of a Continent in Motion" a group exhibition curated by AMO's David Larsen at Chobi Mela festival, Dhaka, Bangladesh 2006.
- "Visual Travelogues: Through my window by Christine Nesbitt Hills and Through the door of no return by Monty J. Roodt", South African National Arts Festival, Grahamstown, South Africa, 2007

VIDEO WORK INCLUDES:

- "Eastern Cape NGO Coalition, 10th anniversary documentary, Stories of learning and working in partnerships for sustainable development" for The Spirals Trust. Executive producer & scripted by Theresa Edlmann, directed by Paul Hills, camera & sound by Christine Nesbitt & Stephen Buchanan 2005
- "Iphulo lokuphulisa inyama ebomvu", an agricultural development documentary in Xhosa for TTO and ComMark. Produced by Paul Hills, camera & sound by Christine Nesbitt & Paul Hills, edited by Christine Nesbitt. 2005
- "Uboya eMpuma Koloni", an agricultural development documentary in Xhosa for ComMark. Produced by Paul Hills, camera & sound by Christine Nesbitt & Paul Hills, edited by Christine Nesbitt. 2006
- "Boea ba linku tsa Lesotho", an agricultural development documentary in Sesotho for ComMark. Produced by Paul Hills, camera & sound by Christine Nesbitt & Paul Hills, edited by Christine Nesbitt. 2006
- "HANA interactive" for the Highway Africa News Agency. An ICT movie embedded with clickable content. Produced by Paul Hills, camera & sound by Christine Nesbitt Hills & Paul Hills, edited by Christine Nesbitt Hills and interactivity by Christine Nesbitt Hills 2006
- "Highway Africa @10" for Highway Africa. An interactive PDF produced by Paul Hills, camera & sound by Christine Nesbitt Hills, edited by Christine Nesbitt Hills and interactivity by Christine Nesbitt Hills 2007
- "Amatola", a 6 min educational documentary insert for Masupatsela (Trailblazers) showcasing individuals, communities, organisations and companies getting to work in the arena of HIV/AIDS. Directed by Alette Schoon, camera by Christine Nesbitt Hills, sound by Thami Mbekwa, producer Jemima Spring, and production manager Elise Fernandez for Free Range Films 2007.
- "Curt Warmberg Haven", a 6 min educational documentary insert for Masupatsela (Trailblazers) showcasing individuals, communities, organisations and companies getting to work in the arena of HIV/AIDS. Directed by Alette Schoon, camera by Christine Nesbitt Hills, sound by Thami Mbekwa, producer Jemima Spring, and production manager Elise Fernandez for Free Range Films 2007.
- "Katlego Gabashane", a 8 min insert for Mantswe a Bonono (Word Art), a documentary series that celebrates contemporary South African writers. Directed by Alette Schoon, camera by Christine Nesbitt Hills, sound by Thami Mbekwa, produced by Jemima Spring and Tina-Louise Smith, and production manager Elise Fernandez for Free Range Films 2007.
- "Luvuyo Mjekula", a 8 min insert for Mantswe a Bonono (Word Art), a documentary series that celebrates contemporary South African writers. Directed by Alette Schoon, camera by Christine Nesbitt Hills, sound by Thami Mbekwa, produced by Jemima Spring and Tina-Louise Smith, and production manager Elise Fernandez for Free Range Films 2007.
- "Pieter Wagnener", a 8 min insert for Mantswe a Bonono (Word Art), a documentary series that celebrates contemporary South African writers. Directed by Alette Schoon, camera by Christine Nesbitt Hills, sound by Theresa Hayward, produced by Jemima Spring and Tina-Louise Smith, and production manager Elise Fernandez for Free Range Films 2007.
- "11 Commitments" Public Service Announcement (PSA) three part series for Unicef Angola. Produced by Paul Hills, camera and sound by Christine Nesbitt Hills, edited by Christine Nesbitt Hills 2008

EXPERIENCE

Independent photographer & videographer, Grahamstown, South Africa

March 2003 to present

Independent photographer and videographer, focused on documentary development journalism, based first in Jeffrey's Bay and then in Grahamstown in the Eastern Cape of South Africa and working Africa-wide. During this time, Christine was assigned to photo projects in Angola, Chad, the Eastern Cape of South Africa, DR Congo, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Niger, Senegal, Sudan (Darfur), and Swaziland, as well as video projects in South Africa and Angola.

Photographer, West Africa, Associated Press, Abidjan, Ivory Coast **Dec 2000 - Feb 2003**
Employed as West Africa photographer and photo editor, in a bureau that covered 22 West and Central African countries, managing a fledgling photo stringer base and traveling extensively to document the region's news and features. This position was based in Abidjan and then relocated to Dakar, Senegal.

Photographer, UK & Wales, Associated Press, London **Sep 1999 to Nov 2000**
Employed as a staff photographer for international wire service Associated Press, based in London covering England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. During this time Christine was assigned to work in Kosovo, Zimbabwe, Australia and Bahrain.

Photographer, Sunday World, Johannesburg, South Africa **Feb 1999 to Aug 1999**
Employed as a staff photographer, often filling in for the picture editor, on a start-up daily newspaper following in the tradition of The World, the newspaper that first carried Sam Nzima's photo of Hector Pietersen being carried away during the June 16th riots in Soweto.

Independent photographer, Abidjan, Ivory Coast **April 1998 - Jan 1999**
Self-employed as a freelance photographer based in Abidjan and then in Johannesburg. During this period, Christine was assigned to a feature in Liberia for Fortune magazine, news features in Ivory Coast for the Associated Press, a features in the Ivory Coast and Tanzania for IFAD and features in Sierra Leone for UNICEF and the Associated Press.

Staff photographer, The Star, Johannesburg, South Africa **Jan 1996 - March 1998**
Employed as a staff photographer at The Star newspaper in Johannesburg. Christine's responsibilities included general news coverage and feature work for a large national daily newspaper. Christine also substituted the morning picture editor on a relief basis. Amongst others, The Star assigned her to a news feature in Liberia, and features in Ivory Coast and Mali.

Staff photographer, Sunday Times, Johannesburg, South Africa **Sep 1994 - Dec 1995**
Employed as a staff photographer at the Sunday Times newspaper in Johannesburg. During this period, Christine was assigned to a feature in Dubai and a travel feature in Brazil and a news feature in Kenya.

Retainer photographer, Sunday Times, Johannesburg, South Africa **Feb 1993 to Aug 1994**
Employed as a photographer on a freelance retainer at the Sunday Times newspaper in Johannesburg, South Africa. travel feature in Switzerland and a feature in London.

P/t asst., Rebecca Hearfield Photography, Johannesburg, South Africa **Jan 1992 - Jan 1993**
Employed as a part-time assistant by Rebecca Hearfield Photography in Johannesburg, South Africa while a photography student.

P/t dark room asst., The Sunday Star, Johannesburg, South Africa **student term Oct 1990 - Jan 1993**
Employed as a part-time darkroom assistant by the Sunday Star newspaper in Johannesburg, South Africa on a Saturday during the student term.

Dark room asst., The Sunday Star, Johannesburg, South Africa **student holidays Nov 1989 - Jan 1993**
Employed as a full-time darkroom assistant by The Star newspaper in Johannesburg during the student holidays while a photography student.

EDUCATION

- Matriculated with university entrance, Northcliff High School, Johannesburg, South Africa 1988
- National Diploma in Photography, Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria, South Africa 1992
- Participant in the World Press Photo Seminar, Johannesburg, South Africa 1997
- Participant in the IAJ/Poynter Institute Photojournalism seminar, Johannesburg, South Africa 1997
- Participant in the Centurion Hostile Environments and First Aid Training course, England, 2000
- Participant in the United Nations' Basic Security in the Field - Staff Safety, Health and Welfare, 2004
- Presently reading for a part-time Master's course in Communication for Development, Malmö University, Sweden 2007-present

SKILLS

- More than 15 years experience of working as a photojournalist in national and international media
- More than 5 years experience working as a photographer and videographer in documentary development journalism.
- Experience working in situations of emergency and conflict
- Photographic production and post-production skills, analog and digital

- Digital video production and post-production skills, DV and HDV
- Computer literacy
- Research skills
- ICT skills
- Working knowledge of DTP, design skills and web production skills
- Proficiency in English and Afrikaans, working knowledge of French
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REFERENCES :

- Robin Comley, then Picture Editor, The Star newspaper, Johannesburg, email: robcom@iafrica.com
- David Guttenfelder, then West Africa photographer, Associated Press, email: guttenfelder.ap.org
- Mike Feldman then Photo editor for Africa, Europe & the Middle-East, Associated Press, London, email : mfeldman@ap.org
- Rob Taggart, then Photo editor for Africa, Europe & the Middle-East, Associated Press, London, email : rtaggart@ap.org
- Tim Sullivan, then West Africa bureau chief, Associated Press, Ivory Coast, email: tsullivan@ap.org
- Ellen Knickmeyer, then West Africa bureau chief, Associated Press, Ivory Coast & then Senegal, email : KnickmeyerE@washpost.com
- Ellen Tolmie, Deputy Chief Internet, Broadcast & Image section & Snr Photo Editor, UNICEF Division of Communication, New York, email : etolmie@unicef.org
- Susan Beccio, IFAD Photo Editor, Rome, email : s.beccio@ifad.org
- Christine Jaulmes, Chief of Communication, Media & External Relations, UNICEF Nigeria , email: cjaulmes@unicef.org
- Lone Hvass, Chief of Communication, UNICEF Angola , email: lhvass@unicef.org
- Angela Kearney, Representative, UNICEF Angola, email: akearney@unicef.org