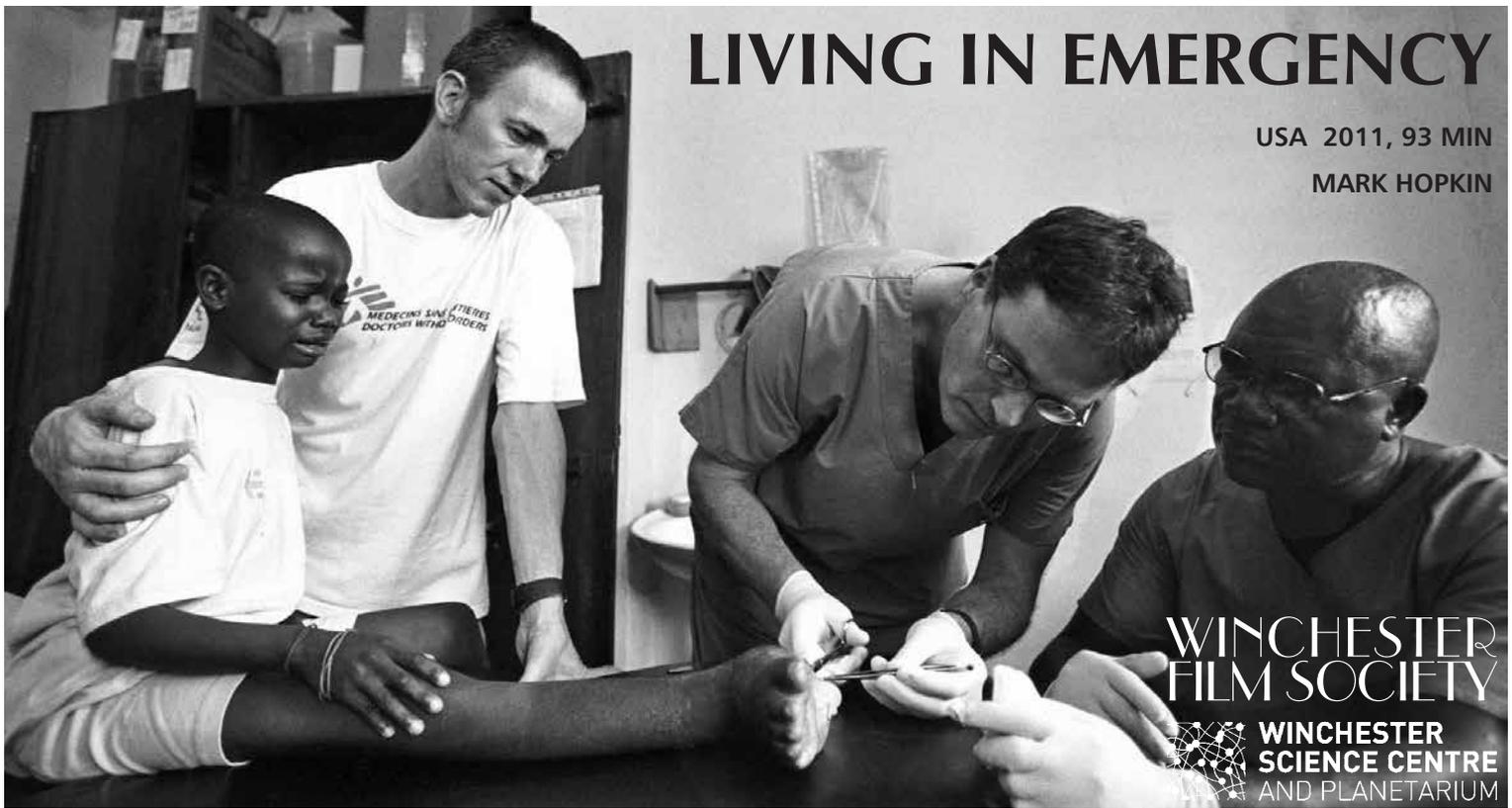


# LIVING IN EMERGENCY

USA 2011, 93 MIN

MARK HOPKIN



For those who imagine that humanitarian organizations are peopled by genteel do-gooders, the powerful documentary *Living in Emergency* is a bracing blast of reality. Focusing on four physicians on assignment in Africa for Doctors Without Borders, first-time director Mark Hopkins dispels any notions of lofty dreamers.

In this unforgettable chronicle, which was shortlisted for an Oscar, the characters are at least as watchable as tough-talking TV doctors, but without the prescribed dose of heartwarming reassurance. These are people at the frontline of idealism in action, working to alleviate suffering, one patient at a time, in some of the most devastated places on Earth.

The field staff of Doctors Without Borders - or, as the Paris-based organization is more widely known, Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) - are often the first aid workers in a region during an emergency, and sometimes the only doctors the locals have seen in decades. Hopkins provides glimpses of the MSF headquarters, but mainly he and his terrific DP, Sebastian Ischer, are on the ground with the medics in the Congo and Liberia, countries ravaged by war, corruption and poverty.

For the two rookies and two vets profiled, chronic health problems are an everyday affair. There's graphic footage of an amputation and an intestinal operation, but the most harrowing images are those

of a bloated baby whose illness has so far defied diagnosis, an elderly man who was shot at point-blank range by soldiers, and a young girl whose wound is easily cleaned but who must now face the fact of her orphanhood.

Although most of MSF's workers are locals, the film concerns the ways Westerners come to terms - or don't - with seat-of-the-pants medicine in places where infrastructure is a pipe dream. A soft-spoken American surgeon, Tom Krueger, spending his first six-month mission in Monrovia's only emergency hospital, notes the need to live with wrong decisions and the indescribable "smell of your own panic."

Another first-timer, Davinder Gill, also in Liberia but in a remote rural region, is an intense Aussie who doesn't hold back his anger with colleagues. Chiara Lepora, an elegant Italian who heads the Liberian team, offers an incisive observation about Gill's heart-of-darkness syndrome; dealing with the irascible doctor, she's a remarkable portrait of weary but sanguine equanimity.

As challenging as the work is, the doctors understand that it satisfies their own emotional needs. Those might not be the emotional needs of most people, but these doctors are not most people. They're uncommonly spirited, complex and fascinating, like this artfully made film.

**Sheri Linden, Hollywood Reporter**

**CINEMATOGRAPHY:** Sebastian Ischer **MUSIC:** Bruno Coulais

**CAST:** Chris Brasher Himself | Tom Krueger Himself | Chiara Lepora Herself | Davinder Gill Himself

VOTING FOR *Museum Hours* A19 | B48 | C18 | D8 | E2 | Rating 69.5% | Attendance 110

Our next screening | **Mommy** | Tuesday 29 March 2016. 8.00pm

"...an explosion of suffocating power and surprising warmth..."

Welcome to tonight's screening of *Living in Emergency* which we're showing to support the fantastic work the charity **Medicins Sans Frontieres** do worldwide.



**Medicins Sans Frontieres/Doctors Without Borders (MSF)** is the world's leading emergency medical humanitarian aid organisation. We provide emergency assistance to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics and natural or man-made disasters, without discrimination and irrespective of race, religion, gender or political affiliation. We work in over 60 countries and go places where others cannot or choose not to go.

From Sierra Leone to Syria, from Bosnia and Rwanda to Central African Republic, MSF has worked in most of the world's war zones over the past 40 years. Our sole aim: to provide lifesaving medical care to people caught up in conflict, irrespective of who they are, what they've done, what they believe or what side of the conflict they're on. When an earthquake strikes, a tsunami hits or a war breaks out, we are often the first medical organisation to arrive on the scene. Our skilled doctors and nurses are trained to work in the pressure-cooker environment of emergencies, while our large-scale logistical capacity ensures our teams hit the ground with the specialised equipment they need to immediately save lives.

**We're also very pleased to welcome Dr Rob Verrecchia who's taking time out of his busy schedule to come and introduce the film for us.**



Rob Verrecchia is a medical doctor from the UK who has worked with MSF in The Central African Republic and The Democratic Republic of Congo. He has a particular interest in maternal health, HIV and tuberculosis.

He is also a keen photographer and kept a photo blog of his recent mission:

<http://blogs.msf.org/en/staff/blogs/congo-in-colour>

