

# OPEN HEART

by Kief Davidson



## SYNOPSIS

“Open Heart” is the story of Angelique and Marie who – as will 6 other Rwandan children – leave their families behind and embark on a life-or-death journey to receive high-risk open-heart surgery in Africa’s only free-of-charge, state-of-the-art cardiac hospital, the Salam Centre run by Emergency, an Italian NGO. Their heart valves, damaged and weakened by rheumatic heart disease, which develops from untreated childhood strep throat, leave them lethargic and weak. Some of the children have only months to live.

During their cross-continental journey, “Open Heart” reveals the intertwined endeavors of Dr. Emmanuel Rusingiza, Rwanda’s lone, overworked public cardiologist, and the fiercely committed Dr. Gino Strada, the Salam Centre’s head surgeon. As one of Emergency’s founders, he must fight not just for the children’s lives but for the tenuous financial future of the hospital. To about a quarter, Salam Centre is funded by the administration of Sudan’s President...

2012

52 min

### FORMAL CATEGORIES

War/Peace, Human Rights, Social issues

### PREMIERE

Germany (2012)

### COPRODUCTION COMPANY

[beetz brothers film production](#)

Berlin

Germany

[info@gebrueder-beetz.de](mailto:info@gebrueder-beetz.de)

<https://gebrueder-beetz.de/en/>

### LINKS / REFERENCE

<http://www.openheartfilm.co...>

<http://kiefdavidson.com/hom...>

## FESTIVALS

2013

nominated for OSCAR® Best Short Film

2012

HAMPTONS IFF (World Premiere)

nominated IDA AWARDS

Gewinner - ARCLIGHT FILM FESTIVAL

IDFA Official Selection

## CAST AND CREW

DIRECTOR Kief Davidson · PRODUCER Christian Beetz, Kief Davidson, Cori Shepherd Stern · EDITOR Kief Davidson, Flavia de Souza · DOP Kief Davidson, Zak Mulligan