

made in copenhagen presents

THE CHOCOLATE WAR



Foto credit: Henrik Bohn Ipsen, DFF

A film by Miki Mistrati

World premiere at CPH:DOX 23rd of March at 7pm in Grand Teatret. Both Miki Mistrati and Terry Collingsworth will participate.

The film is part of the competition programme F:ACT Award at CPH:DOX.

Additional screenings: **xxxx**

Links to the film can now be requested.

For interview appointments, please contact Publicist Line Bilenberg: +4520710494,
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Press material can be downloaded at: www.madeincopenhagen.dk - under 'press'

Trailer: xxxxx

Duration: 80 min.

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Introduction

Twenty years ago, the world's biggest chocolate producers signed an agreement to end child slavery. Since then, the appalling abuse has only got worse. US lawyer Terry Collingsworth is working hard to bring the chocolate giants to justice and has dedicated his life to the abolition of slavery and human trafficking, and to fighting the food giants and their army of lawyers. Collingsworth is trying to convict Nestlé and Cargill of systematically exploiting children in Ivory Coast cocoa production.

The broken promises and the lack of change raises several questions: Can the industry change at all? And why do we as an international community continue to tolerate child labor? Perhaps it is only us, the consumers, who can create the change that the industry should have taken care of long ago?

The acknowledge human rights lawyer Terry Collingsworth has dedicated his life to changing the chocolate industry, stopping child labor and holding the those guilty accountable. After 15 years of tireless fighting, he has managed to bring his case to the U.S. Supreme Court. Collingsworth's opponents are the giants Nestlé and Cargill – and their army of attorneys, who have been trying to convince the judges that no such problem exists. But Collingsworth wants to prove that the two chocolate-giants are systematically turning a blind eye to child abductions, human trafficking and slavery - and how they exploit the very poorest and most vulnerable – only to offer customers the cheapest possible chocolate.

Through the last 15 years the director Miki Mistrati has been questioning the foods giants' intentions. His journey began at the chocolate shelf in his local supermarket.

Mistrati aims to create awareness among the consumers *"I also learned that nobody within the industry cared, that they were turning a blind eye to what was going on – or trying to cover up a major problem with, for example, pathetic school programs available to only a small group of children. These last images were always very present on Nestlé's homepage designed to calm down consumers and press"*.

'The Chocolate War' is his Mistrati's third movie addressing the dark side of the chocolate industry.

Synopsis:

One man's fight against a billion-dollar industry of chocolate-giants who ruthlessly exploit illegal child labor in their production. Investigations in cocoa plantations meets intense courtroom drama.

Twenty years ago, the world's biggest chocolate producers signed an agreement to end child slavery. Since then, the appalling abuse has only got worse. US lawyer Terry Collingsworth is working hard to bring the chocolate giants to justice and has dedicated his life to the abolition of slavery and human trafficking, and to fighting the food giants and their army of lawyers.

Collingsworth is trying to convict Nestlé and Cargill of systematically exploiting children in Ivory Coast cocoa production.

And now the case has finally reached the US Supreme Court. To prepare for the trial, Terry Collingsworth will gather more evidence. In Mali, he meets his six key witnesses before travelling on to Ivory Coast's cocoa plantations, where a centre for the rehabilitation of enslaved children turns out to be as fake and empty as a movie set, supported by governments and NGOs, but unused and with no children in sight. All in the quest to keep the price of cocoa beans low.

Short pitch:

20 years ago, the world's chocolate-giants signed an agreement to abolish illegal child labor in the chocolate industry - but since then the problem has not diminished. The American human rights lawyer Terry Collingsworth has dedicated his life to fight the giants and their army of lawyers. As a

one-man army, Collingsworth aims to get Nestlé and Cargill convicted of what looks like a systematic exploitation of children in the chocolate industry. Now the case has reached the US Supreme Court. Will he succeed to stop the giants in the chocolate industry?

About Terry Collingsworth:

Terry Collingsworth is 61 years old and is one of the leading human rights attorneys in the world. Collingsworth was born and raised in a working-class home in Cleveland, Ohio. Both his parents were blue-collar workers, and they taught him about unfair working conditions. But it wasn't until he, too, became a worker and started operating a crane in the local copper mine that he discovered how poor working conditions could truly destroy a human being. This motivated him to study law at the University of Los Angeles, where he learned more about how American-owned factories in Asia treat their local workers.

From there things progressed quickly. Collingsworth brought cases against some of the world's biggest and most powerful companies to court: Shell, Coca Cola, Walmart, Exxon, Firestone, Chiquita, Dole and now Nestlé and Cargill.

In this case, his two opponents, Cargill and Nestlé, have hired some of the most powerful law firms in the world to represent them. Nestlé hired both Gibson Dunn and Hogan Lovells - a firm of more than 2500 attorneys with an annual revenue of 1.5 billion USD. Quite a heavyweight Collingsworth is up against.

Collingsworth is the owner and director of International Rights Advocates.

<https://www.internationalrightsadvocates.org/iradvocates-team>

Director's thoughts and motivation:

By Miki Mistrati

"My journey started in 2007 in my local supermarket. I was a random consumer looking for chocolate. The supermarket was full of various brands and flavors. On one of the shelves, I found seven chocolate bars from the same company, but with seven different flavors, taste and colors: one was with nuts, one with almonds, one dark and one white chocolate. But I noticed that one was also labelled 'fairtrade'.

I wondered if only one was fairtrade, what would the six other chocolate bars be? Were they unfair trade? That was the very beginning of my long journey as a journalist and filmmaker, researching and investigating this industry that, as I quickly learned, was full of illegal child labor, child trafficking and violation of international laws. I also learned that nobody within the industry cared, that they were turning a blind eye to what was going on – or trying to cover up a major problem with, for example, pathetic school programs available to only a small group of children. These last images were always very present on Nestlé’s homepage, designed to calm down consumers and press.

*The first film, *The Dark Side of Chocolate*, had a huge impact on consumers worldwide. It made a lot of people wake up, and the film has been seen more than 2.5 million times on YouTube.*

But the industry is still getting away with their criminal activities, and Collingsworth’s case can be a game changer, even if he loses, in which case the big corporations will prove that money is more important than laws.

It is important to me that the audience gets a full picture of how the international food corporations work behind the billion-dollar marketing and ads. And that it matters to try to make changes in the world even without having a large budget. I believe that engagement can make the world a better place to be.

*One example of how film can change the world, is that Collingsworth has used material from my two previous films, *The Dark Side of Chocolate* and *Shady Chocolate*, to convince the American legal system that it is a violation of the U.S. Constitution every time a consumer buys a piece of chocolate produced with child labor.*

*However - *The Chocolate War* – want to paint a bigger picture and include a universal narrative to make a strong impact on consumers, companies and legal systems worldwide.”*

FACTS:

Ivory Coast is the biggest supplier of cocoa in the world with more than 40% of the world market -

Source: ICCO.org

Ivory Coast produced 2.15 million tonnes during the 2019/2020 season. Source: Reuters
<https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/ivory-coast-ghana-push-cocoa-industry-boost-premium-payments-2021-05-13/>

In 2020 Nestlé purchased approximately 436.378 tonnes of cocoa
Source: Nestlé.com <https://www.nestle.com/csv/raw-materials/nestle-cocoa-plan>

The U.S. imported over \$600 million of cocoa beans and paste from Ivory Coast last year, more than half of total U.S. imports and around 15% of annual Ivorian exports of those products.
<https://www.reuters.com/article/cocoa-ivorycoast-childlabor-exclusive-idINKBN21H0RU>

Ivory Coast is the world's top cocoa producer
Kilde Reuters: <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/ivory-coast-police-rescue-68-children-working-cocoa-farms-2021-05-10/>

On average, cocoa farmers earn just 6% of the final value of a bar of chocolate.
Source: <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/>

The percentage of children engaged in labor between mid-March and mid-May rose to 19.4% from 16% in the same period in recent years, according to a survey of over 1,400 households conducted by the International Cocoa Initiative (ICI). Source: Reuters.com
<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-cocoa-ivorycoast-childlabour-idUSKBN2425SV>

In 2001 the world's largest cocoa producers signed the voluntarily Harkin-Engle Protocol, agreeing to end all child- and forced labor in Ivory Coast's cocoa plantations by 2005. World Cocoa Foundation, which all the defendant companies are members of, has now changed the deadline to 2025. Danwatch.dk <https://danwatch.dk/tidligere-boernearbejdere-sagsoeger-nestle-mars-og-andre-chokoladegiganter-for-tvangsarbejde-og-menneskehandel-2/>

About Nestlé:

Nestlé is the largest food company in the world, with over 2000 brands and in 187 countries, and is headquartered in Switzerland. They produce and sell baby and pet food, coffee, water,

confectionery and more. Nestlé has made the initiative 'Nestlé Cocoa Plan' and on their webpage they explain their efforts to fight child labor: *"Nestlé was the first company to implement a system to address child labor risk in its cocoa supply chain. We made our system to tackle child labor risk available across the industry, and it is now widely used by other cocoa-buying companies. Since 2012, we have made significant progress with this system. Approximately 128,000 children have been protected against the risk of child labor, of which more than 40,000 children increased their access to education."*

Criticism of Nestlé:

Nestlé has been under criticism and boycotts for their marketing of baby formula as an alternative to breastfeeding in developing countries and their promotion and production of bottled water among other. Nestlé has also previously been accused of using child labor in palm oil plantations.

About Cargill:

Cargill is one of the top producers and distributors of agricultural products such as grain, palm oil and cocoa. The American global food company is the largest privately held corporation in the U.S. in term of revenue.

Cargill has made the initiative 'CLMRS - Cargill's Child Labor Monitoring and Remediation System' and on their webpage they explain their efforts to fight child labor: *"We have found that raising awareness of the causes and consequences of child labor contributes to its prevention. Our CLMRS approach includes two types of training:*

Awareness raising sessions for all community members: *This session is carried out at the village level through 'farmer days', formal cooperative meetings and other community training sessions. More than 300 community awareness-raising sessions have been conducted in 2017.****Farmer household training and sensitization:*** *At the end of the household survey, the Farmer Coach meets the farmer's extended family to explain the risk encountered by children involved in hazardous activities. In 2017, more than 10,000 household members participated."*

Criticism of Cargill:

Cargill has faced criticism for deforestation, pollution and causing illness related to their use of pesticides to grow soy.

About Soubré children's Center - First Lady center:

The first lady of Ivory Coast, Madame Dominique Ouattara, is behind the construction of three transit centers for children in Ivory Coast. The transit centers will provide assistance and protection for children who are formerly victims of trafficking. In the film, Terry Collingsworth visits the transit center in Soubré, which has been open since 2018 and has the capacity of 80 children

<https://childrenofafrica.org/en/the-welcome-center-for-children-in-distress-of-soubre-one/>

About International Cocoa Initiative (ICI):

ICI is a non-profit foundation who has been working in cocoa-growing communities in Ivory Coast and Ghana for 13 years. ICI was established under Article 5 of the Harkin-Engel protocol. The aim of their work is to eliminate child labor and forced labor in order to, quote *“Ensure a better future for children in cocoa-growing communities. It is a multi-stakeholder partnership advancing the elimination of child labor and forced labor, by uniting the forces of the cocoa and chocolate industry, civil society, farming communities, governments, international organizations and donors.”*. Both Nestlé and Cargill are board members in ICI.

SHORT BIOGRAPHIES

Director:

Miki Mistrati is an award-winning director from Denmark, currently working as a Creative Director and Executive Producer at Perfect Storm Productions in London. He has produced and directed more than 80 documentaries and feature films. His two previous film in the series of chocolate film ‘The Dark Side of Chocolate’ and ‘Shady Chocolate’ have been brought by more than 30 distribution channels coverings most territories in the world, including The Middle East, Asia and Africa.

Producer:

Helle Faber founded the Danish production company made in copenhagen in 2010. She has produced a large number of documentary films for the international market. Among them are the award-winning films ‘Skál’ 2021, ‘Motleys’ Law’ 2015, ‘Warriors from the North’ 2015, ‘Putin’s Kiss’ 2012 and ‘Dark Side of Chocolate’ 2011.

About made in copenhagen:

The production company made in Copenhagen works with a strong mix of experienced directors and new talent. The company has won a large number of awards in both Denmark and internationally, including the main prizes at IDFA, Sundance FF, Hotdocs, Berlin FF, DOC NYC and many others. made in Copenhagen were founded in 2010 by producer Helle Faber.

The film is funded by:

DR, NRK, SVT, YLE, RTS Norwegian Film Institute, Film Fyn, Nordisk Film og TV Fond, Danida, Fritt Ord, Creative Europe Media Programme of European Union