

# SURVIVING INTERNATIONAL BOULEVARD

*A DOCUMENTARY:  
DOMESTIC CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING*

RED SCARF FILMS PRESENTS

# SURVIVING INTERNATIONAL BOULEVARD

RUN TIME - 20 MINUTES

*Is a short documentary film that reveals the complex reality of domestic child sex trafficking through the real-life experiences of two local women from Oakland, California.*

*DIRECTED AND PRODUCED BY SIAN TAYLOR GOWEN*



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International BLVD  
→  
4300

## SYNOPSIS

SURVIVING INTERNATIONAL BOULEVARD reveals the complex reality of domestic child sex trafficking through the real-life experiences of two local women from Oakland, California. Driving along International Boulevard's dark streets, a mother recounts her own wild determination to rescue her 15-year-old daughter from a sex trafficker "boyfriend". Night after night, combing the dangerous streets of East Oakland, she never gives up on her child. Switching to daylight, a nonprofit advocate and survivor of sexual exploitation shares her extensive experience helping young victims get the help they so desperately need. Driving along The Blade as they call it, Sarai T. Smith Mazariegos, co-founder of MISSEY.org, breaks down the raw truth about victims and traffickers as it unfolds on the street around her.

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## *DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT*

SURVIVING INTERNATIONAL BOULEVARD short documentary was created in order to raise awareness and ultimately connect audiences to local nonprofits that offer services and solutions to the issue of domestic child sex trafficking. We believe that domestic child sex trafficking can be eradicated with a local approach and that everyone can offer some in-kind service or support to nonprofits that are doing the difficult work to bring these victims through their trauma and back to a self-empowered life.



# BIOGRAPHIES



## PRODUCER / DIRECTOR - SIAN TAYLOR GOWEN

Founder and filmmaker of Red Scarf Films, Sian Taylor Gowan makes her directorial debut with 'Surviving International Boulevard', bringing attention to the plight of local children and teens being sex trafficked in our midst. With a passion for social cause work and a professional background in nonprofit advertising and outreach, Sian has served as Board Member for Afghans4Tomorrow and as Advertising Director for progressive online news site, AlterNet.org. Combining her creative production skills and nonprofit experience, Sian has created Red Scarf Films in order to produce social cause films for awareness and community action.



## DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY - KENT KESSINGER

Wielding a steady hand during night scenes on International Boulevard, Kent brought the street lights to life while respecting the concealed identity of sexually exploited victims. A documentarian himself, Kent has created works of art such as 'Pure Lung: Life In Honduras' where he spent five months closely documenting the lives of everyday people with few choices available to them. Kent has earned a Bachelor's degree in photojournalism from Appalachian State University, but he sees the world through his own lens.

# BIOGRAPHIES



## EDITOR - MARIO ESCOBAR

Mario Escobar is an award winning director, producer and editor working out of the Outer Sunset in San Francisco. With a love of life's little narratives, Mario brings drive and passion to all projects he tackles. He has worked with SF Edit, Loteria Films, Glass Metal Stone, The Academy of Art University, Corvid Films, Shandobil Communications and scores of other folks in the Bay Area. His first feature length documentary 'The Pitch'. won Best Picture at the Bronx International Film Festival, and his work has screened on PBS, CSM, Broadcast television, the Mill Valley Film Festival, Brooklyn Underground Film Festival, and festivals throughout United States. He currently edits out of his Gorilla City Productions studio in Ocean Beach California with his best friend and constant companion Melvin dog by his side.



## EDITOR - SABEREH KASHI

A national top-student of Arts, and Ph.D. holder in Iranian feminine archetypes, Sabereh is a documentary filmmakers and editor who has worked and lived in three countries and two continents. Aside from making short and long format documentaries, she has worked as editor for MTV Networks, and edited several feature-length documentaries including the ITVS-funded 'Our Summer in Tehran,' by Oscar-nominated and Emmy-winner, Justine Shapiro. Sabereh is currently working on a self-portrait and transformational documentary called 'Home Yet Far Away.'

# CAST



## SARAI THEOLINDA SMITH MAZARIEGOS

Sarai is a specialist in crisis intervention and trauma-informed care services for women and children who are at risk or have experienced domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) and/or sexual abuse. Sarai is also one of the four Co-Founders of MISSEY and former Chairwoman for MISSEY's Board of Directors. She is also Founder, CEO of Survivors Healing, Advising and Dedicated to Empowerment (S.H.A.D.E.) Project – which is a survivor-run consulting, advocacy human trafficking organization, that provides training, public speaking, crisis intervention-victim/survivor advocacy, program and policy development, awareness events, peer counseling and survivor leadership.

## REGINA EVANS



Regina Y. Evans is the owner of Regina's Door, a vintage boutique located in Oakland, CA. Regina's Door is an artistic safe haven and healing sanctuary for at-risk youth, homeless youth, young Oakland Creatives and survivors of human trafficking. Ms. Evans holds a Performing Artist residency at the Flight Deck, Oakland, CA. Her most current stage play, *52 Letters* (writer, producer, director, performer), a poetic stage play bringing awareness to the issue of sex trafficking in the United States, was honored to win a Best of 2013 San Francisco Fringe Festival Award. As a Modern Day Abolitionist, Ms. Evans volunteers with Love Never Fails, a Bay Area Anti-Trafficking organization founded by Vanessa Marie Johnson Russell. She is also a member of the S.H.A.D.E. Project.

# CREDITS

Drone DP - Evan Shen Adler

A & B Camera - Anna Shen

Keith E. Curry, Jr.

Charles Bolton

Jayne Marie Smith

Marco Antonelli

Kristin Huster Young

Sian Taylor Gowan

Online Editors - Derek Sajbel, Anna Shen

Color Finishing - Gary Coates

Assistant Editor - Kelsey Winfrey

Trailer Editors - Derek Sajbel

Anna Shen

Mario Escobar

Field Sound - Barbara Ristau

Sound Mix & Re-recording - Dave Nelson, Outpost Studios

Dialogue Mix - Milk Dinko, Outpost Studios

Music - Pianochocolate

Shadow Priest

Karl Force

"52 Letters" Performance - Regina Evans

Graphic & Web Design - David Liddle

**Special Thanks To -**

San Francisco School of Digital Filmmaking, SHADE Project,

MISSEY, Love Never fails, Regina's Door, H.E.A.T. Watch,

Nancy O'Malley D.A., Alameda County

Office of Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf,

Bay Area Video Coalition

# SCREENINGS & FESTIVALS

MARCH 23 - 25, 2017 - UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN RIGHT'S FILM FESTIVAL

DECEMBER 9, 2016 - CINEMA NEW YORK FILM FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 18, 2016 - CINEMA LOS ANGELES FILM FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 19, 2016 - SOCIAL JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 19, 2016 - UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION FILM FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 17, 2016 - HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER, UNIVERSITY, BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

MAY 2016 - INDUSTRY SCREENING AT CANNES SHORT FILM CORNER

MARCH 2016 - SPECIAL PREVIEW SCREENING AT THE FREEDOM EXPO

JANUARY 2016 - SPECIAL PREVIEW SCREENED AT THE DE SAISSETT MUSEUM

MAY 2015 - SPECIAL PREVIEW DEBUT - LEVI'S STADIUM



# CONTACT

Sian Taylor Gowen

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[www.survivinginternationalblvd.com](http://www.survivinginternationalblvd.com)



**“FROM THIS POINT FORWARD...  
YOU CAN NEVER SAY YOU DID NOT KNOW.  
CHOOSE...”**

**~ REGINA EVANS,**

**SURVIVOR LEADER**

