

Zimbabwe's Forgotten Children

Showing Monday March 1st on BBC 4 at 9pm



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Documentary which looks under the skin of one of the world's most repressive regimes. Shot entirely undercover in one of the most tightly controlled countries in the world, it follows the lives of three children as they struggle to survive in a country besieged by the gravest of economic difficulties.

The programme meets an African film-maker who is currently undercover so cannot be named. She was raised in Zimbabwe decades ago and takes viewers on a personal journey across the country that made her who she is. Just a generation ago, Zimbabwe had world-class levels of education, healthcare and productivity, but she soon finds that life for the present generation of Forgotten Children is a constant struggle for day-to-day survival.

She tells the frightening story of how quickly a society can fall apart, and shows the children that must fight for a future in a country where the everyday is often untenable.

Made by Bafta-winning documentary-maker Jezza Neumann this film takes an extraordinary look at the impossible choices faced by those who live in a country that was once the jewel in Africa's Crown: an emotionally charged documentary that viewers are unlikely to forget.



Zimbabwe's Forgotten Children

Shot entirely undercover over the course of nine months, a beautiful and moving documentary which tells the stories of three children growing up in today's Zimbabwe.

12-year-old Grace rummages through rubbish dumps in Harare to find bones to sell for school fees; nine-year-old Esther has to care for her baby sister and her mother who is dying of HIV/AIDS; and 13-year-old Obert pans for gold to make enough money to buy food for himself and his gran, while dreaming of somehow getting the education he craves.

From BAFTA-winning director Jezza Neumann and BAFTA-winning producer, Xoliswa Sithole, a powerful tale unfolds of the gaping chasm between what these children hope for and what their country can currently provide.