



For Immediate Release

Connecther announces “Creating Impact through the Girls Impact the World Film Festival” to be held at the Paley Center for Media in New York on September 20, 2014

New York, September 2, 2014---

[Connecther](#) is excited to announce a special gathering of powerful women at the Paley Center for Media for “**Creating Impact through the [Girls Impact the World Film Festival](#)**.” The evening will feature an exciting lineup of films and talks by film industry speakers about creating social change for women through powerful storytelling. The event will be held on September 20 from 7 to 9 PM.

Special guests will speak on how to engage women and girls in social change around the world. Films from the Girls Impact the World Film Festival (GITWFF) will be screened. Speakers for the evening include **Abigail Disney**, presenting sponsor **Eloise DeJoria**, **Muna Abusulaman**, **Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda** and **Zainab Salbi**! Tickets can be reserved by visiting <https://connecther.ticketbud.com/girls-impact-the-world-film-screening-with-paley-center-for-media>.

During the evening we will announce a very special launch: **The Paley Center Classroom Series featuring GITW Films**. The series uses short films from the Girls Impact the World Film Festival that focus on a variety of global women’s issues, including health, microfinance initiatives, child marriage, body image, and poverty alleviation as a catalyst for critical media analysis and raising awareness. Paley Center educators will screen films and lead discussions for groups of high school and college aged students.

The Girls Impact the World Film Festival invites high school and college students to submit original 3–5-minute films that address global women’s issues such as education for girls, maternal health, violence against women and girls and a variety of other issues. Cash prizes of over \$20K are awarded by a **distinguished panel of judges**. Past and present judges include:

Christy Turlington (founder of Every Mother Counts), **Eloise DeJoria** (actress and philanthropist), **Jeff Skoll** (founder of Participant Media and the Skoll Foundation), **Ian Somerhalder** (actor and co-founder of the IS Foundation), **Jean Oelwang** (CEO of Virgin Unite), **Leymah Gbowee**, (Nobel Peace Prize winner), **Abdulhamid Juma** (Chairman of the Dubai International Film Festival and Gulf International Film Festival), **Maria Eitel** (CEO of the Nike Foundation), **Muhammad Yunus**, (Nobel Peace Prize winner), **Pat Mitchell** (CEO of Paley Center for Media and producer of TEDxWomen), **Zainab Salbi** (founder of Women for Women International), and **Robb Moss** (Professor of Visual and Environmental Studies and Chair of the Department of Visual and Environmental Studies, Harvard University).

Winners receive film distribution channels via the Harvard Social Innovation Collaborative, [Connecther](#) and Creative Visions networks, as well as internship opportunities at Creative Visions in Los Angeles.

To learn more about *Girls Impact the World* and to view past winners, please visit us at <http://www.connecther.org/gitw>. Contact filmfest@connecther.org for more details.

About Connecther In our quest to alleviate poverty and advance women and girls globally, [Connecther](#) provides a diverse communication platform, including the Girls Impact the World Film Festival, to spotlight critical issues facing women and children throughout the world. [Connecther’s](#) crowdfunding platform offers a robust, user-friendly process for fundraising and matching donors to high-impact partner projects.

Presenting sponsor, **Eloise DeJoria** is an avid philanthropist, and uses her time and talent to help people lead healthy, fulfilled lives. She focuses her efforts on recovery programs, the arts, and promoting the rights and wellbeing of women and girls. Eloise is proud to support the Girls Impact the World Film Festival, as

film gave her a voice and a craft as a young woman, and she is committed to bringing further awareness to these issues.

The Girls Impact the World Film Festival is an initiative of *Connecther*, co-sponsored by the Harvard College Social Innovation Collaborative. GITWFF provides a platform for students to share their stories about advancing women and girls around the world. For more information, visit <http://www.connecther.org/gitw>.

Contact Info:

The Paley Center is at 25 W. 52nd Street (between 5th and 6th Ave.), phone (212) 621-6600.

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