



A Documentary Film Project • coexistdocumentary.org

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MEDIA RELEASE

Boston-produced Documentary Film Nominated for African Movie Academy Award

**WHEN: NOW- Sunday, March 27th
“African Oscars” Show Begins Sun. 3pm (EST)**

WHERE: Yenegoa, Bayelsa State, Nigeria

WHO: Movie Stars, Producers, and Filmmakers from around the world

The documentary film [Coexist](http://coexistdocumentary.org) is in the running for an “African Oscar” as a nominee for Best Documentary Film at the [African Movie Academy Awards](http://africanmovieacademyawards.com), to be announced this Sunday, March 27th. *Coexist* was produced in Boston and has been seen by thousands of people across Greater Boston and around the world since its Premiere in Boston in November. The Academy has invited the director of *Coexist*, Boston journalist filmmaker Adam Mazo, to attend the weeklong awards event in Nigeria. Photos from Nigeria will be posted at coexistdocumentary.org for media use.

Coexist explores the painful and personal stories of Rwandan genocide survivors as they are made to try to reconcile with perpetrators being released back into their communities from prison. Boston University African Studies Director Timothy Longman offers commentary in the film. Viewers say that *Coexist* masterfully captures the nuance and complexity of the process of dehumanization and rehumanization that takes place during genocide and in its aftermath.

Mazo and his colleague, *Coexist* Learning Director Dr. Mishy Lesser of Watertown, work in area schools and youth groups using the movie and companion Viewer's Guide to challenge students to reflect deeply on their core beliefs and vital issues: bullying, scapegoating, name-calling, and “othering”. The *Coexist* team engages students in activities and dialogue about these pressing issues, which directly impact the ability of youth to succeed and thrive. The filmmakers' goal is for *Coexist* to be used as a tool to foster understanding about how violence escalates, how it can be interrupted, and the potential each of us has to be victim, perpetrator, bystander, and upstander. *Coexist* has been honored as an official selection at the Artivist Film Festival in Hollywood, the Africa World Documentary Film Festival in Cameroon, and honorable mention at the New York Metropolitan Film Festival. A [recent Huffington Post article](http://www.huffpost.com) said, “The *Coexist* documentary and its Viewer's Guide should become part of a mandated international educational curriculum that shows a vivid example of 'how good people do evil things.'”

*Clips of the film and photos are available at www.coexistdocumentary.org



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Coexist Fact Sheet

PRE-PRODUCTION

- 1 year of fundraising, planning, and developing the project
- 7 members of the *Coexist* Advisory Board
- 100+ private donors and foundations supporting the film

PRODUCTION

- 1 month of production in Rwanda
- 5 member production team in Rwanda
- 4 translators
- 3 languages spoken in the film (Kinyarwanda, English, & French)
- 3 times the crew was detained in Rwanda
- 34 interviews conducted
- 3 reconciliation workshops visited
- 65,000 airline miles traveled
- 63 reels of video
- 682 gigabytes of video

POST-PRODUCTION

- 2,000+ hours of editing
- 10+ rough cut screenings for dozens of students, filmmakers, and advisors
- 40 page *Coexist* Viewer's Guide including 5 lessons built around the film
- 2+ years from conception to completion of film (July 2008-Sept 2010)
- 200+ professors, activists, & peacebuilders engaged at the International Peace & Justice Studies Association Conference in Winnipeg, Canada & the Mediators Beyond Borders Conference at UCLA
- 3 Film Festival Honors

More information: coexistdocumentary.org/main/press-kit

Production Stills: coexistdocumentary.org/main/gallery

Crew Bios: coexistdocumentary.org/main/team

Advisory Board: coexistdocumentary.org/main/board

