

**Powerful Feature Film *SOLD* to Open in
Movie Theaters Nationwide in April,
Bringing Attention to Child Sex
Trafficking and the Heroes Fighting this
Global Human Rights Issue Affecting 5.5
Million Children Each Year**

***Based on the award-winning international best-
seller *SOLD* by Patricia McCormick***

From Academy Award® Winning Director **Jeffrey
Dean Brown** (*MOLLY'S PILGRIM*) & Academy
Award® Winning Executive Producer **Emma
Thompson**

Press Day with Golden Globe® and Emmy®-winning
actress **Gillian Anderson** (*X-FILES*)
& Director Jeffrey Dean Brown on March 23 in New
York City

***** SCREENERS AVAILABLE NOW *****

***** NOW ACCEPTING INTERVIEW REQUESTS *****

OPENS IN NEW YORK & LOS ANGELES ON APRIL 1

**FOLLOWED BY A NATIONWIDE RELEASE IN 25 TOP
CITIES/MARKETS**

& TUGG THEATRICAL ON-DEMAND THAT WILL BRING IT INTO HUNDREDS OF ADDITIONAL CITIES NATIONWIDE

“SOLD humanizes the issue of child trafficking. By pulling us into the world of one child who is trafficked, the film provides insight into the horrors children experience but also illustrates the resilience they have to overcome such horrible situations.”

– Emily Pasnak-Lapchick, End Trafficking Program Officer, U.S. Fund for UNICEF

NEW YORK & LOS ANGELES – The intense, emotional story of one 13 year-old girl’s quest for freedom after finding herself a victim of human trafficking between Nepal and India, will hit the big screen in the feature film *SOLD*. Globally, the average age of a girl who is trafficked for sex is 13-14 years old, according to ECPAT.

The acclaimed film is directed by Oscar®-winning filmmaker Jeffrey Dean Brown (*MOLLY’S PILGRIM*), executive produced by Oscar winner Emma Thompson, Produced by Jane Charles and stars Gillian Anderson (*X-FILES*) and David Arquette. Based on the international bestselling novel by Patricia McCormick, inspired true accounts, *SOLD* depicts the story of an extraordinary girl Lakshmi who is trafficked across the Nepal-India border and forced to work in a brothel in Kolkata, India. By telling one girl’s story, *SOLD* gives voice to the millions of trafficked children who are unheard and unseen. McCormick’s book has been translated into 32 languages and frequently is the introduction for young people to the issue of modern day slavery.

SOLD stars Gillian Anderson, the Golden Globe® and Emmy®-winning actress who portrays the US photographer Sophia, fighting against the odds to rescue Lakshmi, together with the help of NGO workers Mrs Tripathi portrayed by Seirah Royin, a U.S. volunteer Sam, portrayed by David Arquette and Vikram portrayed by Prambrata Chatterjee.

The film has won awards and was the opening night film at numerous film festivals across the United States and around the world.

Brown believes that just as McCormick’s book was a call to action for himself, this new film can serve as a call to global action on child sex

trafficking. He said: "Our hope is that our film will foster global policy change and raise substantial funds for survivors in India, Nepal and the United States." Brown took inspiration from the Academy Award®-winning documentary *Born Into Brothels*. It is his intention that audiences experience Lakshmi's child-like view of the world. The average age of girls trafficked for sex between Nepal and India is 13-16 years old, according to Matthew Friedman an expert in trafficking and an advisor to the film.

Comments on the craft and issue impact potential of the movie from **Executive Producer Emma Thompson**: "It's very rare that a piece of art or of story telling could really help to change things, but *Sold* is one of those films," said Emma Thompson "It's a beautiful piece of work and it tells the unseen story of millions and millions of children." Thompson continued: "Because of *SOLD*'s marvelous script and courageous and brilliant cast, it is a story that we can all watch – so that we may understand the processes of slavery...and feel able to act without feeling the kind of rage and hopelessness that gets in the way of doing anything."

Synopsis: A young girl, Lakshmi, leaves her home in a quiet village in the Nepali Himalayas in the expectation of a job in big city India. However, upon her arrival in Kolkata, she soon realizes she has been trafficked into a prison brothel, where she must struggle daily to survive against impossible odds. A US photographer (Gillian Anderson) hears her cries for help and works with an NGO, to spearhead a dangerous mission to rescue her. Finally, Lakshmi must risk everything for freedom. *SOLD* is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and a clarion call to action.

Filmmaker Statement - By Jeffrey D. Brown: "I have a strong connection to India because my step-father was Indian and I traveled there when I was ten. I will never forget that experience. I saw a cow eat the food of a starving man, saw the funeral pyres of the dead burning at Varanasi. People either love India or are completely overwhelmed by it. There doesn't seem to be a middle ground. For me, reading *SOLD* was like reading a song/prayer/poem – I felt called to tell this story on film. I saw it visually as I read it and I responded to the urgency of the issue and the pain this girl felt. I also knew that by telling Lakshmi's story, we would give voice to the millions of invisible children trafficked every year all over the world."

About the Director: Jeffrey Dean Brown studied film at Tisch School of the Arts at NYU. His first short with dialogue was an adaptation of a book

called “Molly’s Pilgrim.” The dramatic short won an Academy Award for Best Live Action Short in 1986. Brown’s first feature as a director is also a book adaptation, *SOLD*, written by Patricia McCormick. As a director, Brown has won numerous awards including an Emmy (for an After School Special), a Peabody, a Cine Golden Eagle, among others. He has directed 17 hours of episodic television shows such as: “The Wonder Years,” “LA Law” and “Hooperman.” He has also directed over 200 commercials. He Executive Produced and co-wrote with Finn Taylor; “Pontiac Moon” for Paramount and co-wrote and co-produced “Dream with the Fishes,” an indie that premiered at Sundance. He lives in Northern California with his wife.



Director Jeffrey Dean Brown and actress Gillian Anderson on-location in India.

About the Producer: Award-winning producer, Jane Charles’ recent credits include: *Fat Kid Rules the World*, *Switchmas*, *Grassroots* and *SOLD*, which won “Best Narrative Feature” at AFME, and the Audience Awards at LIFF, FIFF and SIFF. Previously, Jane worked on the series: *21 Jump Street*, *Booker*, *Wise Guy* and feature films *Bird On A Wire*, *Run* and *Pure Luck*. She has produced countless television commercials, television shows and music videos (Sting, Harry Connick Jr, Our Lady Peace). Jane ran production companies (Apple Box Productions and Run Spot Run Films). Now she is committed to making cause-based films which entertain and

enlighten. She is a co-founder of the Seattle non-profit Stolenyouth.org.

About the Production: SOLD was filmed on location in 2013 in India & Nepal. "Patty's process as a writer is similar to mine as a filmmaker," Brown says, pointing out that they both rely heavily upon "research, research, research." He adds that her novel, "is accurate in all its details and so is our film." To vouchsafe authenticity, Brown and Charles spent a great deal of time on their first trip to India visiting NGOs that rescue and work with survivors. "We literally met thousands of girls who had been trafficked and talked at length with many of them. We heard stories from survivors, visited red-light districts, spent time in working brothels and safe houses. We gathered a great deal of detailed information in person and also researched a great deal on the internet. We spoke with investigators, madams and NGO founders." Brown acknowledged that many details gleaned from his research found their way directly into the script.

In addition to interviews, first-hand observation helped the filmmakers immeasurably. "We followed the trafficking route described in Patty's novel," Brown adds, "and everything mentioned in the book was researched in person. To research the border crossing, we did a full-day scout to a busy crossing called Bhairahawa, which was two days travel from Katmandu. While scouting, we witnessed three girls intercepted and rescued by the Nepali organization called Maiti Nepal. Without having seen it," Brown observes, "we never could have accurately been able to recreate the border crossing in our film."

Sonagachi, the red-light district of Kolkata that becomes the principal location of the film, is among the largest red-light districts in the world. It is literally a city of brothels. As a filmmaker, Brown needed to experience the rhythm of a working brothel in person to render it effectively on screen.

As Brown tells it, "I remember visiting Sonagachi for the first time, seeing literally hundreds of young girls and women selling themselves on the streets. It was overwhelming. When I saw a girl who had just been rescued from a brothel at an NGO called Sanlaap, I fully understood the suffering these kids go through. She couldn't look anyone in the eye. She was shell shocked, like someone taken from a battlefield who had lost her entire family. Girls like her are put on suicide watch for three months after being rescued. They don't trust anyone; they're like frightened animals. The other survivors gradually make them feel at home and teach them to trust again. It was seeing these things with our own eyes that motivated us to make the film even more, so we could show the world what is happening." Ultimately, Charles and Brown made two trips to Nepal and three to India before they actually started production on the film.

As Charles notes, "the brothel can be a pretty dark and depressing place, especially at night, and no one would be able to sit and watch so much darkness for an hour and a half." With this in mind, the filmmakers engaged in what Brown calls "a

delicate balancing act between the shocking brutality of being trafficked and the community that Lakshmi gradually becomes a part of which helps her survive. Alternating moments of tenderness, friendship, generosity and compassion with the harsh brutality of brothel life was the razor's edge we navigated," he notes.

One way of making the "brutality" palatable was to filter everything through Lakshmi's innocent point of view, a device lifted directly from the novel, which is narrated by Lakshmi herself. "We wanted to keep the film in the 'first person' as much as possible. I wanted the audience to feel as if they were in her shoes." Brown points out that he frequently used a hand held camera to duplicate Lakshmi's sense of disorientation. "We highlighted Lakshmi's innocence," Brown stresses. "In the travel sequence from Nepal to Kolkata, she rides in a truck, a bus and a train---all for the first time. She thinks the train is a big bus. Everything she sees is new. "

Charles confirms that she and Brown made an aesthetic choice to duplicate Lakshmi's child-like view of the world. This allows the audience to feel Lakshmi's confusion, pain and loneliness more acutely. The central relationship in the novel and film is the brother sister relationship that develops between Lakshmi and a younger boy named Harish. Their friendship sustains them and gives the audience hope that carries us through the journey. The film and novel are Dickensian -a good hearted young person is immersed in an evil world but finally through their strength of character, they prevail.

Every step of the way, the filmmakers were conscious of enveloping this difficult material in an overriding sense of artistry, even beauty, in much the same way as McCormick's highly poetic language works in the novel. "Patty's prose is filled with poignant detail," Brown notes, "and the first person point of view gives a real immediacy to the story. She imbues her characters with depth, compassion and most importantly, hope. I've read other books on trafficking which left me depressed for days, but when I read SOLD, I wanted to know how to help, how to get involved. I was energized. We knew from the beginning that we had to carry our audience through this harrowing experience and we did this in various ways: with incredibly beautiful lighting, colorful costumes and the use of exquisite acoustic music. These three things tenderize the audience and give them a compassionate lens through which to see the journey. The warm, human bonds between characters and the beauty and colors of India all help to carry us through the darker aspects of the film."

"We shot with a great deal of atmosphere," he explains, "and we filled our sets with smoke generated by burning coconut husks, which the crew called 'loban.' Everyone in our cast and crew was affected by the smoke. We started sounding like chain smokers coughing all the time. We shot in tiny rooms and were constantly tripping over one another. It was a challenging shoot---especially filming inside Lakshmi's cell. If you leaned against the cell walls, your clothes got stained by the motor oil and tar used to blacken them. Despite these difficulties, cast and crew worked hard 10-12 hours a day six days a week focused on their goal—to diligently and accurately recreate this brothel world."

“We purposefully used as little dialogue as possible,” says Brown. “Film is most potent and poetic when it enters into the landscape of silence. Much of our story is told in silent reactions or meaningful looks.

“The book *SOLD* ends with an American rescuing Lakshmi,” Brown notes. “We wanted Lakshmi to escape on her own, so our heroine would be more empowered by the journey. We met and interviewed a survivor; Petra Hensley, who was trafficked at fourteen and escaped by kicking out the boards covering a window and jumping out of it after hearing a girl in the next room get shot and killed. Petra’s story became an inspiration for Lakshmi’s escape.”

SOLD ABOUT THE CAST

NIYAR SAIKIA — “Lakshmi”

This is Niyar's first featured role though she has done a number of short films. Casting director Tess Joseph auditioned over 1,000 girls in Nepal and India for the role of Lakshmi, video taping over 700 of them. Niyar has a rare combination of profound intelligence, presence and grace. She is incredibly happy and yet can plummet into the depths of despair and sadness with her amazing acting abilities. Her father is a musician and composer and her mother is a singer. Niyar has grown up performing: dancing and singing and acting in school plays. She is from Northern India, an area close to the border of Nepal in the foothills of the Himalayan mountains. Niyar has been awarded an acting scholarship by the Indian government for her amazing talent. During the first week of shooting, Niyar celebrated her thirteen birthday on set with four cakes. We took a fifteen minute break, everyone shoveled down a piece of cake and we went right back to work. Niyar has a bright future ahead of her.

SUSMITA MUKERJEE — “Mumtaz”

Susmita Mukherjee completed her Masters in English literature from the University of Delhi with distinction and went on to complete three years at the prestigious National School of Drama, where she specialized in Acting. Subsequently she shifted to Mumbai where for the last 3 decades she has been acting on stage, TV and films, including world cinema as well as Bollywood films, including the films *Dostana*, *Golmaal* and *King Uncle*. She has lent her professional services, including voicing, to top grade production houses and directors in nearly 30 prime time shows and over 60 feature films. She has received several awards and accolades for her work. In an entrepreneurial attempt she has built an art village in a culturally rich rural area of central India. A book of short stories and a debut novel is pending publication.

TILLOTAMA SOME — “Auntie Bimla”

Tilly is filled with creativity and nuance, tireless and passionate. She helped audition all the other actors. Other films include Monsoon Wedding, The Waiting City, Gangor.

PARAMBRATA CHATTERJEE — “Vikram”

To research his role, Parambrata met with undercover police who do rescues. He is beloved throughout India and especially in Kolkata where he comes from. Some of his other films include Kahaani, Baishe Srabon, Bhooter Bhabishvat.

GILLIAN ANDERSON — “Sophia”

Successful alternating between the big screen and the small and between America and England, Anderson is best known for creating the role of Agent Scully in the hit series “The X Files,” as well as in the feature film based on the show. Other films include “The Mighty,” “Playing By Heart,” “The House of Mirth,” “Tristram Shandy: A Cock and Bull Story,” “The Last King of Scotland,” and “Shadow Dancer.” Prominent television credits include “Bleak House,” “Great Expectations,” “Hannibal,” “The Fall,” and “The Crimson Petal and The White.”

DAVID ARQUETTE— “Sam”

A scion of an acting family, Arquette began his career in his teens and has numerous credits in film, both mainstream and independent, and television. Features include “Where The Day Takes You,” “Buffy The Vampire Slayer,” “Airheads,” “Beautiful Girls,” “Johns,” “Scream,” and its three sequels, “Dream With The Fishes,” “300 Miles to Graceland,” “Eight Legged Freaks,” “The Darwin Awards,” and “Hamlet 2.” Among his numerous television credits are such series as “Double Rush,” “Dead Man’s Walk,” “In Case Of Emergency,” “Pushing Daisies,” “Tron: Uprising,” and guest appearances on “Friends,” “Cougar Town,” and “Medium.” Arquette serves as a producer on “Cougar Town,” a show he created with Courtney Coz Arquette, and has numerous other producing credits on his resume. He has recently directed several episodes of a number of popular series, including three of “Medium,” which starred his sister, Patricia.

SEEMA BISWAS— “Amma”

One of India’s most popular and honored character actresses, with credits in both classic Bollywood films and Indian “art” films, Biswas has appeared in such internationally acclaimed works as “Bandit Queen,” “Water,” and “Midnight’s Children,” the latter two directed by Oscar-nominee Deepa Mehta. Equally adept at performing in Hindi, English, and Tamil, she trained at the National School of Drama in New Delhi and, having subsequently joined their repertory company, her career is also firmly rooted in the theater.

PRIYANKA BOSE— “Monica”

Priyanka claimed the role of Monica with an amazing audition. Before acting, she was a dancer. With great instincts and natural charisma, she breaks hearts as Monica. Some of her other film credits include Johnny Gaddaar, Gangor, Gulab Gang, Sorry Bhai.

ARITRIKA ROY— “Shahanna”

After casting Aratrik, her principal had to be convinced to let her out of exams at school. After many cups of chai, she let her do our film to help the many girls forced into sexual slavery.

SAPTARSHI BASU ROYCHOWDHURY— “Harish”

Saptarshi, the smallest and youngest actor in our cast is also one of the most experienced. With two TV series and 3 features under his belt already. At the wrap party he danced like Michael Jackson.

RATNABALI BHATTACHARJEE — “Pushpa”

Ratnabali is a serious stage and film actress, with credits including Mumbai Calling, All that Glitters, Offshore.

ANKUR VIKAL — “Varun”

We wanted someone kind to work with Niyar. You'd never know what a gentleman he is seeing him play Varun. He's an unforgettable villain. His other credits include Slumdog Millionaire, Maqbool, Striker, 24 Hours.

MADAN KRISHNA SHRESTHA — “Ganesh”

Nepali actors Madan and Hari Bansha have worked together for years. Nepalis love these two men for their humor and philanthropic work. He is also known for his work in Je Bho Ramrai Bho

GOPI DESAI — “Diya”

Gopi is a writer/director as well as an accomplished actress. She brings so much authority to her role as Diya, the tough cook with a heart of gold. Her other credits include: My Son the Fanatic. Mission Kashmir. 1942 A Love Story

SEIRAH ROYIN — “Mrs. Tripathi”

Seirah grew up in America, but her parents are from Southern India. She learned her Bengali accent from Urmi Basu, founder of New Light. Seirah is also an associate

producer working as an integral member of our team.

NEERJA NAIK — “Anita”

Neerja is based in London. SOLD brought her to India for the first time and she loved it. She's credited as an associate producer for helping in many ways. Other film credits include: Life Goes On, Hackney's Finest, Olivia Twist.

SOLD ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

JEFFREY DEAN BROWN--Director

Jeffrey Dean Brown studied film at Tisch School of the Arts at NYU. His first short with dialogue was an adaptation of a book called “Molly’s Pilgrim.” The dramatic short won an Academy Award in 1986. Brown’s first feature as a director is also a book adaptation, SOLD, written by Patricia McCormick. SOLD the novel was nominated for a National Book Award, won a Quill Award and was an ALA “Best Pick.” SOLD has been translated into 32 languages and is frequently the book that introduces young people to the issue of modern day slavery.

SOLD the film has opened 6 film festivals and has so far won 3 audience awards and a jury award for best film.

As a director, Brown has won numerous other awards including an Emmy (for an After School Special), a Peabody, a Cine Golden Eagle, among others. He has directed 17 hours of episodic television shows such as: “The Wonder Years,” “LA Law” and “Hooperman.” He has also directed over 200 commercials.

He Executive Produced and co-wrote with Finn Taylor; “Pontiac Moon” for Paramount and co-wrote and co-produced “Dream with the Fishes,” an indie that premiered at Sundance. He lives in Northern California with his wife.

JANE CHARLES—Producer

With over 20 years in the film industry, Charles has recently produced the films: “Switchmas,” “Fat Kid Rules the World,” “Grassroots” and SOLD, with Oscar-winning director Jeffrey Brown and executive producer Emma Thompson, filmed on location in India & Nepal.

As a member of the Directors Guild of Canada, Charles worked in production on the original Stephen Cannell shows “21 Jump Street,” “Booker,” “Wise Guy,” “Neon Rider” (with the late Winston Reckert), and the feature films “Bird On A Wire”

(Goldie Hawn, Mel Gibson), "Run" (Patrick Dempsey, Kelly Preston) and "Pure Luck" (Danny Glover and Martin Short), as well as several TV movies.

Charles' first feature films as producer, "Cyberteens In Love" and "Once In a Blue Moon," were distributed internationally, and premiered at the Montreal and Toronto International Film Festivals. She has also produced countless television commercials, television shows, and music videos for Sting, Harry Connick, Jr and Our Lady Peace. Beginning in 1996, as Executive Producer, she successfully ran Apple Box Productions (1996 – 2002) and Run Spot Run Films (2002 – 2007) before relocating to Seattle, WA, where she makes cause-based films that entertain and enlighten, and is co-founder of the non-profit Stolen Youth.

EMMA THOMPSON—Executive Producer

Two-time Academy Award-winner Emma Thompson, numbers among her considerable acting credits such films as "Henry V," "Howards End," for which she won the Oscar as Best Actress, "Much Ado About Nothing," "The Remains of The Day," "In The Name Of The Father," "Junior," "Carrington," "Sense and Sensibility," for which she won a Best Screenplay Oscar, "Primary Colors," "Love Actually," "Pirate Radio," three Harry Potter films and, most recently, "Saving Mr. Banks." A many-faceted talent, Thompson, wrote and starred in two successful "Nanny McPhee" features, and also has notable television credits both in America and in the U.K. In addition to serving as executive producer on SOLD, Thompson also produced "Nanny McPhee Returns," and executive produced "The Journey."

KATIE MUSTARD--Co-Producer

With an expertise in physical producing, Ms. Mustard has overseen the production of 32 feature films, 20 short films, 3 feature documentaries and dozens of commercials. In 2013, she produced 4 feature films including Simon Helberg's "We'll Never Have Paris (premiere, SXSW 2014) with Alfred Molina and Maggie Grace; Paul Bettany's directorial debut "Shelter," with Jennifer Connelly and Anthony Mackie; and "The World Made Straight," with Minka Kelly, Noah Wyle and Steve Earle.

In Jan 2014, Mustard had her 9th film premiere at the Sundance Film Festival with "Appropriate Behavior." Other Sundance premieres include Andrew Dosunmu's directorial debut "Restless City;" "The Missing Person" (Michael Shannon & Amy Ryan); "The Greatest" (Pierce Brosnan, Carey Mulligan, Susan Sarandon); "Special" (Michael Rappaport); "The Son Of No One" (Al Pacino, Katie Holmes, Ray Liotta, & Channing Tatum); and "Night Catches Us (Kerry Washington and Anthony Mackie), which went on to be nominated for an Independent Spirit Award. An honors graduate of USC film school, Mustard is represented by UTA.

SEAMUS TIERNEY—Director of Photography

A distinguished graduate of the American Film Institute, Tierney spent several years in Hawaii before moving to Australia where he spent the majority of his childhood. In 1996, returning to the states to pursue his film career, he worked his way up the ladder in the lighting department on hundreds of commercials, music videos, and feature films. For three years he was lighting designer for celebrated photographer Steven Klein, creating a look that set a new standard in fashion photography.

Tierney started to gain recognition as a cinematographer in the late 1990s, shooting a student Academy Award-winning short, which was the first in a series of films he shot that won awards from festivals all over the world, including Sundance and Cannes. Recently, Tierney shot the comedy “Sin Bin” directed by Billy Federighi starring Gillian Jacobs, Ben McKenzie, Tim Blake Nelson and Jeff Garlin. He shot Josh Radnor’s directorial debut “HappyThankYouMorePlease,” starring Radnor, Malin Ackerman, Kate Mara, and Richard Jenkins, which won the audience award at Sundance. Some other feature film highlights include: “Adam” released by Fox Searchlight, starring Hugh Dancy and Rose Byrne ; “The Good Guy” starring Bryan Greenberg and Scott Porter, which premiered at the Tribeca Film festival; “The Narrows,” directed by François Velle and starring Vincent D’Onofrio, Eddie Cahill and Sophia Bush; “Veronika Decides to Die,” directed by Emily Young and starring Sarah Michelle Gellar, Jonathan Tucker, and Erika Christensen, based on Paulo Coelho’s novel; and the Korean film “Hers”. In total, Tierney has shot over 10 feature films and over 45 shorts, such as “Artistic License,” which won the audience award at the Austin Film Festival; “Movie Theatre Hero,” recipient of the 2002 Coca-Cola Refreshing Filmmakers Award, screened in AMC theatres across the country; and “Zen: The Art of Landscaping,” recipient of the 2001 Student Academy Award.

JOSEPH KWONG--Writer/Co-Producer

Kwong is Creative Director and Co-Founder at Nuvana, a company that makes socially-networked games for the Web and mobile devices that catalyze positive behavioral change in the real world. The Nuvana platform works for education, private sector innovation and team building, non-profit efforts, health, foundations, even marketing. Nuvana has been used by school districts, museums, corporate entities, universities, non-profits, and foundations. He is currently collaborating with Professors Scott & Li of Stanford's School of Design to create a visually oriented online learning platform, and with Manteca Unified School District for vocational training. The platform has been used by the University of California to teach online math, the Friends of EEI to teach environmental education to California K-12 students, and 10,000 Degrees to create a gamified app for college access & success

as recipients of the College Knowledge Challenge grant funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Kwong is also in continuing partnership with the Nike Foundation and Grameen America on a financial literacy game for adolescent girls in poverty. He created "JAM – the Jamboree for Arts & Music" for SF Unified School District, NY Department of Education, and SF Arts Commission; a companion to "InterroBang," a problem-solving game -- created in collaboration with the Exploratorium, Learn and Serve America, and sponsored by Microsoft Partners in Learning;; and "Flashback," an American history game funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Kwong's feature film credits include "Nim's Island," a screenplay adaptation, starring Jodie Foster, Abigail Breslin and Gerard Butler, based on the best-selling novel, and the adaptation of Patricia McCormick's National Book Award finalist, "Sold."

TABASHEER ZUTSHI--Production Designer

In addition to SOLD, on which she served as both production and costume designer, Zutshi has also worked on "Miss Lovely" as both production and costume designer, and "Tasher Desh" as costumer designer. Her most notable American film credit was as part of the design team on Wes Anderson's "The Darjeeling Limited," which was filmed in Mumbai.

RICK LECOMPTE—Editor

Lecompte has edited over 20 feature films in the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles. Independent feature films "Dream With the Fishes", "Haiku Tunnel", "Cherish" and "The Darwin Awards" all premiered at the Sundance Film Festival before playing theatrically worldwide. His latest features include "Seducing Charlie Barker" based on the play by Teresa Rebeck and "Sold", based on the best selling novel by Patricia McCormick. He also has edited documentaries. The feature length documentary "The Loss of Nameless Things" was an official selection at AFI Silverdocs festival and was broadcast by PBS on Independent Lens. The documentary "This Dust of Words" was broadcast on PBS' Truly California series. He worked on NBC's documentary mini-series "Ocean Quest" produced by Guber/Peters and directed by Al Giddings.

SAMMY CHAND--Music Supervisor

Chand, a record producer, soundtrack composer, artist, and entrepreneur is also the founder of Rukus Avenue, a South Asian record label based in Los Angeles, CA. Chand has transformed both the musical landscape and the South Asian community

with a storied career spanning over two decades. In 1996, he laid the foundation for Rukus Avenue, as an independent record label and platform for an emerging scene of South Asian musicians in North America. This seminal company was at the forefront of a community-driven movement to establish a new identity for South-Asian Americans, who were charged with the task of reconciling traditional cultural values with American ones. Chand had made a name for himself in the world of film and television through a lengthy list of placements. Under his leadership, the label gained an international presence, beginning with a landmark distribution deal with Sony Music in India and a more recent global agreement with The Orchard.

Early releases such as “Passage to India” (Various, 2001) and “The Movement,” (Karmacy, 2005), helped cement Chand’s status as dynamic music producer and cultural ambassador. His solo debut, “Tale of a Crown” (2010) further demonstrated his ability to pair original musical elements found in South Asian music with a variety of other genres - a Chand signature. Throughout his career, Chand and his music have built a formidable bond with the film and television community. His notable placements include CBS News, PBS, The Oprah Winfrey Show, America’s Most Wanted, Leela, So You Think You Can Dance?, Anthony Bourdain’s No Reservations and the Weather Channel’s Storm Riders. In 2008, he partnered with the Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles to bring a live musical component to the festival that would properly articulate the intimate relationship between music and film in Indian Cinema. The IFFLA Rhythm Village and IFFLA Rhythm Village Unplugged under his direction, have become highly popular additions to the annual event.

Today, Chand is further advancing this movement and his sound with the third generation of Rukus Avenue artists. He is currently producing the debut from Elephants With Guns, and is also writing and recording material for Blood and Treasure, the follow-up to Tale of a Crown. Chand currently resides in Los Angeles.

JOHN MCDOWELL--Composer

Musician and film composer John McDowell achieved worldwide recognition with his soundtrack to the Academy Award-winning documentary “Born Into Brothels.” Winner of Best Musical Score at the Bend Film Festival, the score blends Western and Indian music in a mesmerizing mix. Subsequent film scores by McDowell include “Who Does She Think She Is?,” “Orgasmic Birth,” and the documentary film “Stolen,” which premiered at the Toronto Film Festival.

Known for much more than just his film scores, McDowell is also a highly gifted pianist, percussionist, producer, commissioned composer and conductor. His work over the past 25 years draws on classical, jazz, pop, and world music. McDowell served as founder, artistic director, and leader of several musical projects including The Born Into Brothels Ensemble and the world music band Mamma Tongue. He has toured and recorded with Rusted Root and Krishna Das, and has produced several albums including his solo CD Speaking the Mamma Tongue. McDowell’s formal

education and subsequent informal global training has made him a largely self-taught ethnomusicologist of wide-ranging scale.

After receiving music composition degrees from DePaul and Northwestern Universities, McDowell lived in Europe and Africa. His research took him to Senegal, Gambia, India, and to work with Native American drummers and singers from the Tuscarora and Oglala tribes. In Europe, his dance scores have been featured at the Brussels Dance Festival, the Holland Festival, and the Berlin-Amsterdam Festival. He has written over 100 pieces ranging from solo flute music to dance scores, a requiem, and works for a world music ensemble and orchestra. He has performed at major venues and festivals including the Montreal Jazz Festival, Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors, and the United Nations. He is also a biodynamic farmer and has recently performed and toured in the U.S. and Canada as half of the piano/violin duo project Music for Farms with Canadian violinist, composer, and fellow farmer Emmanuel Vukovich.

Social Impact Initiative and Partnerships:

SOLD is part of a wider effort to raise awareness and funds to address the the issue of child trafficking.

- The film team has a campaign called Taught Not Trafficked which the release of the film SOLD will drive. The film in partnership with many global non-profits: ECPAT, Save the Children, World Vision, ATEST, the Walk Free Campaign, Stolen Youth, United Way, Rotary International, Childreach International and others will leverage the power of the film to lead a major advocacy campaign tied with the theatrical release – intending to create real impact on the issue of sex trafficking. The goals of this campaign are:

PREVENTION

If you keep children in school until 16 they are 80% less likely to be trafficked

- Rebuild 200 schools in Nepal
- Build 10 centers in India (like Hope House) to rescue children from red-light districts
- Educational component for US high schools and colleges

HEALING

Survivors must heal trauma before they are truly free

- iRest Yoga heals PTSD. Teachers will train sex trafficking survivors in the US, Nepal and India in this healing modality.
- Circles of Change (using Stolen Youth as a successful model) will raise funds to support trafficking survivors in 10 of the most trafficked US cities.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING/LEADERSHIP

Survivors need vocational training to re-build their lives

- Vocationally train and empower 2,000 survivors in the US, India, Nepal
- Additionally, the team will be focused on efforts with the Indian American community, faith communities and faith-based organizations and many others.

Unique Film: The filmmakers embrace the term “cause-based narrative” and intend to use the theatrical release to lead to real impacts. One goal of the effort is to help raise the funds for Hope House and potentially 10 other refuges for those who are survivors of, or have been affected by, sex trafficking.

Based upon *SOLD*, National Book Award nominee, winner of the Quill Award, and an ALA “Best Pick.”

Film Credits:

Director: Jeffrey Dean Brown
Producer: Jane Charles
Executive Producer: Emma Thompson
Co-Producer: Kate Mustard
Director of Photography: Seamus Tierney
Writer/Co-Producer: Joseph Kwong
Production Designer: Tabasheer Zutshi
Editor: Rick Lecompte
Music Supervisor: Sammy Chand
Composer: John McDowell

Film Cast:

Niyar Saikia, Susmita Mukerjee, Tillotama Some, Parambrata Chatterjee, Gillian Anderson, David Arquette, Seema Biswas, Priyanka Bose, Aritrika Roy and more

