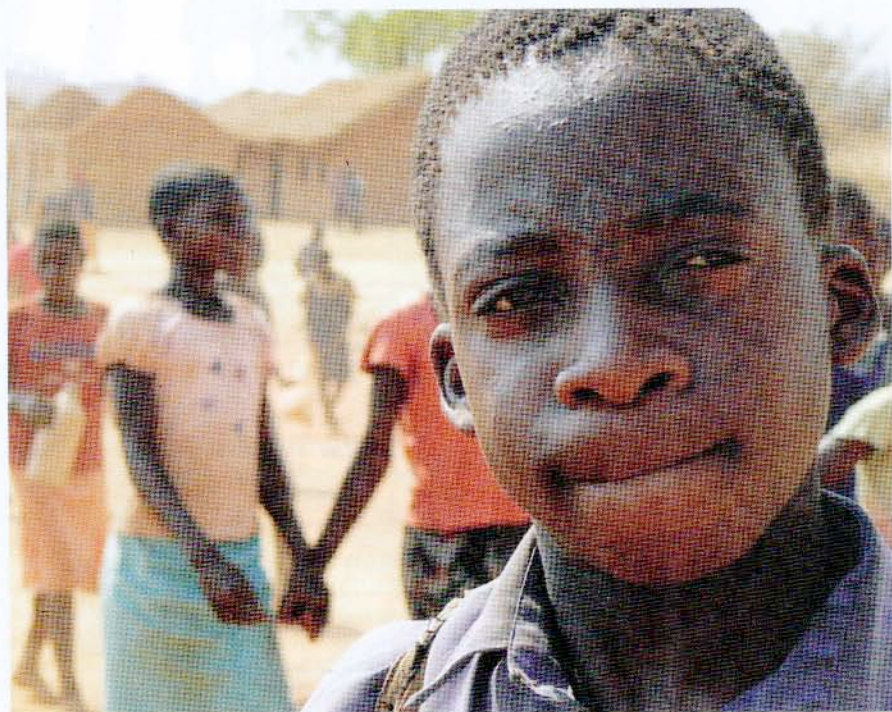




Zimbabwe's Forgotten Children

True Vision Productions for BBC4

T rue Vision has an unparalleled track record in uncovering the stories of children growing up in some of the most unforgiving conditions in the world, and *Zimbabwe's Forgotten Children* proved no exception. Having filmed in Tibet and China for his previous films, Jezza Neumann faced his toughest challenge yet, as foreign journalists remained banned from Zimbabwe.

Going in undercover, Neumann teamed up with producer Xoliswa Sithole, who had gained permission from Mugabe's government to make a film about her Zimbabwean childhood. In truth, the pair sought to capture life for children today and, despite the constant threat of arrest, they were able to film for several months with repeated return trips.

After surviving 12 interrogations from officials, they got their film: a visually striking and haunting document of lives growing up in poverty that exposed the gap between the hopes and dreams of the nation's

children and the reality of what their country can provide for them.

From the sight of an elder brother washing his sibling in the blazing sun to a school sending its pupils home one by one for unpaid fees, the film is full of unforgettable images and earned an

'Outstanding journalism, beautifully put together in demanding circumstances. Very moving'

Awards judges

audience appreciation figure of 90.

Many viewers were prompted into action: the True Vision Foundation received more than £85,000 in donations and after its BBC2 TX, charity SOS Children's Villages received around £250,000 in direct debt pledges.

"Outstanding journalism, beautifully put together in very demanding circumstances. Very moving," said our judges.

It stands out as a shining example of BBC4's *Storyville* strand.