

# RANGER

*A film about the wilderness within.*





# SYNOPSIS:

***Ranger*** is a story about rite of passage. Set within Kenya's Maasai homeland, an intimate and contemporary story of self-discovery unfolds, as 12 women become East Africa's first all-female anti-poaching unit. Upending the male-dominated, reliance upon military-style training to make a wildlife ranger, Virginia, Liz, Momina and Damaris instead undergo a year-long program of deep trauma-release and healing, triggering profound transformation within themselves and sending shockwaves through their communities.

***Logline:*** 12 women from Kenya's Maa communities undergo a profound rite of passage to become wildlife rangers, sending shockwaves through their communities.

WORLD PREMIERE



# BACKGROUND:

During the period of production, the Maa communities of Northern Kenya underwent a mass-initiation that occurs roughly once every decade. Thousands of boys became warriors, through a month-long celebration culminating in circumcision. Conversely, female circumcision (FGM), is outlawed in Kenya. While the practice remains prevalent in some remote communities, as a rite, it is done in secrecy, heightening the danger and enshrouding girls in shame. Nearly all of the 12 candidates underwent FGM as young girls. Other than marriage, there is no legal rite of passage whereby girls come to be seen as women by their communities. In this light, for a young woman from one of Kenya's pastoralist communities to pursue and attain the authority of a wildlife ranger becomes something much more than a profession.



# BACKGROUND:

At the outset, the project was a collaborative experiment, between the ranger candidates, their trainers, their community and our small crew. Together, we underwent months of emotional processes, trauma-release exercises, patrols, skills training, and ceremony. Rather than acting as a film crew in the conventional sense, we were more of a recorder of all that took place. It was their strong desire to tell their own story, and it was our privilege to be a vehicle for their intention.

The women of *Ranger* want the audience to feel what poured out during the course of their journey- the joy and the pain. It is their desire to tell this story in a raw and direct manner. What happened in their room and around their campfires was sacred to the group, but their intention is to let their experience inspire other women just like them.

WORLD PREMIERE



CREW





# CREW

**Director:** Austin Peck

**Country (of production):** Kenya

**Years (of production):** 2019-2020

**Duration:** 93 min

**Rating:** PG

**Genre:** Documentary

**Language:** Swahili, English, Samburu

**Subtitles:** English

**Production Company:** One Story Up, Indikate Productions,  
Projectorbeam

**Locations (filming):** Laikipia County, Kenya

**Producers:** Roger Ross Williams, Kate Garwood, Jochen  
Zeitz

**Executive Producers:** Geoff Martz, Marcy McCall MacBain

**Director of Photography:** Austin Peck

**Samburu Ritual Advisor:** Jacob Olerisin

**Montage:** Austin Peck

**Assistant Editor & Maa Translations:** Moding Karemi

**Color:** Stewart Griffin, Anthony Campagna, Final Frame

**Music:** Johan Karlberg and Jacob Vetter

**Production Sound:** Austin Peck

**Post-Production Sound Mix:** Erik Lohr

**Sales Agent:** Josh Braun, Submarine

**Contacts:** rogerrosswilliamsinc@gmail.com,  
austin@projectorbeam.com

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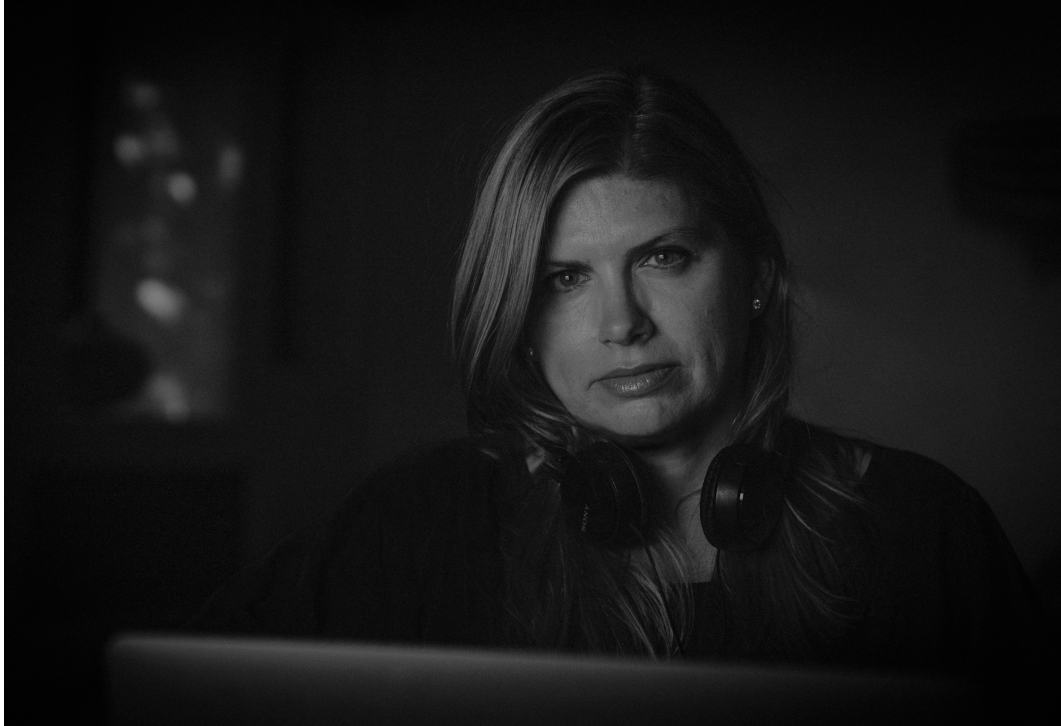
### **Roger Ross Williams - *Producer***

The first African-American director to win an Academy Award, Williams has directed a number of acclaimed films including *Life, Animated*, which won the Sundance Film Festival Directing Award, was nominated for an Academy Award<sup>®</sup> and won three Emmys in 2018, including the award for Best Documentary.

He also directed *God Loves Uganda*, which was shortlisted for an Academy Award<sup>®</sup>, and *American Jail*, which examined the U.S. prison system and premiered on CNN.

Williams' *Traveling While Black*, a VR documentary made for Facebook's Oculus, premiered at Sundance Film Festival and was nominated for a Primetime Emmy and won a Webby Award.

His film *The Apollo*, a documentary about Harlem's legendary Apollo Theater, was the opening night film of the 2019 Tribeca Film Festival and won the Primetime Emmy for Outstanding Documentary. He recently directed three hours of *The Innocence Files*, which premiered on Netflix in their top ten.



### **Kate Garwood - *Producer***

Born in London, Kate Garwood has spent the last 20 years in the USA producing genre-defining television, film and documentary content. Launching her career on blockbuster TV series' like *24*, *Traffic*, and the Emmy and Golden Globe winning *The Life and Death of Peter Sellers* for HBO films, starring Geoffrey Rush and Charlize Theron, which premiered at Cannes. She also worked as a Producer on *Californication* starring David Duchovny, and *House of Lies* starring Don Cheadle and Kristen Bell. In the documentary world, Kate produced the doc series *Driving Force* and *Las Vegas Garden of Love* for A&E, as well as the Pablo Escobar doc feature *Pablo's Hippos* for BBC Films. In 2015 Kate Garwood founded Indikate Productions and developed and produced the feature films *RACE*, the real-life story of legendary African-American athlete Jesse Owens and the 1936 Nazi Olympics, starring Stefan James, Jeremy Irons and William Hurt, released by Focus Features in 2016, and *Seberg*, the true story of American actress Jean Seberg and her relationship with the Black Panther party set in 1969, starring Kristen Stewart and Anthony Mackie, which premiered at the Venice Film Festival, the Toronto Film Festival and London BFI in 2019, released by Amazon Studios in 2020. Most recently, Indikate produced and released in partnership with Netflix and Silverback Productions, *Breaking Boundaries* with Sir David Attenborough, an acclaimed climate-impact documentary feature, which was screened at President Biden's Climate Summit in 2021.



### **Austin James Peck- *Director***

Peck is a Nairobi-based film director whose works include the feature-length documentary film ***Gardeners of Eden*** - about Kenya's David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust and their fight against the ivory trade.

(Netflix, NatGeo, 2015) Peabody Award Nominee, Audience Choice Award - Mill Valley Film Festival, Director's Award - Sedona Film Festival.

NatGeo. Peck's first feature-length documentary ***Tough Bond***, a story about the gritty underworld of children coming from Kenya's northern pastoralist tribes to live on Nairobi's streets, premiered in 2012 in competition at Berlinale (Berlin, Germany), with a North American premiere in competition at HotDocs (Toronto, Canada).

In 2016 and 2017, Peck directed a 6-hour investigative documentary series for KTV Kenya on police corruption, (Winner, Journalists of the Award, Kenya, 2017).

Between 2014-2017, Peck also served as East Africa program director for the covert human rights organization, Videre Est Credere, providing training and support to activists to record and publish video evidence of the human rights violations they face. Multi-year projects included short film-based media campaigns against persecution of Kenya's queer community and national sensitization campaigns for Al Shabab defectors attempting to return to their families.



# SETTING:

*Ranger* takes place on the Laikipia plateau, against the slopes of the snow-capped Mount Kenya. It is a place of warriors, pastoralists, horizons lined by acacia trees, plains roamed by giants. While it is a deeply human story, the film also pays homage to this precious and fragile place, to the natural symphony of rain, blistering heat, the thirst of land and animal alike, the crisp night, the exhilarating vulnerability of sleeping in the bush under the moon and stars. *Ranger* is a love letter to all of this, and a call to action to a new generation of heroes and heroines.

A person wearing traditional Asante clothing, including a headwrap and a patterned jacket, stands in a field of tall, golden-brown grass. The person is seen from the back, holding a long wooden staff. The background features sparse, leafless trees under a cloudy sky. The overall mood is serene and traditional.

*Asante.*