

HOME IS WHERE YOU FIND IT

Our first Film Mentors, Neal Baer (Executive Director of Law & Order: SVU) and Chris Zalla (2007 Sundance Grand Jury Prize winner) spent the month of August 2007 in Mozambique mentoring a 16-year-old boy, Alcides Soares, in the art of filmmaking. Insightful, honest and raw, Alcides documents his life with expert guidance from his film mentors. He introduces us to his world through film.

This is the first of the **BYkids** series of short films being made by youth around the world who have a globally important story to tell and who are mentored by American film masters.

Chris and Neal taught Alcides how to use the Canon XHA1, the sound equipment, the computer and Final Cut Pro. The end result will be a 40-minute documentary film made by a boy - one of the 500,000 Mozambican kids who has lost his parents to AIDS.

BYkids: MOZAMBIQUE is being edited through the generosity of NBC/Universal. The editor, Michael Schweitzer, won the best editing award last year at Sundance for the film, Nanking. Film Mentor, Neal Baer, is arranging for Alcides to come to L.A. to do an intensive English program so he can narrate his own film. He will also work closely with the editor in the editing room.

Thanks to Crossroads Films, who donated their editing time and expertise, there is a four-minute trailer of Alcides' inspiring story. Click on this link www.bykids.org/trailer.php sit back and enjoy this short preview. It's story of a young boy and his siblings, left alone in the world to fend for themselves – the result of a disease that has devastated the world.

Alcides shot over 50 hours of footage and we are thrilled to announce that NBC Universal has agreed to fund \$100,000 toward post-production.

“Working with Alcides in Mozambique was an unforgettable experience. This footage so richly conveys his and other AIDS

orphans' experience that it cries out to be a feature film." Neal Baer,
Film Mentor

BYkids is a non-profit organization pairing master American filmmakers with youth (ages 8-21) from around the world to mentor the child in creating a short documentary about his or her life. **BYkids** selects these children's stories for their international relevance. All **BYkids** s documentaries carry the universal values of courage, perseverance and dignity, and illuminate critical global issues from a perspective rarely told in mainstream media. In coordination with its broad film distribution, **BYkids**' community and educational outreach programming strives to engage the American public's participation in these issues. **BYkids** seeks to change the way Americans see the world — and the way the world sees us — by using the power of film as a tool for global understanding and a catalyst for action.

"This powerful idea of empowering kids to tell their stories really works. Through the expertise and commitment of Neal and Chris and Alcides, we have a ground-breaking film that will change the way Americans see the world and the way the world sees America. We are excited to share this important film with a wide audience," says **BYkids** Executive Director, Holly Carter.