



Gentle, Angry Women

Logline



Gentle, Angry Women

78-mins documentary

Director/Producer: Barbara Santi

Co-Producer: Lucy Mainstone


Exec Producer: Chris Morris, Laura Giles, Rebecca Mordan, Austen Atkinson

Three young female activists are on a journey of discovery, going where over 30,000 women went before them to unite in a peaceful, liberating protest, Greenham Common, UK.

The core of this coming-of-age documentary, driven by intergenerational dialogue, speaks to the need for action and change.

- **Keywords:** Feminism, Protest, Nuclear disarmament, Youth.



A young woman with long red hair stands in the center of a gravel path in a rural setting. She is holding a white rectangular sign with blue hand-painted text that reads "ANIMALS HAVE FAMILIES TOO" with two small blue hearts at the bottom. She is wearing a black t-shirt and black pants. The background features a stone wall on the left, a small yellow building with a green door, and a wooden fence on the right, all under a cloudy sky.

ANIMALS
HAVE
FAMILIES
TOO

***“Activism is not some unattainable,
unachievable thing that happens out there.
It starts with you.” Evie, aged 19***

Gentle, Angry Women is an immersive, empowering story following three young female activists on a 110-mile pilgrimage to Greenham. They are joining, connecting with and retracing the steps of thousands of women who came before them, bound by a common cause - to protect the planet.

We meet **Poppy** (16), **Xanthe** (17) and **Evie** (19) on a unique encounter with their female activist counterparts to discover the relevance the past has on the present and future.

Unaware of the longest female-led protest in British history, a new generation of young female activists are standing up to fight for the issues of their time. They are working at the intersection of concerns that are vital to their generation, as well as being a teenager and finding their place in a turbulent world.



Gentle, Angry Women is a story about belief, grit and hope.

Background



2021 marked the fortieth anniversary when a Welsh women's rights group walked 110 miles over 9 days from Wales to RAF Greenham Common to demonstrate against American missiles being stored there. The Greenham women's relentless activism lasted nineteen years and kept the topic of nuclear disarmament on the political agenda. They radicalised a generation, yet it is not the subject of public discussion, nor is it in school textbooks and as the original women die, people risk never hearing of the largest women-led movement since suffrage.

Fast-forward to 2024: Fewer young people are joining traditional political institutions, yet involvement in less formalised movements is increasing. This growing phenomenon of young people standing up for what they believe in is a timely reflection of society today.





Relevance today

A symbol of resistance has never been more relevant as the young women uncover that Trident warheads are still being made at Aldermaston, 6 miles from Greenham.



In 2024, the British Conservative government announced that US nuclear missiles will be rehoused on UK soil for the first time in 16 years. Where do we stand on this decision at this crossroads? Are women's voices still ignored 40 years after Greenham? What can young people do to make their opinions heard?

Our Story

Evie (19) is an animal rights, vegan and environmental campaigner.

Brought up in rural Cornwall, her motto is “You are what you repeatedly do”. Having started University during the outbreak of COVID, Evie hopes that the future will bring new possibilities to further her campaigns. Shy and reserved, Evie craves to widen her horizons but is pulled back to the safety of her home. Can she overcome her fears and feelings of inadequacy?



Xanthe (17) from North London, was inspired to speak out as a result of Greta Thunberg’s Fridays for Future, Extinction Rebellion and Black Lives Matter. She uses her poetry as a political tool to talk about issues that resonate with her generation. Through the film, Xanthe learns that her mother went to Greenham as a teenager and her grandmother went to the first Aldermaston march in 1958, a famous anti-nuclear weapons demonstration.



“Unfortunately, we live in a world that whilst democracy is alive that doesn't necessarily mean that the voice of the people are heard”

Poppy (16) lives in South Wales. She is a youth climate ambassador, a Labour youth representative and fights for girls to have a voice and youth rights with Plan UK. A passionate public speaker, aiming to study at Yale University, US. Poppy seems confident but reveals she still seeks male approval to feel validated – will she change her opinion after learning about Greenham?



Gentle, Angry Women is a story about the voice and empowerment of young women

Their love of the spoken word brings the three young women together: performance poet **Xanthe** uses verse as an effective means for processing trauma/improving well-being; **Poppy** is a naturally gifted public speaker who shoots from the heart (we think she'll be the next first minister of Wales!); **Evie** speaks out to give a voice to the voice-less with her animal protection and vegan campaigning.



Impact



Gentle, Angry Women is an uplifting story, a life-affirming and optimistic film, presenting young women in a thoughtful, reflective light, often absent from mainstream media. Our film resonates with a broad range of people and ages, specifically under 30s, women and those interested in the themes presented in our film.

Gentle, Angry Women is not just a feel-good story - we see our film as a beacon of hope, bringing wider awareness and advocacy to this under discussed narrative and encouraging gentle, reflective ways of how we can all improve our world.

Feminist documentaries are few and far between, but they have an important role to play in highlighting the pressing issues faced by women and marginalised communities across the globe. We believe that there is a real thirst for daring, alternative viewpoints, and micro stories with a global heart. Our film offers a unique perspective that will engage and captivate audiences, much like the documentary *Smoke Sauna Sisterhood*.



Artistic Approach

Gentle, Angry Women is a character-led, socially driven directorial feature debut that is immersive and cinematic. It is a compelling observational human-interest story celebrating female empowerment and women's achievement of taking a collective political stand. The film has a unique perspective, told simply and honestly to allow the participants' voices to shine.

Our film is a journey of discovery. We want audiences to experience the story through Poppy's, Xanthe's and Evie's eyes and the physical act of walking as the women unite in intergenerational exchanges.

Gentle, Angry Women intertwines first-hand intimate material with strikingly epic, expansive aerial shots to draw the audience into their world. The flashback offshoot scenes at home take us deeper into their lives, relationships, personal challenges and revelations. These moments are portrayed in a cinema-verité style, capturing the young women asking questions honestly and emotively.

The heroic scale of what the Greenham women achieved through events like Embrace the Base, where 30,000 women held hands around a 9-mile perimeter fence, is heightened with faster edits, energetic archive film is intensified by music, which increases the story's urgency.

Filmed in 2K/4K on Canon C300/C70 with stunning Canon cine lenses and dramatic aerial photography, our documentary is underpinned by a powerful audio-visual archive and a driving, specially composed electronic style music score. Personal mobile phone clips are included and act as glimpses of young women growing into maturity.

The Greenham Women



Sassy, spirited and wise, **Sue**, **Ray** and **Maggie** meet the young women at various stages of the march. We are introduced to scenes back in their hometown to give us deeper insights into the story of Greenham and how their firsthand experience affected the rest of their lives.

What will Poppy, Xanthe and Evie learn from these incredible trailblazers?

The Team



Barbara Santi

Nicola Leddy

Lucy Mainstone

Rebecca Mordan

Christopher Morris

Laura Giles

Director/Producer/DOP Barbara Santi is an award-winning collaborative documentary filmmaker/producer using film and digital media for positive social change. Based in Cornwall she is co-founder of awen productions. At the heart of her films are powerful, cinematic stories focusing on socially driven narratives to raise underrepresented people's voices. Docs selected at festivals incl. winner at New Renaissance Film Festival, Amsterdam (2021), The New York Short Film Festival (2021) and films screened at indie cinemas incl. Bertha DocHouse, London (2024).

DOP Nicola Leddy is Irish born and London based. Nicola's passion is making films for social change. Her first documentary was commissioned by BBC3 and after it received 7 million views, she began working with charities and filmmakers across the UK to make films that impact communities positively, empower people, and change perceptions.

Co-Producer Lucy Mainstone is currently working on several short film projects in development, across scripted and documentary genres. Lucy has worked in factual TV as a Development Researcher in Cornwall, for Beagle Media. She was the Researcher for Discovery on Cornwall Air 999 (2022), researcher on Simon Reeve's Return to Cornwall (2023) for the BBC2. Prior to joining Beagle, Lucy worked in talent management in London, before moving into TV casting in Vancouver, working on multiple TV productions as a casting assistant.

Exec Producer Chris Morris is a documentary filmmaker, academic and broadcaster. BBC London and Cardiff as a director, producer, executive producer. Awards: BAFTA, BAFTA Cymru Awards, Royal Television Society Award, Celtic Media Awards, prizes at Berlin Film Festival and Chicago International Children's Film Festival.

Exec Producer Laura Giles award-winning feature documentary SONS OF CUBA (BBC4 Storyville & international), Associate Producer on iFeatures MAKE UP, Producer low-budget feature THE TAPE, BFI NETWORK short DOG YEARS, and Producer on THE AUDACIOUS (BBC digital platforms).

Consultant Rebecca Mordan went to Greenham as a child with her mum. Today she is director of feminist theatre company *Scary Little Girls* and *Greenham Women Everywhere*, a vehicle to raise awareness of Greenham. Rebecca also features in our documentary.

Links

www.barbarasanti.co.uk

www.awen.org.uk

www.greenhamwomeneverywhere.co.uk

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