



Iron Ladies of Liberia (2007)

Screening: Sunday November 22, 2009 5:00 pm

River Park Church Auditorium, 3818 -14A Street SW

Length: 77 minutes

Directors: Siatta Scott Johnson and Daniel Junge

Film Websites: <http://www.ironladiesofliberia.org/>; <http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/ironladies/>

Trailer: <http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/ironladies/previewpop.html>

Video Clip: <http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/ironladies/filmpop.html>

Stills: See websites above

Summary: After surviving a 14-year civil war and a government riddled with corruption, Liberia is ready for change. On January 16, 2006, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf was inaugurated President – the first freely elected female head of state in Africa. Having won a hotly contested election with the overwhelming support of women across Liberia, Sirleaf faces the daunting task of lifting her country from debt and devastation. She turns to a remarkable team of women, appointing them in positions such as police chief, finance minister, minister of justice, commerce minister and minister of gender.



These “Iron Ladies” tackle indolent bureaucracy, black markets and the omnipresent threat of violent riots. Highlighting the challenges that African countries currently face, this film provides an uplifting example of women who have become the backbone of change. As the filmmakers explore a historic transition from authoritarianism to democracy, the viewer is treated to a joyous, inspirational testimony of the political power of women's leadership and diplomacy.

Recognition:

- Premiered, Toronto International Film Festival 2007
- Screened, Human Rights Watch International Film Festival, London England 2008

Conversation Leader: Merv Chia has been a volunteer with the Red Cross for the past 9 years and is currently serving as Council President for the region. He is the President of NEX Industries Ltd, an investment company. He has always been an active volunteer in community organizations with a keen interest in international development. Merv returned from a month in Liberia on a Red Cross mission in June 2008.