

# PINK SARIS

INGLATERRA, 2010

**KIM LONGINOTTO**



## TECHNICAL DATA

*Director:* Kim Longinotto  
*Producer:* Amber Latif, Girjashanker Vohra  
*Camera:* Kim Longinotto  
*Music:* Midival Punditz  
*Cast:* Renu Devi, Niranjan Pal, Sampat Pal Devi  
*Runtime:* 96 min

## SYNOPSIS

‘“A girl’s life is cruel...A woman’s life is very cruel,” notes Sampat Pal, the complex protagonist at the centre of Kim Longinotto’s latest foray into the lives of extraordinary women. Sampat Pal should know – like many others she was married as a young girl into a family which beat her often. But unusually, she fought back, leaving her in-laws and eventually becoming famous as a champion for beleaguered women throughout Uttar Pradesh, many of whom find their way to her door. Rekha, a 14 year old Untouchable, is 3 months pregnant and homeless – unable to marry her unborn child’s father because of her low caste. 15 year old Renu’s husband from an arranged marriage has abandoned her and she’s threatening to throw herself under a train. Both young women, frightened and desperate, reach out for their only hope - Sampat Pal. PINK SARIS is an unflinching and often amusing look at these unlikely political activists and their charismatic leader. In extraordinary scenes, we watch her launch herself into the centre of family dramas, convinced her mediation is the best path for these vulnerable girls. Her partner Babuji, who has watched Sampat Pal change over the years, is less certain...’

## DIRECTOR’S BIOGRAPHY

**Kim Longinotto** (born 1952), is a British documentary film maker, well known for making films which highlight the plight of female victims of oppression or discrimination. Longinotto studied camera and directing at the National Film and Television School in Beaconsfield, England, where she now tutors occasionally.

## FILMS

- Pride of Place (1976) - Director / Camera (as Kim Longinotto Landseer)
- Theatre Girls (1978) - Director/Cinematographer
- Underage (1982) - Director/Cinematographer
- Eat the Kimono (1989) - Director/Cinematographer
- Hidden Faces (1990) - Director/Cinematographer
- The Good Wife of Tokyo (1992) - Director
- Dream Girls (1994) - Director/Cinematographer/Producer
- Shinjuku Boys (1995) - Director/Cinematographer/Producer
- Rock Wives (1996) (TV) - Director / Camera
- Divorce Iranian Style (1998) - Director / Camera
- Gaea Girls (2000) - Director/Cinematographer/Producer
- Runaway (2001) - Director/Cinematographer
- The Day I Will Never Forget (2002) - Director/ Cinematographer
- Sisters in Law (2005) - Director/Cinematographer/Producer
- Hold Me Tight, Let Me Go (2007) - Director/ Cinematographer/Producer
- Rough Aunties (2008) - Director/ Cinematographer
- Pink Saris (2010) - Director / Camera

## AWARDS

- Shinjuku Boys (1995) was judged Outstanding Documentary at the San Francisco Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.
- Divorce Iranian Style (1998) won the Grand Prize for Best Documentary San Francisco International Film Festival and the Silver Hugo Award at the Chicago International Film Festival.
- Runaway (2001) received the Children Rights Award (Filmpreis für Kinderrechte) at the Unabhängiges Filmfest Osnabrück
- The Day I Will Never Forget (2002) was awarded the Amnesty International DOEN Award at IDFA and Best Doc UK Spotlight at Hot Docs.
- Sisters in Law (2005) won the Prix Art et Essai and Special Mention Europa Cinemas at the Cannes film festival in 2005.
- Rough Aunties (2008) won the World Cinema Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival and was in the official selection for Sheffield Doc/Fest 2009.
- Pink Saris (2010) won the Special Jury Award at Sheffield Doc/Fest 2010, where Longinotto also won the Inspiration Award, a trophy given to a figure in the documentary world who has championed the medium.