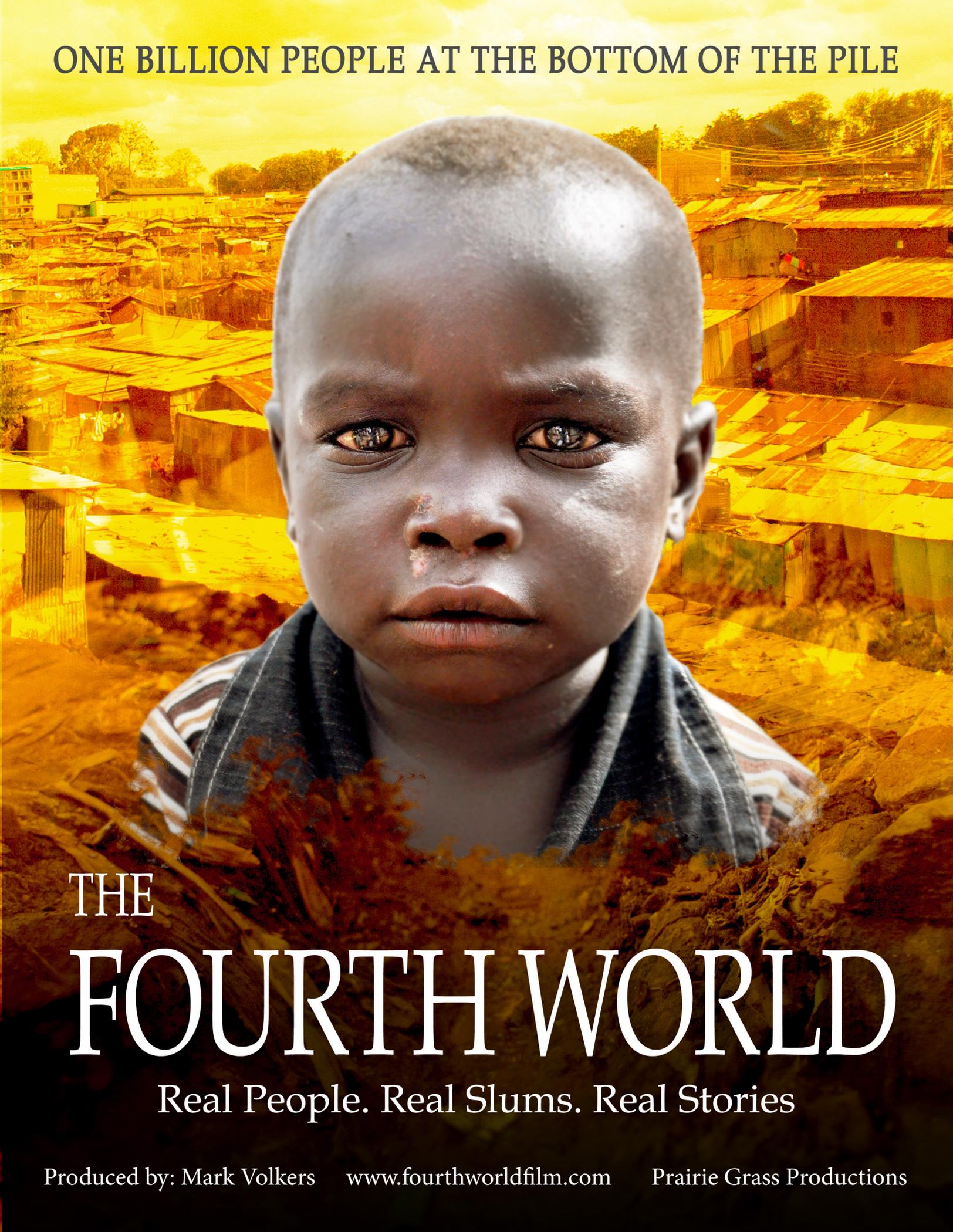


ONE BILLION PEOPLE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PILE



THE  
FOURTH WORLD

Real People. Real Slums. Real Stories

Produced by: Mark Volkers

[www.fourthworldfilm.com](http://www.fourthworldfilm.com)

Prairie Grass Productions

# THERE'S A HIDDEN WORLD OUT THERE THAT IS GETTING READY TO EXPLODE: THE WORLD OF SLUMS.

## OVERVIEW

A seething mass of humanity—1 billion people—inhabits this hidden world and if the United Nations is right—that number could triple in the years to come.

Who are these people and what are these slums? Are they a danger? A menace? Or are slums a breeding ground for entrepreneurs? A transition point for people on a desperate journey from poverty to middle-class respectability?

'The Fourth World' takes you inside slums on three continents to meet individuals caught up in the largest people migration in the history of the world. Understanding 'a billion people' is almost impossible, but meeting a handful of slum dwellers strips away the statistic and begins the process of building understanding.

Journey with the filmmakers to Guatemala, Kenya and the Philippines to meet slum dwellers. Listen to published experts—leaders in their fields from three more continents—as they bring understanding to the 'why' of slums, and foreshadow what's going to happen if the world ignores this social powder keg much longer.

The stories are real. The implications of turning a blind eye to this situation are real. We ignore this at our own peril.

## PROGRAMMING DESCRIPTIONS

Run Time: 52 minutes

This movie has not been rated. This movie is approved for all audiences.

Aspect ratio: 16:9

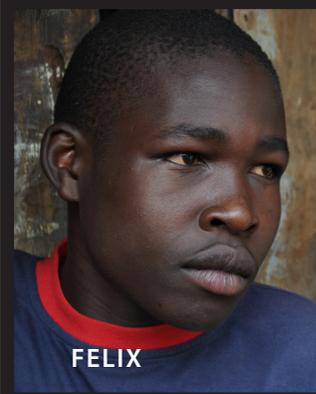
Production for The Fourth World wrapped up in 2011.

Produced by Prairie Grass Productions of Sioux Center, Iowa, in conjunction with Dordt College.

[www.fourthworldfilm.com](http://www.fourthworldfilm.com)

Facebook: The Slum Documentary Film Project

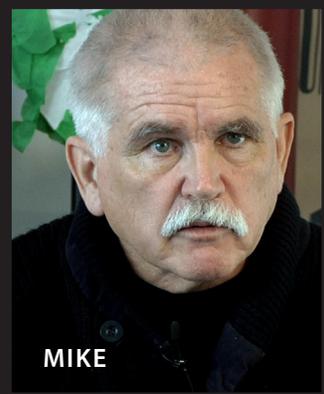
Twitter: slumdoc



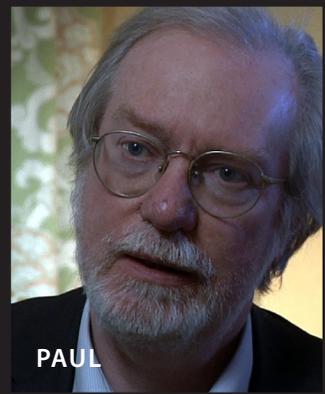
FELIX



JOVELYN



MIKE



PAUL



SELMA



TANYA



# MEET THE CAST



SOUKENYA

## JOVELYN ALQUINO-PHILIPPINES

Jovelyn is a 16-year-old girl who wants to be a nurse. She lives under a freeway bridge above a canal that empties into the Bay of Manila. Jovelyn, her parents and her four little brothers dig in Manila's garbage each day looking for items to recycle. She spends her mornings at the local school. She is the only one of the five children that her parents can afford to educate.

## SELMA — GUATEMALA

Selma's mother sold her into the sex trade when she was nine years old. Believe it or not, the story gets worse from there.

## PAUL COLLIER

In 2010, Paul was named by Foreign Policy magazine to its list of top global honors. In his native England, he was appointed CBE (Commander of the Order of the British Empire). He is Professor of Economics at Oxford University and the director at the Centre for the Study of African Economies. He is also author of several important books, including:

*The Plundered Planet*  
*Wars, Guns and Votes*  
*The Bottom Billion*

## MIKE DAVIS

Mike is an American Marxist social commentator, urban theorist, historian and political activist who lives and works in Southern California, USA. Mike is a distinguished professor in the department of creative writing at the University of California, Riverside. Mike is the author of several books, including:

*Planet of Slums*  
*Dead Cities, And Other Tales*  
*In Praise of Barbarians: Essays against Empire*  
*Buda's Wagon: A Brief History of the Car Bomb*

## FELIX OCHIENG — KENYA

Felix, 16, lives in Mathare Valley, one of the dirtier and nastier slums in Nairobi. Felix divides his time between school and selling maize in the muddy alleyways of Mathare to help the family finances. A typical day for him starts at 4 a.m. and ends with him earning about \$1.40 for a full day's work.

## TANYA — GUATEMALA

Shot in the spinal cord when she was 15 years old, Tanya now spends her days in a wheelchair at a busy intersection in Guatemala City, begging so she and her ailing father can live. Each morning, her father pushes Tanya out of the La Limonada slum into the city so she can earn the money needed for her medicines, catheter, food and shelter. If beggars are a nameless, annoying "group" to you, Tanya's story will make you think twice next time you see one.

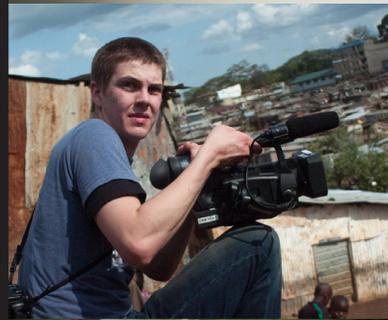
## SOUKENYA NDIAYE BA

Soukenya is a former member of the Senegal government and is currently the executive director of INAFI, the International Network of Alternative Financial Institutions. This organization "envisions a world where the poor are empowered and given the opportunity to enjoy sustainable livelihood through affordable alternative financial services and active participation in their own development. A world where even the poorest of the poor enjoy life with dignity, sufficient food and income security to meet basic needs including shelter, clothing, healthcare and education."

# THE CREW

Having a dozen people on one crew is way too many people when you're working in the close quarters of a slum, so on these trips, our college students broke up into small teams of about three per team. We laid the ground work months in advance for each team to spend about a week with a Christian NGO to help them develop promotional material to help advance their work. While a few students worked with Volkens on *The Fourth World*, the rest worked on helping their NGO tell their story and promote their work among the poor. The end result is that not only are we able to produce *The Fourth World*, but we have also produced several smaller *pro bono* pieces to help those organizations that are doing excellent work among some of the world's poorest people.

Travelling with college students to shoot in some of the most impoverished places on earth was a rare treat not just for the producer, but for the people we encountered on the way. With the world as small as it is, a 20-year-old American can very quickly find common ground with a 20-year-old Kenyan or Guatemalan or Indian or whatever the country may be. It was a two-way street as one challenged the other to see things in new ways, to respond to one another in new ways. Seeing the Fourth World through fresh eyes was a privilege.



**MARK VOLKERS** lived among the Luo people of Kenya for seven years and speaks their language fluently. He spent another decade as a photojournalist and documentary film maker in more than 20 different countries. He has won numerous awards—both national and international—for his work. In 2005, Mark began teaching digital media production at Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa. Mark and Janelle live in Orange City, Iowa. They have three children.



**“THERE’S NOTHING ROMANTIC ABOUT SLUMS . . . AND YET EACH OF THE SLUMS WE SHOT IN IS FILLED WITH INCREDIBLE STORIES OF JOY, PERSEVERANCE AND HEROISM.”**

-MARK VOLKERS

**PRODUCTION NOTES:**

There are easier topics to make a documentary film about. The history of ice-cream comes to mind; Great beaches of the world; The Worlds’ most luxurious hotels. But slums? There’s nothing romantic about slums. They smell. They’re dangerous. Slum residents wonder why on earth you’re there. And yet each of the slums we shot in is filled with incredible stories of joy, perseverance and heroism. Having a bunch of my college students along on each shoot was especially meaningful.

Sharing experiences like that with a group of 20-somethings is not something one soon forgets. Talks on the airplanes, over meals, in huts and hovels—these are formative experiences in young lives and it was a privilege to be part of it. The people we spent time with in these corners of our planet had a huge impact on us as film makers. It’s our joy to send a percentage of all future profits this film may make back to the people in the Fourth World who made it possible.

