

# WOYANE

A FILM BY JONNY STERN





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UNCOVERING A  
HIDDEN **GENOCIDE**

## Specifications

Run Time: 33 minutes

Genre: Documentary

Country of Origin: USA

Country of Filming: Ethiopia, Kenya

Language: Amharic, English, Tigrinya

Shooting Format: Sony Digital

Film Color: Color

Website: [woyanemovie.com](http://woyanemovie.com)

Movie Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/800568527>

# Synopsis

Woyane is an intimate and harrowing glimpse into this decade's greatest humanitarian crisis and one of the deadliest conflicts of the 21st century, the hidden genocide of Tigray, Ethiopia. This 30-minute expository film follows a coalition of journalists who will stop at nothing to report the atrocities that have been inflicted upon their land and people, even if it means facing imprisonment or execution. With a powerful combination of first-hand testimonials and on-the-ground warzone footage, Woyane uncovers the brutal reality of the Tigray genocide and brings to light the lived experiences of millions of civilians who have been caught in the crossfires and, in many cases, systematically targeted.



# TEAM



*Woyane - Director, Producer, Cinematographer, Editor*

Jonny Stern is an award-winning American film director and cinematographer from New York. His creative journey has been profoundly influenced by his extensive travels to over fifty countries, where he has immersed himself in diverse cultures and experiences.

In his films, Jonny delves deep into the exploration of pressing societal and humanitarian concerns, unearthing the often-overlooked narratives of our world. With a keen eye for aesthetics and a commitment to authenticity, Jonny's work embodies a harmonious fusion of artistry and purpose-driven storytelling, weaving compelling narratives that resonate with audiences worldwide.

Jonny has directed and produced a diverse range of acclaimed documentary films, including *Long Haul*, *The Walk*, and *Echoes Within*, which have collectively screened at over 100 film festivals worldwide and received 15+ Best Documentary accolades. His most recent project, *Everything's Kosher*, is a feature documentary that is currently in distribution negotiations with HBO.

*Woyane - Executive Producer*

Adam Fried is an Executive Producer, and Producer of documentary films. Adam has a passion for filmmaking and standing behind important, up-and-coming filmmakers who have compelling stories to share. Adam is currently touring the film festival circuit with his short film *The Walk*, and is in post development of his first feature documentary *Everything's Kosher*.



# FILM STILLS





# Directors Statement

Woyane was created out of a stroke of happenstance and fate. In the winter of 2021, I worked on a commercial film project in Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia. Like much of the world, I was oblivious to the deadly civil war that had been brewing in Tigray, the northernmost region of the nation. While working in Addis, locals would caution me to stay away from the north, as a “military enforcement operation” was afoot. When asked what the conflict was all about, it was often described to me as an attempt by Ethiopian federal forces to rid the region of terrorist activity.

All internet, electricity, and telecommunication services had been cut in Tigray, so media coverage was severely limited. Reading up on the scarce reports that did exist, I began to suspect this conflict was more complex than I had initially thought. The embers of my suspicions were flamed one night after meeting a Tigrayan woman at a hostel gathering. After overhearing my inquiries, the young woman confided in me the horrific experiences her family and friends had endured. She had a collection of grotesque photos to support her accounts.

Upon hearing more and more reports detailing the atrocities occurring in Tigray and with minimal media attention being given to the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation, I made the decision to remain in Ethiopia and undertake an investigation. This pursuit developed into the creation of this film, Woyane.

Working on this project as a one-man production crew these past two years has been the most challenging, heart-wrenching and eye-opening experience of my life. I am forever in awe of the survivors in this film and all those that have risked their lives to expose the atrocities inflicted on the people of Tigray.