



**Critical Acclaim For
P.O.V.'s "SIERRA LEONE'S REFUGEE ALL STARS"**

By Zach Niles and Banker White

"The filmmakers, Zach Niles and Banker White, spent three years with the All Stars. The story they tell, and tell well, is how the All Stars' songs . . . first raise their own spirits, then those of their neighbors, then . . . other camps too. The story told here is simple, and ultimately triumphant."

– **Daniel M. Gold, *The New York Times***

"It's as easy to fall in love with these guys as it was with the Buena Vista Social Club."

– **Vanessa Juarez, *Newsweek***

"The horrors of Sierra Leone's civil war left deep scars. Some men were killed, others had a hand chopped off. Many retreated to a refugee camp in Guinea. In that bleak setting, something impressive emerged."

– **Mike Hughes, *Gannett News Service***

"Roots reggae rhythms blessed with finger-picked guitar is at the core: Fans of the early Wailers will be as beguiled as Afro-popsters. Underlying it all is a plea for peace from voices heartbreakingly familiar with the consequences of the alternative."

– **Nate Dow, *Boston Herald***

"Fans of *Buena Vista Social Club* might want to check out *Sierra Leone's Refugee All-Stars*, a group of musicians made up of survivors of Sierra Leone's long civil war. Sure sounds more fun than watching *Blood Diamond* again."

– **Robert Philpot, *Fort Worth Star-Telegram***

"After 19 years of brain-tickling, nose-thumbing and gut-punching . . . P.O.V. comes back for another season. *Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars* tells of musicians who ended up in a refugee camp . . . and formed a band."

– **Lawrence Toppman, *Knight Ridder***

"A moving documentary. What makes the band so fascinating is not just its situation, but the topical, inspirational content of its songs."

– **Paul DeBarros, *Seattle Times***

"With the release last year of 'Living Like a Refugee,' the band embarked on an international tour, telling their harrowing stories with beautiful-reggae-inflected music. The documentary spreads the music even further."

– **Andrew Gilbert, *San Jose Mercury News***

"Personal, political, generous, and skillfully edited amid the pitfalls of melding performance footage, interviews, and archival context, it bursts off the screen with the brilliance and intensity that the band does onstage."

– **Shawn Badgley, *Austin Chronicle***

"The mind struggles to grasp the idea that tragedy and even horrific brutality can somehow give birth to life-affirming, uplifting music. But there is no better proof of that bittersweet truth than the joyful sounds of Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars..."

– **Bernard Perusse, *Montreal Gazette***

“*Sierra Leone’s Refugee All Stars* is a humanizing ode to all the innocent survivors of war whose brutal realities are often dismissed by surface mass media sound bytes.”

– **David Peskovitz, Boingboing.com**

“An incredible, affecting tale that bridges the atrocities of war and the revelatory potential of musical uplift . . . the documentary has provided a lifeline for the group.”

– **Paul Davis, *MetroActive*, Santa Cruz**