

**Amber:** Hello, and welcome to 'Meet the Take One Action Team'. Take One Action are an Edinburgh-based independent charity founded by film lovers, cultural activists, and globally concerned citizens who believe that shared cinematic experiences can catalyze lasting change. The highlight of our year is the Take one action Film Festival, which is a series of events and screenings taking place in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and, this year, online. In the run-up to the festival, we will be having these little chats with the Take One Action Team to give you the opportunity to meet the team behind the scenes. Today, we'll be talking to Lisa Hough Stewart. Hi, Lisa. Would you like to introduce yourself and what you do?

**Lisa:** Sure! My name is Lisa, I've been a member of the Take One Action board for over four years now, and prior to that, I was working for Oxfam, which is one of Take One Action's partners. So I've been involved with the festival for a long time, and I'm a big fan of the festival as well, which is why I volunteer as a board member.

**Amber:** What was your journey into Take One Action? How did you first get involved?

**Lisa:** So I first heard about Take One Action when I met Simon at an event a long time ago, probably eight or nine years ago, and went along to a small screening. Can't even remember the name of the film, but I was just really blown away by the gentle and really powerful approach to conversation and dialogue about action afterwards. So from that point I was a real fan of the festival and made a point of going along as an audience member every year. And once I started working for Oxfam in 2015, I was the campaigns and communications manager there, it became part of my role to manage the partnership relationship with Take One Action. So, that was great because part of the job was watching a bunch of films that Tamara has sent through and helping to program the films that Oxfam was partnering with Take One Action on. So, I think it was probably my favorite part of that job, and my colleagues were really jealous that it was part of my work to watch a bunch of films that nobody else got to see. And that was the first insight for me into what goes into planning a festival and all the thought that goes into which stories to bring to the screen, and which stories and pieces of cinema are going to provoke the conversations that we need to be having in Scotland right now, and the ones that matter for the difference that the partners are trying to make, what Take One Action cares about. So, I did that for three years while I was in that role at Oxfam and worked really closely with the Take One Action team. So while I was at Oxfam, they started recruiting for board members and I was already feeling like part of the team and thought this was something else I could do in my spare time to help contribute to running the organization, so I didn't hesitate to apply and for a while I was doing both things. Then when I left Oxfam, I've stayed on as a board member.

**Amber:** What are you looking forward to this year?

**Lisa:** Oh, wow. I'm looking forward to getting into a cinema again. Like a lot of people I've not been in a cinema, I've not been part of a cinema audience, for a really long time, since probably January or February, 2020. So, that is gonna to be really exciting and it feels really right given how much I love Take One Action and being part of the team, that the first thing that I'll go to

back in a cinema is hopefully the opening film in Glasgow of this year's festival! So I'm really, really looking forward to that, and I'll never take it for granted again: the power of being in a cinema audience, and especially being part of a Take One Action audience where you connect with other people, you have that dialogue at the end, and you're having a very shared experience. You're not just turning up to watch the film and then leaving again. So that's definitely the biggest thing I'm excited for.

**Amber:** That's great. Thank you so much for your time, Lisa. That's all we have time for this week. Take One Action Film Festival will be taking place across a variety of venues between the 22nd and the 26th of September, 2021. For more information, go to [www.takeoneaction.org.uk](http://www.takeoneaction.org.uk) and follow us on Facebook. Twitter, Instagram. That's all for this week. Have a good day and stay safe.