

## **Meet the Take One Action Team - Tamara**

**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 experience can catalyse 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 releasing these little chats with the Take One Action Team to give you the opportunity to meet the team behind the scenes. Today, we are talking to Tamara Van Strijthem... I hope I said that right!

**Tamara:** You did, well done!

**Amber:** So, Tamara, would you like to introduce yourself?

**Tamara:** Hi, I'm Tamara. I'm the director at Take One Action. I've been with the organization since 2013, so quite a few years now. And what that means is that most of the year I work just with one colleague, Daisy, and I'm responsible for a lot of the management of a small organization like this one. I run programming: most of it, but never alone. Most of what I do in Take One Action is done in collaboration and consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, including some of the key partners that have been supporting us for years, such as Christian Aid, Oxfam, Unison, and Global Justice Now. It's also done in consultation with a lot of our volunteers, a lot of the venues that we work with, even though there's only two of us working in the office, when we're in the office of course. We're actually working with such a wide variety of people and it's part of what makes this job so exciting. Over the last few years, I've been really lucky to work with amazing colleagues, Daisy's just such a pleasure to work with and she's taken on so much responsibility for marketing for the way that we speak to others. She's really become the voice of the organization. And that's, again, a real pleasure when you work with such a tiny team, to be able to share the way that you engage with others. It's been a real honor to be able to work with this organization and to bring a different selection of films and events every year to different cities in Scotland and increase the provision for social-change-focused, cinema-focused events in Scotland. And I've had so many amazing experiences and I've met so many wonderful people through this job, which is so much more than a job, and Take One Action just means the world to me, if that's not too corny!

**Amber:** That's great. So how did you first get involved with Take One Action?

**Tamara:** I joined as a... I think my job title at the time was as a Producer in 2013, when the founder of the organization, Simon Bateson was wanting to expand the programming input within the team. And it kind of evolved very quickly from there. I joined Take One Action at a time when I was working for a film school, and I'd been working for a film school for a while. I'd been programming festivals here and there, as well in different countries, and I just really wanted to be able to merge my belief that film can have a lasting impact on those that experienced it communally and my love for bringing films to audiences of various shapes and

sizes and ages and in exciting locations. So I'd been working for the Barrick upon Tweed, Film and Media Arts Festival for a few years, I'd worked for festivals in Germany, I'd done some work in China and in Quebec. And then when this opportunity at Take One Action showed up, it just felt like exactly what I had been craving. And it was a real pleasure and an honor to be able to step into this role and then grow within it.

**Amber:** So what are you looking forward to most this year?

**Tamara:** I cannot ignore the fact that I am incredibly excited about being back in cinemas. As much as I valued the ability that we had to carry on providing events and meeting audiences online last year, that we didn't have to have a hiatus, in our festival history, I have really, really missed being in a cinema and hearing the din that comes from our invitation to audiences to speak to each other, to ponder, to explore, to question... I've missed that so much. And as much as we did a great job last year of reaching and meeting with audiences online, this is just something that I can't wait to experience.

**Amber:** Yeah, I don't think you're the only one there. That's great. Thank you so much for your time Tamara. 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 26th of September, 2021. For more information, go to [www.takeoneaction.org.uk](http://www.takeoneaction.org.uk) and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. That's all for now. Have a good day and stay safe.