

'Think Like a Man' sequel out next year

After Steve Harvey's best-selling book, *Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man* which was translated into the film *Think Like a Man* (2012) turned out to be a surprise box office hit, talks of a sequel began immediately followed by a shooting last month on May 28.

The film's script was written by the same duo who wrote its predecessor and the central cast from the first film include, Michael Ealy, Regina Hall, Kevin Hart, Taraja P. Henson, Jerry Ferrara, Meagan Good, Romany Malco and Gabrielle Union.

The film is set for release in June next year.

John Depp abandons movie role



Johnny Depp has reportedly called it quits over a new movie role. He was to play Whitney Bulger in *Black Mass*, but withdrew from the role because of salary issues.

According to a Hollywood reporter, the actor has backed out of *Black Mass*, true story of an alliance between the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Irish Mob. The actor refused to accept half of his £20 million (\$26.6 billion) fee.

'Waiting to Exhale' sequel coming soon

It has been 15 years since *Waiting To Exhale* came out, and caused a stir both socially and at the box office.

The film featured an all-African American cast, was a big screen adaptation of Terry McMillan's 1992 (*Waiting To Exhale*). The film which revolved around the love lives of four female friends not only launched the careers of many black actors but was a worldwide phenomenal.

The sequel will be based on the Terry McMillan 2005 novel *Getting to Happy*

Except for Whitney Houston, the full original cast are all on board for the upcoming project, which will also see Forest Whitaker return as director.

-Compiled by Shirley Genga

Inspired to run across the country

British film director has made the documentary, 'Across Kenya' about his journey in a new land that will support street children's project

BY SHIRLEY GENGA
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When British film director and producer Chris Rhys Howarth first came to Kenya in 2008, he came to work. But when he landed, he instantly fell in love with Kenya and decided to stay and use his craft to help transform lives.

"I first came to Kenya to do a documentary on the 2007/2008 post-election violence and to set up a creative arts and film foundation called Hear Our Voice Kenya, which uses creative arts and film to help support street and vulnerable children," he says.

The project is supported by Action for Children in Conflict in Kenya, a registered NGO based in Thika. Since then he has worked on a number of projects, but continues to work with Hear Our Voice Kenya.

"I now divide my time working between Kenya and the UK, and anywhere else in the world if there is a film project. I am mostly living in Kenya though, and I have come to very much love the country and I have many friends here," Chris says.

Hear Our Voice Kenya helps children develop their skills in writing and communication.

"It teaches children about filming with cameras and editing so they can tell their own stories through film. It develops the children's confidence and gives them opportunities to have fun and be



positive and overcome bad experiences they have had in the past," he says.

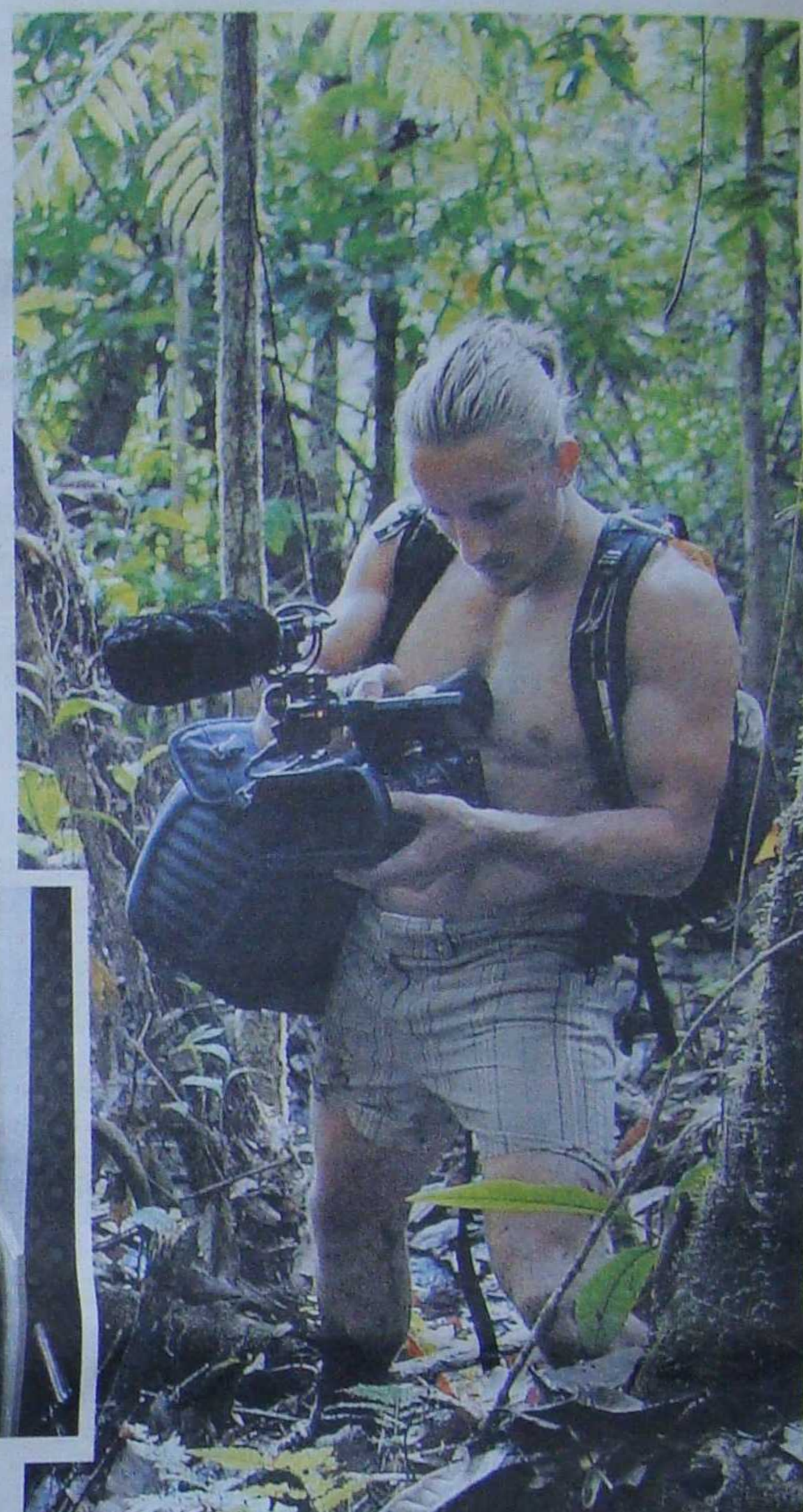
And while involved with the foundation, Chris was inspired to make a film that documented his journey across Kenya.

"The documentary is called *Across Kenya* and it captures my journey across Kenya with the intention of raising awareness and support for street children across the whole country," says Chris.

He explains: "The idea was to try and run across the whole of Kenya from Busia to Mombasa, a total distance of 1,600km, 40 marathons in 30 days. Along the way, I passed through all the major towns and cities in Kenya and met with children living on the streets and with organisations and ordinary people who were working to help them."

When he completed the journey, Chris became the first and only person in history to ever run across the whole of Kenya and as such was awarded the title of 'Great Briton' by British Airways in honour of the achievement.

The film has been very successful, receiving TV broadcast and online in Africa, Europe and around the world. It has reached millions of people and raised a lot of money and allowed more projects to be setup for street children.



Chris Rhys Howarth shooting a documentary.

[PHOTO: COURTESY]

Chris' other projects include: *Days of Kings* (a fictional film), *Darkest Before Dawn* (a film about the 2007/2008 post-election violence in Kenya), *Jungle Marathon* (a film about athletes in the Amazon Jungle in Brazil) and *Day I Was Born* (fictional film).

Currently, he has made a film about the recent presidential elections, a series of films about the work of NGO Action for Children in Conflict and is also working closely with Boniface Mwangi and Kuxi Ghai to make a film about the recent 'Occupy Parliament' protest movement.

"I believe in the Boniface Mwangi and

Kuxi Ghai cause and what they are doing, and I want to help support that and allow people around the world to see what is happening here through film," says Chris.

Chris grew up in a town called Eastbourne in the UK and first got into production in 2007, after a masters degree in English and script writing for film and theatre. He owns a production company, Crying Stone, which directs and produces documentary, commercials, promotional, NGO and musical films.

Additionally, Chris plans to set up a brand new half marathon race event in

Kiambu County, which will raise funds to support street children. He also intends to start an online video channel called 'Positive Story Kenya' that will provide an avenue where filmmakers across Kenya will be able to upload their content with the goal of creating a large community of positive film content about the country.



British film director and producer Chris Rhys Howarth