



“The concept of the village was so cool: a safe village of all women who bonded together to build this commune of artists,” says Wilde

# Independent Lens: Half the Sky

**PREMIERES** Monday, 10/1, 9/10c, PBS; Twitter: @Half

George Clooney joins forces with an impressive roster of activist-actresses to help fight discrimination against women in *Half the Sky, Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*. “Women raise the chil-

dren, work the land,” says Clooney, who introduces the two-part special. “It’s not just that they’re important to society—they’re driving it.”

The documentary, which is based on the best-selling book by *New York*

*Times* columnist Nicholas Kristof and wife Sheryl WuDunn, follows Eva Mendes, Meg Ryan, Gabrielle Union, Diane Lane, America Ferrera and Olivia Wilde as they travel to 10 countries.

In India, Ferrera (*Ugly Betty*) witnessed a community of mother-and-daughter victims of forced-prostitution. “The hardest thing to take in was a lot of these women were trafficked into sex slavery at such young ages,” she says. Maternal mortality, gender-based violence, education and economic empowerment are also investigated through first-hand stories.



“Women do it all,” says Clooney of the women featured in the special

“I was overwhelmed by love,” says Wilde (*House*), recalling the self-sustaining village of women in Kenya who established their own beading business to become financially independent and fund their children’s education. “It is uplifting and empowering because we are focusing on a solution.”—Elizabeth Wagmeister

## QUICK TAKES

### Death and the Civil War

Premieres Tuesday, 9/18, 8/7c

Ric Burns delves into the country’s post-war transformation, which resulted from the sweeping death toll of 2.5 percent of America’s population.

### Voces

Premieres Friday, 9/28, 10/9c

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, four documentaries showcase Latino cultural events ranging from Mexican “Lucha Libre” masked wrestlers to female rodeo riders and a Tony-winning Puerto Rican poet in NYC.

### Call the Midwife

Premieres Sunday, 9/30, 8/7c

The hit British drama provides a witty, historical glimpse into midwifery as a group of young women in 1950s London’s East End encounters birth, life and death.

### Upstairs Downstairs

Premieres Sunday, 10/7, 9/8c

Season 2 of the hit British sequel brings scandal, love and politics to 165 Eaton Place as England faces World War II.

### Frontline: The Choice 2012

Premieres Tuesday, 10/9, 9/8c

This unbiased special takes an

in-depth look at President Barack Obama and challenger Mitt Romney’s campaigns and investigates policy changes that might occur after the election.

### Cuban Missile Crisis— Three Men Go To War

Premieres Tuesday, 10/23, 8/7c

New details emerge in this

chronicle of the terrifying Cold War confrontation, timed to its 50th anniversary.

### The Dust Bowl

Premieres Sunday, 11/18, 8/7c

Ken Burns turns his documentary cameras on the harsh realities of the worst manmade environmental disaster our nation faced.

### American Masters: Inventing David Geffen

Premieres Tuesday, 11/20, 8/7c

Rock and roll with revolutionary record mogul, agent, manager and producer David Geffen. The self-made billionaire, joined by famous friends—including Cher, Elton John and Steven Spielberg—allows unprecedented access in this account of his life and chart-topping career.

*Times* subject to change; check local listings at [tvguide.com](http://tvguide.com)



Ken Burns documents the dust storms that plagued America in the 1930s