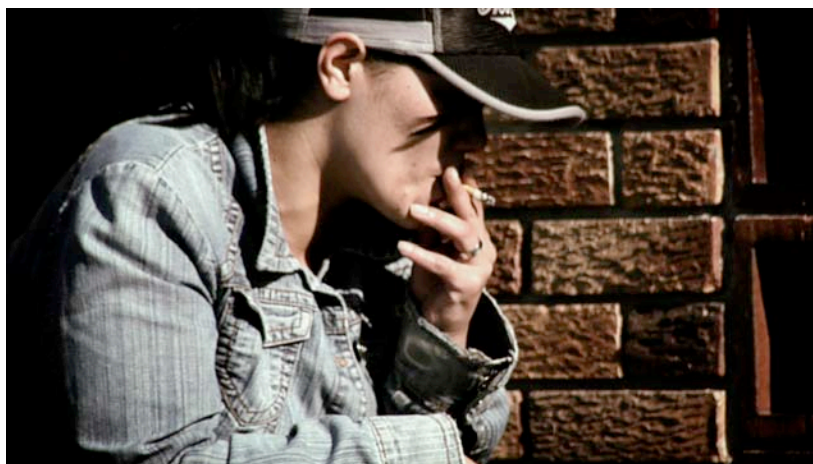




**Duration:** 1 x 52 min  
**Format:** 4:3 Letterbox  
**Social Documentary**  
**Completion Date:** March 2010

#### **BRIEF LOGLINE**

Felinda is an alcoholic and wants to stop drinking, but she needs help. With no money and little state assistance she embarks on an emotional journey in search of sobriety and recovery.



#### **ONE PARAGRAPH SYNOPSIS**

Felinda gave birth to her first child at 15 years old and by 16 she had started to drink. She is now unemployed and lives on the breadline with her abusive boyfriend in a tiny house on the Cape Flats. Felinda can no longer care for her young daughter and she is looked after by another family. Now, after 10 years of heavy drinking Felinda wants to stop and she needs help. Like the majority of South Africans, she cannot afford the private rehabs, so her search begins in the public sector. Through Felinda's emotional journey of perseverance and determination, we see what treatment options are available in the Western Cape, a province that faces the highest addiction rates in South Africa

## ONE PAGE SYNOPSIS

Rock-bottom is a state where Felinda dwells both in her state of finance and state of mind. She has reached a point where she cannot continue her life of risky decisions, fringe-living, social isolation and shame due to her alcoholism. Now, desperate and clinging to a glimpse of hope, Felinda has reached a turning point and made a conscious decision to clean up. *Dying To Stop* is a provocative and inspiring documentary about Felinda's experiences as she embarks on a search that may change her life forever.



Felinda is 26-year-old. She is unemployed and a single mother - just a few Rands away from destitution. She drinks to suppress the memories she has of her childhood and to forget her current situation. Felinda has been drinking heavily for 10 years. She realizes that she needs help to stop and starts to explore how she can get help. It is at this point that the documentary starts. We follow her battle to be heard and to receive state attention for her illness, despite not having money for phone calls, Internet research or transport. We explore the different avenues she investigates in the public health sector and the outcomes. We also follow the way in which her drinking affects her family and friends. Felinda's newfound friend, Nicky, watched Felinda's attempts to connect with the correct state authorities and eventually offered assistance in trying to get Felinda into a treatment centre. Nicky also took Felinda's daughter into her own home to take care of her when Felinda could no longer do so. Together the two women search for help for Felinda.



Contrary to popular belief about addiction, Felinda does not make alcohol her primary coping mechanism because of environmental factors or a weak and immoral character - her addiction is a bona fide medical disease and 10% of the population suffer from it. Unlike other mental illnesses

such as depression and schizophrenia, the general public does not recognize addiction as a bona-fide mental disorder. Addicts and alcoholics are still judged on a level of moral failing, rather than psychological disorder. *Dying to Stop* seeks to create an understanding of the disease of addiction in order to reduce stigma around this disease, as well as document the help that is available through the public sector.

The Western Cape Province of South Africa has a risky drinking rate of 16% of the population. This is one of the highest levels of risky drinking in the country. The associated social issues include gender based violence, domestic violence, teenage pregnancy, crime and poverty. These issues combine to form a vicious cycle of poverty and abuse that is hard to break. The consequences of long-term drug and alcohol use are dire and devastating for the users and the community as a whole. This issue is one of national importance in South Africa and highly topical in local and international social welfare and politics



*Dying To Stop* shows the possibilities of addiction recovery through Felinda's journey; through her struggles, challenges, hope and maybe, her victory over the disease.

*Dying To Stop* is the first of a series of 52-minute documentaries about addiction that explore treatment accessibility to South African addicts who cannot afford private rehabilitation. This first episode, funded by the Open Society Foundation – South Africa, completed post-production in February 2010. The second will commence development in 2010 pending further finance. Both episodes can be viewed individually and as part of a series.

## KEY CREATIVE PERSONNEL

Substance Films is passionate about filmmaking. We produce authentic work. We believe media has infinite possibility for creativity.

With this focus in mind, Substance Films aims to produce media that is creative, ethical and socially relevant. We encompass these principles not only in the content of our work, but also in the way we work - a big challenge, but we're up for it.

Mass media can communicate greater messages of tolerance, openness and acceptance. Substance Films seeks to harness this power and create media that speaks to the growth and development of culture and society.

### **Crew**

Director/Producer	YVETTE LAMBRECHT (& CASSIDY FINE)
Director of Photography	GRANT ATKINSON
Additional Camera Work	KAI LAICHENER
Additional Camera Work	CRAIG BROWN
Additional Camera Work	TEBOHO NKONYENI
Editor	ASHIKA BRACHER
Music	AFRICAN DOPE
Audio Final Mix	STEF ALBERTYN

### **Directors/Producers: Yvette Lambrecht**

Yvette Lambrecht was a founding member of Substance Films, she was joined briefly by Cassidy Fine, who departed the company late in 2010. Yvette produced and directed a ground-breaking series of Public Service Announcements on HIV/AIDS in 2008. After this experience, she created a unique direction and production combination under the banner of Substance Films. Yvette completed production on a documentary for Windhoek Lager that was broadcast in Namibia. In 2010, she also directed and produced two short films for FIFA and Football for Hope, documenting the opening of the Football for Hope Centre as part of FIFA's 20 Centre for 2010 project. She produced a camera training video in four languages for use in NGO's around the world, under the umbrella of streetfootballworld and Sony. Later in 2010, Yvette produced a soap opera style training video for the international HIV testing organization "ACTS". She also directed and produced a "Red Card" documentary about the work of the Sonke Gender Justice Network against violence and exploitation of women and children during the World Cup in South Africa. Yvette produced a groundbreaking youth HIV testing online video for Shout It Now in 2011, as well as a series of intimate, emotional video testimonials from recovering drug addicts for the Montrose Foundation.

### **DOP: Grant Atkinson**

After finishing his studies in film and television production in 2001, Grant began working as a freelance camera operator in the television industry. For the past 9 years, he has been involved in a number of international and local productions. From documentaries (*Dying To Stop*, *Men from Atlantics*, and *Six Skin*) and television programmes (*Glitterati* - New York Fashion Week, Israel TV's *The Amazing Race*, and SABC 3's *Going Nowhere Slowly*), to behind-the-scenes and corporate productions (*First Sunrise* - German advertisement, *Grass Roots Soccer*, and *Siyakhona* - Fifa).

### **Editor : Ashika Bracher**

Ash has been editing for eight years. Her recent work includes documentaries such as 'The Sisterhood' and 'Unfinished Business', currently being screened at multiple film festivals world wide including the Edinburgh Mountain Film Festival and Vancouver Mountain Film Festival. She has onlined the features 'Long Street' for acclaimed director, Revel Fox, 'Visa/Vie' and 'State of mind' for internationally recognized, Big World Cinema, offlined commercials for high profile agencies such as Saatchi&Saatchi, J.Walter Thompson, Network BBDO and BBH London, and worked on popular tv series, such as 'Boer soek 'n vrou' and 'Montana'.

### **Sound: Stef Albertyn**

Stef Albertyn is a highly experienced postproduction sound supervisor and sound designer from South Africa. With more than 30 years experience, he specializes in long form drama and documentaries. Stef has both local and international documentary experience.