

HUMAN POSTCARDS – CAMILLE (France/UK)



<https://filminute.com/2019/camille/>

Sinopsis

A volunteer at the French/Italian border shares the lessons she's learned...

DIRECTOR, PRODUCER – Nora Jaccaud / SOUND ENGINEER, PRODUCER – Arie van der Poel / CO-PRODUCTION – France TV Slash / SPONSOR – Wikicampers.



Directors Bio

Human Postcards is an ongoing series of 60 second video portraits, capturing the inspirational and often powerful messages of everyday people from around the world.

Since starting in 2015, we have produced over 150 unique postcards in multiple countries. Each postcard is one minute long and focuses on a single idea or aspect of a person's life.

The idea came in 2014 while we were working in London. Every day we walked along Oxford Circus and saw a man in a human billboard costume advertising a golf store. We wondered what he was thinking as he stood there being passed by thousands of people, and if we could capture his story in a format which all of these busy people could enjoy, to change their perception of him. As we started to film, we realised that the project was growing to be more than something about unnoticed people, and that everyone has stories, lessons, and dreams to pass on.

Director Quotes

We met Camille while she was a volunteer at a private camp for refugees, created by the infamous French olive farmer and immigration activist, Cedric Herrou. This camp became known in France and internationally following Cedric's arrests for helping more than 250 migrants cross into France from Italy. After numerous convictions for assisting migrants to cross the border, Cedric's actions were found to be legal by the French government, under the constitutional exercise of fraternity to others. Since this landmark decision, Cedric and volunteers like Camille continue to help the many migrants who continue to cross the border from Italy. They offer shelter, food and most importantly help migrants with the paperwork they need to go through to legally enter France. Cedric had just released a film "Libre" and was travelling a lot to spread awareness about the situation. In consequence, Camille spent a lot of time alone on the camp. Often, she had to welcome dozens of new arrivals in the middle of the night. Some people arrive in very bad shape, hungry, sick, bleeding... When a migrant arrives they have to be registered in the city of Nice. Camille told us about how she would leave at dawn with a group of 12 people, trusting her and following her through the forest, walking to the city to register.

Camille's family was hidden and saved in the same valley during world war II, and now it's her turn to be part of a true human movement. She shared with us her thoughts on solidarity, empathy and responsibility. We left this place with a profound feeling that it's everyone's responsibility to care and help. We should not turn our eyes away from this human tragedy and we can help by just looking around us. Camille says that "we probably can find a family or person in need anywhere we look if we just look. Talking with that person, offering him or her some warm food, a shower or help with paperwork, any attention will make a difference and as a bonus we will also learn something".

One-minute can tell so much and yet leaves the viewer to imagine so much too. My one-minute portraits from my series Human Postcards are like small windows opened on people's life for the curious minds to peak in. I love when a contributor like Camille writes to me that I managed to get the essence of what is the most important in her life right now. The one-minute format teaches me to listen in a very attentive way during the interview and again during the editing period. It's a format that feels like a postcard I send into the world: short but a true impression of that moment, person and place in my life.

Human Postcards was created for social media, it's the address to which I send these "postcards" of my travels. I love being able to create content freely and sharing it with the wide world from the web. Recently I find social media platforms are making it difficult to reach our viewers though and this makes me sad. People who love the project probably don't even receive any notification or info about our new portraits. Without playing by the rules of the advertisement strategy world of the social media platforms it is hard to reach people now. That is a turn for the worst especially when we know our Data is already their gold.

We filmed this portrait while travelling on a European tour with our webseries Human Postcards. We were working (filming, recording, editing), living and travelling in our motorhome (with the support of Wikicampers). During this month we made portraits of everyday people we were meeting along the way. We came back with 60 stories to share with the world! More behind the scenes are visible on our social media platforms about this fantastic adventure.