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AFTERMÉDIA PRESENTS

A FILM BY STÉPHANE SANTINI AND GÉRALDINE ANDRÉ

NARRATED BY LAMBERT WILSON

SELFISH

PRESS KIT

**40 HUMANITARIAN WORKERS
AND THEIR LOVED ONES
CONFIDE STRAIGHTFORWARDLY**



DIRECTED BY STÉPHANE SANTINI - GÉRALDINE ANDRÉ - LAURENCE HOENIG - PIERRE-YVES BERNARD | PRODUCTION: PHILIPPE SANTINI - ANTHONY ZANTA - LAURENT DETHES
ANGÉLINE JULIEN - THIERRY COTTIN - JEAN-CHRISTOPHE PRÉGEVOLE - LUCILLE FAVRE - FANNY HOSTETTLER - EVELINE MEIER - JULIETTE BLUME - FLORENCE DOZOL - NORA TEYLOUNI
WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF MEDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES | © AFTERMEDIA 2020

SYNOPSIS

SELFISH

40 humanitarian workers and their loved ones confide straightforwardly

War, emergency, pandemics and hunger. Humanitarian workers are used to working in the most varied and extreme missions and contexts across the planet.

However, few of them venture openly into the world of personal feelings. For this film, forty humanitarian workers and their loved ones did just that, speaking without reserve about the risk, the commitment, the first mission, the sense of powerlessness, the encounters, the passion, the return home and the unspeakable things they've witnessed.

This film, which is logically about humanitarian workers' commitment to other people, also explores the question of their selfishness in choosing to do this kind of work. Each person, in their own words, tells us about their feelings and experiences. Openly and straightforwardly, they tell us who they are and speak of their commitment to others, their doubts, their weaknesses and the images that haunt them.

In this film, the humanitarians are not the only ones to bear witness – the women and men who share their private and personal lives also tell their stories. The result is an original and intimate documentary that provides a fascinating insight into the inner worlds of humanitarian workers both in the field and away from the action.

CINEMA VERSION - 56 MINUTES
TELEVISION VERSION - 52 MINUTES

LANGUAGE VERSIONS

FRENCH	NARRATION BY LAMBERT WILSON	GERMAN	SEBASTIAN KOCH
ENGLISH	NARRATION BY LAMBERT WILSON	SPANISH	TO BE ANNOUNCED
		ITALIAN	STEFANO ACCORSI

PROJECT TIMELINE

SPRING 2017	BIRTH OF THE PROJECT
JANUARY 2018	PRELIMINARY SURVEY AND PRELIMINARY INTERVIEWS
FEBRUARY TO OCTOBER 2018	WRITING AND SCREENPLAY
FROM NOVEMBER 2018	SHOOTING ON SITE AND IN THE MISSIONS
NOVEMBER 2019	END OF SHOOTING
NOV. - DEC. 2019 - JAN. 2020	EDIT PREP AND POST-PRODUCTION
FEBRUARY 2020	LANGUAGE VERSIONS
SEPTEMBER 2020	CINEMA RELEASE



DIRECTOR'S NOTE OF INTENT

There are many stories about humanitarian action as it has played out in the recent history of certain countries; stories at the heart of the action, in a specific context, often linked to high-visibility events (such as Syria and the Ebola crisis). News images where natural disasters or war become the norm. In the midst of these images, humanitarian workers are on the front line speaking out, providing care and helping those in need.

For this film, we have chosen to break the usual codes of those reports, as they have already been seen so many times. Instead, we put the same questions to a large number of humanitarian workers and their loved ones; we invited them to talk about themselves, their convictions, their doubts, their weaknesses, their fears and their decision to get involved in this kind of work.

We chose to make humanitarian engagement and what it entails the central theme.

This film is different in the way it is both structured and written in that it is composed of interviews conducted out of the spotlight, away from the action. Many people had the opportunity to share their experiences, to talk about the fates they chose for themselves, or that befell them. The intimate interviews are supported by footage from the field, vividly showing the world as it is.

This documentary is also its title. SELFISH is challenging. Only listening to oneself in order to help others could be perceived by some as an egotistical approach, like any other decision regarding a life choice or a course of action.



MSF OPENED ITS DOORS TO US

THE STRENGTH OF THIS FILM LIES IN THE SINCERITY OF THE TESTIMONIES. TRUE, INTENSE AND TOUCHING, EVERY WORD COUNTS, AS DOES EVERY FACE. THEY ARE THE FACES OF HUMANITARIAN ENGAGEMENT. WHEN MAKING THIS FILM, WE HAD TO BUILD A UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP OF TRUST WITH A HUMANITARIAN ORGANISATION WORKING IN THE FIELD, ACROSS ALL CONTINENTS.

MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES/DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS (MSF) OPENED ITS DOORS TO US. MSF HAS MORE THAN 40,000 VOLUNTEERS DISTRIBUTED ACROSS NUMEROUS EMERGENCY MISSIONS. ITS EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE ARE RECOGNISED WORLDWIDE.

IN ALLOWING THIS UNPRECEDENTED DOCUMENTARY TO BE MADE, MSF IS LIFTING THE VEIL ON A WAY OF LIFE AND MODE OF ACTION THAT IS AS GRIPPING AS IT IS UNIQUE.







STÉPHANE SANTINI

DIRECTOR

Stéphane Santini decided to make his curiosity the source of ideas and inspiration for his audiovisual projects, when he started creating them almost 30 years ago. Passionate about sound and image, it was the people he met and his exploration of the meaning of words that shaped his experience in France and Switzerland, and further heightened his curiosity and desire to tell the stories of our lives, sometimes in an unusual way.

He started out as a journalist and radio and TV presenter, then became a writer and director, and is associated with numerous audiovisual productions broadcast in France and Switzerland, among other countries. Stéphane Santini has worked on projects related to sustainable development, humanitarian action, medical research, sport, the environment and heritage, and for many years has specialised in social and health-related themes.

DOCUMENTARY FILMS

2018 LE FRANCE – LA FASCINANTE ET MYSTÉRIEUSE HISTOIRE DU DERNIER VAPEUR FRANCE TÉLÉVISIONS – 52’

A co-production by Aftermedia and Cinémathèque des Pays de Savoie et de l’Ain.
Cinema release: May 2018

2018 PARTI PRIS / CANAL+ – L’ÉMOTION ET LA VÉRITÉ DU SPORT AU TRAVERS DU COMMENTAIRE EN DIRECT – 52’

A unique view of live sports commentary on radio and television. An original concept by Stéphane Santini. In May 2016, CANAL+ listed this documentary film, which was co-written and co-directed with Thierry Gerberon, as a unique and important documentary in the “docs” category of the Canal+ Group.

2016 CLEAN HANDS / RTS

International distribution by Lagardère Studios Distribution.

Centred on Professor Didier Pittet and the prevention of healthcare-associated infections, this documentary film, which was co-directed with Géraldine André, tells the incredible story of hydroalcoholic solutions and hand hygiene around the world.

Official Selection, International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights, Geneva 2016.
Official Selection, 5th Deauville Green Awards, France 2016.

2015 INVENTER DEMAIN

Dev TV / Radio Télévision Suisse / TV5 Monde Co-auteur, série de programmes courts

2009 POLITIQUE À DOMICILE - DAILYMOTION. 52’

First political reality programme in France. Original concept, writing and direction.

IN PRODUCTION

LE CERVEAU À CŒUR OUVERT

Awake brain surgery – 52’

QUI QUESTIONNE DIRIGE

The art of questioning – 52’

ASSIS

How to succeed in a wheelchair – an eye-level view – 52’

ALORS OBÈSE !

Seduction and sexuality for the obese – 52’



GÉRALDINE ANDRÉ

CO-DIRECTOR

Géraldine André is a documentary writer and director specialising in health and social issues. During her 10 years of experience working with people in all areas of healthcare, Géraldine André has developed an understanding of the key health issues and a rare, close rapport with the caregivers and patients she has met. Starting out as a photojournalist, Géraldine André later turned to writing and directing, and is associated with numerous audiovisual productions broadcast in France and Switzerland, among other countries.

She is interested in sustainable development, health, medical research and social issues. Géraldine André has shot numerous documentaries in the field, in a wide range of contexts, in many countries across all five continents: Nepal, India, China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Brazil, the United States, Canada, Liberia, Guinea, Eritrea, Tanzania, South Sudan, New Zealand.

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2012 LE BAL DES MÉDUSES – 52'

YN Productions / France Télévisions.

Writer and director. Some objects have transcended fashions and eras. That is the case of jelly shoes, the plastic footwear worn on the beach by our parents and grandparents. Today, although the look of the jelly shoe has changed, it is still on trend!

INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTION

FILM & PICTURE - PARIS

Film & Picture is an independent distribution company that markets fiction and documentaries.

It distributes the films of more than 60 French producers, i.e. almost 1000 hours of programs.

Film & Picture is notably renowned for its quality French fiction (TV films, series, mini-series, web-series) with a strong audience success and having won several prestigious awards through festivals around the world.





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