

From world to world

Gaël Turine, photographer

A co-production of Need Productions, RTBF, WIP

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Synopsis

All over the world, men, women and children are striving against the fatality of poverty. Gaël Turine takes pictures of their daily life. Following him at work, in the field, reveals how instants of these lives are captured on film and turned into information and art. The camera brings perspective about the necessity and the limits of media testimonials by framing the photographer with his subjects, then with his clients.

Director's intentions

Many of us have come to an opinion of our own about photojournalists: profiteers, cynical vultures of the news media, or heroic witnesses of human suffering and coercion. *From World to World* presents another view: everything depends on the subject chosen by the photographer, under what angle he treats it, on his attitude as he shoots it, and on his involvement in it afterward – how much he cares about his subject. Our film explores the limits of photographic testimonial (and media testimonial in general), and reminds that most photojournalists are not glorious hardboiled reporters, they patiently document a History that is not necessarily spectacular.

The film is a portrait in motion of a photographer at work: There is no interview of Gaël Turine, his voice is never added over his photographs or contact prints. You won't find either interviews of friends or relatives, or theoretical commentaries by photography "experts". Gaël Turine is filmed exclusively in situation at various stages of his work. You will see him taking pictures, correcting the prints for a book, presenting an exhibition, or looking for work at newspapers. We believe someone is more truly revealed by what he does rather than by what he says about himself.

We followed Gaël Turine in a project started several years ago about workers cooperatives across the world. We joined him in the Bolivian Altiplano where against all odds tin miners keep on digging the mountain to feed their family. We joined him in Eritrea, a country under dictatorship after 30 years of independence war. Here too people strive against very adverse circumstances: teenagers manufacturing bricks in the morning to pay for school in the afternoon, a kid learning a job after a landmine took away his sight and one arm. The pictures of Gaël Turine are about fights. We treasure this theme above all and developed it in several of our previous works. We believe with Gaël Turine that many individual or collective human experiences, if shared can instill courage to others.

Film credits

“From world to world / Gaël Turine, photographer“

A documentary film by Vincent Detours and Dominique Henry

Digital Beta, colour, 52 minutes

V.O.: Tigrinya, Spanish, Quechua, French, English, and German

Sub-titles in English (also, available in French subtitled)

Format: 4/3

September 2005

Staff:

Written and directed by: Vincent Detours and Dominique Henry

Photography: Dominique Henry

Sound: Vincent Detours and Dominique Henry

Editing: Luc Plantier

Assisted by: Joffrey Keller

Sound Editing: Arnould Chapel

Mixing: Jean-François Duchâteau

Producer: Denis Delcampe, Need Productions

Co producers: RTBF, WIP

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Bio filmography

Vincent Detours (born October 27th 1968 in Niort, France) studied computer and cognitive sciences before obtaining a Ph.D. in biology. He worked as a researcher in immunology and biomathematics at the Free University of Brussels, at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, and at the Santa Fe Institute (New Mexico, USA). He is now a cancer researcher at the Erasmus Hospital, Free University of Brussels.

Dominique Henry (born August 7th 1967 in Toulouse, France) holds a B.A. in biology. He studied film making at the Toulouse University (France), and at the INSAS (a major European movie school). He has since worked as a cameraman, mostly on documentaries.

Vincent Detours and Dominique Henry codirected a first documentary film about old age, *Mr. Scie*, produced by the Atelier Jeunes Cinéastes (AJC!).

I am Alive Today □ *History of an AIDS Drug* was their first film for broadcast TV (Arte, RTBF). This film has been aired on many channels worldwide and got two awards at the Festival du Film Scientifique d'Oullins.

Their third film *Dr. Nagesh* is a realist portrait about a doctor in Mumbai (Bombay) who gives daily care of HIV positive patients who cannot afford anti-HIV treatments. This film got tree awards in documentary festival: Traces de Vie (France), Filmer à tout prix (Belgium) and Punto de Vista (Spain).

From world to world / Gaël Turine, photographer is their fourth film.

They also directed a radio program about a peruvian citizen who has been tortured and arrested in awful conditions during 9 years.

Films

Dr. Nagesh

Documentary, 52 minutes, 2004

Synopsis: Dr. Nagesh gives daily, free, consultations in Mumbai (Bombay). He takes care of HIV positive patients who cannot afford anti-HIV treatments. These men, women and children face the disease as well as their rejection from society. Dr. Nagesh helps them take stock of their financial, emotional and family situation. In the privacy of the his office, masks fall, revealing each person's contradictions, lies and deep feelings.

Production : Good & Bad News, CBA and GSARA.

Grant : With the support of the SCAM (Civil Society of Multimedia Authors) *Brouillon d'un rêve* Grant

Diffusion : TV5 (165 countries), YLE (Finland), VPRO (Nederlands), TSI (Swiss)

Awards: SCAM award for best Belgian documentary, Filmer à Tout Prix film festival, Brussels; award for best viewpoint on health and society, Traces de Vies film festival (France); special mention, Punto de Vista (Spain)

Festivals: Festival du film scientifique d'Oullins (nov 2005), Film Francophone de Namur (Belgium), Infinity (Italy), États Généraux du Film Documentaire, Lussas (France), Mediawave (Hungary), Montreal Film Festival, One World (Czech Rep.)

I am alive today — history of an AIDS drug

Documentary, 55 minutes, 2002

Synopsis: The history of AZT - the first anti-HIV drug - is about fighting fate: the fate of a deadly disease, and the fate of economic inequalities. It is a scientific, legal, and human adventure that drives the hope of patients, but also a huge financial activity. The saga of AZT sheds light on the origin of a tragedy of our time: 45 million HIV-positive persons are denied access to life-saving treatments.

I am alive today confronts the viewpoints of drug industry leaders, scientists, and AIDS activists on the history of AZT. This rigorous and balanced account of historical facts is contrasted with archive images shot by AIDS patients over the development of the AIDS pandemics. These exceptional documents are loaded with the raw energy of young people in revolt against the idea that AIDS has to be a death sentence.

Production: Good & Bad News, ADR Productions, Arte (Les Mercredis de l'Histoire 2002 and night Thema 2003), RTBF, AGCD, WIP, CFB, CNC, Procirep.

Diffusion : Arte (Les Mercredis de l'Histoire en 2002 and night Théma 2003), TV5 (165 countries), CFI (all Africa), YLE (Finland), Planète Future (France), Planet Italy (Italy), RFO (France), RTBF (Belgium), MBC (Polynésie).

Awards: Jury award and young public award, Festival du Film Scientifique d'Oullins (France)

Festivals: Pessac History Film Festival (France), Cork Film Festival (UK), Festival Cinéma d'ATTAC (Belgium)

Films

Mr. Scié

Documentary, 26 minutes, 2000.

Synopsis: Have you ever tried to imagine *realistically* how it's going to feel when you will be 80 years old? Mr. Scié is *not* the sporty and smiling old man typically shown in commercials. He copes with old age, and old age is often difficult physically and psychologically. A bluntly realistic yet humorous and humanistic journey through one day of an old man.

Production: AJC!

Festivals: Gentilly, Lorquin, Namur

Web page: <http://www.ajcnet.be/fr/showroom/>

Radio

Quando Empieza la Noche (Quand Commence la Nuit)

Radio documentary, 44 minutes, 2004

Synopsis : Peru has been torn appart during the 80' by a "war against terror" opposing the regime of Fujimori (now exiled in Japan), and terrorist groups. A general of Fujimori once said, "*if in this war we need to kill one hundred innocent persons to get one terrorist, we consider that's the cost of war*". *Quando Empieza la Noche* features the testimonial and texts wrote in prison by Carlos Poma Cruz--a peruvian citizen tortured and jailed under unthinkable conditions for nine years for being active in one of Peru's traditional opposition party. His words give an intense first person account of the concerted destruction of the person practiced by many states worlwide in the name of democracy.

Production. RTBF 1

Radio broadcast. RTBF 1 (Belgian National Radio), France Culture (French National Radio)

Any Additional information

List of previous festival screenings and prizes

Selection Festival du Film francophone de Namur 2005 September

Press cuttings

None

Legend of photographs

GT016 Miners enter the mine in old wagons. The outdated and unmaintained equipments make the trip dangerous. Siglo XX tin mine – Bolivia, 2005
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Need Productions

GT034 Gaël Turine shoots miner having breakfast. Siglo XX tin mine – Bolivia, 2005
From World to World / Gaël Turine Photographer
Need Productions

GT041 This lady is searching tin ore in the material left over by other miners. Siglo XX tin mine – Bolivia, 2005
From World to World / Gaël Turine Photographer
Need Productions

GT096 This teenager explains how a landmine blow next to him while he was rescuing his cattle. He lost one eye and one arm. The friend helping him died. School for the blinds of Asmara, Eritrea, 2005
From World to World / Gaël Turine Photographer
Need Productions

GT097 These two blind kids are listening to the radio. School for the blinds of Asmara, Eritrea, 2005
From World to World / Gaël Turine Photographer
Need Productions

VinDom

Vincent Detours and Dominique Henry