

LETTER TO A STRANGER

Title: Letter to a stranger
Documentary theme: Sociology and culture
Genre: Interactive documentary
Format: HDCAM Color
Duration: 10 -15' web experience
Nationality: Spain
Language: Several languages
Stage: Development and pre-production
Directed by: Sandra Garcia Piñero
Teaser: <https://vimeo.com/157439114>



Approaching a stranger requires bravery, even more if “the other” has never had enough motivation for dialog. This is what happens in the border between two peripheral neighborhoods of Barcelona: the « Besos » and « la Mina ». Nevertheless, to be in the interstitial space allows us to confront the « others » and gives us the chance to question them.

SYNOPSIS

In January 2014 I arrived with my camera to an apartment between two of the more peripheral and immigration filled neighborhoods of Barcelona. I started filming life around me, observing through my camera trying to better understand the new place where I was living. The more I thought I understood, the more I moved away from simple observation. So I tried to find new images that talked about the previous ones I already had captured. What I began to see through those images was people clustered in little ghettos, segregated from one another in different spaces, different cultures.

This is how I decided to launch a filmic device that allows to create a contact with or a movement towards the « Other », so close in space but so distant to begin with. This device includes filming the letter which one neighbour writes to a person from another culture while he/she comments on its content in voice over. This is how the audience will get to know the main characters: by their typography, their voice, their body-language, the skin colour and other particular cultural aspects. We will also listen the director's voice asking and answering some questions concerning different doubts.

In the other hand, the different answers to the questions they will write in the letter will be answered and shown with the help of people who are involved and want to participate. This images will be filmed differently, mostly outdoors: in the market, park, streets, metro, etc. This space will finally be the virtual space where this dialog will exist. A dialog never done before, done now by the cinema. This will contrast with the intimate atmosphere of the people writing their letters.

Letter to a stranger is then a space for dialog where each neighbour of « Besos » and « La Mina » finds a way to get close and communicate with « the Other ». The other with whom they never talk, because they are from another culture. The stranger who, maybe, will be someone necessary for their survival. We will observe in this peripheral neighborhood of Barcelona that this people have the same incommunication as in many other cities around the world.

CHARACTERS

Danda is 26 years old and he is a pakistani greengrocer. Paqui, is 63 years old, she is a spanish widow. Yan Lin, 19 years old, is a chinese waitress. Like them there will be between 20 and 40 characters from different cultures.

SPACE

The border between « Besos » and « La Mina » is a place which originally was created to separate certain marginal population. At the same time, nowadays, inside that area, this people live also separated and isolated from one another.

The webdoc has three different parts:

- In one hand we see the people asking and writing questions in a letter commented by themselves.
- Secondly, there will be the images that answer the letters.
- Finally, any Internet user could take part of the project by answering any letter.

If this project has born as an interactive documentary is because the topic involves the active participation of the community. We are talking about giving voice to people usually silenced. The purpose is to offer them a tool for reflection, dialog and integration. It is, definitely, a documentary made for and by the neighbourhood. The project also wants to strengthen the relation between neighbours and families. In the first place, there are elder generations who don't know how to write or read. Thus, there will be an interesting dialog between young generations who'll help the elder ones. In another hand, there are many people who don't have access to Internet at home. Even more, some of them don't even know how to use a computer. That's why we will provide an operative computer to the library and the community centre to reach everyone.

Independent production company focused on creative documentary projects connected specially with young and cultural necessities.

Araki Films has been in festivals like IDFA, Rotterdam, Yamagata, Flahertiana, Montreal, Màlaga, Cali, DocsBarcelona, among others. Since "Bajarí" the company works directly with the international distributor Wide House (France) which has held the premiere of the film at Japanese cinemas and Chinese and Taiwanese televisions.

Eva Vila has been the delegate producer for the most of the 24 feature films launched by the Master in Creative Documentary of the University Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona. Since 2013, she decided to continue her job founding her own company and starting with the production of his second documentary feature film "Bajarí" which in 2012 she coproduced with Lastor Media, TVE and TVC.

Previously, she had produced with Eix films the feature film "B-Side" (2008) and the medium-length film "L'espai d'un mateix", and other pieces like "Castells" by Pol Ponsarnau. Recently, the company has produced the film "Demonstration", shot by the Russian director Victor Kossakovsky with 32 students from the Master in Creative Documentary Filmmaking. As Kossakovsy says "The time is over to make good movies, is time to make incredible movies ».

BUDGET

Development	10.000 €
Preproduction	10.500 €
Production	47.302 €
Postproduction	3.700 €
Digital media	16.500 €
Total	88.002 €

LOOKING FOR

Co-production, distribution and open to proposals.

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SANDRA GARCIA, DIRECTOR

Master's in Creative Documentary and Bachelor degree in audiovisual communication at the University Pompeu Fabra with an interactive specialization. She has worked as a casting assistant in the webdoc « Amb titol » by Neus Ballús (2015) and camera assistant of the documentary « Inside » by Eva Vila (2014-15). She has also been atrezzo assistant at the film « Substance » by Lluís Galter (2015). Previously she had filmed the film « Héctor and Manel » where she confronted her father and her brother inside a small fishing boat while asking them why they hadn't been talking to each other after a long period, around ten years, of incomunication.