

A portrait of a young man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a teal shirt, against a black background. The text "that there's a universal dynamic" is overlaid on the left side of the image.

that there's
a universal dynamic

Christian (France) My biggest fear is. . . being nobody, being nothing. . . Not knowing why I'm here, what the point is, if it has meaning. To really not be any use whatsoever, me, just a man among men. I have the impression that there's a universal dynamic, and if I'm not a part of it, it will destroy me. I want to be part of the history of mankind.

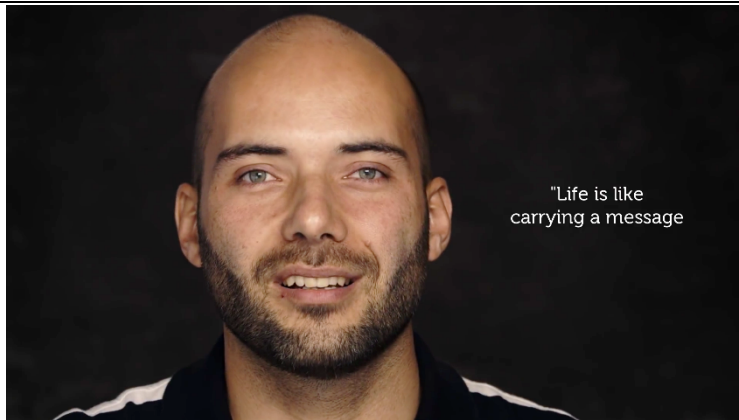


Sonam (India) I think I was born to give birth to one or two children. To feed them from infancy, so that when I'm old, they can take care of me in return.



Jonathan (USA) Me being fifteen with a life sentence, what can be the meaning of my life? That is a hard question, but I think the meaning of my life could be happiness, making everything right, helping out young *and* older people. Just help one another. Stand for something. Just stay out of trouble, don't come to prison—that ain't no meaning in life. This ain't no place for nobody.

I don't know. Everybody has their own purpose, but I don't know what my purpose is. I don't know about that question.



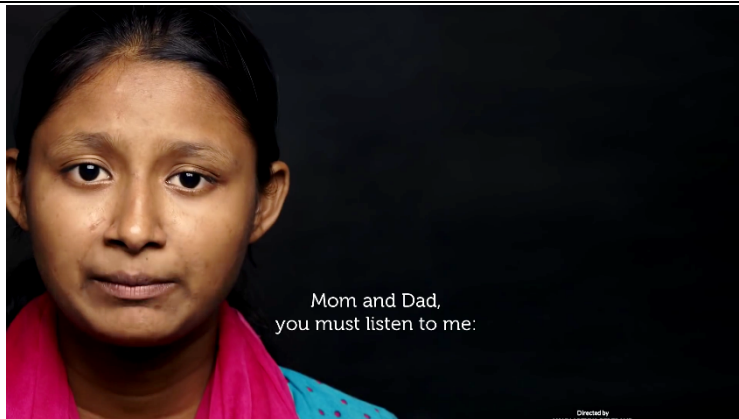
Argus (Brazil) Don't you have an easier question? The meaning of life. . . Sometimes I think of a phrase I heard as a boy, a friend who said, "Life is like carrying a message from the child you were to the old man you will be. You have to be sure that this message isn't lost along the way."

I often think of that because, when I was little, I used to imagine fine things, to dream of a world without beggars in which everyone was happy—simple, subtle things. But you lose those things over the course of life. You just work to be able to buy things, and you stop seeing the beggar, you stop caring.

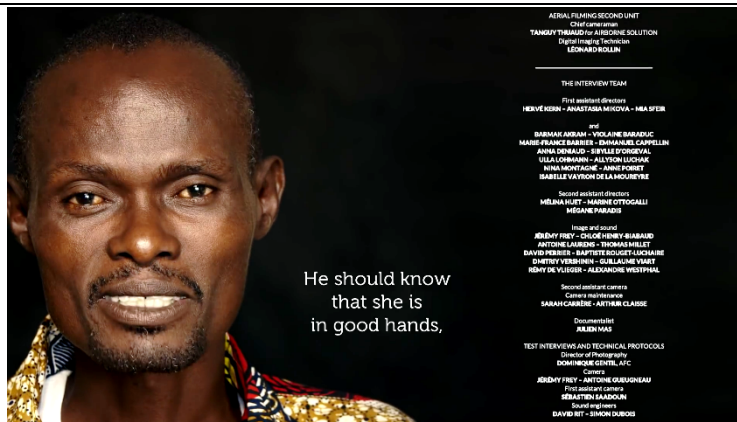
Where's the message of the child I once was? Maybe the meaning of life is making sure that this message doesn't disappear.



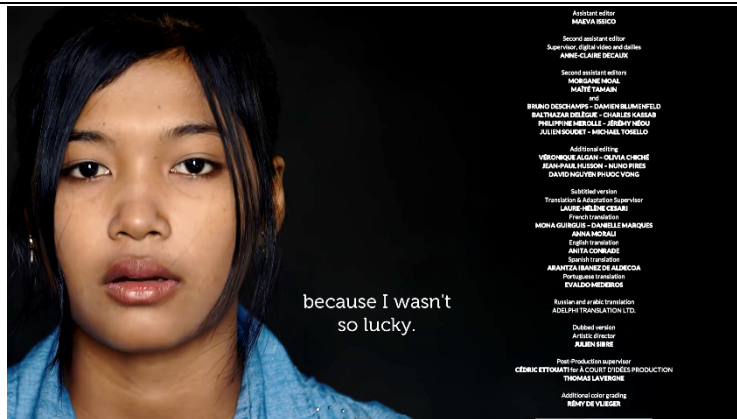
Samuel (Democratic Republic of the Congo) I've already asked myself. . . I've already asked myself why I was on earth. I'm here to do what God has planned for me. Because on earth, everyone has a mission. I have one too, but I don't know it yet.



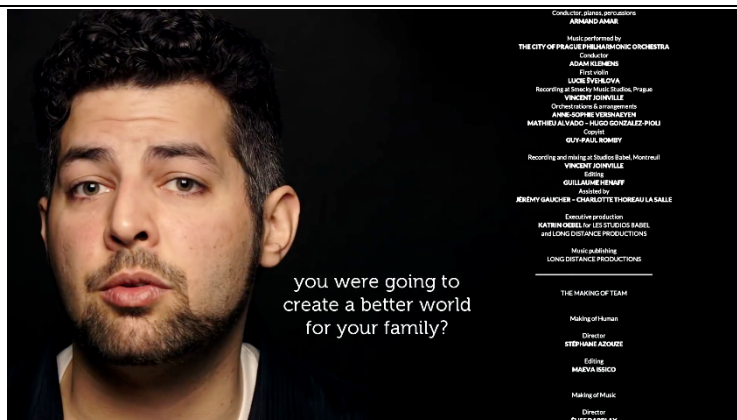
Sumaiya (Bangladesh) Mom and Dad, you must listen to me. I've told you so many times: If you can, stop the drugs. They're destroying you physically. If you remember that I'm your daughter, stop. Do it for me.



Dieudonne (Central African Republic) I have a younger brother. . . I have a little brother who died. He left behind a four-year-old girl. Unfortunately, the mother of the girl is dead, too. So, I'd like to tell that brother that he shouldn't worry. I knew this brother's love for his daughter. He should know that she is in good hands, that I take very good care of her.

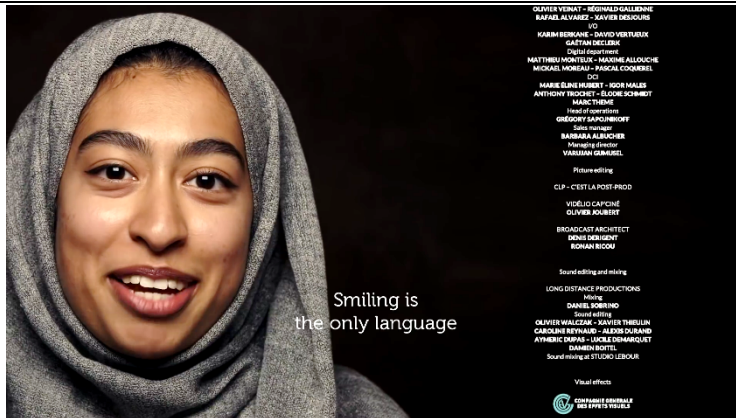


Yen (Thailand) I'm a prostitute, and I have a message for my parents. Don't worry anymore; it's okay now. I can fulfill my mission. I can look after my brothers and sisters. They're at home and will study. They will complete their studies, I promise. I don't want them to have a hard life. They must study for years. It will make me happy because I wasn't so lucky. They'll complete their studies. I want them to study as long as possible. I don't have the intelligence to do anything else, but I want my brothers and sisters to finish their studies.

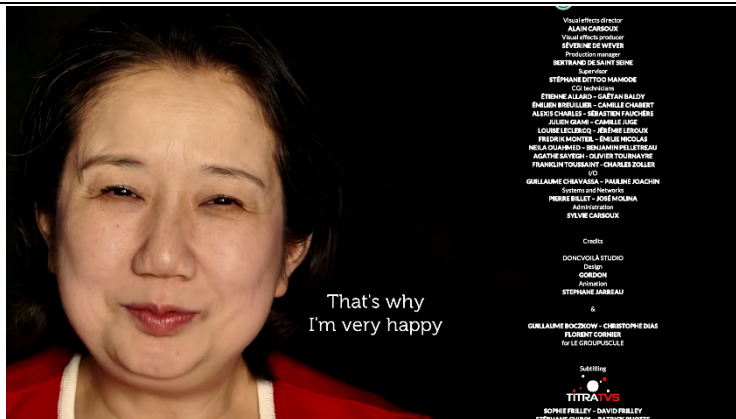


Zak (Canada) When I was seven years old, my father went to prison for assassinating Rabbi Meir Kahane, and then in 1993, he co-masterminded the bombing of the World Trade Center, in which six people were killed, and over one thousand people were injured. And if he were sitting in front of me today, I would want to know why he chose that path. I would want to know if he did it for fame or. . . Did you do it for your religion? Did you do it because you thought maybe you were going to create a better world for your family? Did you think about your family? Did you wonder if you would be able to escape and maybe you wouldn't go to prison. . . and we would all live somewhere happily together afterward?

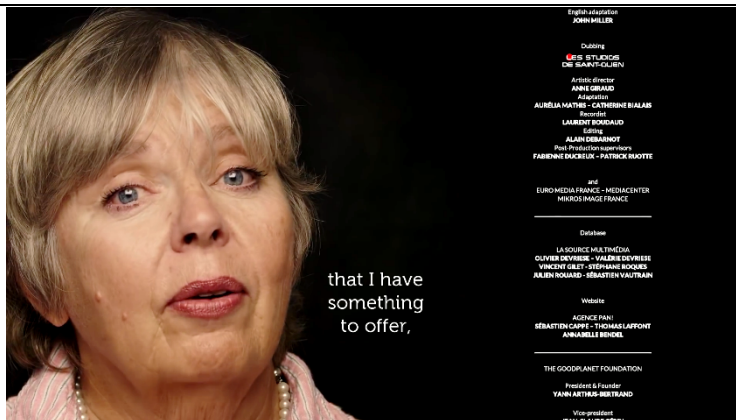
After twenty-two years in prison, I would want to know if you felt like the actions you took all those years ago were worth it. And, would you do it all over again if you had the chance to make that choice again?



Sara (Ireland) There are two things I'd like to tell you: Don't forget who you are and always smile because smiling is the only language that everyone understands.

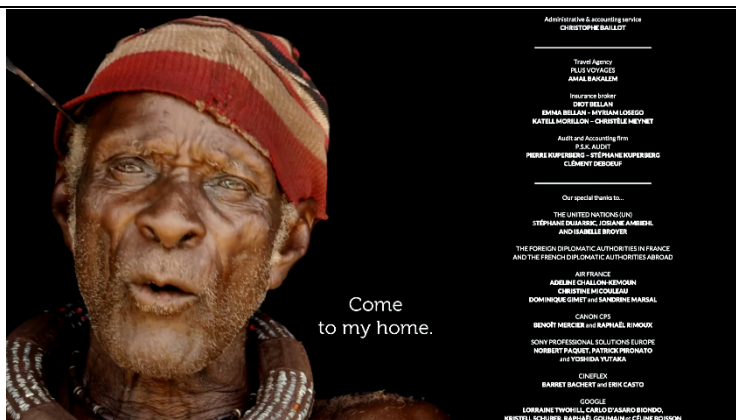


Yukari (Japan) "In a lifetime, the number of encounters is limited. Each of them is precious." My father would say this when I was very little. That's why I'm very happy to meet you. Thank you very much.

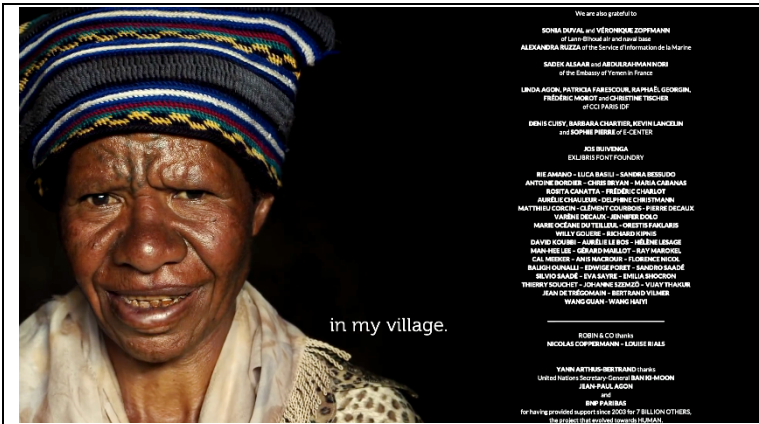


Sharon (USA) You've brought up a lot of things for me today. You've made me feel important, you've made me feel that I have something to offer. You've made me feel that I had a place to go. You made me feel like my stories were welcome. And you made me feel happy.

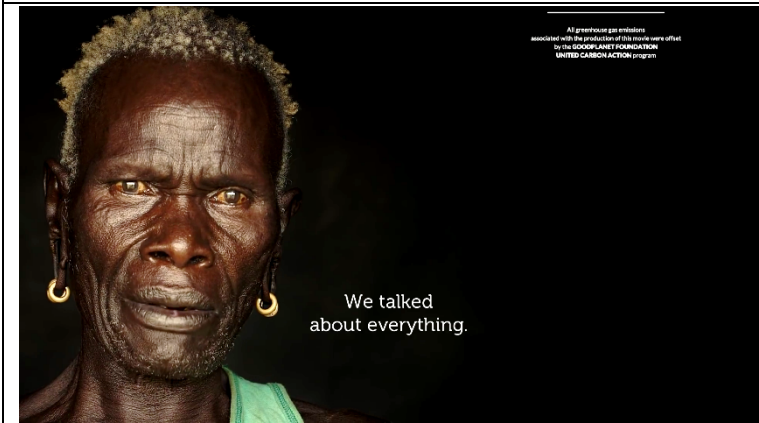
I think people need to feel that they have done something while they've lived. They need to feel that they've contributed. And today, you made me feel like I contributed. And I'm very grateful to you for that. Thank you.



Katuezu (Namibia) My message is that you are welcome to my home. Come to my home. I invite you all! Every tribe: Ovatusa, Ovahimba, Ovambo, Ovangandjera. You're all welcome.



Cecilia (Papua New Guinea) Today, in this world, we hear about people who make films. We hear this kind of story, but now. . . that Ulla and Emmanuel are here, that they are making a film, everyone will see where we live, in my village. I am so happy. Seeing more film-people coming here would make me very happy. The world will get to know us. I don't know if they'll see me, but I'm very happy to talk now and to those who will come. Tell them.



Bayena (Ethiopia) There's nothing to add. We talked about peace; we talked about everything. We've finished; it's over.