




MOSTRA INTERNAZIONALE
D'ARTE CINEMATOGRAFICA
la Biennale di Venezia 2015
Venezia 72
Out of Competition

HUMAN

A FILM BY
YANN ARTHUS-BERTRAND



The BETTENCOURT SCHUELLER FOUNDATION presents
a GOODPLANET FOUNDATION project

HUMAN

A FILM BY
YANN ARTHUS-BERTRAND

#WhatMakesUsHUMAN #HUMAN

12 SEPTEMBER 2015

The first feature film led by two non-profit foundations



BETTENCOURT
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FOUNDATION

GOODPLANET
FOUNDATION

HUMAN A FILM BY YANN ARTHUS-BERTRAND PRODUCED BY HUMANKIND PRODUCTION
DIRECTED BY YANN ARTHUS-BERTRAND ORIGINAL MUSIC BY ARMANDO AMAR EDITING BY FRANCOISE BERNARD & ANNE-MARIE SANGLA
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY BRUNO CUSA EXECUTIVE PRODUCER JEAN-YVES ROBIN CREATIVE PRODUCER FLORENT GILARD PRODUCTION MANAGER ERIC SALEMI



PRESS KIT AND PHOTOS CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM
www.human-themovie.org

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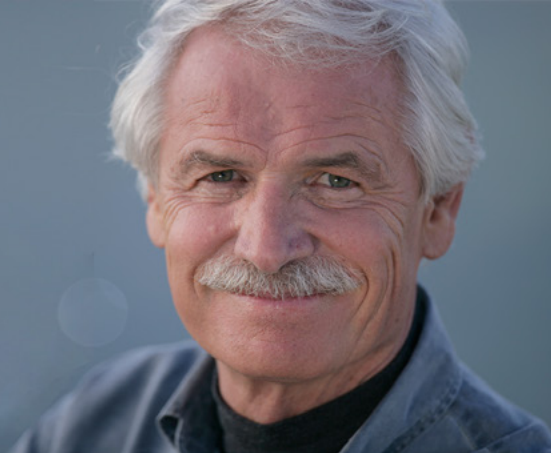
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INTRODUCTION BY YANN ARTHUS-BERTRAND



"I am one man among seven billion others. For the past 40 years, I have been photographing our planet and its human diversity, and I have the feeling that humanity is not making any progress.

We can't always manage to live together.

Why is that?

I didn't look for an answer in statistics or analysis, but in man himself. It is in faces, looks, and words that I find a powerful way of reaching the depths of the human soul. Each encounter brings you a step closer. Each story is unique.

By exploring the experiences of the Other, I was in search of understanding.

Do we all have the same thirst for love, freedom and recognition? In a world torn between tradition and modernity, do our fundamental needs remain the same? Deep down, what does it mean to be human today? What is the meaning of life? Are our differences so great? Do we, in fact, share more values than we might have imagined? And if so, why can we not manage to understand one another?

I wanted to pose these questions and discuss humanity through what, at first, seemed a crazy, utopian project. My crew and I approached the task with a great deal of humility. In the course of two years, we visited 60 countries and recorded some 2,020 interviews in our search for others' lives – above all, those about whom no one ever talks, and who tell their story here for the first time.

I dreamed of a film in which the power of the words resonates over the beauty of the world.

By putting humanity's ills – poverty, war, immigration, homophobia – at the heart of the film, I made some politically engaged choices. But the interviewees spoke to us about all kinds of topics, from their difficulties in growing up to their search for love and happiness. It is this vast wealth of human discourse which lies at the heart of HUMAN.

This film carries the voice of all the men and women who told me their stories. It is their messenger. I made the film I had dreamed of; my wish now is that everyone can use it in their own way, organizing screenings and becoming ambassadors of the Living Together initiative."

Yann Arthus-Bertrand

HUMAN A FILM, A PROJECT



BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT

There are some universal subjects, but each story is unique. That was the starting point for HUMAN, the new film by French photographer and director Yann Arthus-Bertrand.

Made up of exclusive aerial footage and first-person stories told into the camera, this exceptional fresco paints a portrait of humanity today which will resonate with each of us.

Filmed in 60 countries over more than two years, the 2,020 people interviewed look us straight in the eye and gives us some authentic and moving stories told in 63 languages.

Whatever the country, the culture, the age, or the religion, the journalists put the same key questions about the human condition.

Do you feel free? What is the meaning of life? What is the toughest trial you have had to face, and what did you learn from it? What is your message for the inhabitants of the planet? And so on...

On each occasion, intimacy and spontaneity took precedence over the questionnaire, and a genuine connection was made between the journalist and the interviewee. Often for more than an hour, they would open up and recount what their lives are like.

Listening to these life stories, it seemed urgent to give a voice to the men and women of the world. By putting the sufferings of humanity at the heart of HUMAN, Yann Arthus-Bertrand has made his most politically engaged work yet.

Going against all cinematographic codes, and without a pre-established screenplay, HUMAN took shape along the way. This ode without narration promises to be a unique, almost immersive experience for each spectator: an inner journey to the heart of the human soul, interspersed with dreamlike and majestic aerial views.

With an ear on the past and an eye on the future, HUMAN is a plea to all the world's citizens.

WATCH THE VIDEO ABOUT THE PROJECT'S BACKGROUND



HUMAN A FILM, A PROJECT

SYNOPSIS



HUMAN is a collection of stories about and images of our world, offering an immersion to the core of what it means to be human. Through these stories full of love and happiness, as well as hatred and violence, HUMAN brings us face to face with the Other, making us reflect on our lives. From stories of everyday experiences to accounts of the most unbelievable lives, these poignant encounters share a rare sincerity and underline who we are – our darker side, but also what is most noble in us, and what is universal. Our Earth is shown at its most sublime through never-before-seen aerial images accompanied by soaring music, resulting in an ode to the beauty of the world, providing a moment to draw breath and for introspection.

HUMAN is a politically engaged work which allows us to embrace the human condition and to reflect on the meaning of our existence.

WATCH THE TRAILER 

HUMAN

A FILM WITH THREE VOICES



FIVE YEARS AFTER THE WORLDWIDE SUCCESS OF “HOME”, WHICH WAS SEEN BY MORE THAN 600 MILLION SPECTATORS, AND INSPIRED BY THE PROJECT “7 BILLION OTHERS” WITH ITS MORE THAN 350 MILLION VISITORS, YANN ARTHUS-BERTRAND PRESENTS AN EXTRAORDINARY NEW FILM:

HUMAN

THE THREE VOICES ARE THOSE OF THE PEOPLE, THE TESTIMONY OF THE PLANET ITSELF, AND THE LYRICISM OF THE MUSIC. THEY COME TOGETHER TO GIVE A SINGLE UNITED VOICE TO OUR HUMANITY.



HUMAN

A FILM WITH THREE VOICES



THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

HUMAN IS AN ODE TO HUMANITY, A COLLECTION OF EXCLUSIVE TESTIMONIES, FACES, AND DESTINIES.

From asylum seekers in Calais, fighters in Ukraine, and workers in Bangladesh, to peasants in Mali and death-row inmates in the USA, Yann Arthus-Bertrand's encounters lead us on an immersive experience into human destiny.

Through successive, deeply personal interviews, he paints a portrait of a human race made up of contrasts, one that tugs at our heartstrings to encourage us to understand what separates us, to discover what unites us, and to eventually understand that the Other is often a small part of ourselves.

All the interviews in the film have been taken from interviews recorded following the same model. The conversation guides the stories and confessions, but is inspired by a set of questions that is the same for every portrait.

Working closely with local coordinators and translators, the journalists and camera operators have created as intimate as possible an experience for each volunteer, in order to gather these precious and personal testimonies that make up the very heart of HUMAN.

"After interviews that went well, the people involved would often thank me, saying I was the first person to listen to them, or that it was the first time they'd said what they said. Despite spending so short a time together, you feel like you did something good for somebody, so you feel good, too. And I've stayed in touch with a lot of people I met – we write to one another and share our news."

Anastasia Mikova,
Head of interview shoots

"I was most struck by my meeting with a very poor Indian woman in Uttar Pradesh. The woman was screaming in distress and anger. I didn't speak her language but this woman was sending me such a powerful message that I understood what she was saying! I felt the universality of her suffering and I burst into tears. And then she took me in her arms and I understood that her message was also one of generosity."

Mia Sfeir,
Journalist

HUMAN

A FILM WITH THREE VOICES



THE VOICE OF THE EARTH

THROUGH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY, YANN ARTHUS-BERTRAND SHARES HIS VISION OF THE WORLD AND OF MANKIND WITH THE AUDIENCE, OFFERING A READING THAT IS BOTH POETIC AND CRITICAL OF OUR PLANET.

In HUMAN, the camera highlights places that are unsuspectingly beautiful, but it also pays close attention to peoples' lives around the world. The often unequal development of our societies has left its mark on our landscapes, as the aerial footage shows.

From our joyful gatherings to our forced wanderings, from the boom in city life to the destruction of our villages, from the beauty of nature to its impoverishment, HUMAN creates a powerful link between mankind and the Earth, raising questions about our joint future.



HUMAN

A FILM WITH THREE VOICES



"When Yann sees a place, he immediately knows what he wants to get out of it. I try to adapt to his unique approach that makes one feel emotions through style or beauty. Sometimes, it's an important site that has already been filmed or photographed thousands of times, but often, it's a place that might appear insignificant to anyone else, but Yann turns it into something sublime through his imagery. We use a helicopter-mounted Cineflex camera system that offers great stability and wonderful image quality, even with the very long focal lengths that Yann particularly likes."

Bruno Cusa,
Chief camera operator, aerial photography

"I was very privileged to be able to work on the aerial shoots where every image is a poem and every story a battle. All the problems involved in the preparation and production process just disappear when you come back satisfied by a unique a professional experience that is full of other people's hopes."

Yazid Tizi,
Head of aerial photography



HUMAN

A FILM WITH THREE VOICES



THE VOICE OF THE MUSIC

MUSIC IS A UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE THAT TRANSCENDS EMOTIONS, ENHANCES THE PHOTOGRAPHY, AND PROVIDES A RHYTHM FOR THE NARRATIVE. INEXTRICABLY LINKED WITH THE IMAGERY, IT HAS ALWAYS HAD A KEY PLACE IN YANN ARTHUS-BERTRAND'S WORK.

Armand Amar's compositions were the obvious choice to underscore the diversity and richness of the narrative of HUMAN. Through his creations, Amar amplifies the voices of people and that of the Earth. Singers and musicians from around the world came together to create a musical landscape with an amazingly eclectic approach. This is an immersion into the very heart of humanity.

Armand Amar and Yann Arthus-Bertrand are both self-taught, and both enjoy setting out to meet this notion of "elsewhere", improvising with no constraints. They chose to make this composition an artistic entity that grew and evolved in parallel, working in symbiosis with the images of the film.



HUMAN A FILM WITH THREE VOICES



"I was gripped by traditional music. It's music that moves me, and has a direct relationship with one's emotions. For HUMAN, my idea was to construct a kind of resonance with the interviews through a song that would deliver the same emotion. I wanted things to open up, for our hearts to open up, for sadness to open up and for there to be no holding back. HUMAN was one of the rare moments in my career making music for movies where I could express all these different cultures, and work both with minimalist music and at the same time with all these musicians and singer from elsewhere.

Which note came to me first? It was more a global vision, a universe in osmosis with the film, where it was about sharing and meeting people – that was my starting point. For me, the composition I wrote for the images of Mongolia in particular sums up the universe I wanted to create for this film.

I have a special role as a composer when I'm working with Yann that differs to that I have with other directors. We share a deep friendship, and we have a very complicit relationship. It's about generosity. His instinct, which has a touch of fantasy about it, means that you can follow him, that I can give him my opinions on how the film is constructed, because in fact, I'm his first audience."

Armand Amar



HUMAN ONE FILM, 11 VARIATIONS



THE HUMAN GALAXY

SINCE 2012, THE CREW BEHIND HUMAN HAS BEEN GATHERING AN EXCEPTIONAL RANGE OF CONTENT. THIS UNIQUE COLLECTION OF INTERVIEWS AND IMAGES IS INTENDED TO BE SHARED WITH THE WIDEST POSSIBLE AUDIENCE.

Drawing on this unrivalled collection of images, Yann Arthus-Bertrand offers us a galaxy of works adapted for all platforms and every type of interaction: cinema, television, the digital space, and major public events.

HUMAN: the cinematographic movie - 190 mins

The movie will be in theaters from 12 September in France, and from 22 September will be available for free to local authorities, NGOs, and charities that wish to organize screenings.

HUMAN: the TV movie - 131 mins

The TV film will be broadcast at the end of September in primetime by France 2. The version screened by France 2 will be in French. It will also be available in a subtitled version on Pluzz for catch-up screenings for 30 days.

France 2 will also air several other films from the HUMAN galaxy: "On the Trail of HUMAN", "The Stories of HUMAN", "The HUMAN Adventure" and "HUMAN, the Music".

ON THE TRAIL OF HUMAN - three films of 52 mins

From the most terrible conflicts that blight humanity to the most noble sentiments of which we are capable; from the great diversity of our lifestyles to the desire to come together around universal topics like family or love: these three documentaries provide an opportunity for Yann Arthus-Bertrand to explore the major themes in HUMAN. They will also be the opportunity for the director to explain his approach.

"The Two Faces of Man" will pose the question of the complexity of the human species, capable of the best and the worst, explored through the themes of war, forgiveness, love and family.

"At the Crossroads of Two Worlds" deals with sharing resources between humans in a world that operates at two speeds.

"Life: a Quest for Meaning" offers a more philosophical reflection on the meaning of life, with sequences on topics such as corruption and discrimination.

HUMAN

ONE FILM, 11 VARIATIONS



THE STORIES OF HUMAN - 80 mins

A selection of exclusive, hypnotic and contemplative longer testimonies, combined with breathtaking aerial views: that is The Stories of HUMAN, going ever further.

THE HUMAN ADVENTURE (MAKING OF) - 52 mins

How do you conduct interviews to gather the most personal stories with the greatest emotion possible? How do you push the envelope in aerial filming for ever-more stunning footage? How could all these sequences be stitched together to create a unique yet sensitive work?

Through the images of the film being made in Paris and throughout the world, complemented with interviews, Yann Arthus-Bertrand and his crew recount these three years of work, this amazing human adventure which enabled this extraordinary work to come into being.

HUMAN: THE MUSIC - 52 mins

This documentary following composer Armand Amar over the six months in which he created the music for HUMAN was directed by Elise Darblay.

The 52-minute film will be screened by France Télévisions in September 2015, and will also be available in English and Spanish versions.

HUMAN – three films specifically for the web

A specific and exclusive format of the film made up of three 90-minute episodes will be available for free on YouTube and Google Play in six languages: French, English, Russian, Spanish, Arabic and Portuguese.

HUMAN - Behind the Scenes

To go behind the scenes of the project, Google's Cultural Institute will offer exclusive content on its online platform retracing the three years of making the film: six digital exhibitions, a collection of thousands of photos (portraits and aerial views), and numerous full interviews.

HUMAN A GLOBAL MOVEMENT



HUMAN EVERYWHERE, FOR EVERYONE

SINCE THE START OF THE HUMAN ADVENTURE, WE WANTED THIS FILM TO BE DIFFERENT.

THANKS TO THE UNCONDITIONAL AND EXCEPTIONAL SUPPORT OF THE BETTENCOURT SCHUELLER FOUNDATION, THIS PROJECT PRODUCED BY THE GOODPLANET FOUNDATION WILL BE ACCESSIBLE TO THE WIDEST POSSIBLE AUDIENCE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

ALL AVAILABLE PLATFORMS, ALL NETWORKS, ALL MEANS OF COMMUNICATION WILL BE USED TO GIVES THE PROJECT A RESOUNDING ECHO.



HUMAN A GLOBAL MOVEMENT



12 SEPTEMBER 2015 HUMAN DAY

HUMAN DAY WILL BE MARKED BY THREE SYMBOLIC AND SIMULTANEOUS EVENTS: THE STARTING POINT OF THE HUMAN MOVEMENT

AN EXCEPTIONAL PREMIERE AT THE UNITED NATIONS

To coincide with the 70th anniversary of the United Nations and the end of the Millennium Campaign, an exceptional premiere will be held in the General Assembly Hall of the UN headquarters in New York, transformed for the occasion into a movie theater. The UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon, will attend the screening, which is staged with the support of the French mission.

The presentation of the film to the representatives of member-states in this symbolic location is a great honor, and underlines the close links between the GoodPlanet Foundation and the UN, for whom Yann Arthus-Bertrand has been proud to be a Goodwill Ambassador as part of the UN Environment Program since 2009

PRESENTATION OF THE FILM AT THE VENICE FILM FESTIVAL

HUMAN will be screened out-of-competition at the 72nd edition of the Venice Film Festival, where the emerging themes this year are current affairs and history.

WIDESPREAD DIGITAL PRESENCE ON GOOGLE

From 12 September, Google will make HUMAN available worldwide on YouTube in six languages. Six dedicated YouTube channels will be created to make the HUMAN experience accessible to the greatest numbers, thanks to content in English, Russian, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic and French. These six YouTube channels will offer three 90-minute films, forming a natural extension of the HUMAN project.

After the launch of the initial content, a regular feed of exclusive content will prolong the HUMAN experience over the course of a year.



HUMAN A GLOBAL MOVEMENT



GLOBAL MOBILIZATION

REFLECTING THE MULTI-PLATFORM RELEASE IN FRANCE AND ECHOING THE COMMITMENT OF THE PROJECT'S FRENCH DISTRIBUTION PARTNERS IN CINEMAS, ON TV AND THE INTERNET, IN ORDER TO SHARE THIS PROJECT WITH THE WIDEST POSSIBLE AUDIENCE, HUMAN WILL BENEFIT FROM AN INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTION PLAN, THE SOLE AIM OF WHICH IS TO MAKE THE FILM AVAILABLE TO THE WIDEST POSSIBLE AUDIENCE, AT THE MOST ACCESSIBLE PRICES.

To meet this challenge, besides the online availability of a 3x90-minute series on YouTube, several exceptional distribution strategies will be deployed.

A COLLABORATION WITH FOREIGN DISTRIBUTORS

The film will be made available to foreign theatrical distributors and others in the distribution chain at special rates, specifically designed to facilitate access to the widest audience possible in the freest conditions.

The GoodPlanet Foundation is not asking foreign distributors to pay any revenue from theatrical receipts, and thus hopes to encourage movie theaters worldwide to offer HUMAN at the lowest possible ticket price.

Rights fees paid by foreign TV channels will be entirely reinvested in other ways of getting the film to audiences, and in complementary educational activities, notably through charities, festivals and non-profit organizations.



HUMAN A GLOBAL MOVEMENT



AVAILABLE TO NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

To round out the package and offer HUMAN to everyone, a special team will work with all the traditional distribution channels – whether cinemas, TV channels or video publishers – so their distribution strategies can be effectively coordinated with the great many events being staged by non-profit organizations.

As such, HUMAN will be made available for free to charities around the world, as well as to all cultural centers, museums, institutions, NGOs, festivals and local authorities that wish to act as ambassadors for the values it conveys.

Beyond this coordination, our team will also lend its expertise gained over more than a decade in the production of complementary events, and will make a network of international contacts available to all partners who would like to use it.



HUMAN A GLOBAL MOVEMENT



ON SOCIAL NETWORKS: A DIGITAL MOVEMENT

AVAILABLE EVERYWHERE AND TO EVERYONE, HUMAN IS MORE THAN ONE EXPERIENCE. THIS PROJECT IS A BATON THAT CITIZENS OF THE WORLD CAN PASS ON AS A SYMBOL OF THEIR COMMITMENT TO GREATER SOLIDARITY.

This is a sizeable challenge, given the project's ambitions, and is only possible with the participation of all: men and women active in the charity, cultural, and solidarity sectors, as well as simple citizens who want to get involved and help us launch this movement and become Ambassadors of the Living Together initiative by organizing screenings and sharing the experience on social networks with the hashtags:

#WhatMakesUsHUMAN #HUMAN

@Humanthemovie   

THE FILMS: THE STARTING POINT FOR A GLOBAL MOVEMENT

HUMAN is an invitation addressed to the greatest number: an invitation to reflect on the meaning we can find in our lives, our choices, and our deepest convictions.

The questions which HUMAN raises are deeply individual, but may find collective answers in the global movement generated by the films, resulting in the forming of a bond that will bring people together around the powerful values of solidarity, sharing and engagement.

Following on from the impact of the films, discussion on social media will take on a global dimension, giving a voice to the many, and beyond simply sharing opinions on the film, may provide an answer to the question: what makes us human? (#WhatMakesUsHUMAN)

EXCEPTIONAL VISIBILITY ON GOOGLE

Google shares many of the project's values, and is gearing up to give HUMAN exceptional global visibility. On the launch day on 12 September, Google will invite billions of web-users worldwide to join the movement from its home page in countries worldwide.

A COLLABORATIVE, INDEPENDENT AND POLITICALLY ENGAGED PROJECT



A WORK
SUPPORTED BY THE



FONDATION
BETTENCOURT
SCHUELLER



HUMAN is the result of a unique collaboration and a unique production. For the first time, two non-profit foundations have joined forces to allow an exceptional work to come into being.

The Bettencourt Schueller Foundation fully financed the production of this cinematographic work for philanthropic reasons, with the aim of giving it rights-free to the GoodPlanet Foundation, which drove the project, and which, with the participation France Télévisions, sets out to distribute **HUMAN** in the freest conditions to the widest possible audience.

This unprecedented cooperation has allowed Yann Arthus-Bertrand to produce a profoundly original yet easily accessible work.

A COLLABORATIVE, INDEPENDENT AND POLITICALLY ENGAGED PROJECT



For almost 30 years, the Bettencourt Schueller Foundation has been using film to serve the projects it supports, in the life sciences, the arts, and social actions.

By supporting Yann Arthus-Bertrand's HUMAN project, the Bettencourt Schueller Foundation is continuing its commitment to "valuable images". These are images that inspire us to share a collective approach to renewing our relationship with our environment – either natural or manmade. They have been created by major directors whose personal vocations fit with a desire to celebrate the beauty of the living world, to raise awareness of the fragility of our environment, and to promote a humanistic vision of our future.

This commitment follows in the same vein as the other cinematographic works supported by the Bettencourt Schueller Foundation, including *Le Syndrome du Titanic* by Nicolas Hulot and Jean-Albert Lièvre, *Winged Migration*, *Oceans* and *Seasons* by Jacques Perrin, and *La Glace et le Ciel* by Luc Jacquet.

Without the support of the Bettencourt Schueller Foundation, HUMAN would never have been made and would not have benefited from this international, multi-support roll-out, which was itself a key condition for the Foundation's backing of such a project.

www.fondationbs.org

HUMAN, | FONDATION A PROJECT FROM THE GOODPLANET

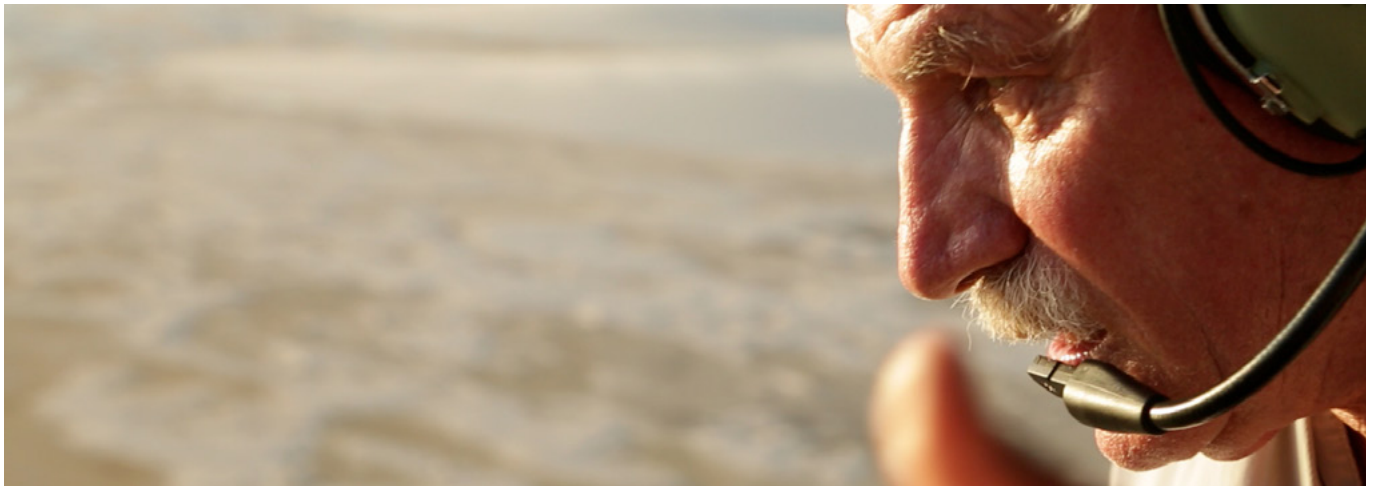
The GoodPlanet Foundation is a non-profit created in 2005. It is presided over by Yann Arthus-Bertrand, and seeks to raise awareness among the general public about environmental issues. It offers realistic and optimistic solutions drawing on a series of programs destined to put ecology and living in harmony at the heart of our thinking.

"I created the GoodPlanet Foundation to raise awareness, and to inform and educate the general public of all ages and viewpoints. But also to carry out concrete actions and to inspire people to get involved with projects that help respect Mankind and our planet." Yann Arthus-Bertrand, President of the GoodPlanet Foundation.

GoodPlanet is behind all the initiatives – educations, web-based, books, etc. – which accompany HUMAN, and is coordinating the film's distribution strategy.

www.goodplanet.org

THE DIRECTOR



Yann Arthus-Bertrand is a photographer and renowned specialist in aerial imagery. He has written several books, including “The Earth from the Air”, which has been translated into 24 languages and has sold more than three million copies.

In 2009, he made his first film, “HOME”. This inventory of the planet was seen by more than 600 million people around the world. Available for free from YouTube, it is continuing its career. It is the most successful environmental film of the decade.

“7 Billion Others”, a portrait of humanity today, has so far been seen by 350 million people. This major exhibition that was inaugurated at the Grand Palais in Paris in 2009, before going on to travel the world, is a personal reflection developed over the space of 30 years.

It was the first step on the path that led Yann Arthus-Bertrand to make “HUMAN”.

Yann Arthus-Bertrand is also known for his commitment to the ecological battle. For five years, he hosted the famous show “Vu du Ciel” which explored environmental issues for the public broadcaster, francetélévisions.

In 2011, he made the film Planet Ocean with Michaël Pitiot, in which his incredible aerial photography accompanied by gripping footage from award-winning marine photographers took audiences on a unique journey into the very heart of our blue planet.

Since 2005 and the creation of the GoodPlanet Foundation, Yann Arthus-Bertrand has been committed to educating about the environment and the fight against climate change and its consequences. This commitment led to him being named a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Environment Program on 22 April 2009.

www.yannarthusbertrand.org

HUMAN AN EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURE



A HUMAN JOURNEY

MORE THAN JUST A TRADITIONAL MOVIE, HUMAN IS A MULTI-FACETTED AUDIOVISUAL PROJECT THAT INVOLVED A THREE-YEAR COMMITMENT ON BEHALF OF A DEDICATED CREW OF JOURNALISTS, CAMERAMEN, AND EDITORS, NOT FORGETTING THE PRODUCTION TEAM.

"I selected my team like a family, a community of perspectives and desires with people who have strong beliefs and who were aware they were making a difficult and fascinating film about life."

Yann Arthus-Bertrand.

With no fixed script, HUMAN was written along the way, over the course of 110 shoots around the world. It was the life testimonies of the 2,020 people interviewed that gradually pieced together the canvas of the film.

Beyond that phenomenal bank of material, HUMAN is also an exceptional human adventure that was shared by a passionate team. In total, 16 journalists, 20 cameramen, five editors, and a 12-strong production crew worked alongside Yann on this enterprise.



Each team member's role was clearly defined and interlinked to bring this exceptional work to life.

After founding Hope Production, the documentary subsidiary of Robin&Co (Planète Océan, La Soif du Monde, Méditerranée, l'Algérie vue du ciel), and to continue his long-standing collaboration, Jean-Yves Robin teamed up again with Yann Arthus-Bertrand on the HUMAN adventure through HumanKind Production.

Robin&Co lent its expertise in the field of production of television and cinematographic works, enabling Yann Arthus-Bertrand and the GoodPlanet Foundation to disseminate HUMAN via all possible platforms, as planned from the project's inception.

HUMAN AN EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURE



TESTIMONY FROM THE CREW

"I've been working with Yann for 11 years now, previously on "6 Billion Others", and since 2012 on the production of HUMAN. Even after more than 8,000 interviews between the two projects, I'm still eager to discover each new story, because each account is rich in itself, prompting a different reaction or making you grow. Now, I can't wait to share this film with the widest possible audience to extend the project even further. Because in the end, 8,000 interviews seems a lot, but at the same time, it's nothing. We have so much work yet to do. HUMAN is just the start of a project that we hope won't stop there. The adventure has only just begun!"

Florent Gilard, artistic producer.

"It was an obvious choice, both from a professional point of view but also a personal one, to back Yann Arthus-Bertrand in this initiative. It's exactly this type of adventure which gives meaning to my work."

Jean-Yves Robin, producer.

"Put in everything that is powerful!" Yann would say to us. So we had to organize the powerful and the sensitive, the singular and the universal, the different and the identical. Telling stories of death and happiness, war and forgiveness, poverty and the reasons behind all this; telling the story of humanity. And then we had to alternate between time for watching and time for listening, time for thinking and time for receiving. A face, a location, a word, a piece of music. Editing is also a matter of saying goodbye, of keeping this rather than that. It's a sensitive and subjective business. And then sometimes it's just so obvious, an image which reaches beyond, which unites us, or which scares us, one we would rather not have seen. We put all that in the film. There's Yann, there's them, there's all of us. A mind-blowing experience."

Françoise Bernard and Anne-Marie Sangla, editors.

"Beyond helping to make a film, the two years spent working on the rushes were very enriching on a personal level. You can't listen to 2,000 people telling you about their suffering, their experiences and their wisdom without it having an echo on your world. You take the subway thinking about Aïda, who goes to work at the rubbish tip. You suddenly don't complain anymore. Qosay torments you all evening because he raised the idea that you, too, might find yourself killing in the name of your beliefs. You think about it, it makes you uneasy. Then you spend your weekend with Elena who tells you, 'You're lucky, because you're alive.' That's right, you'd forgotten that simple fact. I experienced working on this film like a whirlwind of emotions and reflections which turned the meaning of my life on its head."

Maeva Issico, assistant editor.

"If Yann's aim in HUMAN was to paint a portrait of humanity, the first step was to collect the material that would serve to construct this edifice. So, for more than 18 months, Maeva and I were continually receiving rushes filmed in the four corners of the Earth – moving, astonishing personal accounts, or sublime aerial footage. We took care of the technical management of this material, but we also had the privilege to watch this uninterrupted flow of poetic or shocking images, and to listen those hundreds of hours of testimony, which was always enriching. Like archaeologists, and in order to facilitate the next stage of editing, we took charge of logging each answer and flagging the unmissable sequences. All the elements were then in place to write this unique story that is our own, a shared history as much as an individual one."

Anne-Claire Decaux, deputy assistant editor.

HUMAN IN FIGURES



A FILM THAT TOOK
THREE YEARS TO MAKE

110 SHOTS IN 60 COUNTRIES

2,020 INTERVIEWS IN 63 LANGUAGES

MORE THAN 500 HOURS
OF AERIAL FOOTAGE

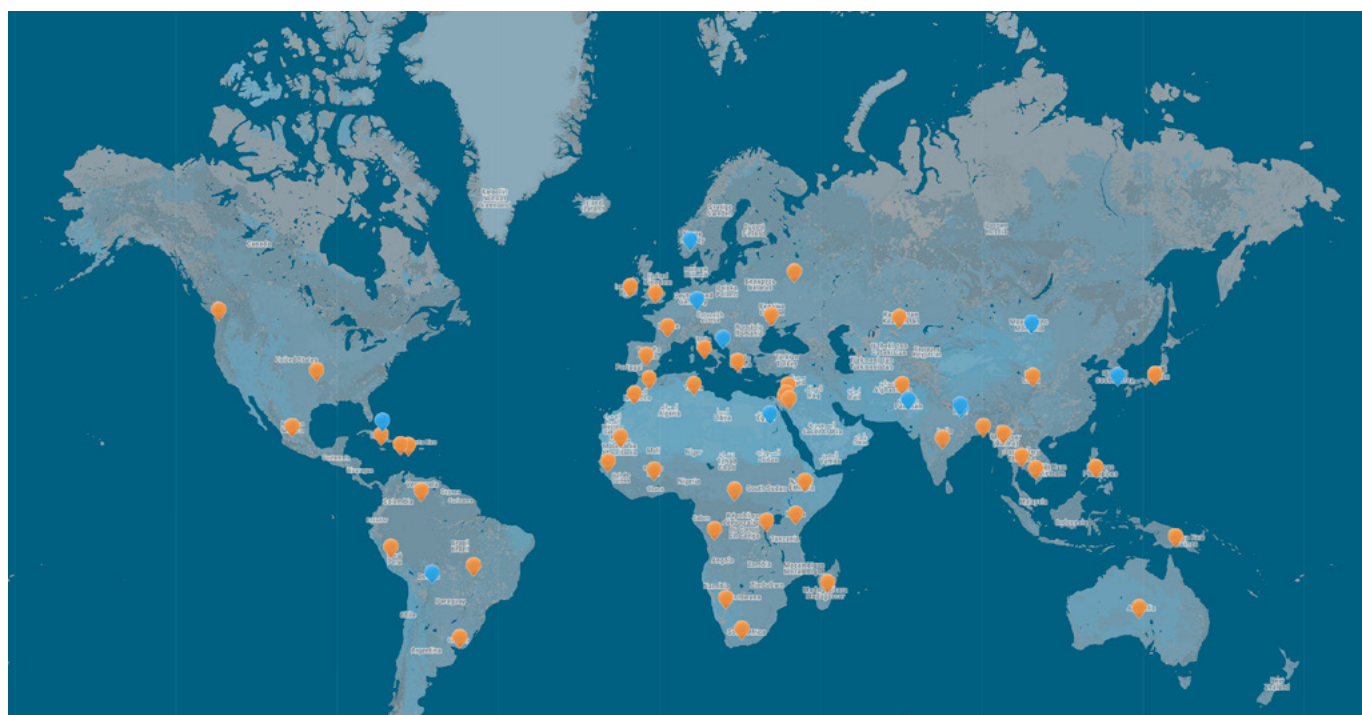
THE EQUIVALENT
OF 917 TONNES OF CO2 OFFSET


2,500 HOURS OF RUSHES
ON A 200-TERA SERVER


HUMAN AN ETHICAL PRODUCTION



MAP OF FILMING LOCATIONS



Aerial filming 

Interview filming 

A FULLY CARBON-OFFSET PRODUCTION

A project on the scale of HUMAN called for 103 separate shoots throughout the world, generating total greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to 917 tonnes of CO₂. True to our convictions, all these shoots were carbon-offset through the GoodPlanet Foundation's Action Carbone Solidaire program.

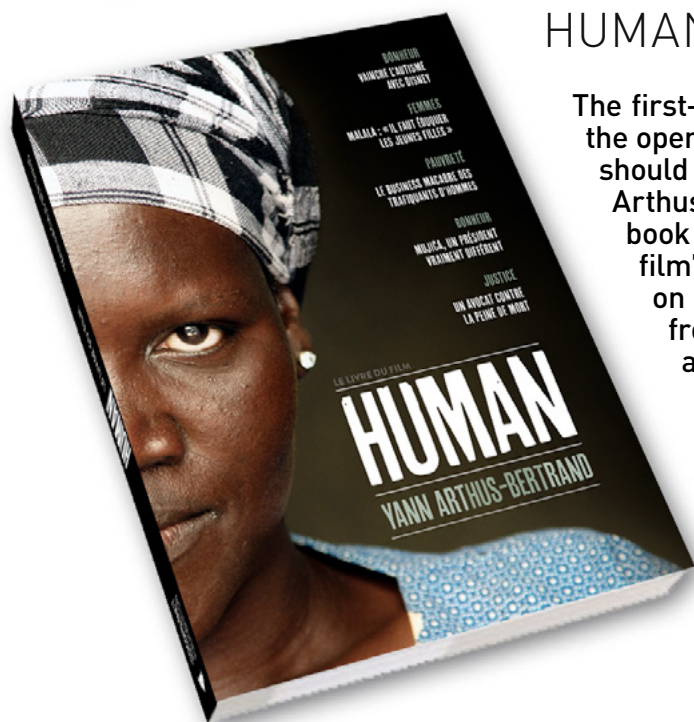
Carbon offset is a voluntary, ethical scheme which consists of financing environmental and social projects that give priority to the use of technologies which respect the climate for vulnerable populations. For example, these actions led to the supply of bio-gas reservoirs in India. Each reservoir allows an average saving equivalent to six tonnes of CO₂ per year. The operation of 153 bio-gas reservoirs in 2014 supplied clean and free cooking energy for more than 760 people.

To find out more about the Action Carbone Solidaire program, go to:
www.goodplanet.org/action-carbone

AROUND THE FILM



HUMAN - THE BOOK



The first-person accounts in **HUMAN** are an invitation. They are the opening moments of a conversation with the world, one that should be pursued, prolonged, and enriched. That is why Yann Arthus-Bertrand conceived a book to accompany his film. The book contains exclusive interviews, investigations into the film's major themes, and gives the point of view of the journalists on the crew, along with opinion pieces and contributions from some prominent figures, plus previously unseen aerial photographs and graphics. In short, some fresh encounters, and the keys to better understand the people in the film and to help put their stories in context.

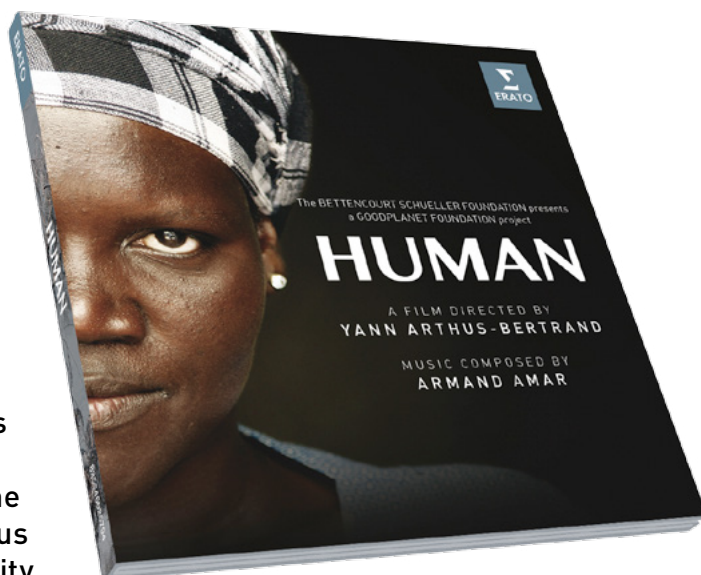
Much more than a “making-of”, this book is an original way to discover the world as it really is and to understand its inhabitants.

HUMAN – THE SOUNDTRACK

A universal language, music transcends our emotions, enhancing the images and providing a rhythm to the narrative. It has always played a fundamental role for Yann Arthus-Bertrand, for whom the music is inseparable from the moving image.

ARMAND AMAR's music underscores the diversity and richness of the stories in **HUMAN**. Through the prism of his compositions, he magnifies the voices of both the people and the Earth.

Singers and musicians from around the world came together to create a musical landscape of wondrous eclecticism. The music becomes an artistic entity which grows and evolves in parallel with the film, operating in symbiosis with its images. A soundtrack packed with emotion, a work bringing together 47 soloists (Youssou N'Dour, Divna, Ravid Kahalani, etc.), along with a symphony orchestra.



A jewel-box CD, 74 min, published by Erato/Warner Classics on 25 September 2015.
For Christmas: a deluxe version with photos from the film, a collector's vinyl disc.

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