

On Our Doorstep Press Kit

Documentary Title: On Our Doorstep

Running Time: 87 minutes

Director: Thomas Laurance

Producers: Verity Wislocki, Cassandra Signsgaard, Jodie Taylor

Production Companies: SE15 Productions, Wislocki Films, Jeva Films

Website: www.onourdoorstepdoc.com

Trailer: www.onourdoorstepdoc.com/trailer

Private Screener: <https://vimeo.com/451133772> (Password: CalaisSpirit22)

Tagline: The story of the Calais 'Jungle' and the remarkable solidarity of ordinary people

Short Synopsis:

When the Calais 'Jungle' refugee camp was ignored & condemned by authorities, ordinary people stepped in to support the refugees stranded there. This is the untold story of the volunteers and those they tried to help.

Medium Synopsis:

On Our Doorstep delves deep into an aspect of the ongoing refugee crisis that rarely reached the press. With NGOs being blocked by red tape and with the absence of any positive action by French or British authorities, this film is a behind-the-scenes look at the extraordinary grassroots movement that rose to aid the Calais 'Jungle', and the community that sprang up there, before it was forcefully demolished.

Long Synopsis:

Originally arriving in the Calais 'Jungle' as a volunteer, Thomas Laurance ended up embedding himself and documenting what he saw over the year he spent there, until the camp's destruction in October 2016. Upon returning to the UK, Thomas sourced footage from other filmmakers, activists, volunteers and refugees, weaving together a patchwork of

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intimate frontline experience that offers unique access to the communities of the 'Jungle'. This is the story of what happens when young and inexperienced civilians are forced to devise systems and structures to support 10,000 refugees; and are left unguided to face the moral and emotional dilemmas, blurred lines and frequent grey areas of giving aid to vulnerable people. On Our Doorstep stands as a reminder of the continuing work ordinary civilians do to help those forced to seek safety away from home.

Endorsements:

A remarkable act of bearing witness. Deeply moving, incredibly powerful, On Our Doorstep captures the hardship and humanity of the Calais refugee camp with sensitivity and honesty. And with the increasingly hostile government response to the on-going refugee crisis, we need this film now more than ever

Juliet Stevenson, Actor

On Our Doorstep is an inspiring and galvanising documentary which highlights the power of filmmaking - it seeks to give voice to those often overlooked and continues to be relevant and vital, to those stranded in Calais and to those who want to help

Rhianna Dhillon, BBC Film Critic

On Our Doorstep combines visceral present tense footage with a thoughtful reflection on the events of a year in the Calais 'Jungle' from the perspective of refugees, volunteers and activists. The filmmakers tell a story which is both movingly personal and full of insight into the dilemmas faced by those who came forward - in the face of government inertia - to respond to the refugee crisis."

Jerry Rothwell, director of The Reason I Jump

The 'Jungle' may have gone, but the flow of refugees hasn't. We need a film which re-awakes public concern, shows politicians what must be done and helps us all learn from the past. This can be that film "

Christopher Hird, founder of Dartmouth Films

Previous Screenings:

Nov 2021 - Leeds International Film Festival

Apr 2021 – Foyle Film Festival

Feb 2021 - 'Choose Love on Valentines Day' (Fundraiser for the charity Choose Love)

Dec 2020 - The Global Health Film Festival

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Director Bio:

Thomas Laurance grew up in Harwich, Essex and fell in love with cinema in the Electric Palace. He studied film direction at the Northern Film School in Leeds and screenwriting at FAMU in Prague. His graduation film, [THE BOTTLE](#), won Best Film at the Horizon Film Festival (2013) which was followed by a deeply personal observational documentary, [WILLIAM LAURANCE & SONS MARINE ENGINEERS](#), which featured at Sheffield Doc Fest 2015. Thomas then travelled to Calais to volunteer as a carpenter. Initially planning to stay for just a week, Thomas ended up embedding himself in Calais for a year, compelled to continue to help the refugees he met there and to document what he saw. [ON OUR DOORSTEP](#) is the product of that endeavour and Thomas' feature documentary debut.