



Maxime Faur, documentary maker

Jon. I'm with Maxime Faur, who's a documentary maker for France Culture. Maxime, we're in Mellionnec at the moment, we're at the, the International Documentary Festival. You've just had a documentary presented.

Maxime Yes. One year ... uh, one hour ago.

Jon. How did it go?

Maxime Great. It, it's a great location, because it's in a yurt – I don't know the name in English ... the this building.

Jon. We have the same word – Yurt. Tent, I think 'a Mongolian tent'.

Maxime. It was great to have, er, like er, the documentary played in this place because it's another experience.

Jon. Could you tell us a little bit about the documentary? The subject ...

Maxime Yes. I'm going to try in English. So, the documentary is about a man, a man who take care of people with the magnetism of his hands. He also believe that to take care of someone, who is sick, for example, for example if somebody have, er, er something in his hand, for example, it's not necessarily the hand you have to take care of but something more big around him ...

Jon. More general.

Maxime More general. For example, an house. So he also goes in houses to see if there's something wrong, and – it's really hard to explain in English because it's specific vocabulary, but, er this man look for water in houses, he looks for ?, for magnetic energy inside houses too and also something else he do is to, um take away the spirit of people who doesn't want to go away in the houses ... haunted houses...

Jon. So he's a bit of an exorcist?

Maxime Kind of. Exorcism is in the ... church?

Jon. Yeah.

Maxime. So he's not in a church but it's kind of the same thing in a way. And he see 90 people a week. That's a lot. 90 people a week, and you give him whatever you want, so it could be a hug, it could be apple-pie, it could be potatoes, or it could be €20.

Jon. This person obviously exists in real-life. How did you track him down? How did you find him?

Maxime It's somebody that in my area, where I come from, north of Finistère. He's quite famous, but people doesn't really talk about him because they are scared to ... they are scared of people thinking they are crazy. So there is kind of a paradox between this guy who see so many people, and people are afraid to speak about it. And what is crazy is that 50% of his patient are from the medicine area. Medical ...

Jon. Medical profession.

Maxime Medical profession. So, for example, doctor, for example, infirmière, nurse, so it's what I wanted to understand. Like people from hospital, from like, you know, traditional ...not traditional but ...

Jon. Conventional medicine.

Maxime Conventional medicine, 'cos what it is it's more traditional, I think. But, er, yes because he also do taking care of people with the power of the plants, for example. And what I wanted to do is not to go and try to know if it was real or not. I didn't want to did that. But what I wanted to do is like to know the everyday life of this guy. What, what his life looks like, what about his family? What are about his ...

Jon. It sounds a fantastic documentary. How long is it?

Maxime It's one hour.

Jon. It's a good way to learn to learn French for our English listeners who don't speak French very well, people like me. So is it possible to listen to it as a podcast on France Culture

Maxime Yes, for sure. So you have France Culture dot FR, where you can find it. It's called www.franceculture.fr and the name of the documentary is À ne croire: 'A' space, 'NE' space, CROIRE

Jon Fantastic.

Maxime And it means 'Don't believe it'.

Jon Okay, Maxime, have you got any plans for future documentaries on radio?

Maxime Yeah, oh not on the radio. I'm from, er, at first from cinema, and short documentaries. So it was my first experience as documentary, radio documentary author, but I want to do some more. But right now I'm working on a documentary about, about uh feminist sisters, er, nuns, right? In Quebec. It's a community of ten nurse who are feminist, who are fighting for woman rights in the church.

Jon. Slightly different. But, but still with a spiritual element.

Maxime Yes, but what I wanted to work ... what I wanted to work on this is about these woman, I don't know, a part of a group, but they fight against a lot of things this group, and this group is the Church. So they are fighting for abortion, for example, for gay, gay weddings ... so many things that the Church are not necessarily okay with. So, how you can be in a, in a group, and don't agree with kind of all the ideas in this group.

Jon. It's another paradox, and you're keen on paradoxes.

Maxime Yeah, maybe that's the key. Ha, ha.

Jon. Okay, just the last word about Mellionnec. Is it your first visit to this festival?

Maxime It's my first time in this festival, but I, I was there in March, to work on this documentary. I talked about the feminist sisters, the feminist nun, because there is like, resident....residence for documentary directors in Mellionnec. So during the year you can come there and during the month and be with other directors and authors and also editor and work on your project. So you have space, you have time, you get .. you eat well, and you are in a great location to have, the, the your mind open to work on your project.

Jon. Yeah. So you recommend Mellionnec?

Maxime For sure.

Jon. You're very keen?

Maxime Come to Mellionnec.

Jon. Ha, ha. Good advice. Thank you very much, Maxiome, and good luck.

Maxime. You're welcome. Thank you.

