

Simon interviews: Renan Marzin

Simon Thanks for coming in to talk to Spotlight on Brittany today, Renan. And you have an interesting job, you have a couple of interesting jobs, right? but the one that I met you through I suppose is the Figurant.

Renan Yeah, which is not a real job. It just like an occasional activity.

Simon Right. And so to those of our listeners who don't know what a Figurant is, we would say in English is an extra, a film extra.

Renan Yeah.

Simon Or TV extra. So you do this quite regularly?

Renan Absolutely not.

Simon OK because I met you through somebody else that was doing a production.

Renan Yeah.

Simon So you were doing something for television recently?

Renan Well no I was actually I was a film director for a tv show in France on Canal plus which is called Groland. It's like a kind of very well known show in France, Groland meaning it's the name of a farce country and it's a weekly news of this country.

Simon Ok.

Renan And this country have its own president, it's own ministers, it's own police and it's own population, so all that's happened in France can be translated in this country without any censorship. The, the, Well my job on this was I was director of this small films, the small sketches, the small reports that we made to make this weekly news you know, and, so we are like 8 different directors to make this in frame, in image, and there is like a crew of like 7 writers. I work on this programme from the 99 until 2012 so it was my main job at this time. During the same period I was also working with a French cinema company which is called

Galatee film which is owned by Jaques Perrin who is a very well known actors at the beginning he was an actor and then he became a producer and this man made a lot of film about nature like documentary about nature but not for tv but for the big screens. So that means this man developed a lot of tools to make stables images to be able to so imagine a lot of different tools to make stable image for the cinema, for the cialuse ? You know, not for the tv. If in the tv you've got a little move it's ok, but if you have a 8meter large screen and if you find on the boards filming dolphins it will be like everybody will be seasick. And so this man made like a very well known well few well known films about nature, but before that he did other things like Z he was a producer of Z which was a film of Costa-Gavras and after that he made another film called Oceans about the marine life and on this movie my very very nice job was to report, to document the film and the way we are doing it. So they give me a small camera and they say ok go and you film the technicians filming the animals.

Simon A film making the film, so that must have been fascinating.

Renan So I did that from 99 to 2012. So I have 2 different occupations, one was on the tv feature fiction.

Simon Satire.

Renan Satire. And the other one was more in the documentary on the wildlife. And it was really nice because this production make me travel a lot all over the world, so it was really fantastic so I've been from South Africa to North Pole to the US to Libya to Senegal it was really a nice nice a good balance for me between this satire world and this more wildlife.

Simon That's very interesting yeah.

Renan So then in 2012 I did it. I did all these things which was common you know and I have my own project film that I want to do, so to be able to do that it needs a lot of time of energy and you need to be a bit out of the obligation of the work I was doing which was really really fantastic because I learned a lot and I made like for this Groland program and I make around 500 small films which is a real the nicest cinema school you can find. But one evening I was on my window in Paris I say ok this is done, I did it and the work I did with Galetty film was over and I

made another year in Canal plus Groland and then one day I say ok enough I did it. If I continue on this way I will be really hooked and will have never the time to make my own things so the only way to move was to move and so we decided to quit and so we moved we bought a very old Mercedes truck. The first plan was to travel for one year and then we stayed 4 years away.

Simon Travelling.

Renan And Then we came back in 2016.

Simon And so what are you doing now?

Renan So since I came back in 2016 I start when we were living in India to write a script, a film script.

Simon Did you make, have you made that film?

Renan No, not yet. I'm just you know you just pick me up at the moment where just it's 7 years period of my life of re-building and now since like the beginning of the year I start to write and to be in my to focus on my proper job.

Simon And so you have a project now?

Renan Yeah well I've got 2 things. One is the short movie that I just put out of the files cos you know writing needs to be fully in it, you need more long periods to write a full script and so I just put my nose in it you know since 2 months, so I mostly work on this short movie to go in it again. I want to write with a short project you know. But I've got also the long one which is more about my story which is all of my you know, the time I passed to re-build myself you can say you know, so that's it.

Simon So That's it. And on the side when your spare time you're doing a little bit of extra work to.

Renan Yeah and the figuration is really like it's a way for me to be the on set to just to smell this atmosphere that I like and I've been in it for years and years. So it's a



very very easy and lazy way to be in it. You know I just went out of my grotte we say. What is a grotte in

Simon A grotto yeah like a hermits cave.

Renan Yeah you know, so it's a way to just get out of it.

Simon Well thank you so much for talking to Spotlight on Brittany and I'm really looking forward to seeing what your next projects going to be the short film and the long film and hopefully or perhaps when you've finished either one of them you can come and talk to us again.

Renan Yeah.

Simon Well keep me updated and we'll keep an eye on that. Thank you very much.

Renan Thank you.