

Simon interviews: Tarik Telailia, film-maker

Simon: Ok well Tarik thank you very much for coming into Spotlight on Brittany in fact we're sitting in the cinema at in Rostrenen, the Cine-Breiz, where you have a show tonight you have a film showing tonight.

Tarik: Yes indeed actually I um came for this it is the er day I came here to um to share this experience with my film so yes.

Simon: Yes so tell us about the film.

Tarik: OK so the film is about um it tells the story about a population the population of Brittany this region this French region. Britons we we er talk a lot about Britons, so they gave their name to a land which is Brittany today er so we talk about the origins of this er population the reasons why they came to today's Brittany which was before Armorica. So er so that's it it is the story the story of the Britons, the population of Brittany this people this population aye er that was forced er to cross to cross the English channel to come over to Armorica and to settle in today's Brittany which was as I said earlier er Armorica.

Simon: And so how long ago are we talking when did this happen.

Tarik: Er the fifth century.

Simon: Ok.

Tarik: So er just after the er fall of the urm the Roman Empire, so Germanic er Germanic tribes so so called the Barbarics, called by their their foes the er the Romans. The Barbar Barbaric tribes they invaded most of the Roman Empire er er some of them called the Angles and the Saxons the Anglo-Saxons. They went to what which was er Britainia today's British Isles or later England so they forced the local population, or part of the local population population, to move to today's Brittany which was Armorica. Others went to er Cornwall others to Wales and some of them even they forced to move North to um today's Scotland or let's say the erm borders of today's Scotland.

Simon: So what brought you to this subject er I mean it's quite an undertaking and so the film is a documentary it's...

Tarik: Yes it is a documentary. So I er to make er to make it possible I needed the help of some er hist historians local historians we worked together on it to make sure that I um am narrating telling a true story based on say verified informations. Why this story, simply because when I came to Brittany I had a lot of questions the name Brittany Great Britain why these similarities in terms of name and also the er um the culture the language many things. When I came to Brittany the first time I er came with the idea of er we will discover a French region with la baguette, croissants local French er culture



so I was facing a different culture different language so yeah when you are curious enough you need to dig deeper to er understand why.

Simon: Yeah so tell us about your background and how you come to be a filmmaker.

Tarik: So um I have the language so I'm urm urm urm urm an English teacher. I have the curiosity about history about culture. I'm a traveller, I move a lot er so I say I have many tools I need to use them and I say it is perhaps a good idea to use them to use all these tools in one stuff it must be film making so let's give it a try. So I did the first film was er about St Nazaire it talks about the importance of this city during World War 2 and it did work so I said yes on the good road I need to go further.

Simon: So this film is this the first showing or has it been shown.

Tarik: No it is the er fourth and the fifth one if I count correctly must be er so we have the opportunity to show it for the first time in Guemene, Loire-Atlantique er the second one was Blain in Loire-Atlantique too the third one in Nozay Loire-Atlantique also then Avessac er so it is the fifth one.

Simon: Ok and have you got many more showings booked.

Tarik: Next week is going to be in Inzinzac-Lochristto the south of Brittany er yes er and we are trying to have more er offers let's say to show it in um different cinemas across Brittany.

Simon: Great and what what have you got planned? what is your next project?

Tarik: The next project I think I need to focus on this film first ooh I'm thinking about I'm not thinking I already decided but er I need to like to start er work working on it to work on English version of this film. So it needs a lot of work, why an English version because we are talking about the er locals of Brittany. I mean the old original Brittany which is today England so why not an English version and so we can share this story with the er the English.

Simon: So er in the I haven't seen the film yet er er as a documentary is it a voiceover or do you have some speaking characters do you have like what do they call it sort of realism when they pretend re-enactment I suppose is there any of that or is it just.

Tarik: Yeah it's a kind of a mix, you have a small part in the beginning to give an impression about the Britain culture which is not long perhaps 5 minutes even less than that. Then most of the documentary is a voiceover with er many interviews of the specialists er historians and a lot of animated maps to explain exactly the movement of the populations the details about every information given by the er voiceover.

Simon: Right.

- Tarik: And more details given by the historians by the er specialists.
- Simon: Right OK so how long has it been to create this film how long did it take?
- Tarik: Erm I think it was not my main job so I urm have my work it started with an idea of er doing it as a passion but erm yeah it took me like two years but let's say I did it in my free time.
- Simon: Right, right.
- Tarik: Weekends and er etc etc but yeah it took it took almost two years I think even more cos I didn't count but I think it was about two years.
- Simon: OK and how long is the film.
- Tarik: The film is one hour forty two.
- Simon: Wow excellent that's a lot of film.
- Tarik: Yeah one hour forty two minutes so er a lot of interviews a lot of er images taken by drones er lots of images er...
- Simon: Er let's talk about the technical aspects because you are coming to film making from a non film making background. You say you are curious you are interested to put a story across. So of course er the tech the technology allows us to do incredible things without spending a fortune on cameras etc. So just talk us through about a bit about how you have managed the technology side so I am sure there are other people out there listening who have played around with the idea of making a film I mean you could make amazing shots even on an iphone now. So just tell us about how you came to the technology and how you er have put it together using er what sources.
- Tarik: It was actually the greatest challenge so it was not about just making a er film it was er about learning. So I had to learn at the same time work on the film er eh yeah it was learn and make the film at the same time. So yes I bought a drone for example had no idea about drones how to control er to use a drone so had to learn a lot about it first before flying the drone so yes I needed to practice a lot, to learn a lot about it
- Simon: Did you crash?
- Tarik: Er yes, perhaps two times the last one the drone did not survive.
- Simon: Oh dear.
- Tarik: Yeah and I need to buy another one anyway. So I er yes it's all about learning before er making a er um film so it took me er a long time actually to learn but it was er it was a nice journey.

Simon: Do you have do you have some people who make films documentaries perhaps that you look up to that you aspire to create in that style or er is there someone who inspired you one particular film maker who inspired you to do this or was it just a general.

Tarik: No yeah of course we need to be based on something, of course. So er I watched many documentaries, I watch er many series of documentaries made for to narrate the story of...of of Brittany. So first I needed to to er to spot the mistakes they made so to make sure that I would not make the same mistakes and to learn from their expertise learn from let's say the good side of every film. So yes I needed to watch many many films and to gather er erm much experience or enough experience to start this adventure. But there is no specific like style to er um based on but I had like goals to do to make it easy, to make it simple, to make it understandable by everyone and er short enough. Because one hour forty two it it seems to be long but it is not. When I asked when I asked the erm group of students in Rennes in Rennes university history er er students to help me on this project I said I need to do I need to make one film about Brittany to narrate to tell the story of Brittany and the population of Brittany. They told me no way, so er er that was a challenge I said no there is a way we don't we don't I'm not supposed to tell every detail there is the way to make it short and to just tell the most important details I'm not supposed to tell everything.

Simon: Ok that's great so er do you have a website that people can go to.

Tarik: Yeah, I named my project in the beginning actually it was like a project the name of project is the forgotten spot. Because when I started my project it was about St Nazaire the city of St Nazaire in Loire-Atlantique. So when I visited the city for the first time I um I erm discovered the submarine base and many other important facilities built by the Nazis during the World War 2 so I said why no one is telling us about this. These are huge things with a with a lot of history so er I called it the forgotten spot because no one is telling us about it so er er from that I got the idea so I have yes I have a facebook page called the forgotten spot.

Simon: Will this film be available to watch on YouTube for example or are you saving it just for cinemas.

Tarik: No plans for the moment actually my focus now is to show it in the cinemas and different cinemas locally in Brittany. Er perhaps in the near future perhaps I may cross the channel to show it to the English perhaps why not, but at the moment yes I'm trying just to show it in the local cinemas but no plans really no plans. Some of the people are asking me to er make like DVD's others are asking to put it just on platforms on internet too but oh erm I have no clear idea about that. At the moment I am trying to be in a direct contact with the public, so I'm making like a tour in Brittany, er showing my film, be in contact participating in debates talking about my film explaining the idea then



why not to have it on like not on YouTube for sure I don't know at least I'm erm erm convinced that it will not be on Youtube but in the future yeah why not.

Simon: Ok well thank you much good luck tonight of course by the time this programme goes out the the viewing will have been over but I hope you get a great crowd and good luck for the future.

Tarik: Thank you so much Simon for this opportunity thank you.

Simon: Thank you.