HUMAN

A FILM BY
YANN ARTHUS-BERTRAND
The BETTENCOURT SCHUELLER FOUNDATION presents
a GOODPLANET FOUNDATION project

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#WhatMakesUsHUMAN  #HUMAN

The first feature film led by two non-profit foundations

Press Kit and photos can be downloaded from
www.human-themovie.org

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A GOODPLANET FOUNDATION PROJECT

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“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
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 GENESIS OF THE FILM HUMAN
SYNOPSIS

HUMAN is a collection of stories 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.
SIX 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.
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, 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, the director 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 that I was the first person to would listen to them, or that it was the first time they had 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
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.
“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 professional experience that is full of other people’s hopes.”

Yazid Tizi,
Head of aerial photography
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.
“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 perception on how the film is constructed, because in fact, I’m his first audience.”

Armand Amar
HUMAN
ONE FILM...11 FILMS

THE HUMAN GALAXY

SINCE 2012, THE CREW WORKING ON HUMAN HAS GATHERED AN EXCEPTIONAL WEALTH OF CONTENT. DRAWING ON THIS UNRIVALED LIBRARY OF FOOTAGE, YANN ARTHUS-BERTHARD HAS CREATED A GALAXY OF WORKS ADAPTED TO ALL PLATFORMS AND EVERY USE: CINEMA, TV, THE DIGITAL UNIVERSE, AND MAJOR PUBLIC EVENTS.

HUMAN: The theatrical movie – 191 mins

The 3h11 cinematographic version is the original work directed by Yann Arthus-Bertrand.

HUMAN: The theatrical movie – 143 mins

The 2h23 version is the shorten version of the original work directed by Yann Arthus-Bertrand (2016).

HUMAN: The television film – 131 mins

Specially formatted for France 2, the TV film was broadcasted in prime time in French. France 2 has also aired many 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 – 3x52-min films

These three documentaries provide an opportunity for Yann Arthus-Bertrand to develop the major themes in HUMAN and to explain his choices and his intentions.

“The Two Faces of Mankind” poses the question of the complexity of the human being, capable of the best and the worst explored through themes such as war, forgiveness, love and family.

“At the Crossroads of Two Worlds” examines the importance of sharing resources among people in a two speed world.

“Life: A Search for Meaning” offers a more philosophical reflection on the meaning of life, with exclusive sequences about corruption and discrimination.
HUMAN
ONE FILM...11 FILMS

THE STORIES OF HUMAN – 80 mins

An exclusive, hypnotic and contemplative selection of longer testimonies, along with some breathtaking aerial footage: The Stories of HUMAN takes things a step further.

THE HUMAN ADVENTURE: The making of – 52 mins

How do you conduct interviews to obtain the most personal and emotionally charged stories? How can one take aerial photography to the next level? What is the best way to structure these sequences so they create a unique and sensitive work? Through behind-the-scenes footage and interviews filmed in Paris and around the world, Yann Arthus-Bertrand and his crew talk about the three years of work that made the HUMAN adventure which resulted in such an exceptional oeuvre.

HUMAN: THE MUSIC – 52 mins

A documentary following the composer Armand Amar during the six months of the creation of the music for HUMAN, directed by Elise Darblay.

HUMAN – 3 films made for the web and behind the scenes

A specific and exclusive format of the film, made up of three 90-minute parts, is available free on YouTube and Google Play in seven languages: French, English, Russian, Spanish, Arabic, Italian, and Portuguese.

For an immersion in the creation of the project, the Google Cultural Institute is offering exclusive content retracing the three years of making the film on its online content platform. This includes six digital exhibitions, a catalog of thousands of photos (portraits and aerial views), and many full interviews.

HUMAN EVERYWHERE. FOR EVERYONE

THANKS TO THE UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT OF THE BETTENCOURT SCHUELLER FOUNDATION AND THE GOODPLANET FOUNDATION, HUMAN COULD DEPLOY AN UNUSUAL LAUNCH STRATEGY.

OUR INITIAL INTENTION WAS FOR THIS PROJECT TO BE AVAILABLE TO THE GREATEST NUMBER OF PEOPLE AND BE ACCESSIBLE EVERYWHERE.

THE HUMAN DAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2015

HUMAN DAY INVOLVED FOUR SYMBOLIC AND SIMULTANEOUS EVENTS, AND WAS THE STARTING POINT FOR THE HUMAN MOVEMENT.

AN EXCEPTIONAL PREMIERE AT THE UNITED NATIONS

An exceptional premiere screening took place in the presence of the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, in the general Assembly Hall of the United Nations, transformed for the occasion into a movie theater. This was accompanied by debates to mark the 70th anniversary of the United Nations and the end of the Millennium campaign, along with the support of the French mission. The presentation of the film to representatives of member-states in this symbolic venue was a great honor and underlined the close links between the GoodPlanet Foundation and the UN, for whom Yann Arthus-Bertrand is proud to have been a UN Environment Program goodwill ambassador since 2009.

SCREENING AT THE VENICE FILM FESTIVAL

HUMAN had a special screening out of competition at the 72nd edition of the Venice Film Festival, where it received a standing ovation.
Google made sure the film and the project were accessible to the widest possible audience everywhere on the planet thanks to the technology of the web. From the 12th of September 2015, web users worldwide could watch the film for free on YouTube and Google Play. Seven YouTube channels were created to distribute three 90-minute films in seven language versions: English, French, Russian, Spanish, Arabic, Italian and Portuguese. For an immersion into the heart of the HUMAN project, online audiences can visit the platform of the Google Cultural Institute: google.com/culturalinstitute.

The same day, in a powerful symbol, the Fête de l’Humanité, a major festival based on the values of sharing, invited visitors to a huge public screening.

Thanks to the engagement of cinema operators and our partners, France 2, Google, and the association of the mayors of France, HUMAN enjoyed a unique launch in France in its various formats.

Initially conceived for the big screen, the theatrical version of HUMAN was offered exclusively to movie houses.

To encourage cinemas to get behind the HUMAN project and to offer tickets at the most accessible prices, the GoodPlanet Foundation made the film available at the minimum legal distribution terms.

“I conceived this film for the big screen, and I think it’s in the setting of a movie theater that HUMAN has the most impact.”

Yann Arthus-Bertrand
HUMAN: THE ENCOUNTER, FROM 13 TO 16 SEPTEMBER 2015 AT THE GRAND REX

The film’s crew along with Yann Arthus-Bertrand welcomed the public for an event called HUMAN: The Encounter, which featured a screening of the film and making of, discussions, workshops and much more. From 13th to 16th of September 2015 at the Grand Rex cinema in Paris.

ON 22 SEPTEMBER 2015, FRENCH MUNICIPALITIES STAGED A SERIES OF FREE SCREENINGS!

Following the exclusive theatrical window, screening kits were made available to local authorities, universities, high schools, non-profits and local cultural associations throughout France. To encourage discussion and sharing around the values conveyed by HUMAN, accompanying materials were distributed and a coordination team was set up to help local organizers stage their own HUMAN events.

Thanks to the support of the Association of Mayors of France and CapCom, many local and regional authorities held screening-debates (e.g.: in Marseille at the Villa Méditerranée, a major HUMAN exhibition was held from 18/09/15 to 04/10/15, with other events in Cannes, Lille, Hennebont, Orléans, etc.). In total, several hundred municipalities took part in the project by organizing participatory HUMAN events, allowing local associations and individuals to become ambassadors of the Vivre Ensemble movement, by stimulating debate after the film and presenting their solutions and initiatives.

29 SEPTEMBER 2015: EVENT EVENING ON FRANCE 2

France 2 dedicated an evening to the release of HUMAN, with special programming from 8:45pm to 2:00am.

The public broadcaster was a solid partner of the HUMAN project, and screened a version specially edited for the TV, followed by complementary contents such as the making-of. Throughout the day, the themes in the film were tackled by the network’s programming, along with coverage in news shows, providing an echo of the online and offline promotional campaign.
2015-2016: IN FRANCE, THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES…

BUILDING ON THE ENTHUSIASM GENERATED BY ITS UNUSUAL LAUNCH, HUMAN CONTINUES TO ROLL OUT IN FRANCE THANKS TO MANY EVENTS AND PROJECTS.

Hundreds of French municipalities, associations, NGOs, and universities are continuing to organize screening-debates during 2016, further spreading the Vivre Ensemble values and social engagement. A partnership with the City of Paris has also allowed hundreds of towns in France and French-speaking regions abroad to organize their own HUMAN event.

HUMAN also participates in cultural events in other forms (screenings, photographs, extracts, etc.), such as Paris Face Cachée at the Espace Niemeyer, the Victoires de la Musique awards, and the choreography show Shiganè Naï at the Théâtre National de Chaillot. Because the themes and values in the film are universal, HUMAN has also entered the political and institutional arena, notably with the Concil of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) in April 2016 in Nicosia. As a catalyst for discussion, reflection and introspection, HUMAN has also inspired workshop-debates across all 191 penal establishments in France throughout 2016.
HUMAN
A GLOBAL MOVEMENT

DYNAMIC AND ECLECTIC INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTION

HUMAN is a universal project that sets out to reach the widest possible number of spectators. More than just a film, HUMAN strengthens our social fabric by promoting values such as living together, love, tolerance, and resilience. Through its multicultural nature, HUMAN is ideally positioned to roll out in every country, on both commercial and non-commercial circuits.

After the success of its global launch at the UN General Assembly in New York and the Venice Film Festival in September 2015, HUMAN has been screened in over 60 countries on five continents.

COMMERCIAL DISTRIBUTION

The GoodPlanet Foundation has reached agreements with several foreign distributors to ensure a multi-channel release in countries including Belgium, Russia, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Brazil and Italy.

Given the values and social scope of HUMAN, its sale on international markets includes cooperation with institutional and non-commercial stakeholders in the non-profit, political, academic and cultural spheres. With the aim of guaranteeing access to the widest possible audience on the freest conditions, the GoodPlanet Foundation decided to diversify distribution channels.

To dovetail the theatrical release with DVD, broadcast and digital distribution, the HUMAN team is coordinating the international sales strategy with France Télévision Distribution.

NON-COMMERCIAL DISTRIBUTION

In order to bring the film to people, the HUMAN team has mobilized vast international networks to reach almost 50,000 spectators through festivals, diplomatic presentations, the United Nations, cultural centers, NGOs, and foundations.

The renowned festivals which have screened HUMAN include the Bergen International Film Festival (Norway), the Istanbul International Festival of Independent Film (Turkey), the Mumbai International Film Festival (India), the Mar del Plata International Festival (Argentina), CPH:Dox (Denmark), and Zagreb:Dox (Croatia).

HUMAN has been well received by international audiences and won the Jury Award at the Eurodok Festival (Norway), the Audience Award at the Panorama of European Film in Cairo (Egypt), second place in the Audience Award at IDFA (Netherlands), and third place in the natural and cultural heritage section at the EKO International Environment Film Festival (Czech Republic).
ON SOCIAL NETWORKS: A DIGITAL MOVEMENT

AVAILABLE EVERYWHERE AND FOR EVERYONE, HUMAN IS MORE THAN AN EXPERIENCE. THIS PROJECT IS A BATON THAT CITIZENS PASS FROM ONE TO ANOTHER, AS A POWERFUL SYMBOL OF A COMMITMENT TO GREATER SOLIDARITY.

This huge challenge, in line with the project’s wider ambitions, has won the support of men and women in the non-profit, cultural, and social solidarity fields – in other words, involved citizens who are helping us spread this movement and who have become ambassadors of Vivre Ensemble by organizing screenings and sharing the experience on social networks with the hashtags:

#WhatMakesUsHUMAN #HUMAN @Humanthemovie

THE FILMS: THE START OF A GLOBAL RALLYING MOVEMENT

HUMAN is an invitation addressed to the greatest number of people – an invitation to reflect on the meaning we give to life, one’s choices, and one’s deepest beliefs.

The questions that the HUMAN project poses are profoundly personal, but might find collective responses in the global movement inspired by the films, enabling the formation of a bond and bringing people together around strong values of solidarity, sharing, and engagement.

In a direct follow-on from the films, social discussions will then take on a global dimension and will allow a voice to as many people as possible to answer this question: What makes us human? (#WhatMakesUsHUMAN). It also allows people to give their impressions of the film.

EXCEPTIONAL VISIBILITY WITH GOOGLE

Sharing many of the values of HUMAN, Google has given the project global reach. The company paid an exceptional tribute on the day of the launch, inviting billons of web-users worldwide to join the movement from its home page in numerous countries.
A COLLABORATIVE, INDEPENDENT AND POLITICALLY ENGAGED PROJECT

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 of 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.
For more than 28 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, A PROJECT FROM THE FONDATION GOODPLANET

The GoodPlanet Foundation is a non-profit organisation 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, inform and educate the audience 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
Yann Arthus-Bertrand was born in 1946, and has always nurtured a passion for animals and the natural world. At a very early age, he began to use a camera to record his observations and accompany his writings.

On the occasion of the first Earth Summit in Rio in 1992, Yann decided to embark upon a major photographic project about the state of the world and its inhabitants: Earth From Above. This book enjoyed international success, selling more than three million copies. His open-air photographic exhibition was shown in around 100 countries and seen by some 200 million people.

Yann continued his commitment to the environmental cause with the creation of the GoodPlanet Foundation. Since 2005, this non-profit organization has been investing in educating people about the environment and the fight against climate change.

This commitment saw him appointed United Nations Environment Program Goodwill Ambassador in 2009. That same year, he made his first feature-length film, HOME, about the state of the planet. This movie was seen by almost 600 million spectators around the world.

In 2011, Yann codirected PLANET OCEAN with Michael Pitiot, which had its world premier in June 2012 at Rio+20, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

In 2015, his film HUMAN was simultaneously screened at the Venice Film Festival and at the United Nations General Assembly in the presence of Ban Ki-Moon. Through this collection of personal statements about love, happiness, and also hatred and violence, HUMAN forces us to confront the Other and to reflect on our own lives. This feature-length film conveys more than ever Yann’s desire to awaken our collective consciousness, with the aim of raising awareness among as many people as possible.

Also in 2015, at the COP21 Sustainable Innovation Forum in Paris, Yann presented another film, TERRA, which retells the incredible story of life on Earth.

Yann Arthus-Bertrand is now exploring a new challenge, directing his latest project, WOMAN.
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 built 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, Méditerrannée, 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.
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 Arthur-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 receiving, time for thinking and time for listening. 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.
A FILM THAT TOOK THREE YEARS TO MAKE

110 SHOOTS IN 60 COUNTRIES

2,020 INTERVIEWS IN 63 LANGUAGES

MORE THAN 500 HOURS OF AERIAL FOOTAGE

THE EQUIVALENT OF 917 TONNES OF CO2 OFFSET
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 EDUCATIONAL PROJECT

THE CONTEXT

After watching HUMAN in theaters, or when it was broadcast in France or abroad, via TV or the internet, countless teachers in high schools and junior highs expressed a wish to tackle some of the topics raised in the film in class.

When the film aired on France 2, the hashtag #HUMAN was retweeted more than 25,000 times, putting it among the top-trending discussion subjects that evening.

HUMAN set out to give a voice to ordinary people in a wide range of circumstances, but always told with great sincerity, facing the camera. That’s why a door was opened to us to awaken the curiosity of pupils and thereby stimulate discussion in class.

The deliberate absence of explanatory commentary in HUMAN, and the inclusion of some particularly harsh stories can make comprehension for an unprepared audience more complex. That is where we got the idea of creating an educational project which would be tailored to allow students a better reading and understanding of the film.

In order to meet the needs of teachers, a consultative committee was set up to determine the format and content of the HUMAN educational project.

THE CONTENT

The educational project will be composed of four audiovisual modules, each of 7-10 minutes, accompanied by four printed leaflets aimed at teachers for pupils aged around 14-18 (history, social sciences, languages, philosophy), formatted for a course in class.

It will pick up on certain themes in the film, such as education, disability, immigration, war, forgiveness, relations between the sexes, agriculture, justice, corruption, money, and work.

Each module will be made up of:
- An introductory explanation (figures, context, etc.) including aerial images and wide shots, with narration by Yann Arthus-Bertrand.
- A selection of interviews taken from the documentaries that are part of the HUMAN galaxy.
- A written handbook produced with the help of a teacher from France’s National Education system.

The HUMAN educational project will be rolled out on the occasion of the opening of the Domaine de Longchamp, initially with classes in the Paris region.

http://www.goodplanet.org/vivre-ensemble/fondation-goodplanet-domaine-de-longchamp/fondation-goodplanet-domaine-de-longchamp/
AROUND THE FILM

THE PROJECTION KIT

A teaching document will enrich and extend the themes covered by the film.

To guide HUMAN ambassadors, wishing to discuss issues raised by many accounts, a synthetic folder deepens the editorial work. This is not intended to be a reading guide, since it must remain unique to each viewer, but rather a reflection guide encouraging debate around one - or more - of the major themes designed by HUMAN.

The document is available to organizers of the many screenings in France and teachers wishing to go further in thinking with their students.

http://www.human-themovie.org/organize

THE HUMAN DVD

To [re] discover the moving testimonies of men and women around the world, the magnificent aerial images and moving music by Armand Amar, HUMAN is available in DVD, Blu-ray and VOD, following its broadcast on France 2.

To learn more about the scenes of the film, discover the supplements of the film: History of the project by Yann Arthus-Bertrand (4 min)
The Making of the three pillars of the film: portraits, aerial images, music (20 min approx)
In French, original version with French subtitles, original version subtitled in English, Russian, Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese and Italian.

Duration: approx 2:08 - DVD: 7,99E and Blu-ray: 9,99E -

Distribution France Tv
HUMAN - THE MOOK

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 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.

(Available in french, english, german and soon in polish)

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 and a deluxe version with photos from the film, a collector’s vinyl disc.
Recognised as a public interest foundation, the GoodPlanet Foundation, created by Yann Arthus-Bertrand, aims at raising public awareness about Ecology and Living Together in order to arouse the wish to act for the Earth and its inhabitants. For more than 10 years now, the Foundation has been active in raising public awareness all around the world through movies, exhibitions, books and educational programmes. Among others, notable projects include 7 BILLION OTHERS, Planet Ocean, 60 Solutions, or HUMAN. Engaged on the ground in partnership with local stakeholders, the Foundation supports social and environmental projects related to agriculture, energy, forestry and waste.

10 years of action around the world

The ambitious HUMAN project needed more than 103 shootings all over the world which led to a total amount of greenhouse gas emissions of 917 tonnes of CO2 equivalent. In line with our convictions, all emissions generated by these shootings were offset through the programme United Carbon Action of the GoodPlanet Foundation.
« Taking action builds happiness ! »

Ten years after the creation of the GoodPlanet Foundation, we live in a world becoming warmer and warmer, where conflicts and their share of refugees keep growing, a world where societies keep moving on blindly towards overconsumption. The reality of climate change and the pressing need to act in line with the challenge affect everyone without any exception. On my side and together with the GoodPlanet Foundation, I will keep on carrying on my commitment with strength, towards a society more altruist, aware of the limits of its planet, in order to better live together.

Yann Arthus-Bertrand
President of the GoodPlanet Foundation

Building a biogas reservoir enables getting access to a free and renewable energy which changes life of vulnerable families. It brings many benefits to the families and the environment! Only one reservoir enables cooking meals for an Indian family of 5 people and prevents emissions of 7 tonnes of CO2 per year!

Built with the involvement of local communities and through knowledge sharing, the bioclimatic schools bring together social and environmental benefits. The building of bioclimatic schools enables poor children to access education in good learning conditions, and to build their future while giving due respect to their environment.

Action in the field : Principle

- Commitment on the long term with our local partners in order to maximize the impacts of the projects
- Use of existing potentials & resources: partners with strong local integration and good knowledge of the stakes.
- Close project monitoring with our partners

91% of the GoodPlanet Foundation resources are allocated to its social missions.
GOODPLANET FOUNDATION

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