

CinemaNomad Productions presents



The “33 and Me” Film Project

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The “33 and Me” Film Project

33 countries. 33 filmmakers. 33-year-olds.



Stephanie Gardner, a 33-year-old filmmaker based in Taos, NM sets out to explore the world and interact with other 33 year-old filmmakers from over 33 different countries around the globe.

We have filmmakers, aged 30 to 39, lined up from over 33 countries, on every continent, to visit and document for the “33 and Me” Film Project.

“33 and Me” is an international travel documentary series, which explores cultures through the eyes and experiences of the approximately 33-year-old filmmakers from each country we visit. Every episode features a specific country and introduces audiences to the current generation of storytellers who are dynamically challenging the status quo of the world today. “33 and Me” also explores the past, present and future of cinema in each country we visit.

Not a cineaste? No problemo! “33 and Me” is about the inspiring journeys of the individuals we meet along the way in the context of their countries today.

Cinema is a powerful tool that transcends borders and overcomes barriers to connect across cultures. “33 and Me” creator Stephanie Gardner says, *“This is why I am compelled to make films and even more so why I am drawn to traveling around the world: to connect with other individuals who are doing like-minded things in various countries. Through ‘33 and Me,’ I intend to share the stories and experiences of these 33-year-old filmmakers to present a kaleidoscope of visions which show that we are all connected, we are all human, and that communicating with others and experiencing their cultures is a positive way to learn and understand how we fit into the world at large.”*

Components of The “33 and Me” Film Project

THE SERIES

“Parts Unknown” meets the “Up Series” with a hint of “Side by Side.”

Modeled after Anthony Bourdain’s “Parts Unknown” (CNN 2013 - 2018), “33 and Me” is a travel show that explores each country through a look at its past, present and future of cinema. Each episode features an upcoming or already established, young professional (approximately 33 year-old) film director from that country, and delves into the individual’s hopes, dreams, desires and the challenges he or she faces as thirty-something-year-old filmmakers in their country.

In addition to the featured 33 year-old filmmakers, we talk to many other creative people and professional filmmakers of all ages, representing a variety of voices which adds a diversity and unique tone to each episode. Because cinema is a visual medium, thematically the visual nature of cinema lends itself to this series, as we will show samples of our filmmakers’ work and clips of movies from their home countries to accentuate the narratives of each person and place we visit. However, this series is not just for cinephiles as we present stories centered around human emotions, relatable struggles, and the inspiring journeys through life while overcoming its many obstacles.

Each episode of “33 and Me” features Stephanie’s experience of getting to know a 33-year-old filmmaker over the course of seven to ten days and explores the cinema culture of each filmmaker’s home country.

Whether you love cinema, you love travel, or you love learning about new cultures and off-the-beaten-path destinations, “33 and Me” has something for you. Demographically, “33 and Me” especially appeals to college-educated, millennial, women viewers worldwide.

When we return from the remaining travels, we will have enough content to put together three seasons of a half-hour TV show.

In addition to being created as a form of TV entertainment, we foresee this series to be used in academic and cultural institutions to teach future filmmakers and content creators about the various ways to be a filmmaker around the world.

THE DOCUMENTARY

At the end of the journey, the series will also be condensed into a feature length documentary, which sums up the travels and further explores Stephanie's personal quest as a millennial woman filmmaker as she explores her profession, her creativity, her ancestry, and her long-term visions for global cinema. We will give the documentary a film festival tour and use it to bring awareness to the series. We envision the documentary playing on PBS and other such outlets; to garner interest in watching the TV series and to shed light on the human interest and behind-the-scenes aspect of such an ambitious project.



THE FILM FESTIVAL

The "33 and Me" film project will launch a traveling film festival to showcase the films made by more than 33, 33-year-old filmmakers from over 33 different countries around the world. The film festival further emphasizes the impact of "33 and Me," which is to exhibit the talents of people around the world and share their stories with audiences that might never get to physically see or know the places these filmmakers represent. Ultimately, the film festival will travel, as well, to every continent in the world, which will add additional exposure to the series itself.

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“44 AND MORE”

In eleven years, we intend to revisit our initial “33 and Me” filmmakers, who will then be approximately 44 years-old, and do a follow-up series exploring how their lives and careers have changed in the interim years. Are they still filmmakers? What types of films are they making eleven years later? Who has become the more “successful” ones of the group? Who has married, divorced, had kids, et cetera? How has their world view changed since we first met them?

This concept is inspired by the renowned documentary series, “The Up Series,” which took a group of seven-year-olds from various socio-economic backgrounds in London in 1964 and interviews them about their lives and dreams every seven years. Today, the original bunch of seven-year-olds are 63 years-old and are still being documented every seven years. The latest installment, “63 Up” has recently been released in theatres.



Meet the “33 and Me” Production Team



Stephanie Gardner, Director, Producer, Creator and Host, is a 33 year old filmmaker in Taos, NM, who has written, directed, and produced over 20 short films, including the multi-award winning [*If I Had A Piano \(I'd Play You The Blues\)*](#) and the forthcoming *Para Todo Mal...Para Todo Bien*, “The Mezcal Trilogy.” An MFA graduate of New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts, she studied in Singapore under the tutelage of Oliver Stone, Todd Solondz, Richard Wesley, and Sabrina Dhawan. Stephanie has a B.A. from The George Washington University in Dramatic Literature, Music and Creative Writing.



Duprelon “tizzz” Tizdale, Executive Producer, Director of Photography and all around Tech Wizard, is a filmmaker who loves to reminisce about when he was 33. Tizzz has 22+ years in the Hollywood film biz as an IATSE Union Professional. He has worked in just about every department, including art, locations, and camera. Credits include: *3:10 to Yuma*, *Hostiles*, *The Magnificent Seven*, *Manhattan*, *Sunshine Cleaning*, *True Grit*, *The Messengers*, and *House of Cards*. He is the program director and co-founder of the Taos Shortz Film Festival, now in its 14th year. He resides in Taos, New Mexico.

Director's Statement

By Stephanie Gardner, "33 and Me" Creator, Director and Host



At the age of 33, I am not so young anymore, nor do I feel very old. I have significant creative and professional accomplishments under my belt yet, I still have my entire life ahead of me; a lot of aspirations in my career as a filmmaker; and hopefully, many more exciting adventures ahead.

As I continue my journey as a filmmaker, I realize that I am coming from a very specific perspective: I am a single, millennial, American, woman who has managed to produce works of theatre and film since I was in my teens.

I am engulfed by a strange and surreal world, where we are bombarded by messages to "fear the other" and encouraged to isolate ourselves into our own increasingly nationalistic societies. As a result, the idea of a free press in many places around the world is being unravelled.

However, I feel fortunate to have been raised in an American democracy under the freedoms and ideals that were fostered, and value the notions of "freedom of speech," "freedom of religion," and the "pursuit of happiness." I realize that I may not be the same type of filmmaker I am today without the influences of these powerful and liberating ideals.

Also, I have been lucky enough to have the opportunity to live and work abroad. I have lived in countries that do not extend these same ideals to their citizens. These experiences living abroad, in places which censor its artists, have taught me to not take "freedom of expression" for granted. This is one reason why I am compelled to embark upon the "33 And Me" journey.

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I truly believe that we as individuals need to connect with others around the world to better understand ourselves and our place within it, and for our societies to survive.

Much of the world appears to be embracing extremism and choosing isolationism over globalism. I choose globalism, and I feel very strongly about this.

Thus, through "33 and Me," I endeavor to cross borders and discover what other thirty-three year-old filmmakers around the world, who are at similar stages in their lives, are experiencing creatively, professionally, and personally. What types of films are they making? What stories and themes are they exploring? What genres and visual styles are they drawn to? How do they perceive themselves in their lives and careers? What are their hopes, dreams, and desires?



I wish to seek out creative individuals who innovate, inspire and challenge the status quo. In this process, I plan to foster connections around the world among talented, intelligent, and creative individuals; to form life-long friendships and future collaborators; and to help promote the empowering expression of cinematic arts.

A large part of why I make films is to connect with and connect to other human beings. This is why I am compelled to make "global films," so as to connect across cultures around the globe in a shared experience. I believe that communicating with others around the world, in expression, in thought, and in shared empathy is incredibly important to a happy, healthy, peaceful society.

The art of cinema is my love and passion. Travel is how I find knowledge, inspiration, and connection. Combining these two endeavors will lead to magical, meaningful, inspirational moments. Perhaps, through "33 And Me," I will learn a bit about life, love, cinema, history, others, and me.

Where have we been?



We have filmed 16 episodes of the “33 and Me,” series. With each new place we visit and every new filmmaker we meet, we become even more inspired and even more invigorated by the journey. Meet the “33 and Me” featured filmmakers:



Stephanie (33) is a cinema nomad out exploring the world to discover what it means to be a 33-year-old filmmaker in the 21st century. We begin in **SWITZERLAND**, where Stephanie explores her Swiss heritage and launches “33 and Me” on her 33rd birthday.



Natacha (33) is our film fatale from **FRANCE**, whose films are so influenced by color that she has challenged herself to make a black-and-white film to break away from her own filmmaking norms.



Lieven (35) is our filmmaker from **BELGIUM**, who spent six years perfecting his 16 minute, award-winning, computer generated fantasy film; inspired by a bad breakup and his love of lighthouses.



Ethyor (33) is our entrepreneurial filmmaker in Flateyri, **ICELAND**, a town of 150 people in the Westfjords, and he owns and operates the oldest bookstore in Iceland.



Diayan (36) is our filmmaker from **CUBA**, who is in an industry over-dominated by government control. He made his first film with \$30 in his pocket to later receive full funding from the Norwegian embassy to make his second film.



Atzin (33), our prolific filmmaker from **MEXICO**, has made incredible films with universal appeal, but finds himself asking, “Are my films Mexican enough?”



Tedy (30) is the first disabled filmmaker in **ROMANIA**. His governmental leaders, in the years leading up to his birth, had encouraged parents to turn in their handicapped kids to the state, but Tedy’s parents bravely fought back and kept him.



Sezen (33) is a strong woman filmmaker from **TURKEY** who, in addition to being a woman in a male-dominated field, overcomes challenges of government censorship to make films that are meaningful to her and her country.



Paula (31), from Sao Paulo, **BRAZIL** is a dynamic woman who left a career as a professional journalist to become a documentary filmmaker focused on stories that expose misjustice and inequalities in Brazilian society.



Samantha (32) is our filmmaker in Johannesburg, **SOUTH AFRICA**, drawn to making distinctive dark comedies in a Kafka-esque world. And **Alasdair (31)** is our comedic filmmaker in Cape Town, who runs the Cape Town branch of the Shnit Worldwide Short Film Festival.



Peter (33) is a celebrity filmmaker in **GHANA** who directed his fourth feature film while we visited his set in the Volta Region of Ghana, the first country in Sub Sahara Africa to gain its independence.



Charles and Thandi (33 and 33), a husband-wife duo from **ZIMBABWE**, are a rare example of Zimbabweans who make their living as filmmakers and remain positive in their goals to be internationally recognized, despite the daily electricity outages.



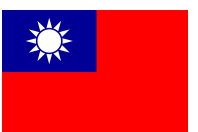
Elvin (30), from Goronboy, and **Oktay (33)** from Baku, are our featured filmmakers in **AZERBAIJAN**, an oil-rich country in the Caucas region formerly occupied by the USSR. Listed today as one of the worst countries for freedom of press, Azerbaijan was once the first country in the modern Muslim world to have cinemas.



Muhlisa (33) is a driven woman filmmaker from **UZBEKISTAN**, who created the Uzbekistan National Film Commission and serves as its first Film Commissioner after her feature film, "Scorpion," became the highest grossing film in Uzbekistan's history.



Fahmi (37), our filmmaker in **SAUDIA ARABIA**, has been directing and producing films for the past 14 years, despite the fact that filmmaking was socially banned in the Kingdom until 2018.



Feng-I (30), is an accomplished woman director from **TAIWAN**, who writes extremely personal family dramas, in hopes to carry on the legacy of previous Taiwanese filmmakers who have used cinema as a search for identity and a reconciliation with history.

Where are we going?

**We spend seven-to-ten days in each country to film every episode.*



ARGENTINA competes with Mexico and Brazil as one of the most prolific and engaging film industries in Latin America. It is the first Latin American country to win an Oscar, and filmmakers have used cinema throughout history to react to the politics of its day.



AUSTRALIA has a rich culture of cinema and is home to directors Peter Weir and Baz Lurhman. We have a fabulous award-winning filmmaker there, who works directly with kids with down-syndrome.



BELIZE is unique because it is a mix between Central America and the Caribbean and is home to the ancient Mayan civilization, in addition to the Belize International Film Festival.



COLOMBIA is home to the prestigious Bogotá Film Festival and has a rich history of cinema. Notable films from Colombia include, "Maria Full of Grace" and "Embrace the Serpent," which was nominated for an Academy Award in 2016.



ECUADOR's landscape is a cinematic mix of Amazonian rainforest and the heights of the Andes. It is an extremely photogenic country with films such as "Que tan Lejos" and the award-winning "Ratas, Ratones, Rateros" emerging from this beauty.



EGYPT has a rich history of civilization, which makes it a worthy destination. A lesser known fact is that Egypt has a flourishing filmmaking industry and is considered the "Hollywood of the Middle East." Movies filmed in Egypt include, "Death on the Nile," "Ruby Cairo," and "The Spy Who Loved Me."



ESTONIA is a small republic in the Baltic states that has produced some of the most beautiful films from the region, including "The Fencer," "Tangerines," (2015 Oscar nominee) and most recently, "Truth and Justice" (2020 Oscar nominee). There is a strong community of animators in Estonia, as well.



INDIA has the largest film industry in the world and produces more films watched by more people than any other country. Our filmmaker, Anuj, is a graduate of NYU and a prime example of an up-and-coming director working in Mumbai.



INDONESIA is the fourth most populous country in the world; home to 17,000 islands and more than 300 languages. Its film industry has had a bumpy history, but cinema has seen a resurgence. Movie theatres are starting to open up all across the country as a boom in filmmaking has begun.



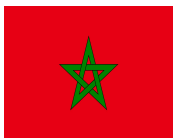
ISRAEL & PALESTINE have been a meeting place of cultures, empires and religions since history began. We intend to interview filmmakers from Israel and Palestine. Films from here include, "Sallah Shabbati," "Yossi & Jagger," and "Waltz with Bashir."



ITALY is a country which is seminal to cinema history, with films from Fellini, Antonioni, Visconti, and De Sica wowing audiences for decades. Italy's current political situation makes it a compelling place to visit. We wish to see where the younger generation of filmmakers fit socially and politically.



JAPAN has a rich cinema history which spans over 100 years and is one of the oldest, largest, and most well-respected film industries in the world. Some of cinema's most renowned directors hail from Japan: Mizoguchi Kenji, Ozu Yasujiro, and Akira Kurosawa.



MOROCCO is considered the gateway to Africa and its cinema history dates back to the beginning, when Louis Lumiere filmed "The Moroccan Goatherd" in 1897. Many foreign films have been shot in Morocco, and we are curious to explore how this has affected the work of modern-day Moroccan filmmakers.



NEPAL's Himalayan landscape lends itself to cinematic beauties. Our filmmaker in Kathmandu, Anup Vaswani, has an impressive eye for cinematography, and we cannot wait to visit, through the help of Himalayn Quests, an outdoor adventure group with strong ties to Northern New Mexico.



NEW ZEALAND is a peaceful country, where "Lord of the Rings" and the "Hobbit" have been produced. It is home to such notable filmmakers as Jane Campion and Peter Jackson.



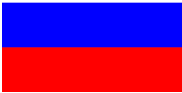
NIGERIA is home to Nollywood, the second largest film industry in the world, producing about 50 movies per week. Our filmmaker, Bimbola Pedro, is a professional soccer player-turned-film director hustling to survive in the Lagos film industry.



PHILIPPINES remains its own unique entity with some of the most welcoming, warm and relentlessly upbeat individuals in the world. While its film industry is not well known, it is growing fast, which is precisely why we intend to feature this colorful, spirited island.



POLAND is known for its cinema history, producing such notable directors as Andrzej Wajda, Roman Polanski, and Krzysztof Kieślowski. Poland is home to the renowned Lodz Film School and our filmmaker, Marcin Filipowicz, in Warsaw, is well on his way to being among the ranks of Poland's great film directors.



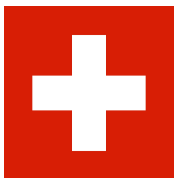
RUSSIA is home to some of the greatest writers and filmmakers in history. We will see how young filmmakers react to the current socio-political climate of Russia today and discover what their modern approach to storytelling looks like.



RWANDA is a small, landlocked country in East Africa, now largely remembered for its genocides in 1994. Rwanda has a very young population and is one of the fastest growing economies in Africa.



SRI LANKA, a road less traveled, is home to timeless ruins, worthy train rides, elephants galore, and famous tea. It has had a troubled recent history, and we are interested to see how young filmmakers have found their voice amidst the turmoil.



We will return to **SWITZERLAND** to book-end the "33 and Me" film project as the last episode in the initial series. Stephanie started her "33 and Me" quest on her 33rd birthday in Switzerland after learning she is 76% Swiss. We will return to Switzerland to explore her ancestry and see how Stephanie has grown as an individual and filmmaker in this world.



TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, a twin-island republic in the Caribbean, most known for its diving and rainforests, also has a thriving entertainment industry and is one of the few islands that maintains a stronghold on their culture, despite tourism.

Additional Branding for “33 and Me”



A NOVEL

Stephanie is writing a book about her personal experiences traveling the world as a 33-year-old filmmaker in search of adventure, knowledge and collaboration. The book will be a travel memoir similar to *Eat, Pray, Love* or *Wild* and will be optioned for a feature narrative film.

A BOOK OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Director of photography, Duprelon “Tizzz” Tizdale, who was a travel photographer before becoming a filmmaker, will publish a book of photographs from the diverse landscapes and encounters with the people and places of our “33 and Me” travels.

A YOUTUBE CHANNEL

We are building the CinemaNomad channel on YouTube as a companion site to the “33 and Me” TV series, where viewers can interact in a more casual way and see behind-the-scenes videos, travellouges, and extra interviews with our “33 and Me” filmmakers.



The Significance of 33

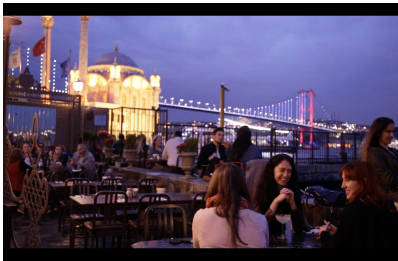
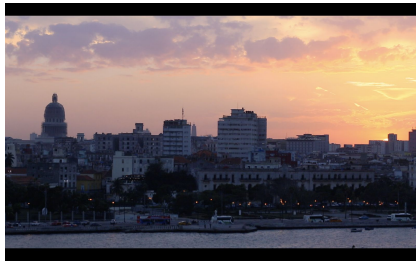


Many cultures attribute the number 33 to their own cultural significance. Through "33 And Me," we will celebrate the significance of "33," and as we travel, will explore the significance of age 33 in the regions we visit.

- Many numerologists believe that 33 is a Master Number.
- In Christianity, Jesus performed 33 miracles before his death at age 33.
- According to Islamic theologian and mystic of Persian descent Al-Ghazali, when one ascends to heaven they exist permanently in being age 33.
- The Rig Veda describes "the 33 divinities." Hindi mystics profess that there are 33 devas that serve as guardians of nature and the cosmic creation.
- In Buddhism, Kuan Yin assumes 33 appearances. She undergoes 33 transformations to help attain salvation. In Japan she is Gannon and worshippers may take the "Pilgrimage to the 33 Holy Places of Gannon."
- The Tibetan Book of the Dead has 33 heavens ruled by Indra and 33 ruled by Mara.
- In William Shakespeare's play, "Julius Caesar," Caesar is stabbed 33 times.
- The number 33 is the highest rank in Scottish Order of the Masonic Rites.
- There are 33 vertebrae in the spine.
- There are 33 turns in a complete sequence of DNA.

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Photo Gallery





"A large part of why I make films is to connect with and connect to other human beings. This is why I am compelled to make global films, so as to connect across cultures around the globe in a shared experience. I believe that communicating with others around the world; in expression, in thought, and in shared empathy is incredibly important to a happy, healthy, peaceful society. Cinema has the power to reach individuals worldwide to inspire change and create positive connections." - Stephanie Gardner



