

AUTONOMi

Dear Friends

RE. MINEFIELD – a work-in-progress on <http://www.vimeo.com/14430780>

I hope that you can take the time to watch a trailer for something that we think is a wee bit special. Well I guess you can call it a trailer, of sorts, because normally trailers are made when you've finished a film! This one is for a project, 'Minefield', which I've been working on for more than 15 years with Scotty Lee and his charity Spirit of Soccer.

'Minefield' is a film about War, Football and Friendship which follows the journey of Scotty and myself in some of the most volatile places on the planet, crossing time as well as territory to tell our story. Yes it is in part a campaign film about the lethal legacy of war, but it's also much more – as the trailer you'll see reflects.

At the heart of the film is a story about two people driven by what they do; In my case as a filmmaker – and in Scotty's as the head coach of Spirit of Soccer.



Spirit of Soccer does pretty much what it says on the tin – enriches and saves lives through the beautiful game – by promoting a message of Mine Risk Education. Scotty's straightforward and direct message has reached tens of thousands of young and not so young people around the planet: "There's one thing you need to be a professional footballer – your legs!"

But war and its aftermath leaves behind not just a lethal landscape of mines and UXO but also a divided and hate-filled human landscape that needs to be tackled...Scotty Lee and SoS does this through the universal language of football that crosses all borders.

'Minefield' also deals with the personal/professional conflicts of being a fulltime humanitarian – occasionally with a mad filmmaker in tow - and the personal/human costs involved in trying to make a difference.

We've been filming on and off together now for more than 15 years – ever since we met in a shell-shocked Sarajevo bar. In the past few years our film making together has taken us to Baghdad and other places in Iraq, to seldom seen Soviet backwaters, to Jordan and to a beautiful country with a heart of darkness – Cambodia.



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We now hope to continue to film and to complete a feature length documentary over the next year, We like to call it a kind of 'road/buddy movie' rather than a documentary or as Kim - Scotty's wife-calls us Bob and Bing!

But we need a bit of help....

So far Scottish Screen, Channel 4 and DfID/ CBA (the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association) have supported us, but we need further investment to put the ball in the back of the net.

So how can you help and what we are looking for?

Well you can start by letting as many people know about this unique project ...by linking and forwarding the link to the trailer...and getting it a presence on the global social forums that exists on Vimeo, YouTube, Facebook and the likes.

Secondly – and please don't run off just yet! - Yes! we are looking for both direct financial and in-kind support to complete 'Minefield'. We are looking for funds to continue filming with Scotty (air tickets, hotels, food!); camera equipment; cash to pay our fantastic editor to rough and fine cut the film, which then needs sound designed, etc. Really anything, including straightforward tax deductible donations, will help..

In return we can offer a credit on the film, exclusive updates, invites to 'Minefield's' various international premieres – not to mention the feel good factor you'll experience from being involved;))



We appreciate that during tough times we are all more conscious of our finances – but perhaps also we should remember that tough times need tough films – not just escapism...As Scotty said when the Blackhawks circled above us on a football pitch in Baghdad: This ain't Hollywood babies!!!

Doug Aubrey, Glasgow, Summer 2010

For more info contact producer, Marie Olesen: marie@autonomi.tv