



The More the Merrier

A WORLDwrite and Chew on it production
A London Behind the Scenes film

Press Release

***The More the Merrier* puts freedom of movement for all on the map**

WORLDwrite and Chew on it productions' latest documentary provides a timely case for unfettered freedom of movement for all across the globe. Too many people? Too many immigrants? For *The More the Merrier* the answer is a deafening No.

Interwoven with compelling archive and evocative sea shanty songs, the film takes us to the East End's St Katharine Docks on the Thames to set the scene. This was a landing and departure point for immigrants settling in the UK and emigrants heading off to the New World. Immigration and emigration represent striving for a better world, yet from the 1905 Aliens Act onwards, the UK began to shut its borders. This film suggests that although attitudes to immigration have become de-racialised, there has been more closure than ever before. Instead, today's anti-immigrant sentiment is situated within a culture of limits.

The film incorporates inspiring arguments from the Battle of Ideas immigration debate and features Bruno Waterfield, Brussels correspondent for *The Daily Telegraph*, who argues: "anti-immigration sentiments represent a closure of the historical imagination" and, quoting American writer P. J. O'Rourke, he points out that if the whole of the world's population moved to one place they would cover a space the size of former Yugoslavia at the same density as Manhattan and, as he reminds us, "Manhattan is a pretty good place to live." Philippe Legrain, author of *Immigrants: Your Country Needs Them*, explains that internal migration outstrips migration overseas today and that this has "not for example caused China to collapse." Legrain ridicules the "points system" and argues immigration controls today represent a form of global apartheid. Illustrating these points, Sadhavi Sharma, a young Indian student obliged to go home, explains she wants to stay and tells us she has more friends here than in Bombay.

WORLDwrite Director Ceri Dingle explains: "Our volunteers have researched and developed an excellent and positive pro-immigration film. This is not a tragic story, not an exceptional case, but a fresh appraisal of the immigration debate with a much needed historical perspective. The film will form an excellent educational tool for schools, colleges and universities globally. Cutting through the depressing low expectations we have for what is possible today, the title of the film says it all."

The More the Merrier will be launched alongside a further short documentary, *Cash Back*, which highlights the role of remittances (monies sent by migrants and diasporas back to countries of origin) at the new Vibe Lounge, Brick lane, London E1 on **Sunday 20th April at 6pm**. Speakers will include Philippe Legrain (author, *Immigrants: Your Country Needs Them*), Claire Fox (Director, *Institute of Ideas*) and a representative of Open the Borders, a Spiked Online campaign.

For interviews, preview copies and press passes please contact Ceri Dingle or Viv Regan at world.write@btconnect.com or phone 020 8985 5435.

The launch is open to the public and tickets may be purchased by visiting: www.justgiving.com/morethemerrier. The trailer may be viewed at: www.worldwrite.org.uk/londonbehindthescenes/films.html.

Synopses

Short Synopsis (52 words)

The More the Merrier examines the impact of immigration. Through inspired argument and the story of one young Indian woman's desire to stay in the UK, the film lyrically interweaves historical archive with shanty sea songs. It presents a uniquely pro-immigration case and asks us to open our minds, and our borders.

Medium Synopsis (92 words)

The More the Merrier, set in St. Katherine's Docks, examines the impact of immigration. Through inspired argument and the story of one young Indian woman's desire to stay in the UK, the film lyrically interweaves historical archive with shanty sea songs. It presents a uniquely pro-immigration case, based on compelling speeches from *Battle of Ideas* immigration debate panellists Philippe Legrain, author of *Immigrants: Your Country Needs Them* and Bruno Waterfield, Brussels Correspondent for *The Daily Telegraph*. This documentary provides an exceptional call to us all, to open our minds and our borders.

Production Company

A *London Behind the Scenes* series film

A documentary by Chew on it productions in partnership with WORLDwrite

WORLDwrite

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Production notes

Original format: DV CAM

Online edit: Avid Express Pro

Digital cut format: Mini DV, DV CAM, DVD PAL (all regions)

Aspect Ratio: 4:3

Length: 15 minutes 13 seconds

Completion: March 2008

Contributors

Shannon O'Flynn

WORLDwrite volunteer

Sadhavi Sharma

WORLDwrite volunteer

Philip Legrain

Author, *Immigrants: Your country needs them*

Bruno Waterfield

Brussels Correspondent, The Daily Telegraph

Millicent Kumeni

WORLDwrite volunteer

Crew

Directing and producing

WORLDwrite *London Behind the Scenes* volunteers

Camerawork and sound

Andy Doyle, Andy Hirst, Chris Jones, Ian Foster, Jake Burchell, Jenny Bingham, Junaid Faizullah, Sian Whitehead

Research and production

Anna Kagan, Amy Bolis, Evelyn O'Hanlon, Holly Ellyat, Keresha Thomas, Millicent Kumeni, Neil Ross, Roman Skyva, Saleha Ali, Shannon O'Flynn, Vladimir Puscalau

Website, graphics and post-production

Angela Kolongo, Colin Streater, Emma Grant, Kaamil Ahmed, Karanjit Singh, Kyle Duncan, Nora Tuomi, Rakib Alom, Sergei Mazine

Online editor

Balint Tusor

Music

APM Courtesy of Current TV

Arrangement

Ceri Dingle and Viv Regan

Special thanks for archive material are due to:

Tower Hamlets archives, The Docklands Museum, Perlinger archives

This documentary was inspired by the Battle of Ideas debate on immigration which was attended and filmed by WORLDwrite volunteers for the *London Behind the Scenes* series

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www.worldwrite.org.uk/londonbehindthescenes