

**THOSE LEFT WAITING**



A live documentary about the life of refugees in different corners of the world.  
Co-created and filmed in real time by refugees, edited and screened LIVE.



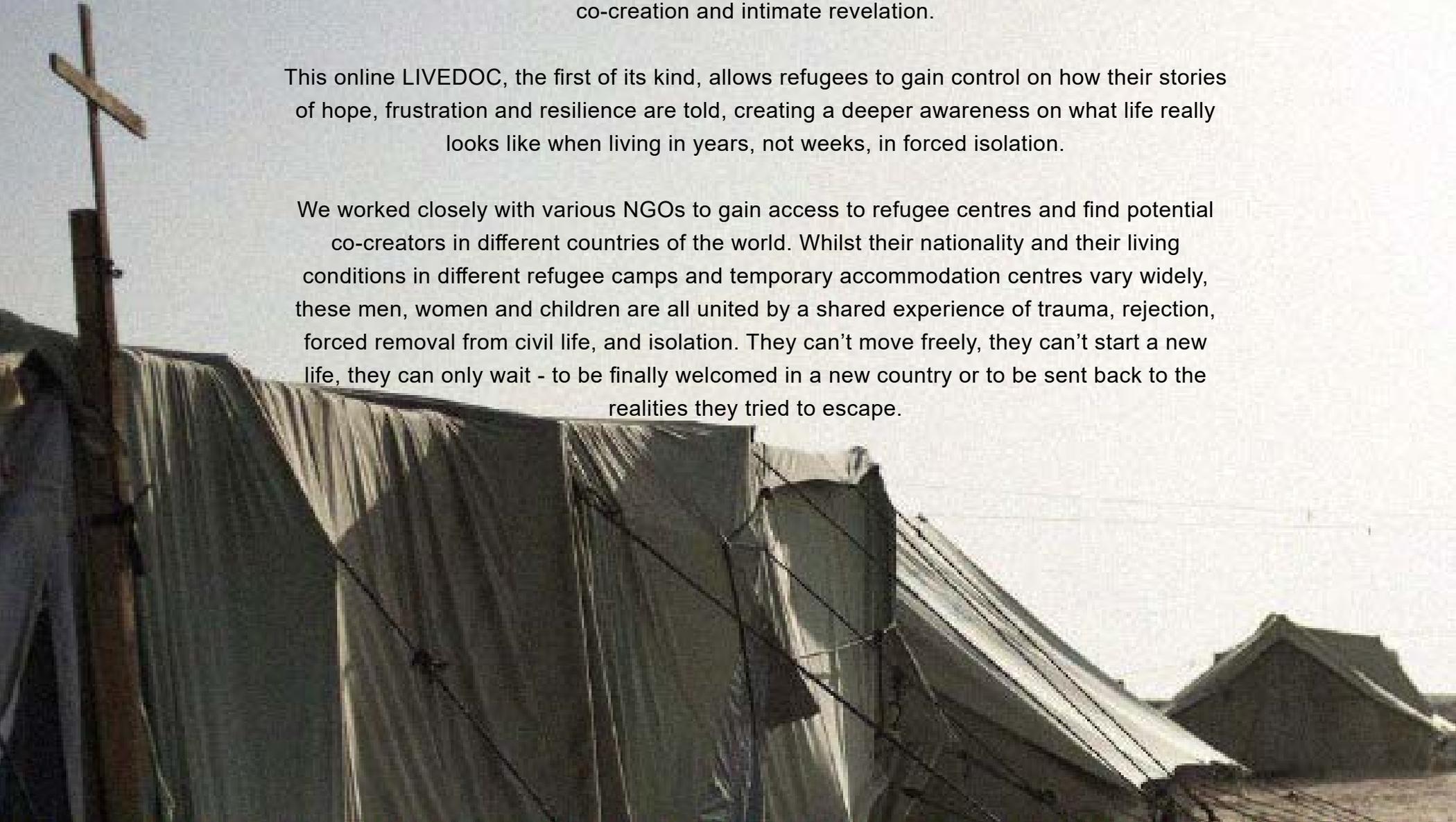
# CONCEPT

THOSE LEFT WAITING is a live documentary co-created by refugees and edited for an audience in real time.

Over the course of 60+ minutes a number of refugee detention centres located in different continents become connected for a shared moment in time - an extraordinary moment of co-creation and intimate revelation.

This online LIVEDOC, the first of its kind, allows refugees to gain control on how their stories of hope, frustration and resilience are told, creating a deeper awareness on what life really looks like when living in years, not weeks, in forced isolation.

We worked closely with various NGOs to gain access to refugee centres and find potential co-creators in different countries of the world. Whilst their nationality and their living conditions in different refugee camps and temporary accommodation centres vary widely, these men, women and children are all united by a shared experience of trauma, rejection, forced removal from civil life, and isolation. They can't move freely, they can't start a new life, they can only wait - to be finally welcomed in a new country or to be sent back to the realities they tried to escape.



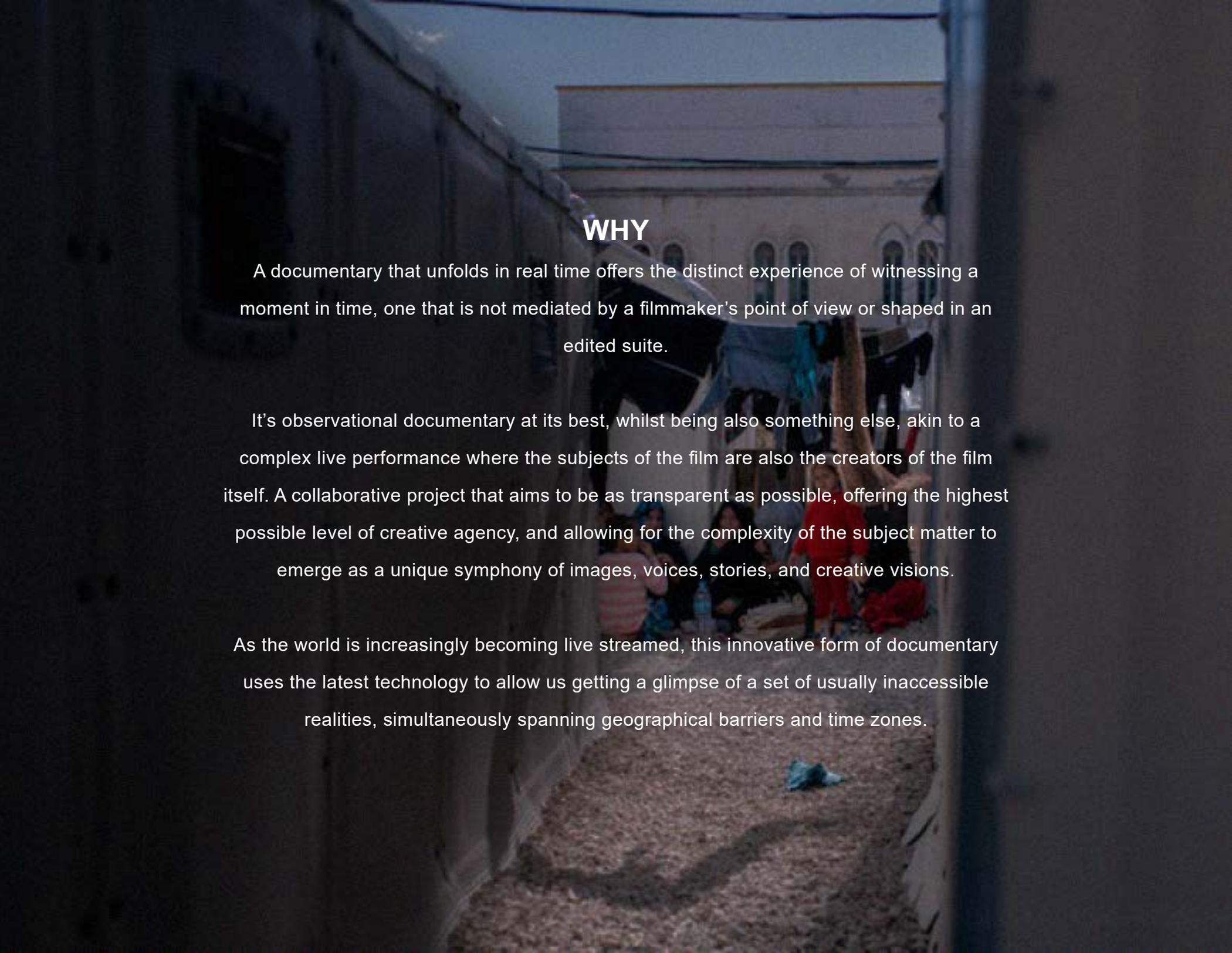
## AN UNPREDICTABLE JOURNEY

“Set up an arbitrary set of rules and then follow them slavishly.” — Errol Morris

A lot has been written about the refugee experience in different regions of the world and various documentaries have been produced, but rarely - if ever - were the subjects of a documentary given the opportunity to decide not only which of their personal stories should be told, but also in what way.

THOSE LEFT WAITING is a documentary unlike any other, one that engages multiple individuals as co-creators. Each live screening is unfiltered, unmediated, unrepeatable, and materialises in the moment, allowing the audience to get a true sense of proximity to the subject matter at large and to the various personal stories unfolding in front of them, where they happen and as they happen.

The documentary is edited live but without full control on the environment and on the filmed material - every live screening is unique.

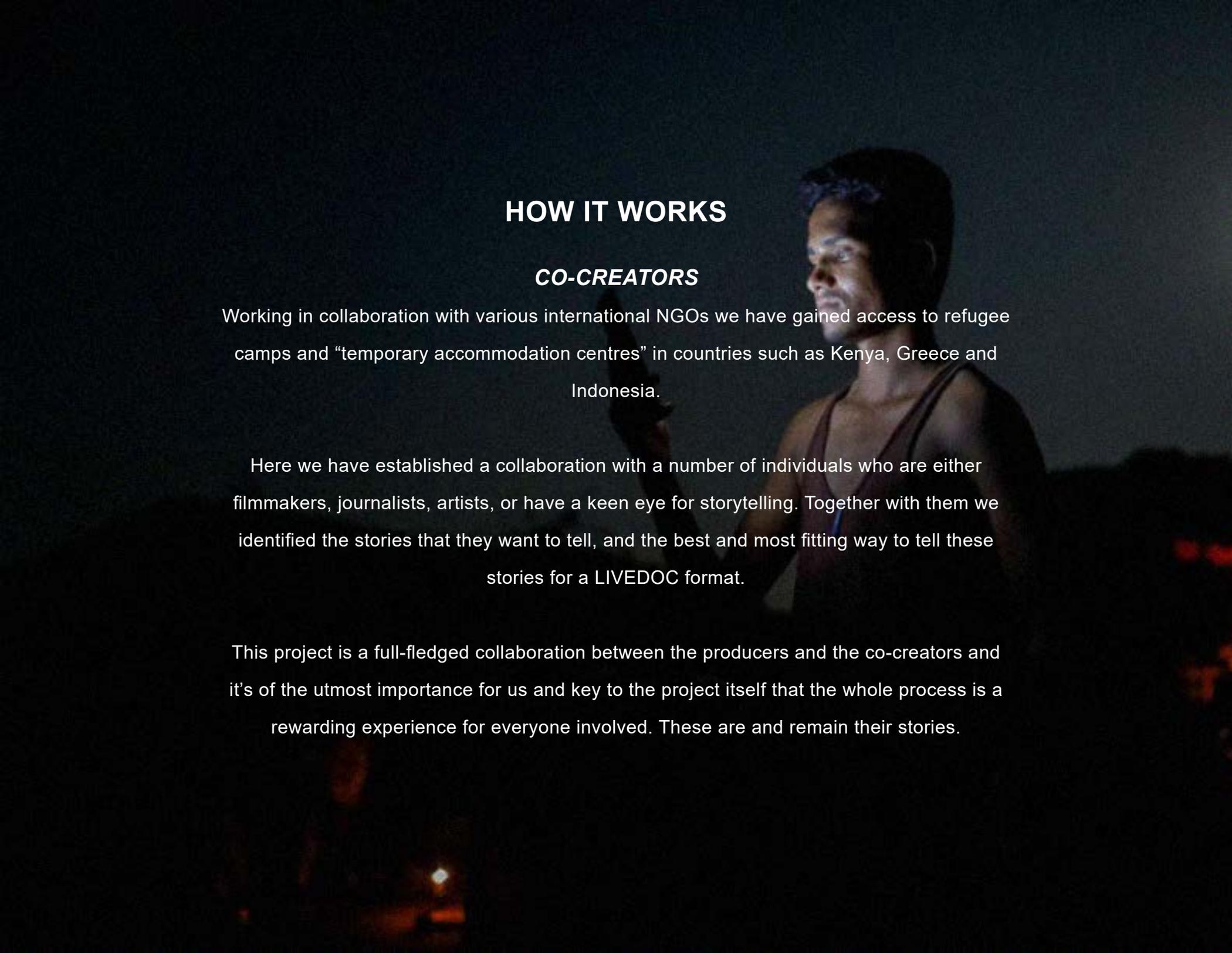
A narrow alleyway between metal structures, possibly a slum or a temporary settlement. Laundry is hanging on a line across the alley. In the background, a group of people is visible, and a building with arched windows is seen in the distance. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting dusk or dawn.

## WHY

A documentary that unfolds in real time offers the distinct experience of witnessing a moment in time, one that is not mediated by a filmmaker's point of view or shaped in an edited suite.

It's observational documentary at its best, whilst being also something else, akin to a complex live performance where the subjects of the film are also the creators of the film itself. A collaborative project that aims to be as transparent as possible, offering the highest possible level of creative agency, and allowing for the complexity of the subject matter to emerge as a unique symphony of images, voices, stories, and creative visions.

As the world is increasingly becoming live streamed, this innovative form of documentary uses the latest technology to allow us getting a glimpse of a set of usually inaccessible realities, simultaneously spanning geographical barriers and time zones.



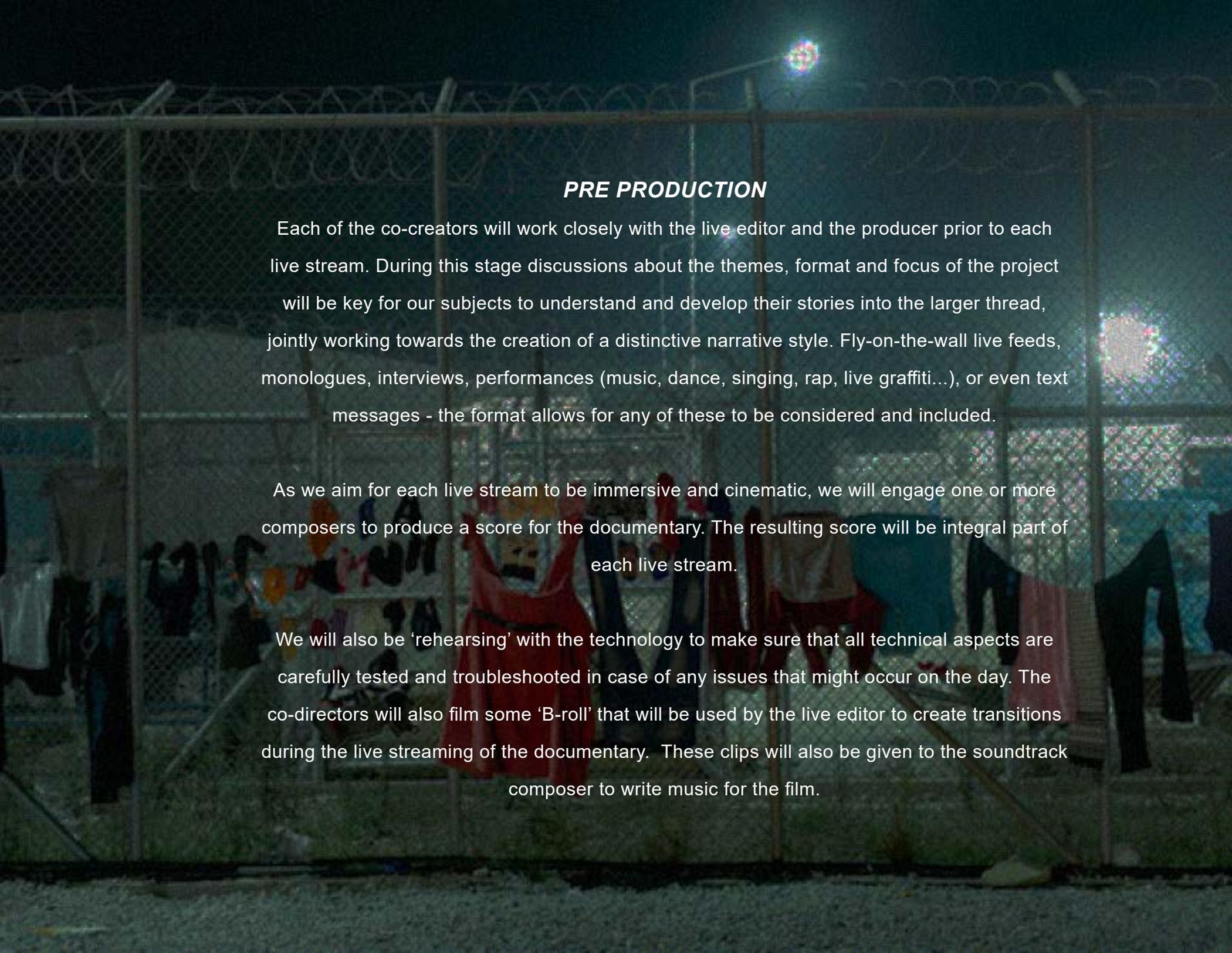
## HOW IT WORKS

### *CO-CREATORS*

Working in collaboration with various international NGOs we have gained access to refugee camps and “temporary accommodation centres” in countries such as Kenya, Greece and Indonesia.

Here we have established a collaboration with a number of individuals who are either filmmakers, journalists, artists, or have a keen eye for storytelling. Together with them we identified the stories that they want to tell, and the best and most fitting way to tell these stories for a LIVEDOC format.

This project is a full-fledged collaboration between the producers and the co-creators and it's of the utmost importance for us and key to the project itself that the whole process is a rewarding experience for everyone involved. These are and remain their stories.

A night scene of a fenced-in area, possibly a detention facility, with laundry hanging on a line. The scene is dimly lit, with a bright light source visible in the upper right corner. The fence is made of chain-link metal, and the laundry includes various items like shirts, pants, and a red garment. The overall atmosphere is somber and stark.

## ***PRE PRODUCTION***

Each of the co-creators will work closely with the live editor and the producer prior to each live stream. During this stage discussions about the themes, format and focus of the project will be key for our subjects to understand and develop their stories into the larger thread, jointly working towards the creation of a distinctive narrative style. Fly-on-the-wall live feeds, monologues, interviews, performances (music, dance, singing, rap, live graffiti...), or even text messages - the format allows for any of these to be considered and included.

As we aim for each live stream to be immersive and cinematic, we will engage one or more composers to produce a score for the documentary. The resulting score will be integral part of each live stream.

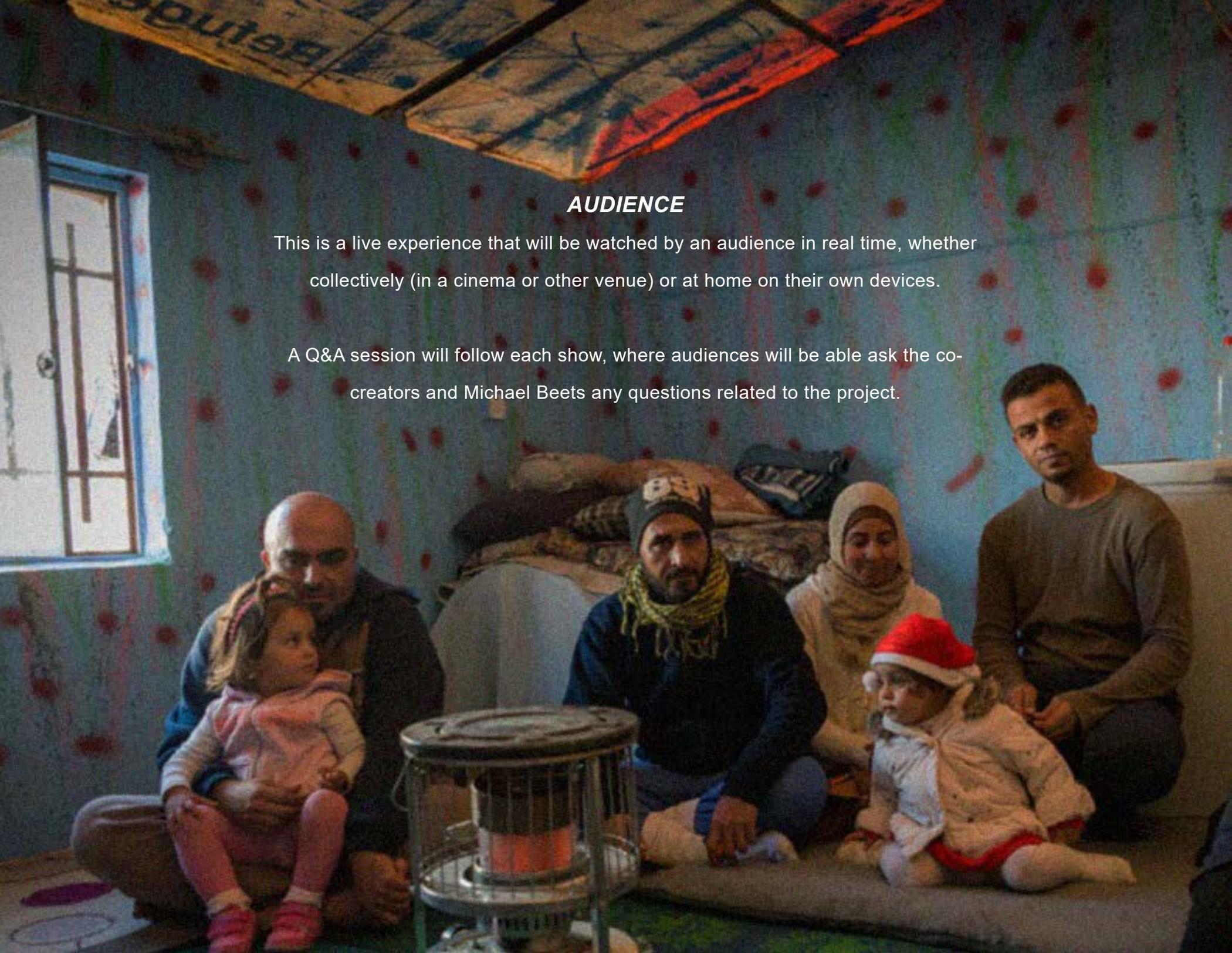
We will also be 'rehearsing' with the technology to make sure that all technical aspects are carefully tested and troubleshooted in case of any issues that might occur on the day. The co-directors will also film some 'B-roll' that will be used by the live editor to create transitions during the live streaming of the documentary. These clips will also be given to the soundtrack composer to write music for the film.

## ***THE STREAM***

On the day of the stream, all co-directors will be live streaming from their mobile phones. This live stream is delivered to a central editing station, where Michael Beets will be live editing and communicating with the subjects.

The subjects will have an understanding of the story they want to tell and will be aware of the time of the day during which they will be streaming (given the different timezones, the stream can happen at day or night time in different parts of the world) but the nature of the show will inevitably pivot to what is happening directly to them in that moment.

If collaborating with refugees who can only communicate in real time via text messages, these messages will be also displayed as and when received. The soundtrack of the film will also be performed live with one or more composers connecting from a separate location responding to the unfolding narratives.

A group of five people, including two men, a woman, and two children, are sitting on the floor in a room decorated with red confetti. A metal heater is in the foreground. The room has a window on the left and a patterned ceiling.

## **AUDIENCE**

This is a live experience that will be watched by an audience in real time, whether collectively (in a cinema or other venue) or at home on their own devices.

A Q&A session will follow each show, where audiences will be able ask the co-creators and Michael Beets any questions related to the project.



PARTNERS



## TEAM

THOSE LEFT WAITING is a live documentary produced by Wide Awake Projects.

[www.wideawakeprojects.com](http://www.wideawakeprojects.com)

MICHAEL BEETS- DIRECTOR/ PRODUCER

Michael Beets's is an award winning director.

His virtual reality projects, music videos, and films have been screened at festivals around the world including Venice Film Festival, Cannes, Busan, Toronto International Film Festival, and the Melbourne International Film Festival. In 2018 his interactive VR work titled 'The Unknown Patient' was nominated for two awards at the 75th Venice Film Festival, and won the VR Award at the Adelaide Film Festival. His most recent project "In the Shadow it Waits" was a groundbreaking live film that was critically acclaimed for its innovative approach of blending live performance with film

[www.michaelbeets.com](http://www.michaelbeets.com)

CHRISTIAN PAZZAGLIA- PRODUCER

Christian Pazzaglia is a multidisciplinary producer based in Australia. His A/V projects and film productions have been presented by leading art institutions and film festivals internationally. His latest project was the acclaimed live cinema performance 'Miraculous Trajectories', directed by one of China's leading visual artists, Cheng Ran, and with a soundtrack by Shao Yanpeng.

[imdb.me/christianpazzaglia](https://www.imdb.me/christianpazzaglia)

IMPACT PRODUCTION & EP - THINK-FILM