



**A DOCUMENTARY**

# **EMBRACE:**

## **THE RIGHT TO BELONG**





# THE BACKGROUND

Around the world the number of people forcibly displaced from their homelands is 84 million and rising.

Political unrest from Africa to South America to Europe drives families to flee towards an unknown future.

Many are young refugees transitioning to a new country, language and culture while still coming to terms with an often deeply embedded trauma from their forced migration. They can often struggle to integrate.

For some, feelings of isolation and hopelessness can lead them to join gangs in a desperate need for acceptance, and a right to belong in a new land. A way to fight back against communities that reject them.

But some of these gangs commit violent crime, and the public are rightly scared of this violence.

So the public react, and their voices are loud. Stop immigration! Lock them up! Send them back!

They become wary of people who look different to them. Is this racist? Most people believe themselves not to be, but when confronted with this violence, some are forced to face uncomfortable feelings.

Despite the statistics showing us immigrants or refugees involvement in these gangs is minimal, the public turn against immigration and governments react.

And so the cycle begins.

**BUT WHAT IF WE COULD TELL A DIFFERENT STORY?**





# HOW DO WE BREAK THIS CYCLE AND GIVE HOPE?

Along with other international groups, the Les Twentyman Foundation are frontline warriors.

Together, Les Twentyman and his team, are driven to change lives.

To provide a path other than just 'locking them up' or 'sending them back'.

Their belief? Every child has a right to reach their full potential.

A RIGHT TO BELONG.

Their program, EMBRACE, which takes young people identified as at-risk, on a two year journey of self discovery to find their true selves, works.

It provides these kids with a future. One full of hope, and a belief that they do belong.

It changes lives. It makes a difference.

**TOGETHER THIS TEAM MAKE THAT DIFFERENCE**



# OUR HEROES – CHANGING THE WORLD A BIT AT A TIME

Veteran Les Twentyman's gravelly voice and unassuming nature belie what he's been through.

He's seen it all. In the course of his mission, he's been stabbed, kidnapped by the IRA, chased by gangs in LA, even haunted by a violent stalker, but still he doesn't give up.

Dedicated to keeping kids in class rooms and out of jail, he's worked his entire life pounding the footpaths helping disadvantaged and at-risk youth.

He knows nothing but helping kids that live on the 'wrong side' of town. The people society often gives up on.

He's brought a team together that have his passion and dedication.

And he's on a global mission.

Keep disenfranchised youth off the streets, away from violent gangs, and out of jail.

Keep them in class rooms, not court rooms.

He knows what works.

And he needs to spread the word.



**LES TWENTYMAN OAM**



# THE DOCUMENTARY

In this immersive international documentary we will follow Les and his team as they take their EMBRACE program to the world and it's leaders.

Seen through their eyes, we will immerse the audience into their world as they confront the impact disconnection has on people all over the planet, and dig deep into the lives, behaviours and raw crimes of these young gangs.

We will talk with asylum-seekers on international borders, those waiting placement in refugee camps and members of troubled youth gangs in the USA, Europe, Africa and Australia.

We will talk with other international groups on the same mission as Les. Is there a common thread that unites their thinking?

The EMBRACE program is unique and Les and his team's mission is to share their message with the world.

And we will also hear the voices of those who are anti immigration – attitudes that are experienced world wide.

Throughout this journey Les and his team will actively shift discussions towards understanding, empathy, respect and tolerance to inspire new thinking towards these vulnerable youths.

More jails are not the answer. Les' EMBRACE program works, and the world needs to hear it.

In an inspirational end to the documentary we will experience how Les and his team have already changed attitudes and turned lives around, and the audience will see there is a way forward – one with hope.

**IT WILL BE A TRIUMPHANT AND HEARTFELT END TO A HIGHLY COMPELLING JOURNEY**





# CAN YOU HELP US MAKE THIS DOCUMENTARY?

Unlike most news and social media, documentary story telling can pull audiences into an immersive experience, taking the time to build empathy or understanding more deeply. They tell stories about the lives of real people in ways that help audiences make or see connections – about ideas or issues – that may otherwise seem abstract. The audience is often changed by the experience.

That's why documentary has the capacity to prompt people to engage and act.

In this way we will also raise awareness of the unique work done by the Les Twentyman Foundation. Awareness for the Foundation equates to greater Government and general public support.

## **TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS**

This documentary has been granted full tax deductibility status by the Documentary Australia Foundation whose mission it is to advance awareness and inspire action on important social issues. All funds provided to enable the production of this documentary will qualify for 100% tax deductibility.

## **BRANDING SPONSORSHIP**

Organisations who would like to partner with us have the opportunity to participate in brand integration within the film, utilise content in their own promotions, and benefit from our planned massive social media campaigns and public activation events. There are many ways we can partner with an organisation that will benefit you, and help us make this important documentary.



# OUR TEAM



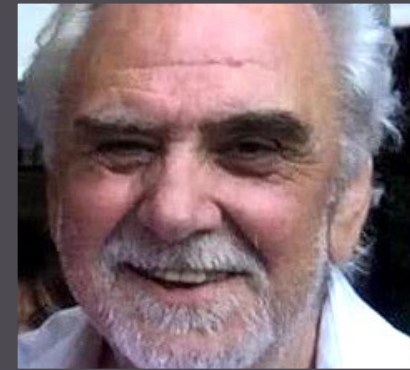
**JAN BLADIER**  
PRODUCER

Jan and David have been a successful producing team for over 30 years. David has extensive credits as a director, and jointly they have produced well in excess of 100 hours of high rating and financially successful, international and local television drama, mini series, documentaries and feature films.

They have years of experience working with international partners such as The Disney Organisation (USA), Telemunchen (Germany), Central Television (UK), Tim Johnson Production Group (USA), and Ingenious Media (UK), filming not only in Australia but internationally.



**DAVID LEE**  
PRODUCER



**ROD HARDY**  
PRODUCER / DIRECTOR

Rod Hardy is an accomplished Director who currently shares his time between Melbourne and Los Angeles. He has garnered many awards across his career, working on movies of the week, mini series and feature films, working with many high profile Hollywood actors. Rod has a great ability to bring out the best in people, whether it is an actor's performance or a DP's best shot. He has a long standing working relationship with Producers Jan Bladier and David Lee.



# EVERYBODY DESERVES THE RIGHT TO BELONG

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**

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