A SONG CAN’T BURN

Runtime: 11 minutes
Language: English (Arabic & Turkish available on request)
Genre: Documentary

A Penny Appeal / Yusuf Islam Foundation Production

DIRECTOR: Roscoe Neil
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Synopsis

**Short (46 words)**

Since 1992 professor & musician Nigel Osborne has developed techniques to use music as a form of therapy for children suffering the effects of trauma as a result of war. These methods are now being inducted into a programme for Syrian refugees who have fled to Lebanon.

**Full (114 words)**

The Syrian war has raged on now for over 7 years, leaving hundreds of thousands of children traumatised - many of them living in refugee camps having fled the country. Professor and musician Nigel Osborne has been working in such situations since 1992, when he discovered the positive effects music therapy was having on children in Bosnia affected by such trauma. Since then Nigel's techniques have been developed and are now utilised as part of a creative arts programme delivered to children traumatised by war - but how do these methods work, and do they really make a difference to the lives of children who have experienced unspeakable horrors and pain at such a young age?

**Director's Statement**

This story offers so much to a storyteller. One of the leading experts in the field, Nigel Osborne, practicing how music can relieve the symptoms of trauma within children.

Refugee children who have fled unimaginable conflict and harbouring pain that is unknown to most people.

The mysterious theory about how music can act as a therapy for the likes of those suffering with post-traumatic stress conditions.

All these factors make up the opportunity to tell such a fascinating and heartfelt story.

We all know how powerful music is, but many of us wouldn’t be able to express what it is that makes it such a powerful language.

This documentary aims to show just how simply music can be used to connect humans and relieve suffering.
FAQ's

Q: Why did you believe this was a story worth telling?
Because in a world that is constantly changing but remaining just as complicated, positive things that happen in the background are important to make people aware of. The ongoing narrative in Syria is very bleak and the antidote to that is to highlight how humans are helping other humans. As Nigel says, we are deeply musical and it's how we communicate. The mystery surrounding music's ability to change people's lives for the better is so fascinating and the story shows just how simply this is done.

Q: What did you learn from being in Lebanon and spending time amongst Syrian refugees?
It's cliche, but we are all the same. We all want happiness and we all want to avoid pain. No matter where I go, the conclusion is always the same. We're divided through borders and languages, but our biology is always the same. My focus as a storyteller is common ground and telling stories about other human beings and doing this to highlight the fact that how we think and feel is universal.

Q: How would you summarise Nigel's character, and what impression has his work left on you?
Nigel is one of the best humans on the earth. What we forget is that the world is full of people like him, even though it's easy to forget that. He's a fascinating man whose company is so warm that it's no surprise to see how his work is making a difference. He taught me that it doesn't take much to be a good human. With more people doing whatever they can to help, we will make huge strides towards unity on a global scale.

Q: Where can the film be seen?
Currently we're looking at doing a festival run as well as screening at various debates and summits that broach the topic of refugees and the aid they are given.
Crew

ROSCOE NEIL (DIRECTOR/EDITOR)
Having graduated the Northern Film School in 2013, Roscoe Neil pursued a career of video editing working cutting promos and music videos. Since then he has travelled the globe telling stories, with a particular passion for documentary film and photography.

MARTIN BALL (PRODUCER)
Originally from Cornwall, Martin relocated to Yorkshire to study Film and Television Production at the Northern Film School in Leeds. In 2014 he started working in the charity sector producing, filming and editing productions from areas that have been hit by crisis or suffering from poverty.

DAVE GALLOWAY (CINEMATOGRAPHER)
Based in Sheffield UK, Dave has been working in the TV & Film industry since 2013. He began as a camera trainee for drama & feature film before progressing as a cinematographer specialising in commercial, promotional, music video and documentary.

MAJID HUSSAIN (EXECUTIVE PRODUCER)

MATTHEW BIRCH (SOUND MIX)

SPECIAL THANKS TO SAWA FOR DEV & AID