



SMA TALENT

ILLUMINASTUDIOS
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Jean-Paul Mertinez
Producer, Writer & Director

Jean-Paul Mertinez is a producer, writer and director and runs Illumina Studios & Media, his Soho production company. He is producing a number of major feature documentaries, the latest of which is **An Officer & His Holiness: The Dalai Lama's Secret Escape into Exile**, which will have a major event premiere in India early in 2019, which will be showing in cinemas worldwide.

The film tells how and why the spiritual and political head of Tibet, the 14th Dalai Lama escaped from the Chinese oppressors into India in March 1959 and has not been able to return since. Interviews with those involved together with historic b&w footage brings to life the incredible dangerous escapade. This is the first of 3 films about the Dalai Lama and his work.

Jean-Paul is a graduate of the National Film & Television School and worked with director Alan Ereira on the second film of the secretive Kogi Indian tribe of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia. One of the Elders of the tribe with whom he established a strong relationship subsequently asked Jean-Paul to share their message of hope and despair about the impact of society on the environment around the world as much as possible and he's now working on new international feature film, television and live projects that seek to express a truly sustainable and compassionate worldview whilst still being engaging and entertaining.

In 2016 he worked with the United Nations on the "Harmony with Nature" program that aims to align human activity with nature and such is his profile that in 2017 he was invited to address the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York about the role of the Arts to inform progressive policies relating to Ecology and Earth Rights.

In 2016, 17 and 18 he worked with The Dalai Lama's Grammy Nominated Gyuto Monks during their UK & Scotland "Pure Sound Tour" including their performances at the opening ceremony of Glastonbury Festival in front of an audience of around 100,000 people and filmed the historic occasion. He later produced their new album "Open Mind, Loving Heart" during their 2017 tour, which he produced.

He has travelled extensively filming and showing films throughout the UK and Europe - England, Ireland, Scotland, France, Norway, Sweden and further afield in the USA, Canada, Colombia, India, Pakistan and the Indian Ocean – Mauritius, Reunion and the Seychelles.

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