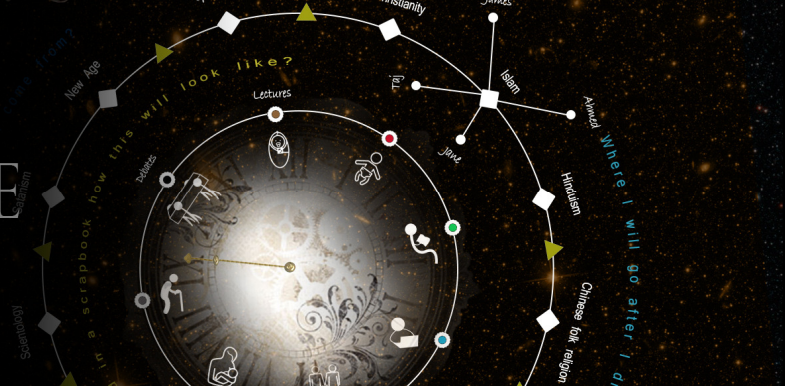


THE SCRAPBOOK OF LIFE



Film title: The scrapbook of life
Interactive documentary with a twist
Presented by: Theresa Khalil
<http://www.theresakhalil.com/>
Project Website: coming up

Theresa Khalil

Being a writer has been the reason behind my deep interest in topics related to humanity.

Observing the world around me lead me to see the big picture and how that all humans are struggling with similar issues worldwide. **Humans** may differ in their color, nationality, religion or in the language they speak but at the end they share this incredible short experience with all its mystery and contradictions, "LIFE".

My documentary topics varied between discovering how kids think in "**Kids talk**", The meaning of life in "**It goes on**", The image of life in the mind of a born blind guy in "**Invisible**", The actor who stutters in "**ERIK's hope**", searching for love in "**Love surfing**" and the religion, faith or belief of the child inside each adult of us in "**On the way**".

What is in common in my topics is that they can happen anywhere, at anytime to any human.

Coming from a computer engineering and graphic design background makes me interested in new forms of media and communication.

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Headlines

Our life is a story. Flip through our stories from birth to the near end, stare at the frozen moment, see how we are answering the mysterious questions of life through faith, philosophy, spiritual belief and gained wisdom.

A place where the other has a face and a story to share. Creating an environment of knowledge and more acceptance to the other.

The project is offering philosophical and spiritual virtual classes, lectures and debates. Also live events where people can share their own experiences.

Synopsis

The scrapbook of life is an interactive platform where people can visit to discover more about different religions, philosophies and beliefs through others experiences and life stories. We get to know how they relate to answering the mysterious questions of life such as where did I come from, what is the meaning of life, where I will go after I die? and how their belief changed their view of life.

The **platform** is a series of short films of people who converted from one religion/ faith or belief to another through capturing and documenting their human life journey using photos, videos, audio and objects as in a scrapbook page showing that our emotions, struggles, joys, sorrows, and laughs are timeless and bonding all humans.

The importance of the project comes from how it is emphasizing the fact of us being on the same boat and going through this journey from birth to death. What we have in common is bigger than our differences.

Nationality, religion, ethnicity, political views become just little details in the big picture in which we are all -humans- sharing this experience of existence for a limited time. The project is a melting pot of all the differences between humans and brings to the mind a moment to think, question the value and meaning of life and increases our understanding to the diversity of different religions, philosophies and visions.

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Another section is dedicated to **lectures and debates** of spiritual leaders and philosophers. This section is planned to be the source of income to the project to be able to continue and maintain itself without the need for continuous funding resources.

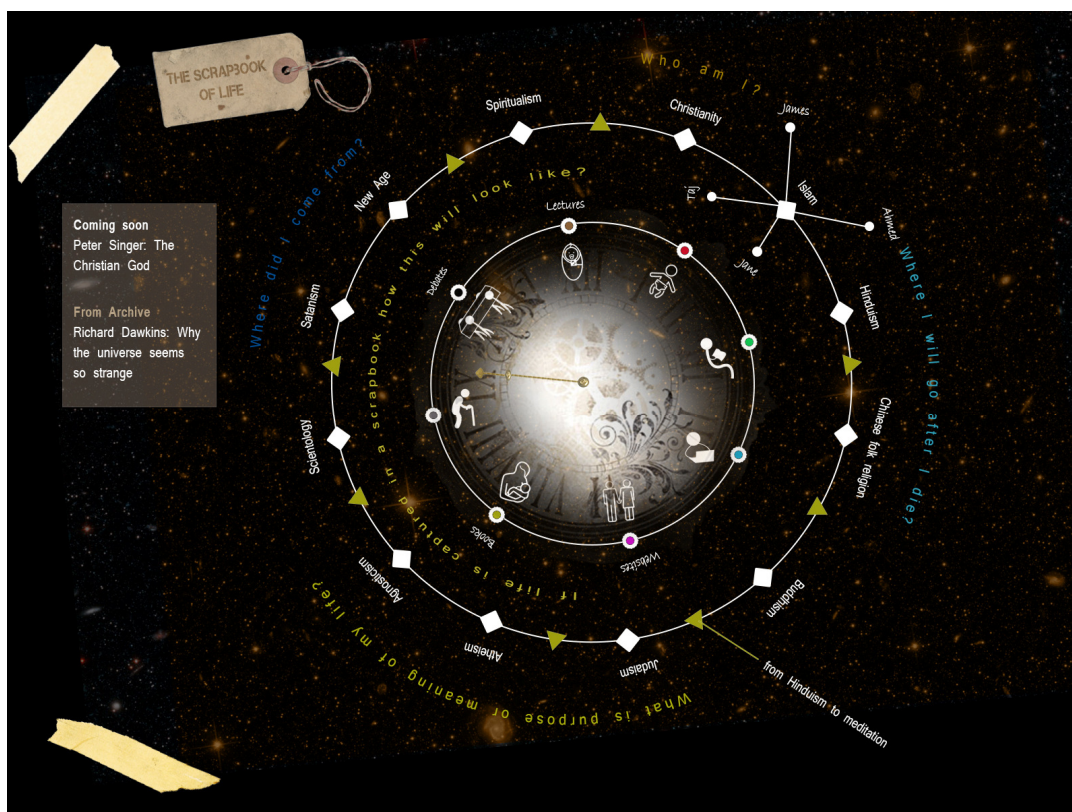
Director statement

When I was a child, I was always questioning everything around me and never took anything for granted unless it made sense to me. My family was Orthodox Christian and my early childhood was in Saudi Arabia which is a strict Muslim country, the contradiction between the family and the society around me, made me start questioning and begin to find my own path and my own opinion about every issue in life, but it wasn't easy and not being a follower made me all the time spotted as the black sheep. So I know how is it like to be the other.

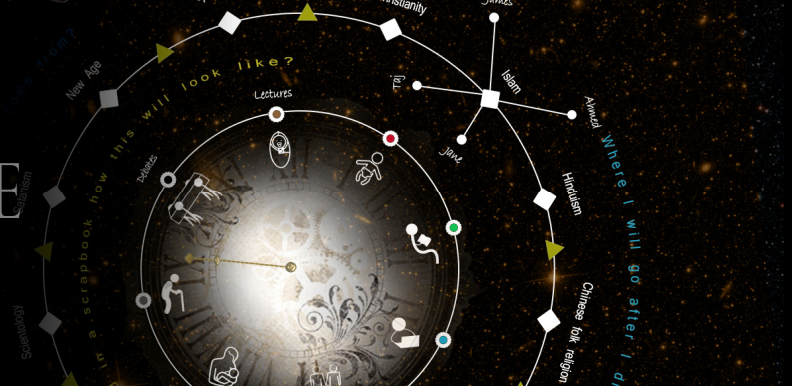
Now as I look back to it, I find me surprised! as in spite of my struggle and my trials to rationalize everything has been told to me, I gained something very important which is being tolerant and being able to see the sense in every religion, faith or vision.

Living in a conservative religious countries like Saudi Arabia and Egypt made me eager to learn more about how others explain life away from Islam and Christianity the only two allowed religions in the region.

I am hoping through this project to give people the power of knowledge to find their own answers without the need to travel the world. I also hope this project will make it possible for people to see the big picture of this short experience of life and leave behind extremism and conflicts.



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Layout

The platform is imitating the universe in its design.

The background is a photo of the galaxy. The website sections is in the form of layers of circles or orbits.

1-

- The outer orbit is surrounded by the mysterious questions

*Who am I? *Where did I come from? *What is the meaning or purpose of my life? *Where will I go after I die?

- The outer orbit is linking many dots or planets each one is representing a faith, philosophy or religion. Each point is expanding into many small dots each one is a name of a person from around the world sharing his/ her spiritual experience / faith or vision.

2-

- The inner orbit is surrounded by the question if life is captured in a scrapbook how this will look like?

- The inner orbit is connecting a number of dots representing links to lectures or debates.

3- A section announcing the coming virtual lecture / class / debate.

All the events that took place will be archived and stored in the website's library. Visitors can navigate through the library, listen to or watch the resources later for a certain annual fee.

Treatment

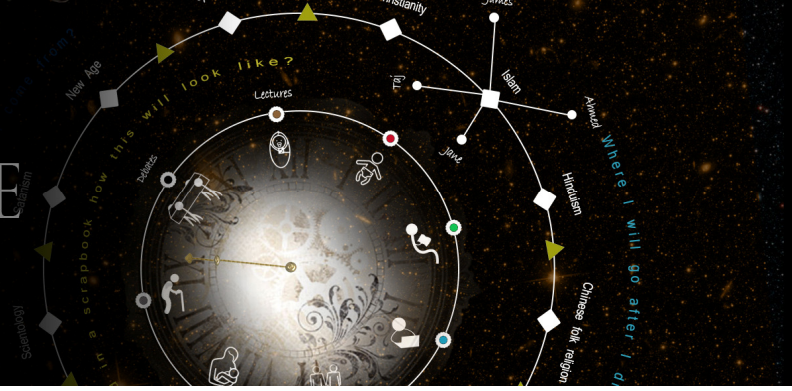
Film#1 "Wong"

The film begins with Wong a Chinese new comer to Croatia, telling his story from the moment he was born in a mix of scenes between an interview and a construction of pages of a scrapbook with some elements of photos / videos from different stages of his life and decorative elements of the page.

His story is being constructed going through the different stages of his life from childhood in China to school to work to relationships , becoming a father and the role of Buddhism in his life.

We also watch scenes of his present life in Zagreb in the tea house with his wife and son.

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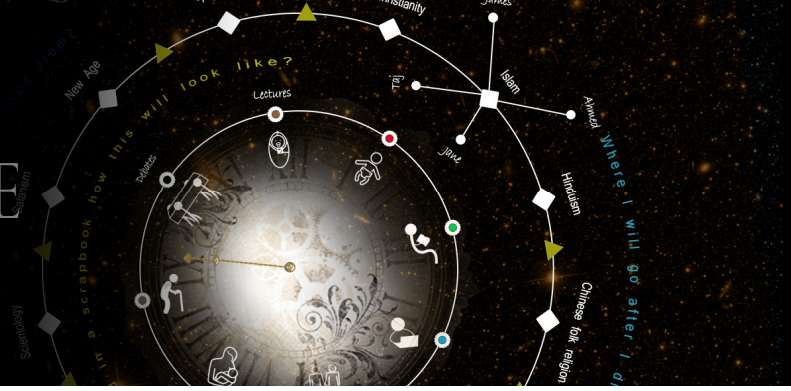
Shared spiritual stories:



Sumitananda Avadhuta

Sumitananda Avadhuta : From a Hindu to finding power and answers in meditation
I was filming a short video with Sumitananda Avadhuta for my YouTube channel
<https://youtu.be/r8xBBmJSNT0>
He is very willing to share with his spiritual experience.

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Visual approach

The camera is following people's daily rituals and life mixed with their voice over and close up shots of their interview.

Using Cinemagraph, stop motion and integrating photos, scrapbooking elements and archive videos from the character's life.

Sound design approach

The sounds used are two sound types.

Diegetic sound

- Direct sound recorded by interviewing the people sharing their stories.

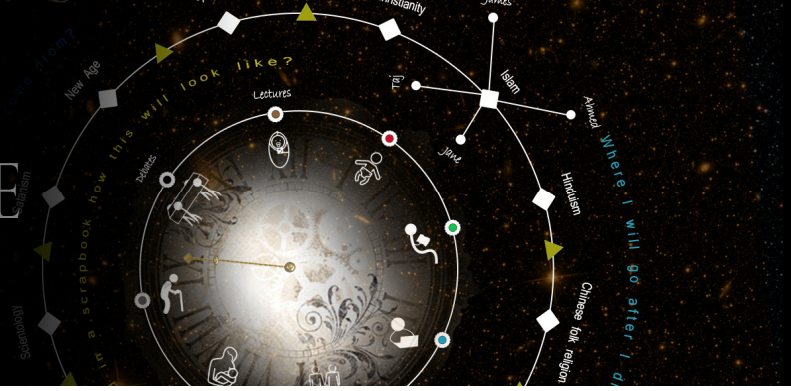
Non Diegetic sound

- The voice over at the cinemagraph, stop motion, video archive parts of the story.

- Mood music at certain points emphasizing the feelings.

- Sound effects of certain elements in the film.

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Factual information

Differences in the religion, faith and belief was the cause of intolerance and conflicts all around the globe and over the history of humanity

Many examples for this :

Lebanese civil war between 1975 and 1990 was between Sunnis and Shiites

The Crusades The first war started in 1095 and lasted until 1097, where as the second war was started in 1097 and continued till 1127 between Muslims and Christians

French wars Of Religion between the 1562 and 1598 fought by Protestants and French Catholics

Pakistan, one of the largest Muslim countries the world, has seen serious Shia-Sunni sectarian violence

Sectarianism in Australia is a historical legacy from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, between Catholics of mainly Celtic heritage and Protestants of mainly English descent.

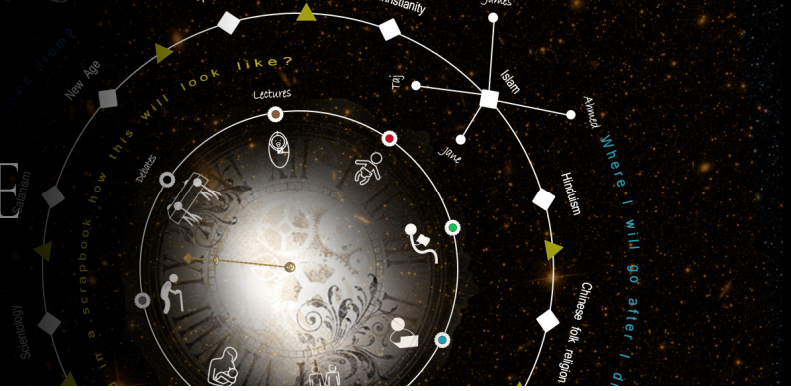
The list can be much much longer

From where I came in Egypt, there has been always tension in the relations between Christians as minority and Muslims.

Just as an example, this project will make it possible for them to realize that life is not only Christians and Muslims there are thousands or maybe hundreds of thousands of beliefs. They will get the chance to see the faith of the other through a personal story which can generate sympathy and more acceptance.

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I am inspired in this project by



Filmography:

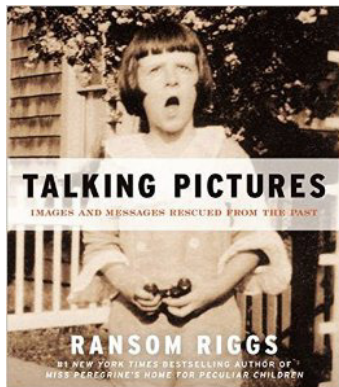
Interactive documentaries

The faith project

Out my window

Bibliography

- "Talking Pictures" book by Ransom Riggs in which he gathered flea market photos in one book showing what is written behind the photo. A journey through people's lives.



- A course I attended online "RELIGION AND CONFLICT" by university of Groningen

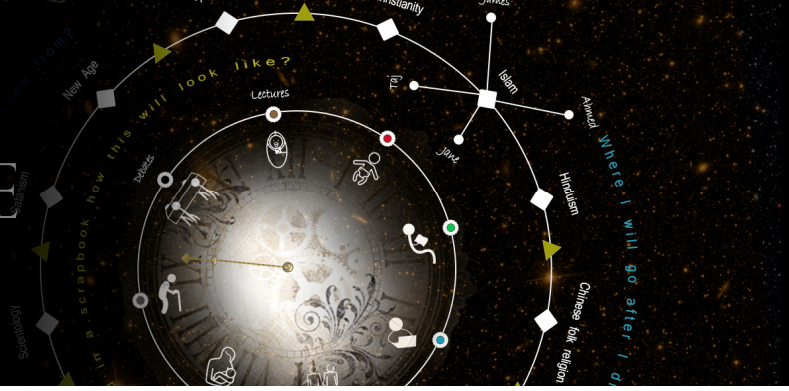
The project development

The first film of the series is shot with "Wong" a Chinese who moved to Zagreb, Croatia with his family to open a tea house through which he offers tea and wisdom during the tea ceremonies. He is sharing his experience with Buddhism.

The film is in the editing stage.

The project is still in:

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- Search of participants who are willing to share their stories in both sections the scrapbook section and the faith / religion / spiritual stories section
- Search for spiritual leaders and philosophers for future lectures / debates
- Search of a team or a company to build the website.
- Search for Crew members
- Search for production opportunities