

Reflections of Life

(previously Green Renaissance)



The creators of Reflections of Life, Michael Raimondo, and Justine Du Toit, are South African self-funded filmmakers. They produce gorgeous short films posted online and available for anyone, anywhere, to watch and share freely, to share ideas and inspire change. Telling the stories of ordinary people through film has always been their dream, and they managed to turn it into a reality.

Michael and Justine have had the privilege of having many people share their stories with them for several years. Sometimes, it's just a light-hearted conversation with an elderly couple about their secret to a marriage that has lasted 60 years. Sometimes, the subject is more complex, like dealing with depression. Each story has helped to remind everyone of what is essential in life and that there is so much to be grateful for in the simple pleasures of everyday living.

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What sparked the founding/creation of Reflections of Life (previously Green Renaissance)?

Michael and Justine were frustrated with the bombardment of negative content that was being shared online, and when they found good news stories, there was often a corporate brand or organization behind it all, trying to sell something. So, instead of continuing to complain about it, they realized they could use their skills as filmmakers to try and change things in their own small way.

In June 2017, Michael and Justine made a commitment to make and share one new short film every week – free of any advertising or corporate sponsorship – that serves as a powerful story for positive change without any agenda.

Through their films, they explore what it means to be human. They touch on topics that can often be difficult for people to discuss – from loss of a loved one to aging and retirement to friendship to love and courage – universal themes that we ALL deal with at some stage in our lives, regardless of our religion or culture.

Michael and Justine have always said that if each film touches just one person, fills them with a bit more hope, or leaves them feeling more inspired, then it has achieved its goal. No matter where you live, what language you speak, or how much money you have, we all grapple with similar human challenges. Why are we here? What is our purpose in life? How do we find meaning? What brings us happiness? By sharing stories that touch on these themes, Michael and Justine hope to remind people of one simple truth – that we are all human – that inside our hearts and minds, we are all facing similar challenges. We have so much to learn from each other, and our connections run so much deeper and stronger than we think.

Curious to see what they have done so far? Visit their YouTube channel.

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