



THE ELEPHANT NEVER FORGETS

A student-led documentary that explores the construction of the new London College of Communication building and the transformation of the surrounding Elephant and Castle area, London.

Dr Fotis Begklis,
Senior lecturer at London College of Communication



I will discuss a collaborative documentary project, where students led the creative process, took responsibilities in the production process, and used documentary production as a tool for inquiry, collaboration, and engagement with the local community.

LEAD ACADEMIC AND DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER

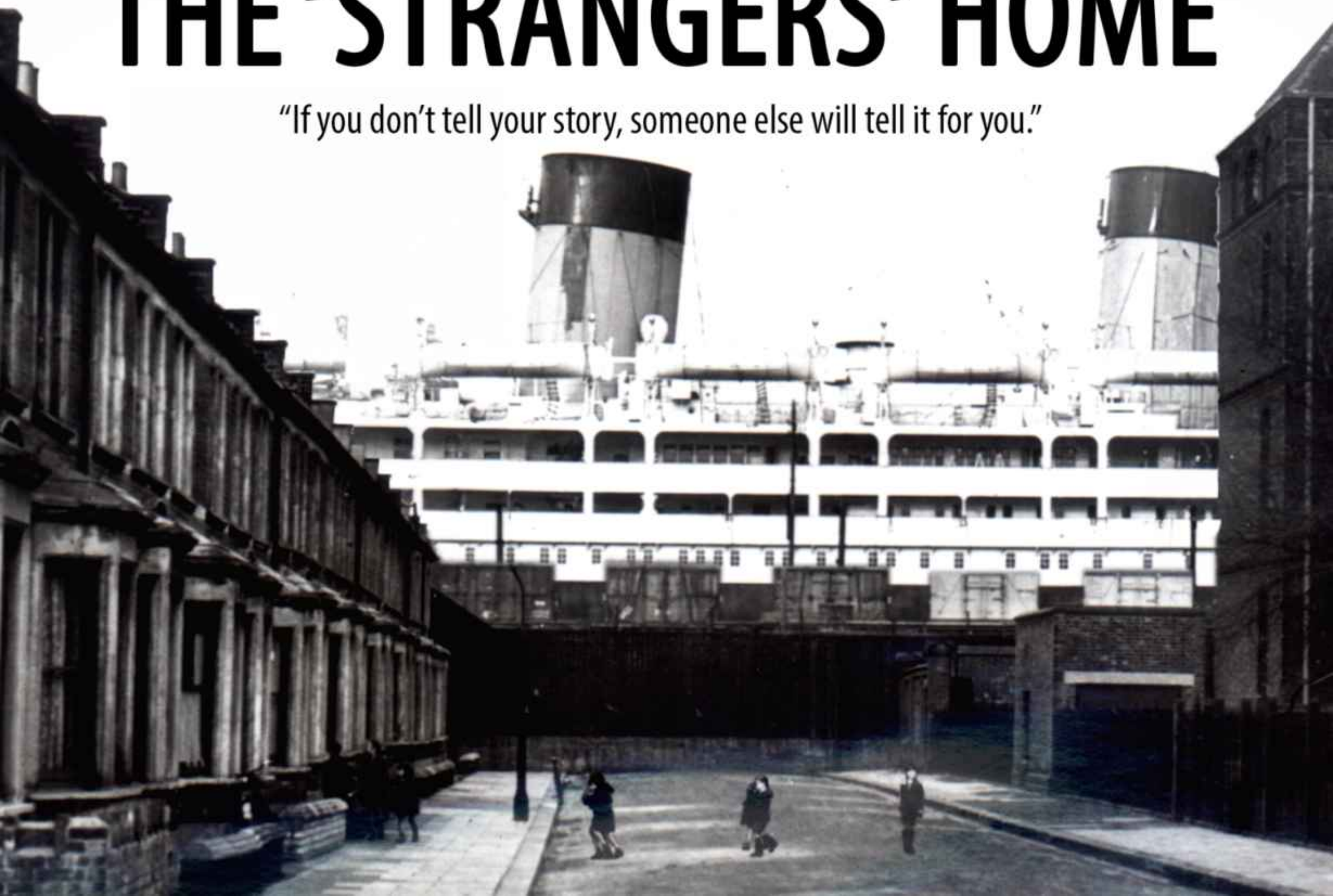
**I am a non-fiction filmmaker,
and I have developed a body
of creative work, making
documentaries and non-fiction
films.**

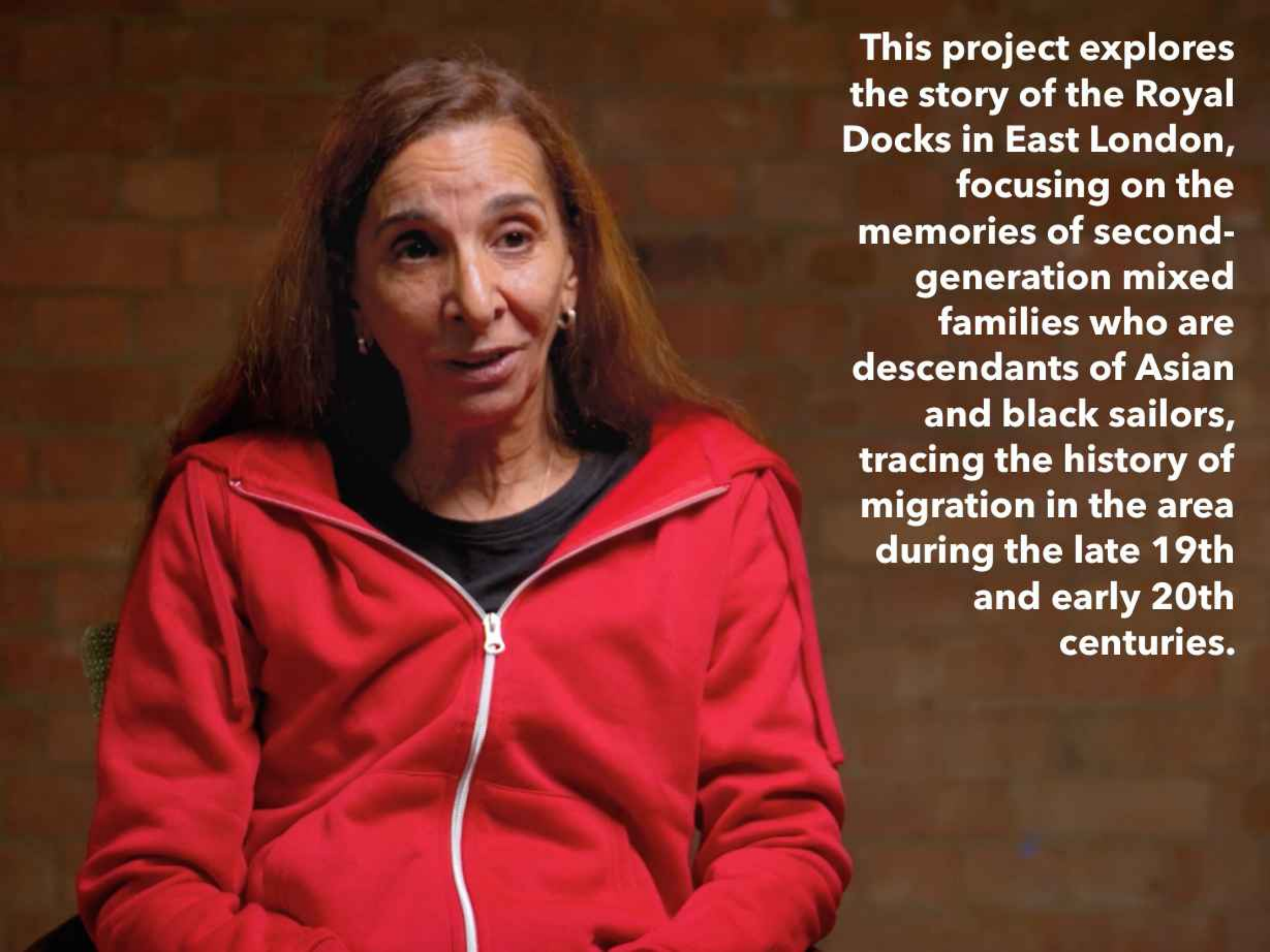
**I have worked with local
communities and collaborated
on many projects.**



THE 'STRANGERS' HOME

"If you don't tell your story, someone else will tell it for you."



A woman with long brown hair, wearing a red zip-up jacket over a dark grey t-shirt, is seated and looking towards the camera. The background is a textured brick wall. To the right of the woman, there is a block of white text.

**This project explores
the story of the Royal
Docks in East London,
focusing on the
memories of second-
generation mixed
families who are
descendants of Asian
and black sailors,
tracing the history of
migration in the area
during the late 19th
and early 20th
centuries.**

BEACH OF DREAMS

Beach of Dreams is a poetic meditation on walking, the changing landscape and the effects of climate change. It follows the participatory journey of a small group of people to walk 500 miles over 35 days along the east coast of England. Capturing memories, loss and dreams of the people they met.





Michael Faraday at Trinity Buoy Wharf



Fatboy's Diner



Britain's Invisible Empire



The Ship Maker's Hands



Trinity Buoy Wharf: Then & Now



Mudlarking at Trinity Buoy Wharf



1988 - 2024

**COMMUNITY FILMMAKING:
THE RELATIONSHIP AND
COLLABORATION IS
THE PROJECT.**





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THE PROJECT

The Elephant Never Forgets project is a joint collaboration between the BA Film and TV programme, London College of Communication (LCC) and Get Living. All participating students received financial compensation for their involvement.

Get Living is the lead developer behind the construction of the new LCC campus facilities and the broader regeneration of the local area.

ual ■ london college
of communication

getliving

SYNOPSIS

The Elephant Never Forgets is a documentary focusing on the ongoing construction of London College of Communication's new teaching facilities and college buildings.



SYNOPSIS

The documentary aims to capture the transformative journey of the campus, highlighting not only the physical changes but also the symbolic significance these new spaces hold for the local community.



OUTPUTS

The final output is a short doc (25-30 mins), and throughout filming, several short films are produced for social media use.

The film is in post-production, and it'll be ready by the end of the year (2026).



PEDAGOGIC FOUNDATIONS

Signature pedagogy:

teaching and learning that prepare students to think, act, and perform like professionals in a specific field (Shulman, 2005).

Cognitive apprenticeship:

make the invisible thinking processes of an expert visible to a student (Collins, Brown, Holum, 1991).

Community-engaged filmmaking:

The process is the project.



PEDAGOGIC INTENT

From the project's conception to each stage, students have been actively involved in every aspect of the production.

The project aimed to:

- **offer students high level practical skills in documentary-making**
- **encourage authentic creative expression**
- **create a deeper connection with the local community.**



PEDAGOGIC INTENT

Through the production of this documentary, I envisioned students engaging directly with key community leaders and local people.

Capturing real stories that reflect authentic documentary production workflows and a collaborative learning experience.



ROLES

Students have been deeply involved in every aspect of the production:

- **archival and historical research**
- **research with the local community and key stakeholders**
- **Pre-production and narrative**
- **filming on location at the building site and in the studio**
- **capturing stories from local residents and community leaders**
- **post-production.**



ROLES

Students involved in multiple overlapping roles, in documentary production roles, often blur the lines between director, producer, editor, videographer and researcher.

The core team consisted:

- **2 Assistant Producers**
- **2 Researchers**
- **1 DoP**
- **2 Videographers**
- **1 Sound Recordist**
- **1 Sound Designer**
- **1 Editor**



STUDENT AND STAFF COLLABORATION

**Learning takes place in real
time in authentic conditions.
(Learning by osmosis -
Signature learning)**



STUDENT AND STAFF COLLABORATION

Working with experienced filmmakers in public spaces and community conversations, where students develop professional level filmmaking skills but also negotiate ethical responsibilities, diverse perspectives, and lived experiences.



STUDENT AND STAFF COLLABORATION

By engaging in a professional documentary production setting and the local community, students move beyond traditional academic frameworks to develop practical, critical, negotiation and communication skills.



MY ROLE AND FINAL ADVICE

Role: Jack of all trades - multitasking and multi-skilling (supported by my documentary background).

Challenge: Students struggle with long-term commitments and long term project planning.

Scaffold the Workflow: Segment the overall project into small, manageable parts.

Maintain Flexibility: Work around students' availability, remain adaptable, and be prepared to adapt and step in when needed.

Active Collaboration: Involve students at every single stage of the process—actively listen to their input and delegate tasks effectively to build ownership.





 **Be Enriched**
Fotis Begklis



 **Iliffe Yard**
Fotis Begklis



 **Little Candles Day**
Fotis Begklis



 **Here to There**
Fotis Begklis



 **Dreams From The Archive**
Fotis Begklis



 **People's Company**
Fotis Begklis

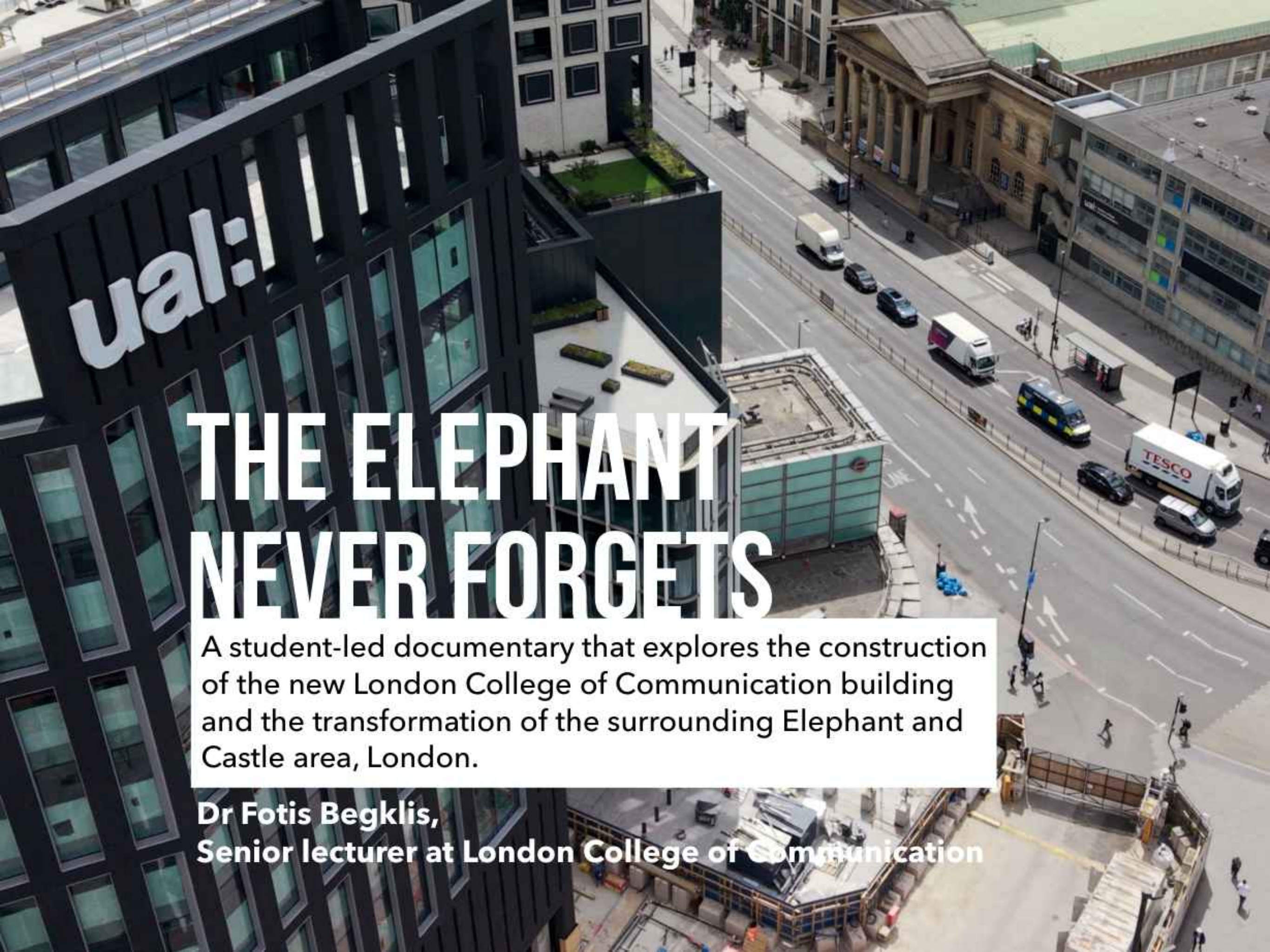
Elephant Stories produced by Get Living

Alex Lewis and The Float Foundation





Trailer 2:00

An aerial photograph of a city street corner. On the left is a modern building with a dark facade and large glass windows, featuring the 'ual:' logo in white. The street is busy with traffic, including a white Tesco truck, a blue bus, and several cars. In the background, there's a classical building with columns. The foreground shows a construction site with scaffolding and materials.

ual:

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