

A person wearing a dark jacket and a hooded hat is walking away from the camera on a dirt path. The path leads through a forest with trees showing autumn colors. In the background, a river flows through a valley, and a large mountain peak is visible under a blue sky with white clouds. A large, mature tree stands on the right side of the path.

Illuminating the Wilderness



**“He really does like the wilds –
the noise of water, the sounds of
the trees. He is not one for detail.
He is more about sensations.”**

Charlotte Moore,
Mother of Sam and George Smith.

THE FILM

Illuminating the Wilderness is a new film production by Project Art Works, conceived and directed by Kate Adams and Tim Corrigan and filmed on location with Ben Rivers, Margaret Salmon and neurodiverse artists and makers, families and carers.

This 38-minute film follows the investigation of a remote Scottish glen over several days and reveals the pleasures and challenges of neurodiverse responses to nature and shared experience. Shot from multiple viewpoints and cameras, the film is unscripted and reveals the subtle fluidity of roles and interactions between this unique and itinerant community away from the practical, attitudinal and social barriers that they face in their everyday lives. Moments of humour and tender consideration for each other unfold in and around the landscape and weather systems of the mountains. The remoteness, scale and indifference of the landscape provides a rare sense of freedom and belonging for everyone involved.

In October, a team of 23 people including six people with complex needs, family members and/or support workers and nine members of the Project Art Works team made their way by a combination of road, rail and air to Glen Affric.

The purpose of this expedition was to give six neurodiverse artist/makers the opportunity to spend time in an extraordinary and unfamiliar landscape, and to record in sound and images what they saw and their responses to it. Also, to live for a week together in a utopian bubble of mutual support where everyone's contribution was equally needed and valued.

CONSENT

Project Art Works has long-term relationships with all the individuals involved in Illuminating the Wilderness and their circles of support.

Risk assessments and fully personalised support plans were created to ensure everyone felt safe and were able to fully participate in the experience.

Choice in participation was an option at all times, if an individual needed or wanted to leave the project the necessary preparations were in place to enable this.

Personalised and flexible support was provided throughout location filming.

Mandy, the mother of Gabby, said: "It was a truly wonderful experience. The environment was accepting of all life – no one was recognised different. Gabby was free to be herself, accepted for who she is. She was happy and calm, wanted and loved, part of something, trusted and respected. We are unused to being so welcomed."

Charlotte, the mother of Sam and George, had no expectations of the trip. "One thing you learn with autism is never to expect anything, because you cannot know what will happen." The film shows Sam clearly hooked by what he is hearing and seeing. She explained: "He really does like the wilds – the noise of water, the sounds of the trees. He is not one for detail. He is more about sensations."

The film records how different responses to the landscape can be and highlights individuality. For different participants it was about listening to the wind, walking fast or running in open space, searching the undergrowth for treasure, turning over a rock to observe a worm, or being unable to stop smiling at the pleasure of being in the open air with friends.

ILLUMINATING THE WILDERNESS

TRANSCRIPT OF DIALOGUE

00.28 Sharif *Singing*

Hello Tim, Oh, Good morning Tim,
Hello Tim, How are you today?

..I'm fine thanks.

..I'm going to tell you the facts
though Tim.

Firstly, I'm not getting married,

Secondly I'm not having kids.

Third, I'm not smoking.

Forth, I'm not drinking any alcohol.

Fifthly, I'm not having any students.

Sixthly, I'm not getting a job
anymore and seventhly I'm not
joining the army anymore as well
then Tim.

I would rather be single and
unemployed though.



01.31 Sharif So the time is 32 to minutes to 10.
Sam and George have gone.

02.22 Charlotte Can you hear something now?
Simon Yeah

03.13 Charlotte George. You see this feather?
What bird do you think it came off?
George I don't know
Charlotte Have a guess
George Is that a pigeon?
Charlotte A pigeon, I think so yeah
Simon I think so as well.

04.19 *Dog Barking*
George What are they?
Charlotte I think they're Collie dogs. Are they
Collie Dogs.
Dog walker Yes, they're Collie Dogs.
George What kind of Collie Dogs?
Charlotte Are they Border Collies?
Dog walker Border Collies.

05.51 Ellen You're making it worse!
Gabby I'm not, I'm only trying to make
it better.

08.24 Paul *whispers* Hello
Rachel Can I sit next to you Paul?
whispers Hello.

09.40 Tia It's a bit too squidgy here to
find money.
Ellen Yeah
Tia I think it will have just sunk into
the ground.
Ellen Might find some lost some change
out here.
Tia You did find some today so
that's good.

11.28 Kate Okay
That's it.



12.15 Sharif Where we going to now Tom?
 Tom We're going to go up to the carpark.
 Sharif Yeah
 Tom Where we were yesterday.
 Sharif Yeah
 Tom And then we're gonna.... people are going to make the decision on whether they want to go up to the bothy in a jeep or walk.
 Sharif Yeah
 Tom Now, walking is 6 miles, so what do you think, do we walk it, or jeep it?
 Sharif Errrr..... Jeep it.
 Tom Okay



14.39 Andy So we're going to walk all the way to the bothy where Dan will be later.



17.51 Ellen There you go.
 And there, it's got caught in my bag.
 Kate They want to go because Gabbys gone to the car and sitting in it..... so everybody's leaving apart from us and Sharif and Paul.
 Tom Bye Tia, Bye Ellen.
 Ellen Bye Tim, Bye Tom, Bye Margaret.
 Margaret Bye
 Tia You've all got each other to keep each other warm, you can just get in a pile!
 Tom That sounds gross.
 Tia *laughing*
 Tom Especially after that walking.

19.23 Sharif So I heard Sharif is getting a new debit card is that right Tim?
 Tim Is that right? Be careful of the eggs, Sharif that they don't go over the side.
 Sharif Did you just sneeze there Dion?
 Dion I didn't, no.
 Sharif No

Dion Did you hear something?
 Sharif Yeah actually, was it you Marley? Was it you Ben? Was it you Margaret?
 Margaret No
 Sharif Was it you, Tim? Nope? Think it must have been Paul though.

20.16 Dan Hello, you look well! You look well.
 Kate Do you want to sit down. You want to sit down? Let's sit you down.
 Dan *whispers* By the fire.
 Kate Here. Move over Paul.
 Dan Here.
 Dan Have you been hanging out with Dion? All these people?
 Kate Yes, It's brilliant, yeah.
 Dan *whispers* All these people..... In Scotland!
 Sharif Scotland, How's Scotland though Paul?
 Kate How is it Sharif?
 Sharif Excellent. I love you Paul.

21.18 **Kate** How many of us are there, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight.
Sharif What time do you go to bed though Tim then?
Tim Tonight?
Sharif Yeah
Tim I don't know, to be honest with you.
Sharif Why do you not know though Tim then?
Is it because there's not much television here though Tim?
Tim No television is there?
Sharif No. Is it because it's very boring here though Tim. Is that why you don't know what time you're going to bed though Tim?
22.46 **Andy** I'll top your mug up with water.
23.08 **Tom** Yeah
Andy Friends, we're all friends.
Tom We're all friends.
Andy Amongst friends.
Tom We're good friends.

23.31 **Tom** It's good, it's good.
Yeah. I saw a deer out there this morning and then it was gone. It was gone.
23.44 **Sharif** But... no fake sneezing, no fake snuffs and no fake nose blows because Paul don't like it.
Kate Ok, alright, so to the middle? Shake it out.
Are you going to come to me or I to you? There, you fold it first.
Sharif There we go.
Kate Thank you Sharif.
Sharif You're welcome.





25.47 Dan What have you got?
Drive.
Sharif Drive.
Dan Drive, I want to drive.
Sharif I want to drive.
Kate Andy?
Andy I spy with my little eye something beginning with 'L'.
Dan L! Something beginning with L. What could that be? What was that?
Lichen.
Andy Lichen.
Dion Yeah?
Andy Yeah.
Dion I spy with my little eye something beginning with P.
Dan P! what could it be?
Paul Hello
Dan Hello. What could it be Paul?
Sharif?
Paul Hello, hello.
Dan P, P, P
Paul Hello
Dan Hello

27.31 Sharif Vacation in America with you, is that right Tim?
Tim Yeah, I remember you told me.
31.10 Dan Well, Paul speaks in my dreams.
Sharif Yeah
Dan And, he disappears, and I can't find him.
Sharif Yeah. That's your nightmare. When did you have that nightmare about it then.
Dan Sometime this year.
Sharif This year.
Do you have any pets then Dan, then.
Dan I do, I have a cat.
Sharif Has your cat had any dreams before though Dan?
Dan I tried to ask it, but it wouldn't tell me. It went 'meow'.
Sharif Has your cat have any nightmares before Dan?

32.03 Marley Hi Ellen, you alright?
Ellen Yeah, I'm alright.
Marley Good, good. You doing a treasure hunt?
Ellen Erm yeah!
Ellen Found one!
Oh dear, here comes the rain. I'm getting good at this.
Ahaaa.
I see one.
Oh. No more over here then?
Ah!
Hey Tim, I think I've found them all.
Tim I don't know if you have, do you want to carry on looking, there might be some more.
Ellen Round here?
Tim I think there are more over this way.
Ellen Oh, Okay.
This is fun. This is so nice. And they're filming me.
I think I see a, a, a frog!
Look a frog!
Sharif Ribbit.

Ellen Sharif, you're soo sm...
I am lucky
Oh let's leave him alone okay?
Or her. We're not sure if it's a boy
or a girl so.

35.14 Gabby(?) *singing*

36.01 All *Singing* Happy birthday to you,
happy birthday to you, happy
birthday dear Tia, Happy Birthday
to you.

Tia *crying*

Tom Nice one Ellen.

Sharif Sharif's at the bothy, he saying...
He's saying, I need the window
open, I have a nose problem, I
have a problem with sinuses I have
allergies though.

38.04 Ellen Well, that's lovely that you're
filming this.

Annis It's nice to be filmed isn't it?
What do you think of being filmed
by a big old camera like that?

Ellen Well I feel like a movie star now.

Annis Oh yeah, you are, action!

Ellen *smiling* Except I don't get paid
a lot of money though..



ILLUMINATING THE WILDERNESS PEOPLE

EXPLORERS FAMILIES AND SUPPORT

Ellen Prebble
Gabby R
Sharif Persaud
George Smith
Sam Smith
Paul Colley
projectartworks.org/makers/

Mandy - Accompanying parent
Charlotte Moore - Accompanying parent
Simon White – Family member
Tia Bourne Wager - Support Worker
Andrew Cooper - Specialist Support Worker
Lee Huthwayte - Specialist Support Worker
Daniel Marshall – Senior Specialist Support Worker

PROJECT ART WORKS

**On Location –
Direction, cinematography and sound**

Kate Adams – Artist Director and CEO
Tim Corrigan – Creative Director
Marley Cole – Location recording and sound design

ARTISTS AND MAKERS

Patricia Finnegan – Lead Artist
Annis Joslin – Lead Artist
Rachel Hine – Lead Artist
Thomas Lepora – Studio Artist
Dion Downes – Support Artist

Martin Swan – EXPLORERS Project Coordinator
Anne-Marie Watson – EXPLORERS Project Administrator

ON LOCATION – CINEMATOGRAPHY

Margaret Salmon – margaretsalmon.info
Ben Rivers – benrivers.com

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Trees for Life – treesforlife.org.uk
An Teallach Mountaineering Club – atmc.org.uk
Tomich Holidays – tomich-holidays.co.uk

EXPLORERS is a three-year programme of creative investigations through collaborations with neurodiverse communities and cultural organisations across the UK and in Australia.

EXPLORERS is taking place against a backdrop of increased hardship and marginalisation of vulnerable people. The project celebrates and raises awareness of the dynamic, extraordinary contribution neurodiverse communities make to society, art and culture.

For information visit explorersproject.org.

Partners include: Autograph, De La Warr Pavilion, Fabrica, MK Gallery, Photoworks, Tate Liverpool, East Sussex County Council, Hastings Borough Council, NSW, National Institute for Experimental Arts

About Project Art Works

Project Art Works is a leading visual artist-led organisation working with people who have complex needs and the people, systems and services that support them; improving lives through advocacy and art.

For information visit projectartworks.org.

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**“It was fantastic, amazing. I really enjoyed it.
It was an unforgettable experience”**

Gabby R on her trip to Glen Affric, March 2019