

COUCH CONNECTIONS

A documentary about Couchsurfing
by Christoph Pehofer



www.couch-connections.com

Directed / Filmed / Written / Edited by **CHRISTOPH PEHOFR**
Written by **MANUEL PAMMER** Music **THOMAS BÖCK, FELIX RAUCHWARTER, SEBASTIAN SEIDL**
Sound Mixing **TOBIAS SCHREIBER** Sound Studio **BLAUTÖNE** Colorist **MANUEL PORTSCHY**
Title Animation **SHIR CATZ, ZOHAR LEE KATZ** Executive Producer **ANDREAS GESIERICH**

PINGPONG
COMMUNICATIONS

PRODUCTION

Ping Pong Communications GmbH
Andreas Gesierich
Hütteldorfer Straße 36/17
1150 Vienna
gesierich@pingpong.at

DISTRIBUTOR

pipo FILM CONNECTIONS e.U.
Christoph Pehofer
Carl-Appel Straße 7/32/4
1100 Vienna
+43 660 35 444 82
hello@couch-connections.com



„EVERY FRIEND
WAS ONCE A
STRANGER.”

— Rishav, my host from India



SYNOPSIS

9 MONTHS – 9 COUNTRIES – 53 COUCHES

Christoph Pehofer took a nine-month journey through North America and Asia. Staying in hostels was a rare alternative. What he did instead was sleeping in complete strangers' living rooms - Couchsurfing is the concept behind this.

To go on a world trip sleeping mainly on strangers' couches has absolutely nothing to do with high standard, big expectations and comfort. The only motivation is to establish contacts and socialise with people from all over the world, who are as diverse as possible, while having a place to stay. It's likely that the desire to engage with foreign cultures as well as to get to know their way of living, played a considerable role too. The open-mindedness towards the unknown is what constitutes the actual joy of it and offers a new surprise time and again.

In a world full of barriers, building bridges between cultures is often linked with fear, caution and sometimes even rejection. That's why this film has been made: it shows that sometimes it only takes a few steps towards other people to establish wonderful friendships. Why not start by sharing something personal? Why not start by inviting them to your living room, to talk, to laugh, to exchange. All that sitting on a couch!

LOGLINE

The world seems to separate people more than connecting them.

A private couch shows a place of approach and strangers becoming friends.

CHRISTOPH PEHOFER is tired of hearing stereotypes and clichés and would therefore like to demonstrate with this film, that we are all equal and that we can trust each other, no matter where we're from or which skin colour, religion, sex or sexuality we have! With this movie and your help I wanna show that the world is not an evil place, but that it is full of wonderful people.

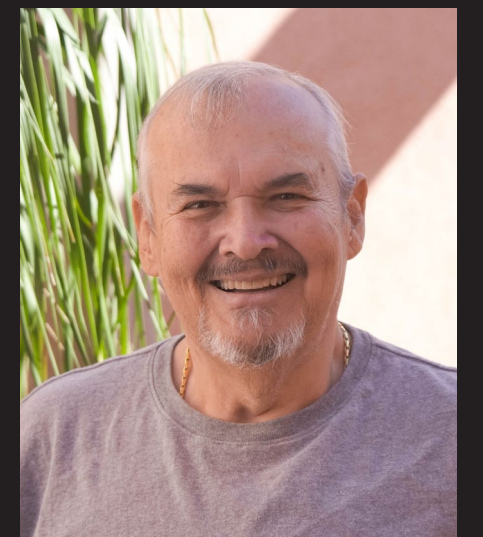
Hopping from couch to couch is clearly the answer to this wish. My personal peak of hosting travellers in Vienna was in the summer of 2016. I never got tired of listening to all of them told me about their stories and I finally felt an urge to get active myself. I therefore decided to quit my job about one year later in August 2017 and I booked a one-way ticket to Canada.

Christoph discovered Couchsurfing thanks to my cousin. He even met his Chilean wife, who is now a part of our family, through this way of travelling. Since then I have often welcomed strangers in my home, who quickly became my friends. This is the biggest gift Couchsurfing offers you – worldwide friendships. Not many people can claim to have friends all over the world.

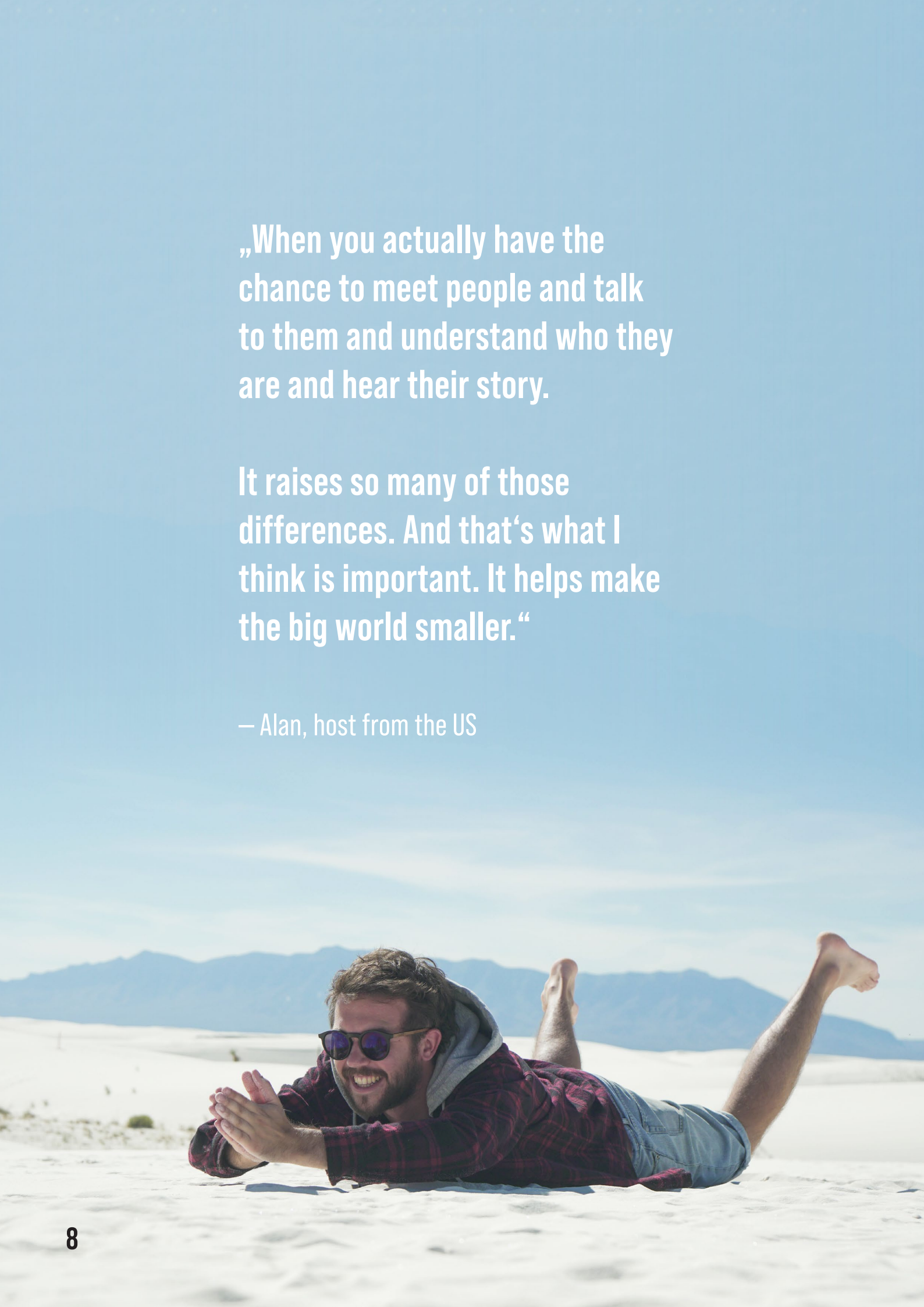
„For me travelling is not about seeing as many different places as possible. It is about meeting people from all around the world.“

— Christoph Pehofer

CHARACTERS



The main focus of the film is on the people which participate in Couchsurfing and their great diversity. My hosts couldn't have been more different from one another: from a 21-year-old student in a student dorm, to a family in which three generations take part in Couchsurfing, to a nudist in Manhattan and a transgender in Bangkok.



„When you actually have the chance to meet people and talk to them and understand who they are and hear their story.

It raises so many of those differences. And that's what I think is important. It helps make the big world smaller.“

— Alan, host from the US

CREDITS

DIRECTED / FILMED / WRITTEN / EDITED BY Christoph Pehofer

WRITTEN BY Manuel Pammer

MUSIC Thomas Böck, Felix Rauchwarter, Sebastian Seidl

SOUND MIXING Tobias Schreiber (Blautöne)

COLORIST Manuel Portschy

TITLE ANIMATION Shir Catz, Zohar Lee Katz

GRAPHIC DESIGN Christiane Wallner-Haas

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER Andreas Gesierich

TECHNICAL DETAILS

GENRE Documentary

LENGTH 75 min

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE English

FORMAT DCP

ASPECT - RATIO 16:9

FRAMES/SEC 24

AUDIO 5.1, stereo

FURTHER INFORMATIOS

PRODUCED IN Austria

FILMED IN Austria, Canada, USA, South Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, India

PRODUCTION 2017 – 2020

CINEMA START **JANUARY 13TH 2020**

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