Making a Town Film (B1 · English B1)

Tekst / Transcript

Last spring our small town library decided to make a film about its own history. Nobody there had made a film before, so the whole idea felt a little crazy. The director of the library, Mrs Barnes, put a note on the door and asked for volunteers. Within a week, eleven people had joined the group. I came because I wanted to learn something new, and because I like old photographs.

Our first job was research. In the back room we found a dusty album full of black and white pictures of the old market square. Under the pictures, someone had written short notes in French. Mrs Barnes asked me to translate them, because I had studied the language at school. My translation was not perfect, but it explained who the people were and what they were selling. We also found a farmer's journal from 1912, where a man had written about the weather and his animals almost every single day. Those pages gave us the heart of our story.

The technical side was harder. We borrowed a camera from the college, but the sound did not work at all. Someone from the IT department came over on Friday and looked at the equipment for an hour. He found that one cable was broken and simply replaced it. After that, everything worked. We filmed for six weekends, sometimes in the rain. In the evenings, Mrs Barnes sent a short update by email so that everyone knew what was still missing.

By September our little documentary was finished. It lasted forty minutes and it showed real people talking about real memories. A local channel agreed to show it on a Sunday evening, which surprised us all. Mrs Barnes wanted to announce the date at the summer festival, but she waited until the film was truly ready. In the end she made the announcement from the library steps, and about a hundred people clapped. The newspaper wrote about us too, and the headline said "Town remembers itself on film". We also paid for the printing of two hundred small posters, and volunteers put them in every shop window. On the night of the broadcast, I sat with my parents and felt very proud.

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