

# THE WATERLINE

IT COULD BE HEAVEN, IT COULD BE HELL.



*From the most dangerous jobs and remote places to the luxury decks of giant cruise ships, chasing a desire called happiness.*

Documentary | Social Impact Strategy  
State of Development: Research & Development

© PRIMI PIANI 2023

## DOCUMENTARY

### Short Synopsis and Characters

The characters narrated below are based on people we encountered in these years of research. Although none of them has been chosen yet, the situations described are inspired by actual events.

In Mauritania's Sahara desert, a man returns from an illegal gold dig, treasures in hand, and embarks on a gruelling 16-hour journey on a two-kilometer iron ore freight train. He helps supply villages along the rail line, finds solace in prayer, and finally reunites with his mother in Nouadhibou.

In Monfalcone, Italy, a diverse workforce cycles to the shipyard, constructing vessels. Among them is a worker dreaming of a cruise but forbidden from enjoying the ships he builds. He prepares for a video call marriage ceremony with a Bangladeshi woman. The town's streets teem with black immigrants, a significant part of the population.

Off the Caribbean, two widows embark on their first cruise, savouring luxury and entertainment,

but occasionally feeling disquiet. They ponder the enormity of the ship and the crew's origins.

In the Gulf of Gadani, Pakistan, a young boy watches a cruise ship head for the beach. He aspires to be a soccer player but helps support his family by working in a ship-breaking factory. His mother dreams of her older son's safe return. On his day off, the boy visits Gadani beach, observing tourists obsessed with selfies and smartphones.

Elsewhere, electric go-karts silently race on a cruise ship's three-story track amidst fjords and lush forests.

Regardless of the living conditions of the characters - is it the search for relief or the pursuit of happiness disguised as entertainment - a silent question emerges along the way:

***- While looking for personal happiness,  
what is the human price paid to craft this massive entertainment?***



## Subject

A colossal cruise ship, a floating holiday haven, nears completion for international voyages. From material extraction to old ship dismantling, it provides a platform for people, whether workers or passengers, to express hopes for a brighter future and seek happiness. They tread the fine line between seeking refuge for survival and yearning for an escape from daily routines.

## Authors Note

The immense floating mirror of society compels us to seek fresh answers to pressing contemporary questions. Here, we confront our power and responsibilities as individuals and consumers. The ship sets sail, but are we, both individually and collectively, pursuing happiness in the right way?

## Cinematic Approach

The documentary blends observational scenes with intimate moments, as characters navigate the boundaries of their aspirations. The striking scenery, demanding work, lengthy journeys, and colossal vessels speak volumes. When the characters do speak, their words carry significant weight. Their dreams and the juxtaposition of their challenging yet luxurious lives paint a vivid contrast, revealing hidden layers of irony. This invites the audience to reflect on themselves while savouring a bittersweet truth.

[WATCH THE CONCEPT TEASER →](#)

[WATCH THE RESEARCH MATERIALS →](#)

[READ THE EXTENDED PRESENTATION →](#)

## SOCIAL IMPACT STRATEGY

In collaboration with [NGO Shipbreaking Platform](#), [The Ocean Opportunity Lab](#), and [IndustriALL Global Union](#), we seek to forge new partnerships with organizations and stakeholders in the cruise ship production chain. This strategy addresses concerns from a global community and aligns with the [Ship Recycling Regulation](#) for the EU Parliament. The project advances five of the 2030 United Nations' [SDGs](#).



## COME ABOARD!

- **Production Companies**  
Especially if active in the 5 locations of interest.
- **Academicians and Experts**  
Individuals with knowledge and experience in the production chain, law, labor rights, and environmental care.
- **NGOs and Foundations**  
Public and private entities, NGOs, associations, and national and international foundations involved with the project's main issues.
- **Stakeholders**  
Companies, investors, and activists involved, at various levels, in the civil society and the Green Energy transition to promote the project and its Social Impact Strategy goals.

## ABOUT US

We've captured human stories in diverse settings worldwide, from war-torn zones to bustling megacities. With expertise in video, photography, and project management across various sectors, we craft tailored impact strategies that align seamlessly with our films, causes, and audiences.

## CONTACT

[primipiani.net](http://primipiani.net) [info@primipiani.net](mailto:info@primipiani.net) +39 340 0785089

PRODUCED BY



SUPPORTED BY



SELECTED BY

