



*Lëtzebuurger an
Argentinien*



Shrouded in mystery, dive into the seldom-told tale of Luxembourg's emigration to Argentina.

Unearthing forgotten roots, descendants of Luxembourgish immigrants to Argentina embark on a transformative journey of discovery, challenging generational misconceptions and rekindling a cultural heritage that bridges two distinct worlds.



OVERVIEW

In "Lëtzebuerger an Argentinien," the fascinating tale of Luxembourgers who migrated to Argentina is unveiled, chronicling their challenges, adaptability, and the ensuing generations' efforts to rediscover their ancestral roots.

The documentary sheds light on two significant waves of Luxembourgish immigration to Argentina in the 19th century, emphasizing both their initial hardships and eventual triumphs.

Pioneers, driven by varied reasons, from evading poverty to new beginnings, faced untold adversities such as forced Spanish language assimilation and misleading prospects. However, Luxembourgish values like work ethic, punctuality, and gratitude remained the foundation of their descendants' identity.



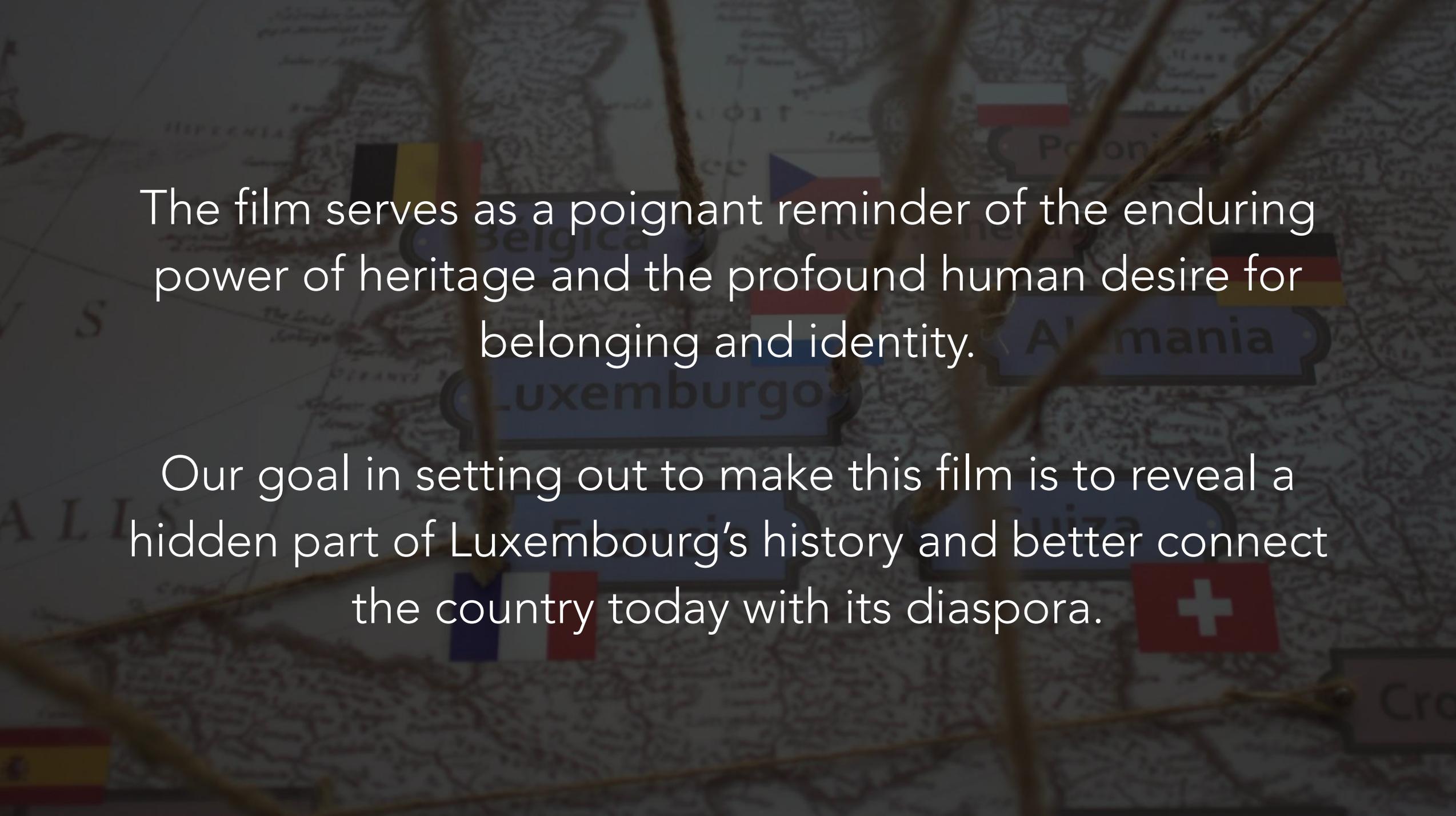
OVERVIEW

Fast forward to the 21st century, many of these descendants, sparked by the surge in the pursuit of genealogy during the Covid-19 lockdown, began uncovering their true Luxembourgish heritage, correcting generations of misconceptions that they were "Germans".

This newfound knowledge ignited a fervor to reconnect with their Luxembourg roots, leading to the establishment of communities and organizations like the Argentina Luxembourg Association.

As the documentary wraps, it turns its lens towards the future, where some descendants express aspirations of returning to Luxembourg, while others aim to fortify and celebrate their Luxembourgish traditions in Argentina.





The film serves as a poignant reminder of the enduring power of heritage and the profound human desire for belonging and identity.

Our goal in setting out to make this film is to reveal a hidden part of Luxembourg's history and better connect the country today with its diaspora.



PRODUCER'S STATEMENT

In 2014, I [reclaimed Luxembourgish citizenship through ancestry](#). This ignited an aspiration within me - to champion the image and culture of Luxembourg on the global stage. Since then, I've done so by building a community of over 1,500 Luxembourg dual citizens in the United States.

Yet, it was the discovery of the Luxembourgish immigration story to Latin America, particularly Argentina, that truly captivated my heart. In April 2023, I set out on a 1,250-kilometer expedition across Argentina. There, countless hours of interviews unveiled the rich tapestry of the Luxembourgers in the country.

Thus began the conception of *Lëtzebuenger an Argentinien*, a documentary vision brought to life with the collaboration of Astor SCHIANTARELLI, an Argentine director that we discovered in our first call is also a Luxembourgish dual citizen. Together, we aim to shed light on this overlooked part of Luxembourg's history and diaspora. As dual citizens through ancestry, we both are uniquely positioned to narrate this tale with authenticity, bridging the past with the present, and working to unite continents.

Our hope is for this documentary to not only chronicle an untold story but also to amplify Luxembourg's multifaceted identity in the global landscape.

Daniel ATZ, Producer

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

For me, the pursuit of origin – the question of 'where do I come from?' – has always held profound weight. Childhood tales of my family's migration from Europe to Argentina painted pictures of a distant fairy tale. Yet, a journey in 2016 to meet family in Schwebach and Saeul, Luxembourg, ignited a passion to connect our stories across continents, reaffirming the significance of these family ties.

Seven years on, serendipity introduced me to Daniel and his dedication to bridging dual citizenship and promoting Luxembourg's culture. My belief in cinema is unwavering; it's a collaborative endeavor to chase shared dreams. Through this documentary, we aim to breathe life into tales of the past that echo in the present. My vision is for viewers, regardless of their origins, to experience intimacy with the Luxembourgish descendants, to sit beside them, listen, and delve into their stories.

In capturing these narratives, the settings – both grand and humble – play a vital role. Through expansive shots, we're embedding the viewer into the landscapes of Argentina and Luxembourg, unveiling their unique beauty. Furthermore, music will be the pulse of this documentary, connecting individual family sagas with the universal journey to discover one's roots.

This project deepened my bond to my Luxembourgish heritage. I hope that through our lens, viewers too will feel an intrinsic connection to the stories we share, and in them, find reflections of their own quests for identity.

Astor SCHIANTARELLI, Director



Film Style

A silhouette scene of a lake at sunset. In the foreground, a person stands on the grassy shore with a dog. In the middle ground, a small boat is on the water with two people inside. The background shows a dark treeline and a building under a warm, orange sky.

- 50-minute documentary
- Interview-based
- Led by narrator
- Featuring family photographs and juxtaposed visuals that align with the personal stories being told
- Dark visual aesthetics inspired by Argentine culture
- Accentuated by Argentine animation and music

MAIN CHARACTERS

In the 19th century, over 500 brave Luxembourgers made the unpredictable migratory journey to Argentina, most never to return to their homeland.

Today, 500 of their descendants spread across Argentina have obtained citizenship through ancestry in Luxembourg. Moreover, countless others have not pursued the citizenship, and yet they seek to connect with their ancestral homeland all the same.

Some of the Argentine Luxembourgers we interviewed include:

- Veronica GEESE from Esperanza, a former Energy Minister of her province
- Hector FISCHBACH from Paraná, one of the Founders of the Argentina Luxembourg Association
- Julio HARTMANN from Rosario, whose Luxembourgish grandfather immigrated to Argentina after World War I
- Horacio DIFFERDING from Rosario, who helped unite a community of Luxembourgish descendants in the 1990s
- Pablo CERSO from Rosario, the president of the AMAP Casa de Luxemburgo schools in the city



Main Locations



ESPERANZA, ARGENTINA

- Argentina's first planned agricultural colony
- Site of first Luxembourgish immigration in the 1850s
- 2 Luxembourgish families among the founders

- Home to descendants of the 2nd wave of Luxembourgish immigration
- Headquarters of the Argentina Luxembourg Association

PARANÁ, ARGENTINA

ROSARIO, ARGENTINA

- Argentina's second metropolitan area
- Luxembourgish descendants met here in the 1990s
- Hometown of Lionel Messi

- Schools located in impoverished areas of Rosario
- Founded in the 1980s, funded by Luxembourg charity
- Where the Rosario Luxembourgers met in the 1990s

CASA DE LUXEMBURGO

MUSIC

We believe that music is one of the main elements that connect the audience with our story. Music is also a key part of Argentine and Luxembourgish history and identity.

As our story seeks to bridge the gap between Argentina and Luxembourg, so does our music.

We hired a tango ensemble from Mar del Plata, Argentina to play some of the most famous Luxembourgish songs in traditional Argentine style.

Sample: <https://luxcitizenship.com/ons-heemecht-tango.mp3>

Beyond the music we created for this documentary, we also have selected both songs specific to the regions of Argentina where the Luxembourgers settled as well as international music that helps build on strong emotions.





Visuals



Lëtzebuenger an Argentinien

- Visuals -



Lëtzebuenger an Argentinien

- Visuals -



Lëtzebuenger an Argentinien

- Visuals -



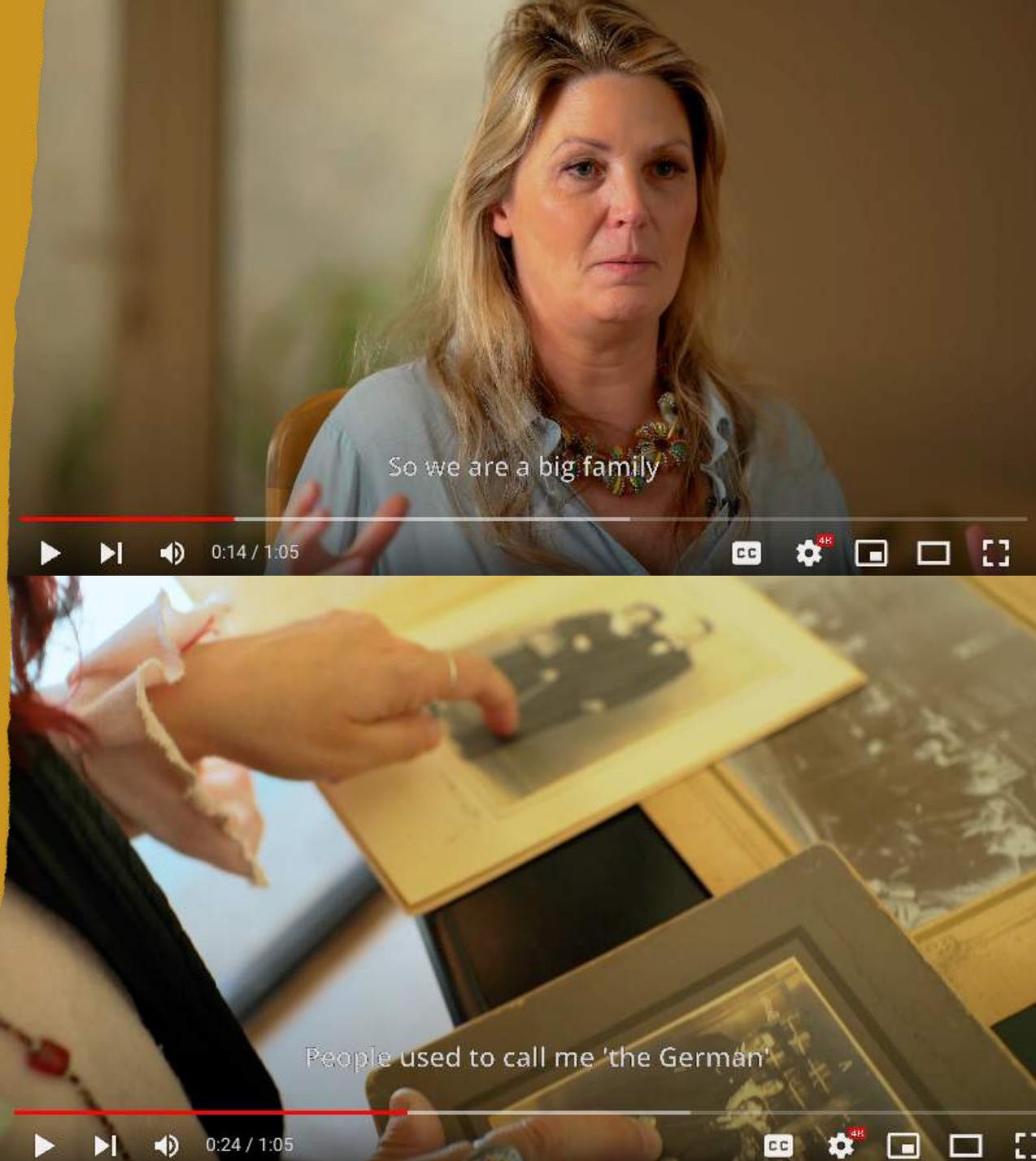
Lëtzebuenger an Argentinien

- Visuals -

The Trailer

CLICK THE LINK BELOW:

<https://youtu.be/8L1MfarzvTg>





ASK

Lëtzebuenger an Argentinien has the potential to make both a groundbreaking documentary **and help connect the Grand-Duchy to its diaspora.**

We are currently looking for connections to:

- Luxembourg-based and international Production Companies
- Institutional partners

TEAM



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Producer



Astor SCHIANTARELLI  
Director



Milagros AQUILIA  
Director of Photography



Karolina GJORGJIEVSKA 
Editor



Lauren LOWELL 
Translation & Project Management



Stephanie MECHURA  
Advisor



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