

He came from
nothing.

He gave them
everything.

TRANSCENDENTAL MEDIA PRESENTS

la source

Narrated by DON CHEADLE
Featuring Music by SIGUR ROS

Directed by PATRICK SHEN
Produced by JORDAN WAGNER, PATRICK SHEN & BRANDON VEDDER
Written & Edited by PATRICK SHEN & BRANDON VEDDER



LA SOURCE

A film by Patrick Shen
Narrated by Don Cheadle

Running Time

71 minutes

Language

English & Haitian Creole

Year Completed

2012

Website

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PRODUCTION COMPANY

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PR CONTACT

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For Immediate Release

DIRECTOR PATRICK SHEN'S **LA SOURCE**, THE UNLIKELY STORY OF
A PRINCETON JANITOR WHO BRINGS WATER TO HIS HOME VILLAGE IN HAITI,
TO PLAY IN NEW YORK AND LOS ANGELES AS PART OF
DOCUWEEKS™ THEATRICAL SHOWCASE AUGUST 3-16

Narrated by Oscar Nominee Don Cheadle, the film premiered at the 2012
AFI-Discovery Channel Silverdocs Film Festival.

In *La Source* (pronounced lah-soos), Haiti water does not come easily. Each day, villagers of this small, rural community must choose between enduring a long, treacherous walk to retrieve clean water or drink contaminated water from a nearby river. For over 30 years, the villagers have attempted to address this problem by constructing a means of channeling the water from a natural spring in the mountains, but with limited funding and an unsupportive government their attempts to provide clean water were to no avail.

Since he was a teenager, Josue Lajeunesse, along with his brother Chrismedonne have dreamt of remedying this problem for their people. In 1989, Josue moved from La Source to New Jersey where he found employment as a custodian at Princeton University. His custodial work and second job as a taxi driver, which total close to 20 hours a day, allows him to send money home to La Source so that he and Chrismedonne, a bricklayer in La Source, could work on channeling the water from the mountain into their village.

First introduced to audiences in Director Patrick Shen's critically-acclaimed and multiple award-winning documentary, *The Philosopher Kings*, Josue Lajeunesse has inspired thousands through his story of selflessness and resilience. Since the sold-out premiere screenings of *The Philosopher Kings* at AFI-Discovery Channel's Silverdocs Film Festival in 2009, audiences everywhere have rallied around Josue and donated to his cause of completing a fresh water system for the inhabitants of La Source. "It was at our Silverdocs Q&A that I had the realization that my involvement with Josue's story was far from over," says Shen. "The first hand that went up led to a whole discussion about how others could get involved with Josue and his efforts to bring water to La Source and that became a recurring thing at every screening of the film."

Amidst all of this, a massive earthquake ravaged Haiti in 2010 and sent the country into a tailspin while the rest of the globe sprung into action to come to its aid. Meanwhile for Shen and his team, what began as a humanitarian endeavor to help Josue, quickly evolved into a new follow up film about Josue, his return to Haiti for the first time post-earthquake, and his decades-long struggle to save the people of his village. "We were unsure as to whether or not this would become a film someday. We just knew something powerful and amazing was happening."

Our journey to La Source takes us on an adventure as the Lajeunesse brothers work together to rally the support of a group of Princeton students, a Los Angeles-based charity called Generosity Water, and the people of La Source to fulfill their dream of improving the conditions of their impoverished village. *La Source* is not simply a movie about clean water and community transformation. It is a story of one man, empowered by a vision, who was able to ignite the passion of people thousands of miles away to change lives in La Source forever. Where water runs, life flows.

Transcendental Media presents LA SOURCE.
Narrated by Don Cheadle; Directed by Patrick Shen;
Produced by Patrick Shen, Jordan Wagner and Brandon Vedder;
Written, Shot & Edited by Patrick Shen & Brandon Vedder.

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La Source

Narrated by Academy Award nominee
DON CHEADLE

"Some documentaries just make you feel good about the world and the people in it and 'La Source' is definitely one of those."

- Kenneth Turan, *L.A. Times*

"A REALLY BEAUTIFUL MOVIE THAT I COULD TOTALLY SEE GETTING INTO THE CONVERSATION AROUND OSCAR TIME."

- *ComingSoon.net*

"Directed by Patrick Shen and narrated by the lovely Don Cheadle with music by Sigur Ros, La Source is cut from exceptional talent."

- *Huffington Post*

"(★★★★) La Source is a real life fairytale, where a once hopeless romantic ideal catches fire and ultimately, the dream comes true."

- Cameron McAllister, *Reel Georgia*

"Patrick Shen's artfully shot documentary.."

- Stephanie Murrey, *Washington Post*

"FASCINATING AND AFFECTING"

- Steve Pond, *The Wrap*

"This film offers terrific images that allude to internal states, loneliness and worry, resolve and poise."

- Cynthia Fuchs, *PopMatters*

"an uplifting story of humanitarianism and development stemming from the local level."

- Basil Tsiokos, *IndieWire*

"..one has to be the most dedicated of cynics to remain unmoved.."

- Scott Wold, *Paste Magazine*


"I've seen this movie twice, and there were tears and cheers both times."

- Dan Schindel, *Current Movie Reviews*



TRANSCENDENTAL MEDIA PRESENTS A FILM BY PATRICK SHEN "LA SOURCE"
NARRATED BY DON CHEADLE MUSIC BY MATEO MESSINA FEATURING MUSIC BY SIGUR ROS
CINEMATOGRAPHY BY PATRICK SHEN BRANDON VEDDER EDITED BY PATRICK SHEN BRANDON VEDDER
PRODUCED BY JORDAN WAGNER PATRICK SHEN BRANDON VEDDER DIRECTED BY PATRICK SHEN



www.LaSourceMovie.com |  [@LaSourceMovie](https://twitter.com/LaSourceMovie)

LOGLINE

After an earthquake devastates his beloved country, a Haitian Princeton janitor seeks the support of the privileged community he serves everyday and sacrifices everything to revive his lifelong dream to bring what is most fundamental to his village's survival; clean water.

SYNOPSIS

Narrated by Oscar-nominated actor Don Cheadle (*Hotel Rwanda*, *Crash*), in what The Washington Post calls an "artfully shot documentary," *La Source* tells the uplifting story of Josue Lajuenesse, a Haitian Princeton janitor who returns to his country after the devastating 2010 earthquake to revive his lifelong dream to bring what is most fundamental to his village's survival; clean water.

A hit at the 2012 AFI-Discovery Channel Silverdocs Documentary Festival where it received a standing ovation and a nomination for the Social Impact Award, this film from award-winning Director Patrick Shen (*Flight from Death: The Quest for Immortality*, *The Philosopher Kings*) is not just a movie about clean water and community transformation; it is a story of one unlikely hero, empowered by a vision, who did whatever it took to ignite the passion of people thousands of miles away to change the lives of those in La Source forever.

THE SOCIAL ACTION CAMPAIGN

Water Projects: The project in La Source brought water to more than 5,000 people, but almost half of Haiti's population still lacks access to clean water. The La Source Campaign will bring clean and safe drinking water to over 10,000 people in 20 communities throughout Haiti. To ensure the quality and sustainability of our work, we're partnering with Generosity Water, to make it happen.

School Project: Now that La Source has access to clean water, Josue's new dream is to build a school in the community. Right now, the children of La Source have to cross a river to reach a school that's miles away. During the rainy season, this river is too high to cross, forcing students to fall behind and even drop out. By partnering with Generosity Water and Operation Blessing team featured in the film, we'll give over 150 students the opportunity to gain an education.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Making films never go as planned and it's always a trip to see how far things come and how different it all looks from what you first imagined by the end of the process. Never in a million years could I have imagined that what began as a humanitarian gesture to help a friend would lead to sitting in a studio with Oscar-nominated actor Don Cheadle to record the narration for *La Source*. Things got even weirder when we learned that Don had literally just come from George Clooney's house where he spent the morning playing basketball with President Obama.

I first met Josue while making my previous documentary *The Philosopher Kings*, a meditation on the lives and wisdom of janitors employed at universities in the United States. In that film audiences got a glimpse into Josue's dream to bring clean water to his village and his struggles to accomplish that. *The Philosopher Kings* premiered at the 2009 Silverdocs to sold-out crowds and it was there that I had the realization that my involvement with Josue was far from over. The first hand that went up at the Silverdocs Q&A led to a whole discussion about how others could get involved with Josue and his efforts to bring clean water to La Source. That went on to become a recurring thing at every screening of the film.

It was also at Silverdocs that same year that I met Jordan Wagner, the Executive Director of a Los Angeles-based organization called Generosity Water, which funds and builds water projects in developing nations. I explained to him that with all the interest in helping Josue, we'd need someone to help him with fundraising and constructing the water project in La Source if and when all the money could be raised. Serendipitously, Jordan explained to me that they had been looking for a way to get involved in Haiti and was eager to discuss further back in Los Angeles. Weeks later, we had arranged for Josue and Jordan to meet and nearly instantly, things were off and running.

After the earthquake devastated Haiti in 2010, the world's relationship with Haiti changed forever as it watched the poorest country in the western hemisphere struggle to rebuild with virtually no infrastructure and after having lost hundreds of thousands of their people. Josue had lost nearly a dozen family members in the disaster and was even more determined, if such a thing is even possible, to bring what was most fundamental to his village's survival; clean water.

Before we knew it, the whole fundraising effort was firing on all cylinders and by July 2010 approximately \$40,000 had been raised to complete this water project that Josue had dreamt of for decades. An incredible story about a man on the brink of fulfilling a lifelong dream to change the lives of thousands of people was unfolding before our eyes and we were obligated to capture it, with or without funding (in our case, without). We were unsure as to whether or not this would become a film someday. We just knew something powerful and amazing was happening. All of the chaos, struggle, tears and triumph we witnessed in the three years since that first hand shot up at Silverdocs became what is *La Source* and a chapter in my life that'll define who I am for the remainder of my time on this planet. I hope this film serves as a reminder of the power of what a committed individual with a singular focus can accomplish.

- Patrick Shen, Director



*Behind the scenes with Director/Producer Patrick Shen and Producers Jordan Wagner & Brandon Vedder
Photo by Jess Koehler*

CHARACTER BIOS

Josue Lajeunesse

Josue grew up in La Source, Haiti, a rural village 50 miles from the capital of Port-au-prince. Without electricity or plumbing, the residents of La Source have to make a physically taxing hike to the nearby mountain for clean water. Since childhood, Josue knew that there must be a better way and that something can be done. In 1989, Josue moved to the U.S. in search of a better life for his family. A janitor at Princeton University by day, and a cab driver by night, Josue works close to 20 hours each day to provide for his family in the U.S. and for his extended family in Haiti. However, his village's plight has never left his thoughts. Throughout the film, Josue often finds himself in situations where his heart wants to give more than he can realistically provide. But together with his brother, Chrismedonne, Generosity Water, Princeton University students and the community of La Source, Josue rallies support and resources to build a water system large enough for his village.



*Chrismedonne (left) and Josue (right) Lajeunesse
Photo by Jess Koehler*

Chrismedonne Lajeunesse

With an infectious smile, Chrismedonne is the de-facto mayor of La Source. Chrismedonne is a natural born leader and a self-taught carpenter. With a marble-colored notebook, Chrismedonne keeps track of logistics surrounding the La Source water project. With the high demand of supplies after Haiti's earthquake, Chrismedonne's tenacity ensures local merchants sell him the necessary tools and materials for the project's construction. He also manages the project's day-to-day operations and organizes the workers. Chrismedonne's leadership and organization is imperative to the water project's success.



*Chrismedonne's water project notebook
Photo by Jess Koehler*

ADDITIONAL CHARACTERS

Jordan Wagner | Executive Director of Generosity Water

Jordan reaches out to student groups at Princeton University to help with fundraising efforts of the La Source, Haiti water project. Additionally, he maintains communication and organizes with Operation Blessing, the non-profit partner on the group in Haiti, to help oversee the water project in La Source.

David Darg | Head of Disaster Relief & Special Projects, Operation Blessing

Inspired with Josue and Chrismedonne's passion and determination, David spearheads Operation Blessing involvement with the water project and helps oversee operations in La Source, Haiti.

Eric Lotz | National Director in Haiti of Operation Blessing

A resident of Haiti for several years, Eric uses his fluency in Haitian Creole to coordinate the construction of the water project in La Source alongside David Darg.

Li Deng | Princeton University student

Along with other Princeton University students, Li plays an integral role in funding the water project in La Source, Haiti. She helps coordinate a benefit concert, Waves of Mercy, at Princeton University which raises over \$7,000 in one night for the project.

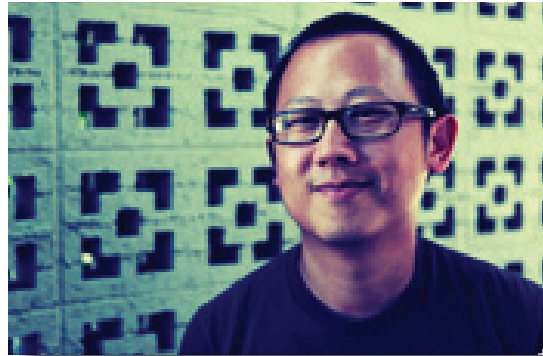


*A woman in La Source takes a break from construction of the water project
Photo by Jess Koehler*

PRODUCTION BIOS

Patrick Shen | Director, Producer, Cinematographer, and Co-Editor

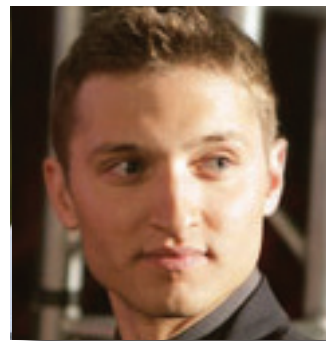
Patrick Shen is the founder of Transcendental Media (TM), an independent production company that produces feature documentaries “to agitate the sleep of mankind.” Shen made his feature directorial debut in 2005 with the critically-acclaimed *Flight from Death: The Quest for Immortality* which was hailed by critics as being “one of the most ambitious films ever made” (PBS 106.7 Australia) and “moving and thought-provoking” (NBC). Beautifully photographed in



eight different countries and three years in the making, *Flight from Death* was awarded seven “Best Documentary” awards at film festivals all over the United States. In 2009, Shen released *The Philosopher Kings* which premiered to sold-out audiences at the AFI-Discovery Channel SILVERDOCS Documentary Festival, opened theatrically in Los Angeles in May 2010 and premiered on The Documentary Channel in September 2010. Hailed as being a “terrific documentary about janitors” by the SF Chronicle, the award-winning film interweaves the personal stories of eight janitors who work for some of the America’s top universities. Shen is currently developing some feature narrative projects as well as a reality TV show based on *The Philosopher Kings*.

Jordan Wagner | Producer

Jordan is an entrepreneur, passionate about social justice. He started his first business at the age of 14 by launching an online wholesale store that sold everything from laser pointers to lighters. After high school he founded a real estate and mortgage firm that opened offices in Los Angeles and San Diego, Calif. and grew to 15 employees. However, after traveling throughout Africa in October of 2008, he was hit with the reality of extreme poverty. He learned that something as simple as water was killing more people than anything else in the world today. He decided to re-direct his passion and entrepreneurial spirit to commit to giving clean water to as many people as possible. Since becoming the Executive Director of Generosity Water in December 2008, he has lead the non-profit to funding over 380 water projects in 18 countries giving clean water to over 250,000 people. Jordan speaks internationally about the water crisis and is known for his humorous and inspirational storytelling.



Brandon Vedder | Producer, Cinematographer, Co-Editor, & Co-Writer

Brandon Vedder sharpened his teeth as a filmmaker while on the road shooting concert documentaries for bands like; Pearl Jam, Sleater Kinney, Wu Tang Clan, Dispatch, Jet and Lauryn Hill. He parlayed those experiences into directing music videos which have been featured in Stereogum, Filter, Pitchfork and The Los Angeles Times among others. His narrative tendencies have been expressed in a handful of short films that have gone on to play the American festival circuit. As a documentarian he has followed stories around the globe ranging from the thrill of following a 3 ring circus to the peril of South Africa's recent outbreak of xenophobic violence.



Don Cheadle | Narrator

Don Cheadle is a film actor and producer that rose to prominence in the late 1990s and the early 2000s for his supporting roles in the Steven Soderbergh-directed films *Out of Sight*, *Traffic*, and *Ocean's Eleven*. In 2004, his lead role as Rwandan hotel manager Paul Rusesabagina in the genocide drama film *Hotel Rwanda* earned him an Academy Award nomination for Best Actor. He also campaigns for the end of genocide in Darfur, Sudan, and co-authored a book concerning the issue titled *Not On Our Watch: The Mission to End Genocide in Darfur and Beyond*. In 2010, Cheadle was named U.N. Environment Program Goodwill Ambassador. He currently stars on the Showtime sitcom *House of Lies*.

Mateo Messina | Composer

Mateo Messina is an accomplished musician, unique storyteller and an innovative composer. His inimitable style of songwriting and composition has earned him accolades within the recording industry, ASCAP, NARIS and BAFTA. Recently, he took home two Best Score Awards, The Festival Tous Courts in France and The One Reel Film Festival in the U.S. as well as a Grammy for his work on the *Juno* soundtrack in 2008.



TRANSCENDENTAL MEDIA

TO AGITATE THE SLEEP OF MANKIND

Transcendental Media (TM) is an independent film company based out of Los Angeles, CA with the vision of creating films and documentaries “to agitate the sleep of mankind”. In 2005, TM released its first feature length documentary, the critically acclaimed and 7-time Best Documentary winner, *Flight from Death: The Quest for Immortality* (FFD) narrated by Golden Globe winning actor Gabriel Byrne (*The Usual Suspects*, HBO’s “*In Treatment*”, *Stigmata*). Hailed by critics as “one of the most ambitious documentaries ever made” and “one of the best movies of the year”, FFD went on to win Best Documentary awards at prestigious film festivals nationwide and has screened in theaters, universities, and film festivals all over the world.

TM’s second film *The Philosopher Kings* (TPK), an exploration into wisdom as seen through the eyes of custodians at prestigious universities, opened theatrically in Los Angeles and New York in May 2010, premiered on The Documentary Channel in September 2010, and debuted on iTunes, Hulu, and Netflix shortly after. Referred to as “moving” by the L.A. Times and a “terrific documentary about janitors” by The San Francisco Chronicle, TPK was nominated for Best Documentary at the AFI-Discovery Channel Silverdocs Documentary Festival, Raindance Film Festival, and Calgary International Film Festival and won the award for Emerging Cinematic Vision at the Camden International Film Festival.



Generosity Water is a 501c3 non-profit organization, dedicated to ending the clean water crisis in developing countries, one community at a time. They were founded in 2008 and in the last 4 years have already funded more than 400 water projects in 18 countries around the world - giving clean and safe drinking water to over 260,000 people. We met Generosity Water in 2009 prior to making “La Source” and they have been instrumental in raising the funds and bringing together partners on the ground to implement the water project featured in the film. We are excited to continue our partnership with them in bringing clean water to 20 more communities in addition to working with them to fund and build a school for the people of La Source. For more info about Generosity Water please visit: GenerosityWater.com

CREDITS

(Crew only)

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PATRICK SHEN

Produced By
PATRICK SHEN
JORDAN WAGNER
BRANDON VEDDER

Narrated By
DON CHEADLE

Written By
PATRICK SHEN
BRANDON VEDDER

Edited By
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BRANDON VEDDER

Cinematography By
PATRICK SHEN
BRANDON VEDDER

Featuring Music By
SIGUR ROS

Original Music By
MATEO MESSINA

Photography By
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DAVID SALZBERG
REGINA MANIAN
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Co-Executive Producers
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DAVID WON
JULIAN LEE

Associate Producer
MARY MATHIAS

Co-Producer
GREG BENNICK