

CHANGING PLACES

A TREATMENT BY SONJA PHILLIPS

B L A C K
S H E E P
S T U D I O S

APPROACH TO FILMMAKING.

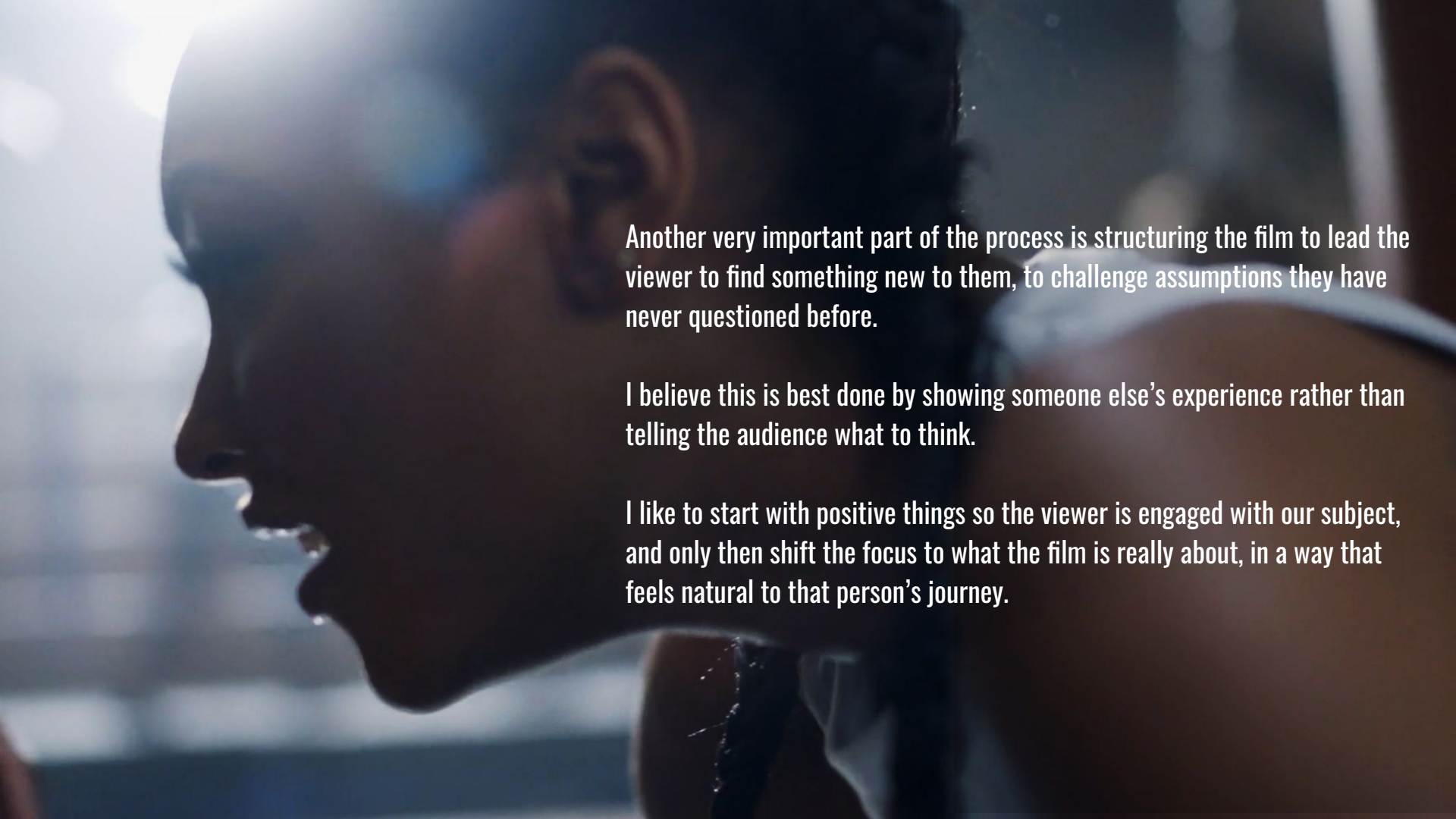
When I am making character led documentaries, I always start with the most important, the feeling.

How does this person make me feel, what emotions does their story elicit? How do they want to be seen and what do they want to convey? Only then can I build a narrative that is honest and moving.

I look for subjects who are open and have an interesting perspective on life. I take the time to really listen to what they are saying and find out who they are below the surface, so when we come to the interview there is an unspoken trust.

This research informs my interview technique, so I can then ask the kind of questions that bring out the most emotional and visceral answers.





Another very important part of the process is structuring the film to lead the viewer to find something new to them, to challenge assumptions they have never questioned before.

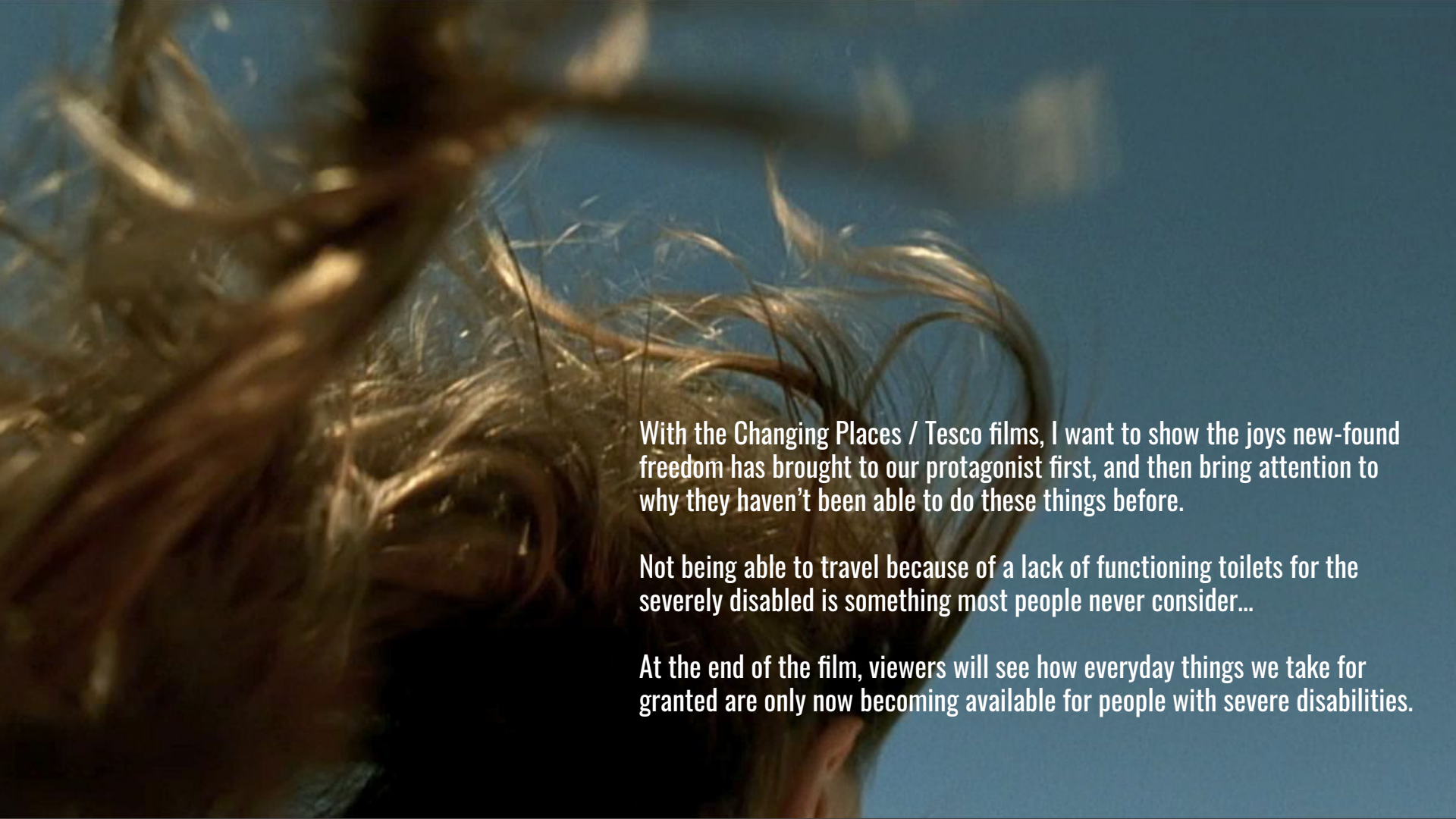
I believe this is best done by showing someone else's experience rather than telling the audience what to think.

I like to start with positive things so the viewer is engaged with our subject, and only then shift the focus to what the film is really about, in a way that feels natural to that person's journey.

For my loneliness films, I wanted to show the love Ted had for his wife before she died so we journey with him, from his love to his pain and then the joy that singing with the charity brings him.

In the 'Her too' films, the hopes and the dreams the women's childhood bring you in, before we pull the rug out to show that homelessness can happen to anyone.





With the Changing Places / Tesco films, I want to show the joys new-found freedom has brought to our protagonist first, and then bring attention to why they haven't been able to do these things before.

Not being able to travel because of a lack of functioning toilets for the severely disabled is something most people never consider...

At the end of the film, viewers will see how everyday things we take for granted are only now becoming available for people with severe disabilities.

THE FILM.

We are looking for a great character, with an emotive story, someone whose life has been transformed by the 'Changing Places' toilets at Tesco.

The exact narrative will depend on their story and how these new freedoms have allowed them to explore, travel and simply do the everyday things they weren't been able to do before.

The structure follows a simple arc. We will begin by seeing and hearing about the things our subject loves doing, something that evokes our senses and emotions.

The joy they get from 'visiting grandma', 'playing with their dog in the park', and 'meeting people in the supermarket', things that a lot of us may take for granted.



**A young woman who can now go to the beach,
enjoy the fresh air and feel the wind on her hair,
thanks to the Changing Places toilets.**





**A young man that can now visit his grandmother
in her house.**



A woman who now has the freedom to leave her house, go shopping, pick her favourite flowers and the tastiest oranges.

E.G. 1: GOING TO THE BEACH.

Background: Jean is in a wheelchair and never gets to travel far, as she is unable to use the regular disabled toilets.

She has been dreaming of the sea but it's over an hour away and she was never able to make the journey before.

This is her second time this year. She adores it.

The Story: We open with Jean looking through an open car window, we are right behind her. We hear her talk about the open road, the wind blowing through her hair. We see shots around a city and then we are in the countryside.

Jean tells us about the first time she saw the sea, how it made her feel free and alive. We see her at the seaside, we see her hair blowing again.



She buys an ice cream, we see her taste it and smile.

Jean tells us about the wonderful smell of the sea, we watch the waves crashing and see her chair rolling along on a piece of the boardwalk.

We see her looking out into the distance, a shot of her hand stretching up almost stroking the air...

Jean talks about remembering when she was a child and how she would be taken to the beach by her parents and how being able to get to the sea has fulfilled her life in a way nothing else could.

It makes her feel like she can do anything and go anywhere in the world.





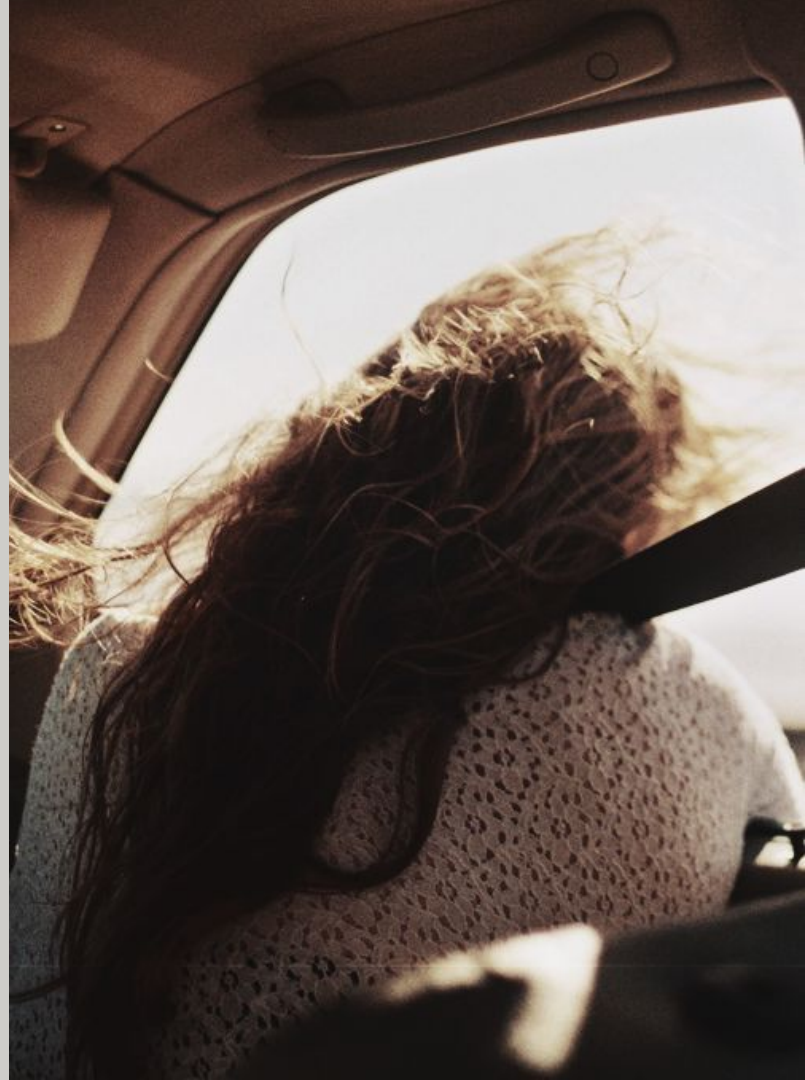
Not being able to use the regular disabled toilets restricted where she could go in the past.

There were times that she thought she would have to spend the rest of her life stuck inside her house.

We cut to onscreen text:

Tesco and Changing places have fitted special disabled toilets all over the country so severely impaired people are able enjoy new freedoms for the first time.

Cut to a shot of Jean smiling, she's taking a photo of the view.



E.G. 2: GETTING TO SEE MY GRAN.

Background: Tim is 22, he's in a wheelchair and lives with his parents.

In the past, he has never been able to go to his Grandmother's house as she lived too far and he wouldn't be able to use a toilet on route.

Now he's visited her several times and it is his favourite thing to do. Especially when Grandma bakes him one of her special cakes for his tea!

The Story: We open on beautiful shots of an older lady in a kitchen, sunlight streaming through the window. She's slightly above camera, we are seeing her from the height that Tim would naturally be at.

We see her cooking cakes, laying a table. Walking through her corridor. We see photos of the family on the shelves, old books.



Perhaps a sweet doggie wagging its tail.

We are hearing Tim talk about his Granny's house. How the smells and sounds feel so full of happiness. How he loves her dogs, the tastes of the cakes she makes. How great it is to visit her.

We begin to see shots of Tim too, from behind his head. A side shot looking out of a car window, his reflection looking back at him.

There is a close up of his eyes, he's now in his Granny's house. We see him go in. He gives her a bunch of flowers (Tesco's).

We see his wheelchair move down in her corridor, we are with his hands as he feels a photo frame she has, we see him stroking the dog. The joy that he has at his grandma's is so visceral. He is in the kitchen, she cuts him a slice of cake.





We cut to Tim talking to camera in his Gran's front room. He tells us how he was never able to make the long journey before as the usual disabled toilets weren't big enough for him to use.

We cut to onscreen text:

Tesco and Changing places have fitted special disabled toilets all over the country so severely impaired people are able enjoy new freedoms for the first time.

We cut back to grandma hugging Tim.



E.G. 3: SPENDING TIME SHOPPING.

Background: Sarah become severely disabled when she had an accident later in life. She was stuck in the house for most of the day and had to rely on people to shop and do things for her.

She is now able to go shopping and meet her friends outside the home, thanks to the Changing Places toilets.

The Story: We begin with a glorious shot across a row of oranges, and another of flowers for sale.

We see a shot of a woman's (Sarah) nose really close to the top of the orange, we almost feel her breathing that smell in. A little girl is leaning across the top of shopping trolley and trying to grab a peach. We hear Sarah talk about the smell of fresh fruit and being able to choose the best one from the pile.






We hear the noise of the supermarket trolley wheels as we watch it move.

There are shouts and screams of the kids playing coming in and out of range. A kid runs in front of us. The beeping of the food as it gets scanned is echoey. We see the back of Sarah's head.

A baker comes through a back door bringing some fresh bread around to the shelves. In voice over we hear Sarah talk about the smell of fresh bread and how when the rolls are just a bit warm she loves to take a bite. We see her having a bite.

We cut to Sarah from behind her wheelchair looking up at this beautiful display of bread.



A group of women are sitting at a table outdoors. One woman in the foreground is adjusting the hair of another woman who has a shopping bag hanging from her chair. A third woman is sitting to the left, holding a white mug. The table is set with coffee cups, water bottles, and a bouquet of flowers. The background shows a blurred outdoor setting with plants and a building.

We cut to onscreen text:

Tesco and Changing places have fitted special disabled toilets all over the country so severely impaired people are able enjoy new freedoms for the first time.

We cut back to Sarah having a coffee with a friend, a whole bag of shopping hanging from her chair.



TONE & FEEL.

Intimate, joyous, liberating and sensory.

The film is all about personal stories from a disabled person who has new-found freedoms, all because of the Changing Places toilets Tesco has fitted in their stores.

The films will show the joy and the beauty in everyday things, that our interviewee is newly experiencing. Whether it be smelling fruit at a supermarket, feeling the wind on their back or enjoying the company of their loved ones, at their home.

The shots will feel dreamy, yet real, light will bounce through lens. The contrast will be kept on the low side so it feels reminiscent, yet full of hope. I want to use mini Alexas to keep that filmic quality.

The viewer will feel, smell, hear and experience emotion with our protagonist.



Then when the viewer realises the person has been deprived of these everyday pleasures in the past, it will feel profound, they will have a deeper understanding of how life changing Tesco's has been by installing these toilets in stores.

The interview will be intimate and emotional. I will find a spot within the location they're visiting to film them, but I may choose to use the interview in voice over only.

Social Media. The right subjects and the right stories will help the films go viral. The first shot in each film will be sensory, beautiful and intriguing, to encourage viewers to continue watching.



A woman with curly blonde hair, wearing a white sweater and a leopard-print skirt, is seated in a wheelchair. She is smiling broadly and holding a large, light-brown teddy bear. The setting appears to be a store, with shelves of various items visible in the background. The text "THANK YOU." is overlaid in large, bold, black letters across the center of the image.

THANK YOU.