# Documentary filmmaker shares tea and stories with strangers in London



A London-based documentary filmmaker, Will Sheers, has gained significant attention on social media for his project titled "A Mug Of Life," which centres around having cups of tea with strangers in various parks across London. The 28-year-old, hailing from Kentish Town, began the initiative on 31 January this year, and his engaging approach has resulted in millions of views across his social media platforms, despite releasing only a limited number of videos.

In his unique format, Mr Sheers approaches individuals in local parks and invites them for a cup of tea, leading to conversations that reveal remarkably diverse and often poignant personal stories. Speaking to the PA news agency, he shared, “There are lots of people talking to strangers on TikTok, but no one is learning their stories. In a three-minute video, you can really delve into people’s lives.”

Among the stories captured in his videos is that of Brian, an American man in Finsbury Park, who disclosed his friendship with the late comedian Robin Williams. Another participant, an elderly British man named Peter, recounted “his most memorable cup of tea.” Moreover, Mr Sheers has featured narratives regarding relationships and personal loss, including one individual who discussed losing touch with his father and a woman who spoke about the sudden death of her husband, reflecting on her love for travel.

The overwhelming response to Mr Sheers’ project has surprised him, with numerous viewers expressing their emotional reactions to the content, with comments indicating that it has brought them to tears. He remarked on the current landscape of documentary filmmaking, noting the difficulty he faced in securing commissions for feature films, primarily due to a prevailing focus on celebrity narratives. “There’s such an emphasis on celebrity stories in filmmaking at the moment, and if it’s not a celebrity story, they’re not interested,” he observed.

Despite these challenges, Mr Sheers believes that the appeal of "A Mug Of Life" demonstrates a public desire for authentic, personal storytelling rather than sensationalism. He stated, “I think the success of the Mug Of Life project has shined a light on the fact that many people do care about these stories.” He aims to present a more optimistic narrative in contrast to the negativity often encountered online, hoping to inspire viewers to connect with strangers themselves.

With ambitions to expand his project to various communities across the UK, Mr Sheers is committed to creating a "tapestry of Britain" that embodies inclusivity across different backgrounds. He emphasised the importance of representation in storytelling, declaring, “Everyone has a story, and it’s about finding a way to tell those stories in the right way.” Further, Mr Sheers has established a practice of maintaining correspondence with his interviewees, always ensuring they approve the content of the video before it is made public.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.shropshirestar.com/uk-news/2025/02/28/london-filmmaker-turns-tiktok-sensation-having-cups-of-tea-with-strangers/> - This article supports the claim that Will Sheers, a London filmmaker, has become a TikTok sensation with his project 'A Mug Of Life,' where he shares cups of tea with strangers.
* [https://www.tiktok.com/@craftunionpubs/video/7473215947541712150](https://www.tiktok.com/%40craftunionpubs/video/7473215947541712150) - This TikTok video relates to the theme of having tea with strangers, which aligns with Will Sheers' project 'A Mug Of Life.'
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This source is mentioned as the original provider of the information about Will Sheers and his 'A Mug Of Life' project.
* [https://www.tiktok.com/@samhollandfood/video/7294322609833905441](https://www.tiktok.com/%40samhollandfood/video/7294322609833905441) - Although not directly related to Will Sheers, this TikTok video mentions 'a mug of life,' which could be a reference to similar themes of community engagement.
* <https://www.shropshirestar.com/uk-news/> - This URL provides access to UK news, which could include stories about social media trends and community projects like 'A Mug Of Life.'