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URBANIA^{FR}



DAMON ALBARN

A BRITISH TALE

Directed by **Adrien Pavillard**

Produced by **Arte France & Urbania Productions**

52'

PITCH

This film offers a portrait of Damon Albarn, a key figure in the pop-music scene.

He has gone from being Blur's charismatic frontman to the brains behind Gorillaz, the producer of African artists, and the composer of post-modern opera. With sales of around 35 million records, and 24 albums with six different line-ups, the global success of this man ahead of his time is undeniable. In the UK, he is perhaps more than just a star; he's a public persona. And his vertiginous career tells an intimate and intense story of his relationship with his home country over the past 25 years. From popstar to anonymous cartoon character, he shifts effortlessly between musical genres, but his style always seems to stay true to his British roots.

EDITORIAL INTENTION

This documentary will explore the history of modern Britain through the lens of pop culture.

The 90s: Blur and the Battle of Britpop.

Blur firmly took on a British identity and without even knowing it, contributed to defining Britpop, a major musical movement of the 90s. But Damon Albarn grew weary of the endless battle of egos between Blur and Oasis, and began exploring new worlds and musical genres.

The new millennium: Gorillaz.

Gorillaz is an avant-garde band constituted of animated characters, that fed the sound of the 2000s. Albarn then started a band called The Good, the Bad & the Queen, with Paul Simonon, bass guitarist for the Clash amongst others. This was followed by the Africa Express compilations and then a solo album of political music that talks about Brexit. In a time when the UK is closing in on itself, this documentary tells the story of a musician who has always known how to take the positive aspects of globalization and radically change his way of being and of viewing the world, through extensive travel and the many people he has met and collaborated with.

& VISUAL ASPECT

This film is both music documentary and socio-political exploration.

It will mainly be made up of archive footage, including interviews, music clips, videos of concerts, TV shows and behind-the-scenes sequences. In parallel to exploring Albarn's career, excerpts from newspapers and TV shows from the time will help provide context by highlighting the transformations the UK was undergoing and the synergies between the two. When Albarn talks about England, he talks about its identity: The diversity of the population and emblematic places like pubs, bookmakers, Indian restaurants, football pitches and cricket fields. Brexit divided the country, but Albarn's aim today is to see it reconciled.



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