

Lifestyle

Two Americans on an eight month placement to teach English in a Jaén town got the local community involved in the making of a bilingual web series

A 'pueblo' on the web

SUR IN ENGLISH

The need of two Americans to record their experiences in a small farming town in Jaén has turned into a bilingual project involving the entire local community.

Last October Eve Richter and Ben Raznick arrived in La Puerta del Segura, at the heart of the Sierra de Cazorla, Segura y Las Villas natural park to work as assistant English teachers at a local secondary school.

They knew very little about the town and the local culture but even before they arrived they had thought about doing a video project based on their experiences. They started filming almost as soon as they arrived, and finished editing the same night as their grand premiere, on Thursday last week, just a day before they were due to return to the US.

The pub El Trujal was packed for the grand premiere of 'Pueblo', the name Eve and Ben have given to their web series made with the col-



PREMIERE. LOCAL PEOPLE WATCH THE SERIES IN THE BAR. xxx

laboration of the local people.

The eight episode series is a bilingual project filmed in various locations around the town and with the participation of many locals. The series is a mix of fiction and documentary and tells the story of an English teacher, Ben, as he makes friends, falls in love, and integrates himself into the life of the 'pueblo'. The episodes chronicle his adventures as he adapts to life in rural Andalucía surrounded by olive groves.

In this totally bilingual production Ben speaks to the camera in his native English but interacts with most townspeople in Spanish. "We subtitle everything so it's understandable to English and Spanish speakers and we plan to post the transcripts online as a language learning resource", explained Eve last week.

So what did the locals think about the series they star in? "We got a lot of laughs during the screening and really positive feedback afterwards" says Eve.

"I think the locals really enjoyed seeing a show featuring their town and many of the important pueblo events" she continues before expressing her gratitude for all the support given by the local community.

The first episode of the series can now be viewed online and the remaining seven episodes will be released on a weekly basis.

MORE INFORMATION | Watch the series and find out more at www.pueblotheseries.com

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