Your Selfie on Film / Final Script
TRT: 00:00:02:05

**NAT SOUND // Camera shutter // TC: 00:00:00:01 - 00:00:00:13**

Are you already?

**NARRATION // Introducing Dante**

Danté Crichlow is reclaiming his social identity through a new artistic endeavor. Every day he sets up what looks like antique equipment popular half a century ago to capture a modern slice of life in New York City’s Washington Square Park. This 28-year-old New Yorker is an artist who writes, acts, directs, and now helps people take selfies on a film camera!

**SOT // Dante, Film Photographer // TC: 00:00:22:04 - 00:00:34:06**

I fell into a trend. I saw everybody with the point-and-shoot cameras, the little Kodak things. And I was just like, why is everyone so interested in this? And so, I started doing it for myself. But what I found is that I really enjoyed taking a photo and moving on.

**NAT SOUND // Conversation with customers // TC: 0:00:34:20 - 00:00:37:03**

We're not from here. So where are you from?

**NARRATION // Navigating social anxiety through film photography**

Along with being a passion project, Dante says that interacting with strangers has helped him navigate his social anxiety and build genuine connections with people. He’s discovered that - like him – most people are uncomfortable posing in public.

**SOT // Dante, Film Photographer // TC: 00:00:49:17 - 00:01:01:16**

We've just gone through two years of being isolated, of not being able to be in the community, of not being able to do a lot of experiences. Just the fact that I created this idea to go into the park and do this is a reflection of having been isolated for so long, wanting to connect.

**NARRATION // About the camera**

To take selfies, Dante uses Mamiya RB six seven, a medium format SLR camera made in 1970 that weighs 2.69 KGs.

**NAT SOUND // Dante explaining how to use the shutter // TC: 00:01:10:08 - 00:01:14:01**

Step back a little bit. I'm just testing lighting. Okay now squeeze the button as hard as you can, whenever you’re ready.

**NARRATION // About the camera and the process after**

It has an adjustable cable on the rear end, which connects the camera to an external shutter-release button. Once complete, people scan a QR code, share their email ID, and sign a permission slip. All photos are shared within 2 to 3 days.

**NAT SOUND // Customer asking for cost of shoot // TC: 00:01:26:03 - 00:01:27:18**

How much is it for?

**NARRATION // Cost and timings**

On average, Dantè receives 4-5 customers between 10 am and 5 pm, and a single selfie costs 10$ for one person and $15 for two people.

**SOT // Dante, Film Photographer // TC: 00:01:37:02 - 00:01:45:19**

It depends on the day. some people will come through here and be very excited. Some people will have to ask me questions before they get interested in it. Some people are just like, Nope, not paying for this.

**NARRATION // Dante learning to accept himself**

Looking through his lens, Dantè discovers parts of himself in the awkward exchanges of couples, the nervous tugging of sleeves, and the united sucking in of tummies. As he experiences the authenticity of others around him, he also learns to embrace his own.

For NYU journalism, this is Priyanka Rajput.