

The family wanted to speak

Professor Pratap Rughani & LSFF interviewer

Duration of video clip: 1 minute and 42 seconds

LSFF: I want to come back to the decision to have just Justine, quite observationally in the first section of the film.

Pratap Rughani: I wanted to come back to that decision to have just Justine, really quite observationally in the first section of the film, can you just talk us through the decision to then go on to the interviews with her family. Yes, both to include them and also the structure of it.

Part of the decision came from the family. So I showed a rough cut of the first half of the film and I was very much thinking you know, what do you want from this whole process, talking to the family, what's in it for you? and unusually for me, I did help them say exactly what they wanted to say, to help make the case for Justine's future funding. But the family did, particularly Mandy, her Mum said, look we do want to say somethings about this. And so then it became, well how do we create space for that without it becoming people speaking on her behalf, which however well-meaning and my god there's some fantastically well-meaning people in her world, it's still not her experience you know. I particularly noticed that showing mum and dad some rushes and particularly there was one moment when Mandy her mum, said, "God I never knew she did that" - or would predict she'd do something and it wasn't right, she (Justine) did something completely different. It made me think how absolutely exact that is about family life, that often we think we know each other and who we are and what we do and sometimes we don't fully know. So there was a there was a chance to kind of try and give a bit of of a bigger picture but I didn't want the family speaking on her behalf from the beginning. I wanted an audience to have, to dare to have a sense of her.