

\$5 Haircuts, a backpack, and not a single Lamborghini

Who Is Vitalik Buterin really? The filmmakers behind “Vitalik” share what they saw — in the latest episode of [SwapSpace](#) Huddle

In the latest episode of the SwapSpace Huddle podcast, filmmakers [Zach Ingrasci](#) and [Chris Temple](#) — the directors of the new documentary “Vitalik” — share their stories of what it was like to follow Ethereum’s creator for two years. The film is now available on Amazon Prime, Apple TV, and Vimeo. It was funded by the Ethereum community through crowdfunding: the premiere happened simultaneously in 30 cities worldwide, with early screenings accessed via NFT tickets on the platform Zora. But the heart of this story isn’t tech — it’s the man himself.



From left to right: “Vitalik” directors Chris Temple and Zach Ingrasci, and SwapSpace Huddle host Turpal Makh.

We started with a YouTube video shot in Guatemala. Then our film ended up next to ‘House of Cards’ on Netflix

Accidental filmmakers, right on target

Their journey began with amateur footage shot in rural Guatemala (“[Living on One Dollar](#)”) about life in extreme poverty. The video gained millions of views and led to their first full-length documentary. They then traveled across the U.S. in a repurposed school bus, screening their work. That led to distribution deals — and a front-page spot on Netflix, right beside “House of Cards”. That moment taught them: films can entertain, but also shift perspectives.



Zach Ingrasci

We filmed 300 hours of footage. Only 90 minutes made the final cut. All to show that crypto is about people

The directors' interest in crypto started during the pandemic. "I got deep into trading," admits Chris Temple. "I'd wake up in the middle of the night just to check prices." That experience became "[This Is Not Financial Advice](#)" — a film exploring the psychology of retail crypto investors.

During production, they met Vitalik Buterin — and realized he wasn't just a technical genius, but someone with a radically different ethos. His ideas about decentralization, open systems, and Web3 laid the foundation for their next documentary.



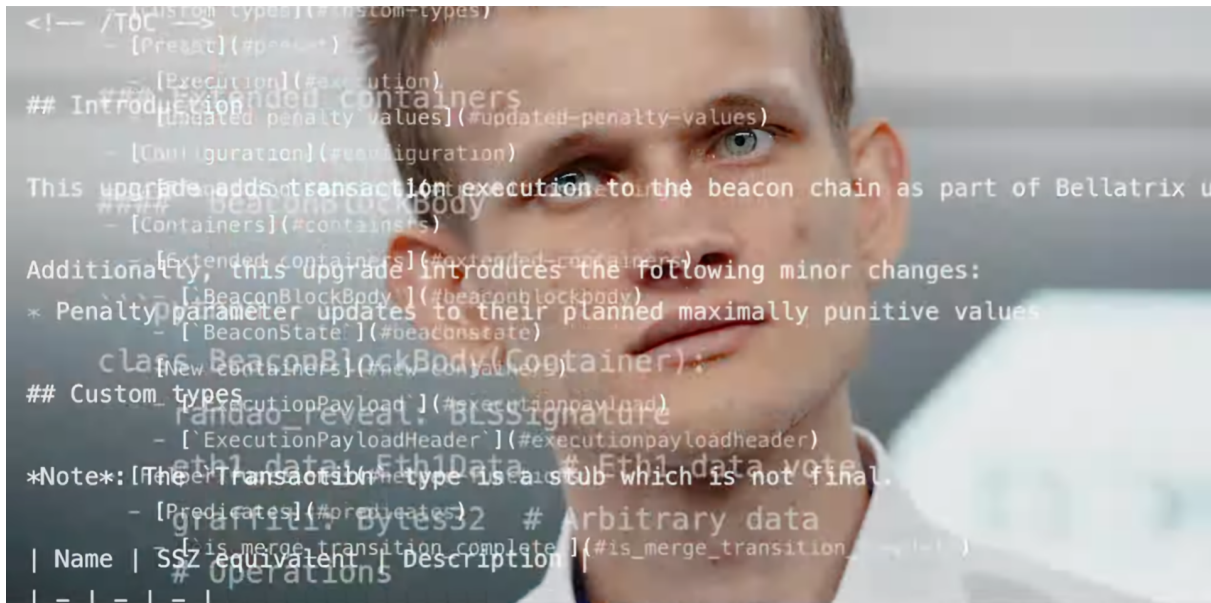
Chris Temple

***He's not a crypto bro. He's a philosopher in shorts.
And he's really funny***

Vitalik without the myths

According to Ingrasci, Buterin comes off more like a writer or a builder than a tech founder. "He's not chasing money. Yes, he's a billionaire — but he lives out of a 40-liter backpack and gets \$5 haircuts." That mix of humility and sharp thinking compelled the team to tell his story.

They highlight his self-awareness, willingness to admit mistakes, sense of humor, and optimism. For them, his personal values — shaped by growing up in a quasi-autonomous commune and emigrating from Russia to Canada — clearly reflect the philosophy behind Ethereum.



A still from the trailer for “Vitalik: An Ethereum Story”, [source: YouTube](#)

This is the kind of film you can show your mom — and she’ll finally get that crypto isn’t just scams

One of the film’s most powerful moments explores Vitalik’s thoughts on responsibility. “Is Einstein to blame for the atomic bomb?” he asks. “Physics also gave us electricity and the internet.” To Vitalik, Ethereum is more than code — it’s a philosophy rooted in freedom and transparency. He’s what the filmmakers call a “cautious techno-optimist,” someone who recognizes both the risks and the promise of innovation. His curiosity also struck them: in 2023, he invited them to Montenegro, where he had set up a “pop-up city” called Zuzulu. Experts in AI, longevity, and crypto gathered there. “He doesn’t buy villas,” they say. “He funds experiments.”



A still from the trailer for “Vitalik: An Ethereum Story”, [source: YouTube](#)

Why This Interview Matters

SwapSpace Huddle is the podcast from [SwapSpace](#), a crypto exchange aggregator that makes trading simple and safe. But behind the tech lies a deeper mission — to reveal the real people behind blockchain projects. This conversation with the creators of “Vitalik” offers a rare and deeply human perspective on one of crypto’s most fascinating figures.

Watch the full version of the podcast [here](#).