

Translation of the Portugese Cerebral Palsy FireBug builders TV feature..

<http://youtu.be/Jcw7nWnkBiQ>

They are Portuguese and have achieved what most would think improbable. Six men with cerebral Palsy are sailing boat builders. The boats are build at the carpentry shop of Calouste Gulbenkian Palsy Centre of Lisbon and then used by the “Náutico Clube Boa esperança” sailing club to teach the children of Lisbon to sail.

Four boats were already build, and they’re the proof that cerebral Palsy is not unsurpassable.

00:35

These are the hands of Marco.  
And these are the hands of Vitor

00:43

These are the hands of Jorge.

00:45

...And these are the hands of Gonçalo

00:47

And these are the hands of Pedro.

00:49

The hands of Paulo.

00:52

Marco, Pedro, Gonçalo, Jorge.

00:57

Four, you’re missing two...

01:00

...Vitor...

01:04

Here we help in everything.

01:06

Six men with cerebral Palsy, six improbable persons to build a sailing boat.

01:15

Paulo, did you know you were able to build a boat?

01:19

Look, as a matter of fact I didn’t...That’s why I like to do it. It looks to us as we’ve build a lot of them...

01:31

You've never thought of being able to build a boat?

01:33

You have a reason to be happy?

01:35

Sure I'am!

01:39

And you feel happy to being helpful?

01:46

The hands of Paulo and Marco are perfectly skilled in sanding and give the shape to another part of the boat.

01:55

Look, I'm sanding as you can see...

It has to be like that, in the direction of the grain... starting this end all the way trough the other end.

02:05

To be perfectly sanded?

02:07

Yes.

02:08

On another working bench at the Calouste Gulbenkian Cerebral Palsy Centre, Marco and Vitor have other tasks to build one more sailing boat.

02:20

Cutting with the saw to make it fit.

02:27

Will it be perfect?

02:28

It will. It will.

02:30

You know how to do it right, is it that?

02:31

Yes.

02:32

Where have you learnt?

02:33

I knew it before...My father is a carpenter.

02:37

If he's doing it wrong,

02:40

I'll tell him instead what is right.

02:43

Because in that case nothing can be done.

02:44

He was doing wrong and now is doing right.

02:47

I've never thought of it, but by doing by the first time I got this feeling, big, big feeling.

03:01

The feeling you can do whatever you want?

03:03

Yes!... Yes.

03:06

You mean it?

03:07

It's true!

03:10

Working on cutting band saw is Jorge. He too has Cerebral Palsy.

03:15

At 41, Jorge has overcome the limits that Cerebral Palsy has imposed on him since he was born. Expert in doing the cuts, he's perfect in cutting another part for the sailing boat.

03:30

It's great...Not an easy thing, but as you say, slow and steady wins the race.  
We try to do it slow and easy...so it gets well done. To do it we must go further...

03:53

And if you go out sailing?

03:55

Then we will go even farther...

03:56

So he went farther, so they went farther.

04:03

In this carpenter shop, the Firebug plans are strictly followed. The newzealandese boat has gain Portuguese shape and soul. In spite of being Palsy, these men have reach a safe harbour. They make boats for children learn sailing is river and sea waters.

04:25

It's for children learn sailing and be happy.

04:30

And will you be happy also?

04:32

We'll all be happy!

04:33

I think this is the fourth or the fifth we're building.

04:37

How does it feel to make a boat?

04:40

...well, it's something we haven't done before yet

04:50

When it's ready to go into the water will it be perfect?

04:52

Sure will! It goes excellent, as new.

04:56

New?

04:57

It's new. Ready ...for selling.

Brand new.

05:02

What about the children that sail it?

05:04

They are very happy. They even help us painting the boat.

05:09

And it's super safe?

05:10

Sure, very safe! More safer even!

It's absolutely safe.

05:21

My sun is now learning sailing and have tried the boats. They've seen the photos of the boats sailing. They didn't have the chance, or at least I would like to seat them inside the Firebug and take them for a ride.

05:40

Have you seen it sailing?

05:42

I didn't, not yet.

05:43

Would you like to see?

05:44

I would love it!

05:45

Maybe one day. The small size of the boat and their disabilities stop them to sail the boats that they build.

05:57

We even thought of electronic joysticks equipment, Radio Control, in lots of other things. We have some technical difficulties.

We were needed of a crane before, there were some other minor things we still need.

06:16

They're still not able to sail they're one boats.

06:17

That's righth.

06:19

João is always by the side of his special students. For 14 years he teaches in the shop. Now he's one of the helmsman of the project, he teaches and makes each one of the builders proud.

06:38

For them is very gratifying. For them to hear that they are useful to others. That they aren't in this shop just to watch time passing by. I'm proud of myself, to make possible for them to develop a meaning for their lives.

06:58

Paulo, Gonçalo, Jorge, Marco, Vitor e Pedro have in commom Cerebral Palsy.

07:06

I'm here since six years old, since I was a baby.

As a matter of fact, and it has nothing to do with the boat, I had surgery twice.

07:18

Jorge can you tell me what's that of Cerebral Paralysis?

Well...Don't know what to say to you. But when I was a baby I got paralysis in my right leg.

07:41

I've come here because I walk on hands and knees all the time, and my mother said: "Paulo won't stay home like that. I'll take him to the Palsy Centre".

07:55

Paulo you had, and have Cerebral Paralysis?

07:58

That's why I had surgery to my legs.

08:03

They've come children, have become men in this institution supported by Santa Casa da Misericórdia of Lisbon, that opened the way for them to evolve as much as they can.

08:18

We don't look at them for what they can't do. They suffered from those tricks of life that lowers their capabilities.

08:31

Monday is the day that they come to the club. You can't schedule anything for that day, it's tricky, because this already makes part of their lives.

08:41

Reaching Tagus river is the ambition of six people with Cerebral Palsy.

08:49

I love the sea, I love water.

08:54

Even just looking at it?

08:55

Even just looking.

It's absolutely fantastic.

09:02

And sailing then...

09:03

It's a great feeling!

09:11

Have you ever been at sea?

09:13

I've sailed before. It's a good adrenaline.

09:20

You felt adrenaline?

09:21

Yes, a good adrenaline.

09:25

Once a week they go out the Calouste Gulbenkian Palsy Centre to reach Tagus river.

09:33

Boa Esperança sailing club is our partner for some time. Already two people were sailing in the club, so why not give a try and see if they're able to finish the boat.

09:44

For two years now the first of the four boats is already sailing in the river Tagus. Two more Firebugs are almost ready to launch.

09:56

Raises the value of the work of these persons, lowers the price of a boat.

10:00

How much it would cost to buy a boat like this?

10:04

More than two thousand Euros. It will be paid 25 Euros monthly to sum the maximum amount of six hundredth Euros.

10:19

Build in the Palsy Centre?

10:20

Build by Palsy people.

10:22

Build by Paulo, Gonçalo, Jorge, Vitor e Pedro. Because after all they can do it.

10:30

To make possible by boat building in a project that is not just sailing or racing, but also to make people social useful.

10:51

Who walks in and sees the job finished may ask: How was made possible that they made a boat?

11:00

-I asked myself if they could do it.

-But they are?

-They are. If I was not there everyday I would not believe it. You need to see be told. If I didn't know I would doubt it.

11:22

And when the waters of the river eventually allow, the Firebugs will set sail and grasp the wind even though the ones we call special miss the words to tell you their soul Is the same as yours.

11:41

What do you like to do when you go out the Palsy centre?

11:49

Sailing...Of course!

11:52

And why do you like the sea?

12:00

When you go out to the sea, what do you feel?

12:10

You don't have the picture to point at.  
Got you, you mean you feel free?

12:16

You feel free!  
You don't have it in your book.