

# JAVA FILMS

2022

SPRING  
CATALOGUE



# JAVA FILMS

Founded in 2005, Java Films rapidly established itself as one of Europe's leading independent distributors, providing pre-sales and distribution for documentaries. We pride ourselves on our strong, personal relationships with our producers and clients and place this at the centre of everything we do.

At Java, we're passionate about stories that explain the big issues of tomorrow. We only work with non-fiction and specialise in current affairs investigations, human rights, history and environmental films. Our boutique feature department takes on 6 – 8 feature documentaries a year, while our TV department works with approximately 60 – 80 titles per year.

Our priority is to ensure that our films are widely seen and accessible to everyone. To that end, Java is divided into three departments, which work closely together. Our festival department focuses on securing suitable premieres and a long, non-theatrical run for our films. This typically runs for 12 – 36 months and is made up of both festival, non-theatrical and company screenings. Our digital department concentrates on placing films on all types of VOD platforms, as well as managing social media marketing and working with designers and outreach teams to create suitable artwork and visual assets. Meanwhile, our sales department works on securing TV broadcasts, educational deals and inflight sales, through output deals and detailed market knowledge.

In 2021, our documentaries screened at 150 festivals around the world, winning 32 awards & 5 special mentions.

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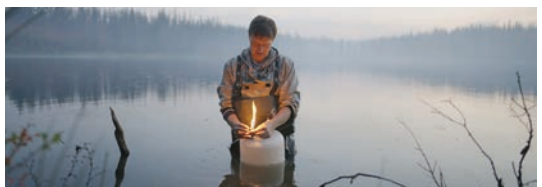
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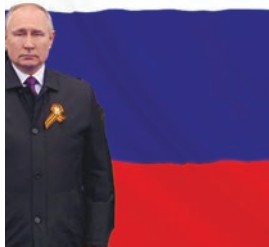
# NEW RELEASES







## Emperor Putin



# Emperor Putin

The invasion of Ukraine seems to be the culmination of a strategy that President Putin has been working on since he came to power in 2000: the reconstruction of Greater Russia.

Through his foreign policy, Vladimir Putin has constantly destabilized the neighbouring states of Russia. First came the war in Chechnya in 1999, then military intervention in Georgia in 2008 and the annexation of Crimea in 2014. His objectives: to reintegrate these territories into the Russian fold and prevent them embracing democracy and a rapprochement with the EU or NATO. Their role is now decisive in Putin's war against Ukraine. In particular, he can count on the unfailing support of Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov, who has sent more than 10,000 soldiers to the Ukrainian front to fight alongside the Russian army.

But Putin is not content with just extending his influence in Europe. He protected dictator Bashar el-Assad in Syria, ensuring the failure of the Arab Revolution and has also intervened in Libya, the Central African Republic and Venezuela, through his army of mercenaries: the infamous Wagner company. These militias allow him to monopolize wealth and to spread Russian influence.

And within his own country, Putin consolidates his domination by murdering and imprisoning most of his opponents: journalists, human rights activists and even oligarchs. Where will he stop?

• 2022  
• 52 mins  
• ENG, FR

• **Producer:**  
• Ligne de Front

• **Directors:**  
• Igor Sahiri &  
• Marc de la Villardière

• **Commissioned by:**  
• M6



## Inside Belarus: Putin's Puppet Regime

They share a common ideology and vision of totalitarian power yet reportedly, Vladimir Putin and Alexander Lukashenko hate each other. As popular opposition in Belarus and the war in Ukraine force them closer and closer together, we examine the relationship between these two men. We also look back at Lukashenko's rise to power and hear from some of the protestors brave enough to oppose him. Filmed undercover in Belarus in the weeks up to and just after the invasion of Ukraine.

2022  
52 mins  
ENG, FR

**Producer:**  
Tony Comiti Productions

**Directors:**  
Pierre Chabert &  
Emilie Lob

**Commissioned by:**  
M6

Without Russia's aid, the 2020 popular protests would probably have ended Lukashenko's regime. In return, Lukashenko has not only allowed Russia to station troops in Belarus, a recently held referendum enables Belarus to host Russian nuclear weapons. The Kremlin knows that any replacement to Lukashenko would likely be pro-Western. Svetlana Tikhonovskaya, Belarus' President-in-Exile, has promised to cut the links with the Kremlin and denounced the invasion of Ukraine. From her base in Vilnius, she tells how she is trying to prevent her country becoming a Russian proxy and how opposition figures abroad are constantly targeted.

In Belarus, everyone knows that they live under constant surveillance, ruled by a government that has lost its legitimacy and governs through force. The fear is that if Ukraine loses the war, its fate could be the same.



## Russia vs. Russia



Twenty years after Vladimir Putin came to power, Russia is deeply divided. A young, modern generation has emerged who oppose the regime's ever growing repression. Meanwhile the Kremlin, which retains the support of much of the older generation, has hardened its repression against all opposition. Who are these ordinary people dreaming of a different Russia? What price will they pay for the justice and freedom they desire? We interview both sides and show what is at stake for everyone.

In the last 20 years, the right to demonstrate has been increasingly restricted by laws passed in order to justify and legitimise the repression of opposition. A dozen opposition members have been poisoned. Alexei Navalny is only the latest name in an ever-growing list. When he surprised everyone by returning to Moscow, Olga was one of those who tried to go to the airport to meet him. She also went to one of the demonstrations Navalny called for, a decision that would have serious consequences...

The Russian regime promotes the idea that foreign agents feed Western Russophobia, and that Navalny, his supporters, NGOs, and journalists are all complicit in this. But Navalny and his supporters, as well as dissidents both inside and outside Russia, tell a different story. They say that President Putin's regime is a kleptocracy.

- 2021
- 52 mins
- ENG, FR
- **Producer:**
- Yuzu Productions
- **Director:**
- Stéphane Bentura
- **Commissioned by:**
- ARTE





# China: The Uighur Tragedy

China's repression of the Uighur population and other Muslim minorities in Xinjiang is akin to genocide: more than a million people are being arbitrarily detained in camps where they undergo torture, re-education, forced labour and are banned from speaking their own language. Children are also being re-educated in so-called "orphanages" while women are subjected to forced sterilization. Uighur culture is being systematically destroyed.

Under the pretext of fighting Islamic radicalism and poverty, the Chinese Communist Party secretly built 1,400 internment camps and set about eradicating Uighur culture and its entire intelligentsia. It took many years for the international community to start to take notice, but Beijing persists in disguising the reality, claiming to be simply offering the Uighur population vocational training to combat poverty.

What are the real reasons behind this relentless repression? How does the past shed light on the present situation? We examine the forces at play and reveal the stakes behind this crime against humanity.

- 2022
- 90 & 52 mins
- ENG, FR
- **Producer:**
- Yuzu Productions
- **Directors:**
- François Reinhardt &
- Romain Franklin
- **Commissioned by:**
- ARTE



# Apple: The Trillion Dollar Betrayal

Apple is the most valuable company in the world and has a role in our lives like no other. From smartphones to smart watches, earbuds to computers, the technology it has popularized has revolutionized the modern age. But a company that started out as the cool underdog to Microsoft is now subsumed in a wave of controversies.

Criticism of Apple includes allegations of anti-competitive practices, tax avoidance and relying on sweatshop labour. There are reports of people forced into working twenty hour days, chemicals being used that cause irreparable damage and gruelling conditions in Apple factories. In 2010, there was a wave of suicides at one of its largest factories. That year, analysts also noticed that Apple had suddenly stopped making all of their money in the US. Instead, it had shifted billions of dollars of profits to Ireland, where it pays little to no tax.

For many years there was a myth in the technology community that when a new iPhone was released, older iPhones would get slower. Then, in 2017, it was proved that Apple were intentionally slowed down older phones. They also make their devices intentionally difficult to fix, citing safety concerns and the need to protect trade secrets.

We investigate the true cost of Apple's rise to the top.

- 2022
- 90 & 52 mins
- ENG
- **Producer:**
- Enderley Pictures
- **Director:**
- Billy Arthur



## Apart

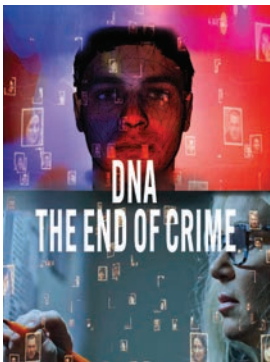
Since the beginning of the War on Drugs, the number of women in U.S. prisons has grown over 800%. The majority are mothers.

In a Midwestern state caught between harsh drug sentencing and rising incarceration for women, three unforgettable mothers return home from prison and try to rebuild their lives after being separated from their children for years.

Lydia, a devoted 'soccer mom,' fell into opiate addiction after being prescribed painkillers by her doctor. Her family are shellshocked by her incarceration. Amanda's son was three when she was imprisoned. Since then, she has only seen him every few months, and dreams of setting up a home with him when she gets out. But it isn't easy to find a family home after being incarcerated. And Tomika was sent to jail when her daughter, Bailee, was just nine months old. On her release nine years later, she tries to rebuild a relationship with Bailee while working multiple jobs.

Their stories overlap at a new reentry program for women, run by Malika, an advocate formerly incarcerated in the same prison. Filmed over 3 ½ years, 'Apart' traces their steps as they reconstruct lives derailed by drugs and prison. It's the story of separation, loss and survival. But it's also a story of women helping each other return to their communities—a story of love and reunion.

- 2021
- 85 & 52 mins
- ENG
- **Producer:**  
Red Antelope Films
- **Director:**  
Jennifer Redfearn
- **Commissioned by:**  
PBS



## DNA: The End of Crime?

It was a landmark achievement with wide-ranging implications for solving any crime. In March 2018, US police tracked down the Golden State serial killer, who had gone undetected for 40 years, by identifying members of his family on a commercial DNA database. It was the first time investigative genetic genealogy had been used to crack a case and helped spawn a new discipline.

Since then, genetic genealogy has been used to catch nearly 300 killers. If the DNA profiles of just 3% of the population are on a database, you can find anyone. But as DNA can easily become contaminated or transferred, DNA profiles have also led to people being wrongly convicted.

And there are wider implications at stake. When the remains of a 20-week-old foetus were found in the sewer in Georgia, the police analyzed the DNA of the foetus, and, with genetic genealogy, tracked down the mother. Faced with a public outcry following her arrest, charges were dropped. But since then, other two other women whose pregnancies also ended in unclear circumstances have been tracked down through genetic genealogy. In Hong Kong, DNA taken from cigarette butts was used to identify and publicly shame litterers.

So who should have access to these databases? And under what circumstances?

2022  
52 mins  
ENG, FR

**Producer:**  
Nova Prod

**Directors:**  
Gabrielle Dréan  
Jérémy Frey

**Commissioned by:**  
France 5





## USA: Climate Wars

In the United States, temperatures are breaking all records. Last summer in California, temperatures reached almost 60° in some areas. The rain no longer falls, water is scarce and fires ravage the entire west of the country every year. But despite this, many Americans continue living as if nothing was happening. According to one poll, 56% of Republican voters do not believe in global warming and the subject of climate change deeply divides the country. And, as always, the poor pay the highest price.

Teresa and Don lost everything in a few hours when fire destroyed their village. Like many Americans, they had no insurance and have had to start again from zero. Farm machines will no longer function in the extreme heat so labourers have had to switch to working at night. But with only lamps to guide them, accidents are more likely. And with the rivers nearly empty, salmon are now transported by lorries to the oceans.

Despite this, men like Pastor Rick Joyner continues to preach that climate change is fake news. The United States remains the most climate-skeptical Western country. Many believe that it's all a big conspiracy to impose 'socialism' on the country. But even if many farmers remain in denial, with the price of water so high, all are interested in saving money. More and more are turning to regenerative agriculture to use resources more effectively and boost the earth's capacity to store water.

2022  
52 mins  
ENG, FR

**Producer:**  
Nova Prod

**Directors:**  
Ibar Aibar  
Fanny Chauvin

**Commissioned by:**  
M6



# Boom!

## The Science of Explosives

Over 1,000 years ago, the Chinese made a discovery that changed the world. This science documentary takes us on an action-fuelled rocket ride through the world of dynamite, TNT and Semtex. From mini blasts that protect drivers in accidents, to special effects in the cinema, to the highly complicated blasting of a high-rise building: there are many more bangs in our everyday lives than we think.

Our modern life is unthinkable without explosives. Material for new roads or railways is extracted from quarries by blasting. Airbags inflate in fractions of a second and save lives thanks to tiny detonators. There are even systems in cars to protect pedestrians in accidents, cushioning the impact on the bonnet. In the USA, researchers are using explosives to create new substances and nanoparticles that could revolutionise technology. They are extremely hard, heat-resistant and are superconductors. With the help of these nanoparticles, more powerful electronic components can be produced and the charging times of batteries significantly reduced. These super materials are only created by the high pressures and temperatures during detonation.

Explosives release enormous forces in millionths of a second. This film is about how many different ways you can use them.

- 2022
- 52 mins
- ENG, GER

- **Producer:**
- A&O Buero

- **Director:**
- Björn Platz

- **Commissioned by:**
- NDR/ARTE



## Rewild

Temperatures are rising and biodiversity is collapsing at an unprecedented rate in the history of mankind. Almost 60% of wild animals have disappeared in the last 40 years. And the reason is always the same: the presence of man. Man whose activities emit greenhouse gases. Man who destroys living things and all animal species through deforestation, intensive agriculture, mining and fossil extraction.

Yet there is a solution: rewilding. Limiting human activities on immense areas so that they recover and become favourable habitats for all living things. Let wildlife thrive without human intervention. According to the United Nations, an area as large as China should be reserved for rewilding so that the virtuous circle of biodiversity can be applied on a global scale to limit the effects of climate change.

For years, many private initiatives have been launched all over the world which have already proven themselves. On the five continents of the earth, people are buying land, reintroducing endangered species and restoring disappeared ecosystems. In Argentina, we follow the reintroduction of jaguars in the Iberá wetlands, 70 years after they were driven into local extinction. In Brazil, Sebastião Salgado has replanted a forest with two million trees. In Mozambique, the return of large savannah animals has replenished a land destroyed by war. And in Siberia, a father and son hope to stave off climate change by reintroducing bison.

2022  
90 & 52 mins  
ENG, FR

**Producer:**  
Nova Prod

**Directors:**  
Alexis Breton  
Cyprien d'Haese  
Thomas Zribi

**Commissioned by:**  
M6





## Pleistocene Park

Seeking no one's help and asking nobody's permission, Russian geophysicist Sergey Zimov and his son Nikita are gathering any large woolly beast they can get their hands on, and transporting them, by whatever low budget means they can contrive, to the most remote corner of Siberia. They call their project Pleistocene Park.

The goal: restore the Ice Age “mammoth steppe” ecosystem and avoid a catastrophic feedback loop leading to runaway global warming. Sergey would know: fifteen years ago he published in the journal *Science* showing that frozen arctic soils contain twice as much carbon as the earth's atmosphere. These soils are now starting to melt.

While Zimov's brilliance and charisma have won him friends and supporters, his oversized ego, lack of diplomacy, and cranky iconoclasm make him a challenge to work with. Nikita, Sergey's son, is the last man standing to deal with his father's idiosyncrasies and carry forward his vision.

The clock is ticking. Impacts of climate change – hurricanes, wildfires, heat waves and floods – are being felt sooner than anticipated. On a global scale, progress addressing the root cause of climate change – anthropogenic carbon emissions – is as elusive as ever. Can two Russian scientists stave off a worst case scenario of global environmental catastrophe and reshape humanity's relationship with the natural world?

- 2022
- 103 & 52 mins
- ENG
- **Producer:**
- Jed Riffe Films
- **Directors:**
- Luke Griswold Tergis





## \$avvy

‘\$avvy’ investigates the historical, cultural and societal norms around women and money. With incisive humor and captivating honesty, it questions why women often take a backseat to managing their money and reveals why it’s increasingly critical for women to understand and take control of their personal finances.

56% of women and 61% of millennial women still abdicate major financial decisions to the men in their lives. Women 65 and older are 80% more likely to be impoverished than men of the same age. Meanwhile, low-income women and women of color face heightened barriers to building and maintaining wealth.

‘\$avvy’ explores how and why our financial culture sidelines women and tells a new story about women who are taking matters into their own hands. How do we break taboos around talking about money? Why do financial gender roles persist? How does the lack of financial education in schools deepen inequities? ‘\$avvy’ dives into the intersections of money and gender, while offering advice from experts in the field about our shared question: What can I do, right now, to be smarter with my money?

- 2021
- 79 & 52 mins
- ENG
- **Producer:**
- Finiah Line Features
- **Director:**
- Robin Hauser





## The Queen and Her Prime Ministers

This film analyses the fascinating relationship between Queen Elizabeth II and her fourteen prime ministers. From Winston Churchill, who was smitten with his young queen, to the difficult relationship with Margaret Thatcher, to the boisterous Brexiteer Boris Johnson – this film sheds light on the secretive relationship between the head of state and the head of government.

Although Britain's monarch has no direct political power, every week the prime minister drives from Downing Street to Buckingham Palace for a private audience. In this film, personal secretaries, political pundits and Buckingham Palace insiders reveal what is discussed during these secret meetings, and how much personal likes and dislikes determine the relationship between royalty and government, between representative and political power.

Using archive footage and personal accounts, this film shows how the Queen has accompanied her prime ministers through their time in office. Much has changed in Britain during the 70 years of Elizabeth's reign – but one thing hasn't: Governments come and go, the Queen remains.

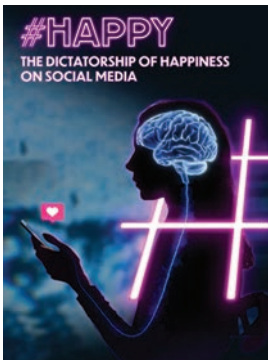
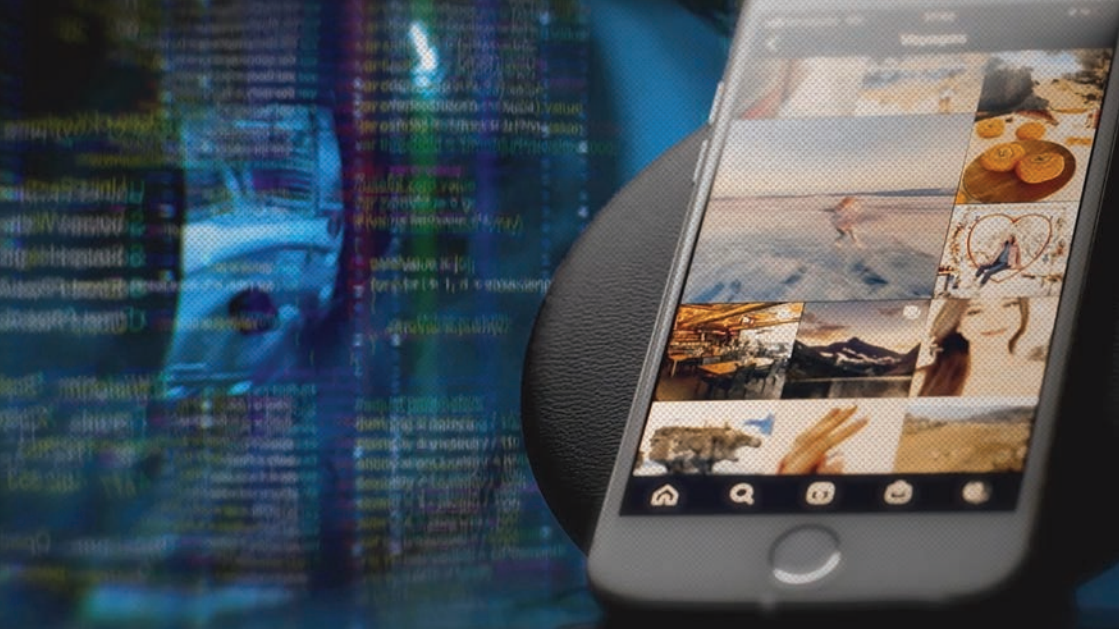
2021  
52 mins  
ENG, GER

**Producers:**  
A&O Buero

**Director:**  
Katharina Wolff  
Larissa Klinker

**Commissioned by:**  
NDR/ARTE





## #Happy: The Dictatorship of Happiness on Social Media

We spend hours on Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat, seduced by their promise: to be able to share our life and our opinions with the whole world. In this virtual world, everyone is happy. Everyone shows off and everyone judges. But this irresistible quest for recognition can quickly turn into addiction, wreaking havoc on our mental health. And teenagers are the most susceptible. In this film, we examine the real dangers of the “happycracy” promoted on social networks and hear from some of its young victims.

Danny was 14 when he posted his first selfie on Facebook. But it didn't get many ‘likes’, leading him to take more and more in a desperate attempt to secure the approval of others. Soon he was taking hundreds of selfies a day. He stopped eating in an attempt to perfect his body and lost 12 kg. Then he dropped out of school and spent six months unable to leave the house, believing that he was so ugly, people would be afraid of him. Desperate, he tried to kill himself. It was only when Danny stopped using social networks that he was able to slowly recover.

His is an extreme story but with the invention of the “like” and the idea of “self branding”, where everything must be validated by others to be real, the creators of social networks are changing our behaviours.

- 2021
- 52 mins
- ENG, FR
- **Producer:**
- La Feel Good Company
- **Director:**
- Elisa Jadot
- **Commissioned by:**
- LCP





## Erasmus in Gaza

Riccardo, an Italian final-year medical student, is going on Erasmus. The destination: Gaza, a war zone. His friends are shocked. However, it is important to him as he wants to become a war surgeon and is writing his thesis on explosive bullet wounds. Entering Gaza is not easy, he needs permission from three different authorities: the Israeli army, the Palestinian Authority and the Hamas.

Upon arrival at the Islamic University, he is welcomed by the chancellor and interviewed by the local and international media. Riccardo starts to feel the pressure: his experience will determine the success of the exchange programme. The imminence of war doesn't help and he begins to suffer from panic attacks.

This improves as Riccardo makes friends with some young Palestinians, who advise him on how to handle his anxiety. But when war is rekindled, Riccardo has to make many difficult choices. In crossing the border between Israel and the Strip, Riccardo also crossed the boundary between adolescence and adulthood, a journey of personal struggle that will test whether or not he truly has the strength to pursue his dreams.

- 2022
- 75 & 52 mins
- ENG, SPA
- **Producer:**
- Eva Fontanals
- **Directors:**
- Chiara Avesani
- Matteo Delbò
- **Commissioned by:**
- Al Jazeera Doc



# Love and Sex in West Africa

Ivory Coast, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Senegal - when it comes to love and sex, these African countries are caught between tradition and modernity.

The Ivory Coast is full of contrasts. Up until recently, men always took the lead in any seduction. Now young women are free to have more casual relationships. They call it “mougoupan” – a hook up without emotional attachment. It’s a sexual revolution, but in a country where 13-year-old girls are still taught how to be submissive to their future husbands.

We also met activists who are fighting against forced marriages in the DRC. Our teams travelled to a region where this practice is commonplace, and where it’s not uncommon for a 12-year-old girl to be already married and pregnant.

In Senegal, most marriages are between members of the same caste. Many parents will not allow their children to marry someone from a different caste or social class. They want to ensure the purity of their race, according to ancestral tradition, but this has become more controversial and some people see this as a form of racial discrimination. Polygamy also remains common here. Alexis is in love with two women and is careful not to arouse too much jealousy between them.

2022

52 mins

ENG, FR

**Producer:**

Tony Comiti Productions

**Directors:**

Julien Boluen

Charles Comiti

**Commissioned by:**

M6

## Femicidio



2022 - 67 & 52 mins - ENG, IT

A woman is murdered in her own home every three days in Italy. And it's not just an Italian problem. Violence against women is on the rise all around the world. "Femicide" is the intentional killing of a woman or girl by a man because they are female. Often the victim has just ended a relationship, or tried to break away from her partner. These murders are reported in the press as if they were an anomaly. The headlines imply that the man was depressed, or that the woman provoked him somehow. The root causes of femicide are rarely considered.

Nearly 70 % of these women are killed by men they lived with. Most of the rest are killed by former boyfriends and ex-husbands. The problem is not unique to Italy. Most cases of femicide are preceded by physical abuse, threats or intimidation, sexual violence or financial abuse and dependence. Laura Roveri was 25 when her ex-boyfriend stabbed her repeatedly in a disco. Despite all the evidence to the contrary, he claimed he never intended to kill her and only received a seven year sentence.

"Femicidio" looks into femicides in Italy. It focuses on cases that rocked the country and exposed misogyny in Italian culture, and reveals the macho mentality that leads husbands, ex-partners, and boyfriends to murder.

## China's Hacker Army



2022 - 90 & 52 mins - ENG, FR

When Microsoft accused 'state-backed' Chinese hackers of entering its servers to target at least 60,000 global users, few people were surprised. It was just the latest in a long line of Chinese cyberattacks. Growing security concerns over China has also led to Huawei being banned or restricted from 5G networks in a host of countries, including America, UK and Australia.

"There are two types of big companies: those that have been hacked by the Chinese, and those that don't know they have been hacked by the Chinese," claimed FBI director, James Comey in 2014. China already has the world's largest surveillance network and uses technology to subdue minorities, censor content and spy on dissidents.

For decades, Western leaders wanted to believe that China's economic growth posed no threat to other countries. That it would be content to act only within its borders and that, as the country became more capitalist, it would also become more liberal. Today, that hope has been dashed. China is regularly cited as the number one source of cyberattacks.

There's a fierce battle going on for global technology leadership. 5G networks are seen as essential for future development and few companies are as well positioned to lead this 5G revolution as Huawei. But to what extent should it be regarded as a threat?

## The Ultra Right & Neo Nazis: The New Terrorist Threat



2022 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

They call themselves racialists – in other words, they are neo-Nazis. These far right groups are also very well-connected and they organize themselves all over Europe.

Their targets: Muslims, Jews, migrants, left-wing association leaders who, according to them, threaten the continent with a “great racial replacement”. We spent two years investigating these semi-clandestine networks in France, Germany and Romania.

We spoke to ideologues, recruiters and fighters. The film features exclusive testimonies from these ultra-right-wing nationalists, who speak openly about their willingness to engage in extreme violence to achieve their goals.

As we investigated the trade in Nazi memorabilia, we met a man who served in the SS back in the Second World War. Shockingly, he still holds nostalgia for Nazi ideals. As well as the online trade in memorabilia, we discovered a dating site for racial purists, white people who share far right ideals. Profiles on the site openly display swastikas and other Nazi symbolism.

We also hear from the intelligence services to see how they view the threat posed by these right-wing activists. Who are they? We find out how they recruit, and about their preparations for the coming “racial civil war”, which according to them, is unavoidable.

## Return to Kabul



2022 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

Weeks before the fall of Kabul, we filmed ‘In the Heart of the Taliban’ showing how the Taliban were preparing for power. Now, we returned to Kabul to find the people previously interviewed and see how they are fairing under the Islamic Emirates.

Afghanistan is in the midst of an economic crisis, with many Afghans selling their goods on the capital's flea markets to survive. After twenty years of fighting, Commander Zaquer, has become one of Kabul's police chiefs. He delights in riding the bumper cars in the city's amusement park.. But Allah Gul Moudjahid, a warlord previously hostile to the Taliban, is arrested and humiliated in front of our cameras. Meanwhile, inside Kabul's prison, supporters of the previous government await trial and possible execution.

Women have again become second-class citizens and Arifa, a young high school student, is now confined to her home because the Taliban have banned school for girls over 12 years old. To try to defend their rights, some protest in the street. But the demonstrations are immediately dispersed by automatic weapons fire and whippings.



## USA: The Woke Revolution



2022- 52 mins - ENG, FR

In the USA, a new identity movement is emerging. Its mission: to fight against ethnic, sexual and gender discrimination and to impose new rules. Its name: "woke".

To be woke is to be aware of the discrimination suffered by minorities and of white privilege. In Denver, Colorado, wealthy white Americans pay \$500 to attend dinner parties where they are told they are unknowingly racist. At New York City Hall, a special commission tracks the "micro-aggressions" suffered by citizens from minorities. Holding the door for a woman, supposedly physically weaker than a man, can thus be considered a micro-aggression.

Those who oppose this ideology are considered racist and are "cancelled", that is to say socially eliminated and lynched on social networks. When UCLA economics professor, Gordon Klein, refused to automatically raise the marks of his black students who were taking an exam after the death of George Floyd and who, as such, would have been traumatized, he received death threats. He now lives under FBI protection and has been suspended.

But some feel the woke revolution has gone too far. Even Terrence Floyd, George's own brother murdered by the police, calls for a return to universalism and tolerance.

## Taiwan: The Chinese Threat



2021 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

Taiwan is one of the most advanced democracies in the world. It's also one of the most threatened. The problem is that China has always considered Taiwan to be one of its own provinces.

For decades, the majority of people in Taiwan wanted nothing to change. They were careful to avoid offending China while enjoying the freedoms and lifestyle of not living under a dictatorship. Wayne is one of those Taiwanese people who wants this status quo to continue. His business depends on China but he doesn't want reunification. "Everyone knows it, Taiwan is an independent country... but you don't have to shout it from the rooftops, that's all..."

But since the 2014 Sunflower movement, a majority of young people are increasingly demonstrating for independence, even if it means China cracking down. Having seen what happened in Hong Kong, they believe they need to be more proactive. On the other side CUPP, an extremist pro-Chinese party, is actively pushing for reunification. Founded by a mafia gang leader, members have been convicted for attacking and harassing independence supporters.

Today the Taiwanese are at a turning point in their history. Will the de facto independence of their country become official? Or will Beijing annex the small island?

## Yemen's Dirty War



2021 - 59 mins - ENG, FR

After seven years of war, there is no end in sight to the suffering in Yemen. In this exclusive film we report on the situation in the north-west of Yemen, held by the Houthis. 21 million people live in this enclave. There, since 2015, out of sight, a dirty war has been going on.

Sana'a, North of Yemen. One of the most inaccessible places on the planet. For the past six years, Ansar Allah, a political and military movement created by powerful families from the North, has seized control. But Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are determined to reinstall the ousted Yemeni president.

They see the Houthi rebels, who belong to the Zaydite branch of Islam, as heretics who pose a threat to Wahhabism. Using weapons provided by the West, they relentlessly bombard the North in a dirty war. Over 230,000 Yemenis have already died.

A strict, expertly-maintained embargo is also starving the population. According to UN agencies, Yemen is facing one of the worst famines in the world with 400,000 children reportedly at risk of death. New diseases have appeared since the beginning of the war and there has been a sharp increase in babies born with abnormalities.

But the war in Yemen is about more than just competing religious ideologies. Yemen owns substantial and underexploited oil reserves and controls roads leading to the Suez canal.

## Lebanon: In the Crosshairs



2021 - 54 mins - ENG, FR

Lebanon stands on the brink of becoming a failed state. Years of civil war, border conflicts and corrupt government has left the country bankrupt and spiralling into chaos. The Beirut port explosion reduced the capital to tatters and exposed the utter failure of sectarianism politics. But in this deeply divided country, a young generation is ready to battle for reform.

At the supermarkets in Beirut, hyperinflation has led to the food changing price every day. Lilian, 24, hoped to become a diplomat but the economic crisis forced her to quit her studies. Now she has joined the protest movement and pawned her clothes to buy food. The man most people blame for this desperate situation is Riad Salameh, head of the central bank for the past three decades and accused of embezzling close to a billion dollars. The IMF and World Bank has offered to bail out Lebanon if the central bank opens up its account books. Something that Salameh – with the support of the whole political class – absolutely refuses to do.

Yet economic collapse isn't the only cause of the country's woes. In southern Lebanon, safety risks along the border with Israel are a main source of instability. Further north, the Bekaa valley is the other Hezbollah stronghold. But it is also home to one of Lebanon's most serious problems the Syrian refugee crisis. The mass arrival of 1.5 million Syrian refugees has further destabilised a nation long distrustful of Syria.

## Austin: America's Hippest Capital



2021 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

With its world renowned arts festivals, flourishing economy and collaborative tech culture, Austin, Texas has a reputation for being one of the coolest and most progressive cities in America. Companies like Apple, Tesla, Google and Samsung have opened state-of-the-art factories there and, in the past ten years, Austin has gained 500,000 inhabitants. But this city, with its extreme tolerance of minorities and 'Keep Austin Weird' campaign, is a democrat bubble in ultra conservative Texas.

Former policeman, Tim Enlow, has watched in disgust as the town's liberal councillors defunded the police. He now works as a private security guard protecting one of Austin's most notorious residents, far-right radio host and conspiracy theorist, Alex Jones. Three years ago, Jones' twitter account, facebook page and youtube channel were all shut down for promoting hatred and glorifying violence. He complains that Austin's new left-wing residents are bringing their 'cultures of tyranny' with them.

But Texas remains one of the most conservative states in America. Here you don't need a license to buy a handgun and the state recently introduced America's most restrictive abortion law.

## America's Army: Inside the World's Most Powerful Army



2021 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

With nearly 1.5 million soldiers and a budget of 700 billion dollars, the US army is the most powerful military force in the world. Present on all continents, it imposes American hard power abroad and helps manage natural disasters or national emergencies at home. Yet, as evident in Afghanistan, being the world's largest army isn't always a guarantee of success...

In America, special forces soldiers are living legends. And the Best Ranger Competition attracts the best of the best in a gruelling series of trials lasting three days. We follow Joshua and Ryan through the competition. Owen and Carter, 18, were recently approached by a recruitment officer. In a country where health insurance costs up to 800 dollars per month and university fees are \$50,000 per year, they're attracted by army's promise of free health care and scholarships.

For the teenaged students at Missouri's Military Academy, every minute of their day is strictly regulated. Their parents pay \$34,000 a year in the hope that an army education will open up opportunities for them in societies. Former Navy Seal, Eli Crane, has started a successful business making bottle openers from bullets. But many ex-combatants feel abandoned by society. Approximately 6,000 veterans commit suicide each year and countless others, like Zook and Hog, struggle with PTSD.

## Africa, GMOS and the Gates Foundation



2021 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

Across Africa, lobbyists, philanthropists and businessmen are working to open up the continent to GMO food. They argue that GMOs can provide a miracle solution to two of Africa's biggest problems: famine and malaria. The main promoters is Bill Gates, now the head of the most powerful philanthropic foundation in history. This film reveals how the Gates Foundation became the main funder of genetic experiments underway on the continent and investigates the possible repercussions of their actions.

The Gates foundation is discreetly conducting research on cassava genes and on the genetic modification of mosquitoes to fight malaria. These kind of tests are banned in Europe because of their potential risks to health and the environment. So the trials are carried out in Africa instead.

By financing the development of GMOs in Africa, a neoliberal model of development and corporate domination is being imposed on Africa, opening it up to the global agribusiness. This is the new world of philanthrocapitalism, where humanitarian aid has a stubborn aftertaste of business, famine programs are often a pretext to introduce GMOs and public investments can serve private interests...

## No Fear, No Favor: Poachers to Protectors



2022 - 65 & 58 mins - ENG

In Zambia, Namibia, and Kenya, local people have staked their future on sustaining African wildlife. One, a single mother raising three young girls, does high-risk undercover work, and is routinely arrested along with poachers she has identified. Another is a former elephant poacher who now works as an armed guardian protecting orphaned baby elephants. And a third helped rescue Sunni, a baby elephant, who was mutilated by the poachers who killed her mother.

Filmed over several years in Zambia's vast Kafue National Park, as well as in North Kenya and Namibia, the film focuses on local stakeholders who fight to protect Africa's iconic wildlife. Through community conservation groups that foster ecotourism and return financial benefit to the participants, they are creating new green livelihoods while reclaiming a vital heritage for future generations.

In 'No Fear, No Favor: Poachers to Protectors' we see the beginnings of grassroots efforts that both sustain endangered species, and help thwart illegal activity. There is an intimate connection between poverty and poaching. By reversing that dynamic so that rural communities profit from local conservation wildlife thrives. This represents an approach for sustaining wildlife and wilderness areas everywhere.



## Northern Ireland: The 100 Year War



2022 - 52 mins - ENG., FR

For over a hundred years, Ireland has been divided in two. To the south, the Republic, an independent country and member of the European Union. To the north, Northern Ireland, belonging to the United Kingdom. In this territory of barely 1.8 million inhabitants, two rival camps coexist: the Unionists, mainly Protestants and loyal to the United Kingdom and the Irish nationalists, mostly Catholics, who want to be attached to the Republic of Ireland.

Since the end of the civil war in 1998, which claimed 3,500 lives, hatred has persisted between these two communities. In the capital, Belfast, enemy neighborhoods are separated by 8-meter-high concrete walls. Every evening and weekend, the metal doors that allow you to pass from one district to another are closed.

Each community retains its own traditions. On the Protestant side, on July 12, the victory of Protestant King William III over Catholic King James II is celebrated by gigantic parades and marching bands. On August 8, it's the turn of the Catholic community to taunt the protests. In Derry, Dede and his friends make a gigantic bonfire using wooden pallets. They hang the flag of the United Kingdom, and proclaim their hatred of the British crown.

In the underprivileged districts of Belfast and Derry, paramilitary groups exercise parallel justice and conduct punishment attacks. We met one of their former members.

## The Day Stockholm Became a Syndrome



2022 - 52 mins - ENG

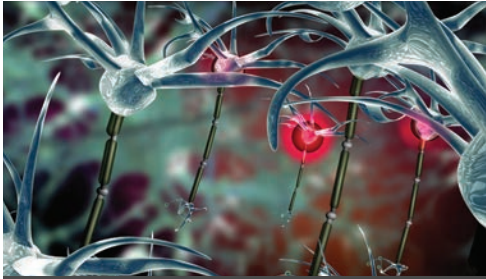
On August 23, 1973 a bank robbery at the Kreditbank in Stockholm went badly wrong. It turned into a hostage situation which lasted six days, and gave its name to a phenomenon.

Stockholm Syndrome is a way of describing the emotional bonds which some people can form with a captor or abuser. And it all started in that bank in Stockholm.

During the siege, despite being held against their will in a dangerous situation, the four hostages bonded with the bank robbers and turned against the police. They continued to defend their captors after their release and refused to testify against them. In fact, they even raised money for the bank robbers' defence. This survival mechanism came to be known as "Stockholm Syndrome."

In this film, nearly fifty years after the events, we hear directly from the hostages, bank robbers and police and find out what happened during those six eventful days.

## Build a Better Memory Through Science



2022 - 52 mins - ENG

Drawing on fascinating new research into how memories are created, stored, and recalled, this film shares strategies viewers can use to improve their own memories, with evidence-based Memory Boosters vetted by leading scientists.

What is memory? More impressionist painting than video recording, memory is the name for a constellation of neural connections that helps us to navigate our world based on experience and new information. We expect some kinds of memory to fade as we age, but knowing how and why we form memories can help us create more lasting ones in the future. Our brains are not capable of taking in an infinite amount of sensory information, so improving our quality of attention helps us decide what's worth remembering. Movement and sleep can also have surprising, positive effects on how well we form and retain memories.

We guide viewers on a journey through memory and how it works – and can be harnessed—biologically, psychologically, emotionally and socially. Through interviews, researchers and educators explain how to utilize attention, movement, sleep, “joy conditioning,” meditation and lifelong learning to help build a better memory and enhance cognitive function at any age.

## Pain Secrets



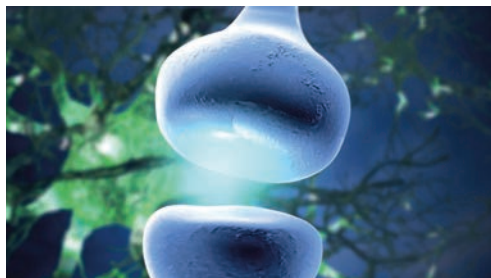
2022 - 52 mins - ENG

Revealing a revolutionary new way of understanding pain, this film explores treatment modalities that can help to resolve, manage and in some cases correct for chronic, everyday pain. Focusing on several different strategies that approach mind-body, body-mind, and physical interventions, it demonstrates how the pain-brain connection shapes our experience of pain and demonstrates that we can all use the power of our brain to help reshape our own pain journey.

Most people think of pain in terms of an injury or inflammation. This type of pain serves a useful purpose, because when we are hurt, we protect ourselves to prevent further injury and allow healing. But neuropathic pain, which occurs because of an abnormal function of the nervous system, does not have the same benefit. This kind of pain includes a wide variety of disorders affecting any part of the nervous system. In some cases, the brain can receive a signal even if there is no painful stimulus. In other cases, sensory signals get crossed and are “misread” as pain.

Understanding the variety and complexity of our body's expression of chronic pain leads toward a pathway for improved non-pharmaceutical and non-surgical treatment options.

## The Brain Revolution



2022 - 52 mins - ENG

With exciting new research from leading medical and neuroscience experts, this film explores the foundational principles of neuroplasticity — how the brain can change throughout one's lifespan — to show viewers how to take control of their lives as they age.

We guide viewers through four pillars of a comprehensive and easy-to-follow plan for better brain fitness. Scientists and researchers explain how to master the building blocks of plasticity, harness the tenets of learning, create optimal brain health, and drive positive changes with lifelong learning - to create a personal Brain Revolution.

Thanks to the scientific advances of the last century, today's average 50-year-old will live into their mid-80s. But with that increased longevity comes the expectation that the brain will decline in function over those remaining years. Aging brains have greater difficulty remembering, paying close attention, responding rapidly, and performing complex tasks. But none of this is inevitable. Groundbreaking scientific research demonstrates that the brain, so malleable in childhood, is still changeable as we age. It gives us tools to take back control of the most powerful part of our body to improve—and enjoy—the rest of our lives.

## Zebras: Gifted People



2022 - 66 mins - ENG, SP

“Gifted people are like zebras, wonderful and indomitable animals,” said psychologist Jeanne Siaud-Facchin. Psychologists define intelligence as a general mental ability for reasoning and solving problems that integrates a range of specific mental abilities. It can be seen as the mental glue that binds together all these abilities. But what’s it really like being very intelligent?

Having these skills is a gift, but it can give rise to a feeling of inadequacy, of being permanently out of place. This film shows the goals and difficulties faced by gifted people during their life and particularly at school. From a constant feeling of being ‘different’, to problems relating to their peers or having specific emotional needs that others struggle to understand. We hear from gifted adults and children and examine some of the common misunderstandings and prejudices about intelligence. Does a huge intelligence create an exacerbated sensitivity? Are gifted people more fragile because of their intelligence?”

We also explore the latests neurological research on how the brain and intelligence work. A celebration of Zebras, in all their complexities and diversities.

## Bangladesh: Sunken Country



2022 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

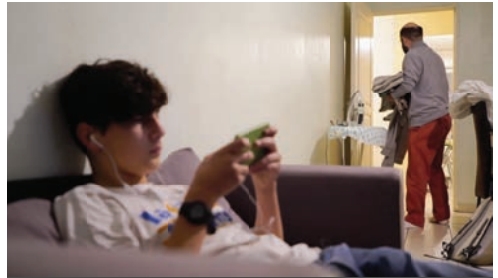
By 2050, 30% of Bangladesh will be under water. One in three inhabitants, some 60 million people, are threatened by marine flooding. No other country in the world is so at risk from rising waters. The main culprit: global warming.

To the south, in the Ganges delta, the salt water that invades the land has disrupted the entire economy of the region. Many farmers have had to convert their rice paddies into shrimp farms, which are much less profitable. The country is also threatened from within by its gigantic rivers. The melting ice of the Himalayas and heavy monsoon rains are dangerously increasing river flows. Every year, rivers burst their banks and tens of thousands of homes are washed away. Every year, nearly 15,000 children drown in the rising waters.

Dhaka, the capital, is facing a massive influx of climate refugees. Having lost everything, they are looking for odd jobs to survive. Korban Ali became a tricycle driver to transport people. He works 12 hours a day, seven days a week, in the hope of providing a better life for his children.

Bangladesh is also battling extreme pollution caused largely by the textile industry. But a new middle and upper class wants to change mentalities. The first model companies are emerging. Jahirul has invested 10 million euros to be able to reprocess hazardous waste, such as asbestos, batteries and engine oils.

## Youth at Risk



2021 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

Children and adolescents are spending more and more time in front of their screens. But are they aware of the dangers of these virtual worlds?

To look like the stars of social networks, many young girls turn to cosmetic surgery, sometimes to the point of obsession. Elena, 21, has already had a breast augmentation and liposuction and is about to have her eighth lip filler injection. She sees it as something completely normal as surgery is constantly promoted by the online influencers she follows.

At 14, Louna started an online relationship with another teenager. But when she decided to leave him, he took revenge by sharing nude photos of her on social networks. "My photos were absolutely everywhere, even on porn sites, until I ended up trending number one on a porn site." She filed a complaint almost a year ago but the photos continue to circulate on the internet.

Social networks have also become the hunting ground for dealers, who sell their drugs directly via their customers' mobile phones. And for some, video games are a drug. Nearly one in 10 young players are addicted to screens. Augustin, 13, spends nearly ten hours a day playing video games. He no longer goes out and his father doesn't know how to stop him.



## Mali: Autopsy of a Failure



2022 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

In 2012, Northern Mali fell into the hands of armed jihadist groups. Operation Serval, led by France, was immediately launched to liberate the occupied territory but the crisis only intensified. How did it come to this?

It was a crisis that began in the early 2000s, with the arrival in Mali of Algerian jihadists. A presence that did not worry the Malian power of the time, who believed they would be safe if they left the jihadists alone. As the problems grew more apparent, the international community looked away, preferring to see Mali as an example of democracy in Africa.

But this democracy was only an illusion. When the jihadists took control of the North and imposed sharia law, the French sent in the army. But without a political solution, the military was blocked. Aid money was embezzled and corruption, institutionalised.

The crisis in Mali has now crossed borders. Burkina Faso and Niger suffer from the same problems and now coastal countries are threatened.

Meanwhile, the civilian victims continue to multiply. Violence in the Sahel has displaced over two million people. A figure that has quadrupled in less than two years.

## Sahel: Inside the Resistance



2021 - 52 mins - FR

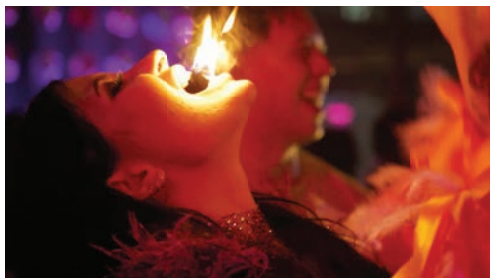
Terrorist groups continue to extend their hold on Sahel, a region the size of Europe which lies south of the Sahara. Jihadist incursions happen daily, including terrorist attacks, murders, and raids on villages.

Armies from African nations are struggling to hold ground, which leaves entire areas undefended, and the French have decided to reduce their military support to the region. As a result, local people have been forced to take up arms to defend themselves.

Our team travelled to the centre of Mali, the heart of the Dogon people's homeland. There we followed the Dan Na Ambassagou militia, made up of a thousand men armed with old guns. They face Islamist extremists who are equipped with Kalashnikovs and rocket launchers. But these "dozo" warriors also rely on charms, amulets and traditional beliefs in magic. They fight in temperatures of 45 degrees, with scarce water and no food. They are the last bastion of resistance for the 300,000 people who still live on the Dogon plateau.

We also visited Mauritania, a country which is leading the way on the fight against terror. We were given exceptional access to the Mauritanian army during an operation led by the GSI, the Special Intervention Groups, which are commando units responsible for tracking down jihadist cells on the Malian border. This film is an immersive journey into the growing threat of a jihad without borders.

## Bahrain: The Middle East's Party Capital



2022 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

Located in the Persian Gulf, off the coast of Saudi Arabia and Qatar, the Kingdom of Bahrain is the smallest and most surprising country in the Middle East. Here, homosexuality is legal, alcohol flows freely, other religions practiced and women live freely. Little wonder the island has become the party capital of the Middle East, particularly for young Saudis...

Bahrain was built thanks to its gas and oil resources but today the reserves are running out and the country must reinvent itself. It plans to do this by attracting investors from all over the world. Here there is no corporate tax, no income tax and no VAT. Bahrain is in the middle of a real estate frenzy, constructing artificial islands and ultra modern sky scrappers. It sees itself as the new, more liberated Dubai.

But behind this facade of tolerance lies a darker reality. The predominantly Shi'ite population is ruled with an iron fist by the Sunni minority, headed by the Al Khalifa royal family. All Shi'ite political opposition is severely repressed and their leaders imprisoned.

## Armenia vs. Azerbaijan



2021 - 52 mins - FR

The Nagorno-Karabakh war left more than 4,500 Armenians dead and 15,000 injured.

The peace deal of November 2020 represented a heavy defeat for Armenia. While they kept control of the areas they held within Nagorno-Karabakh, they were forced to return the surrounding territories to Azerbaijan. Armenians now live in fear of losing what remains of their land. In Kornidzor, the villagers take turns to stand guard, day and night. These peasants have formed a militia, swapping their pitchforks for Kalashnikovs.

Tens of thousands of families fled the war. Some are now ensconced at the Golden Palace, a 5-star hotel in an upscale ski resort. Susanna is in room 221 with her husband and children. The mini-bar no longer stocks cognac or vodka mignonette; the family use it to store some lard and a few vegetables. Susanna has learned to sew, and now she ekes out a living, making down jackets for the wealthy skiers who come to the resort.

Tigran, 19, miraculously survived a drone attack. After six months in hospital, he is finally being reunited with his family. He is welcomed home by a traditional festival in his village. Meanwhile Iveta, an Armenian pop star and ex-Eurovision finalist, is preparing a big show at the opera, and has dedicated a new song to the conflict.

## Dangerous Cities: Kabul



2022 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

Kabul, now under Taliban control, is one of the most dangerous cities in the world. The population of four million people face terrorist attacks, Taliban oppression and hunger.

Before the Taliban returned, some areas within the city had embraced a more Western way of life. That has all changed now. A woman alone is a target, in fear of arrest or even execution. Gay men live in fear of discovery which could also lead to execution. Journalists are killed just for doing their jobs. Before the Taliban returned there were 700 female journalists in Kabul. Most of them have fled, but we meet Tuba, a journalist aged 26 who continues to work there, despite facing constant danger.

Drug addicts also risk brutal treatment from Taliban enforcers. A few grams of opium costs the same as a pack of cigarettes and 10% of the population of Afghanistan are addicted to opium or heroin.

Another danger is speaking English. The Taliban see it as a sign of having collaborated with the enemy. Those who worked for the previous regime are in mortal danger. We meet a judge and a soldier who both helped to ensure the rule of law when the Americans were in Kabul. They will never be safe again.

And the biggest risk of all is hunger. More than half the population of Afghanistan is at risk of famine. Kabul has been abandoned to its fate by the international community.

## Dangerous Cities: Cape Town



2022 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

With a population of nearly six million, Cape Town is the second city of South Africa. Many of the richest people in the country have ocean villas there. But there is a dark side to this breathtakingly beautiful city. Three thousand people a year are murdered in Cape Town, making it the most dangerous city in Africa.

Shootings are commonplace, especially in the townships. Some townships have become no-go areas, plagued by murders, violent robberies and illicit trade of every kind. The police are pushed beyond their limits. Many locals choose to carry guns to defend themselves. Some even turn vigilante, while the middle classes barricade themselves into houses that are increasingly heavily fortified.

Some invest in panic buttons which they always carry with them. Just one quick press of the red button, and an armed response team from a private company rushes to the client's rescue.

Manenberg, 15 kilometres from the city centre, serves as headquarters for a notorious gang who call themselves "The Americans." They are violent drug dealers who flood the streets of Manenberg with "tik" a local version of crystal meth. Their rivals the "Dixie Boys" run protection rackets, and the gangs frequently fight for territory.

## Dangerous Cities: Rio



2022 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

Beyond the idyllic beaches of Copacabana and the watchful eye of Christ the Redeemer, there is another side to the city of Rio de Janeiro. It's a city in a state of perpetual war. Heavily-armed drug dealers control the favelas, while specially-trained police battle to take them down. Sometimes favelas become battlefields. That's what happened in Jacarezinho in May 2021, when a police drugs bust turned into a bloodbath, and left 28 dead.

There is also inter-gang violence, where increasingly heavily-armed gangs fight for territory. The ordinary people who live in the favelas are trapped by gunfire which comes from all sides. They are surrounded by urban warfare, collateral damage of the drug trade. They aren't even safe in their own homes, as bullets can go through walls. Three people a day are killed by stray bullets in Rio de Janeiro. The emergency rooms are full of people with bullet wounds.

We were given special access to the Rio Military Police Special Forces Battalion (BOPE), and were able to film them operating in high-risk situations. Their tactics follow the same pattern every time: they strike fast, and they strike hard. The strategy often puts lives at risk – both the lives of local people who live in the favelas, and the lives of the police themselves. The Brazilian police commit more police shootings than almost any other force in the world, but they also have the highest rate of deaths in the line of duty.

## Dangerous Roads: Texas



2022 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

It's the most dangerous road in Texas, and the second deadliest road in the USA. Someone is killed every two hours on Interstate 35, which runs from Dallas to Houston.

Hazards include speeding drivers or those don't obey the rules of the road, people who use their phone while driving, drunk drivers, and even car chases. There are laws in place, but it's rare for penalties to be imposed.

Our film shows how some drivers of heavy vehicles take unnecessary risks. But the poor condition of the road doesn't help the situation. The state of the road is hardly worthy of the wealthiest country in the world.

Bad weather causes further problems, with torrential rains often causing fatal accidents. The most horrifying accident took place on February 11th 2021 in Fort Worth. Ice on the road and poor visibility caused a gigantic pile-up involving nearly 130 vehicles. Six people died. The tragedy hit Texans hard. We use archive and witness testimony to explain how this terrible accident happened. We follow all those whose lives are tied to Interstate 35: police, rescue workers, firefighters, but also drivers, including families who need to take this road every day, even in fear for their lives.

An accident is reported every 56 seconds in Texas. How did it become the most dangerous state in the USA for drivers?



## Dangerous Roads:Bulgaria



2022 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

The roads in Bulgaria have one of the highest death tolls in Europe, second only to Romania. Every day, two drivers lose their lives on Bulgarian roads – twice the rate of many other European countries.

Most dangerous of all is the Trakia highway. The traffic is heavy; the road carries 100,000 vehicles per hour. This trunk road has become the most dangerous in Bulgaria. The road itself is poorly maintained and peppered with potholes. Bulgaria is the poorest country in the European Union. Drink driving and speeding are common.

The road has an average of 250 accidents and 42 deaths every month. In November 2021, Bulgaria suffered the deadliest road accident to happen in Europe in the past ten years. Forty-four people died in a bus after it hit a guardrail and then caught fire on the highway. From survivors' stories and archive we will tell the inside story of this tragedy.

Finally, Bulgaria is plagued by another evil – corruption. Bribes are commonplace here. They are used to cheat the roadworthiness tests for vehicles, as well as to settle police stops for speeding or using the phone while driving. So it isn't just a problem caused by irresponsible drivers, but by the underlying corruption that creates the situation.

## The Brothers Grimm: More than Fairytales



2022 - 52 mins - ENG, GER

Once upon a time there were two brothers, united for life by their passion for literature and their study of language: Wilhelm and Jacob Grimm. Their name is mostly connected with their fairy tales, those wonderful stories of ugly witches and brave girls, of young princes and great dangers. But they collected these stories for political reasons. They wanted to preserve the past in order to change the present. This docu-drama tells the unknown story of the famous fairy-tale collectors.

The Grimms have a very clear vision: a unified Germany based on a common German language. Their fairy tales are meant to serve as a framework for unity. But in 1837, Germany is still divided into many principalities. When they started their careers, Napoleon Bonaparte's brother had just been installed as King of Westphalia and French was the national language. In deliberately searching out and promoting old German literature, the brothers were engaging in an academic culture war against French foreign rule. But there was nothing specifically German about their stories. Many of their fairy tales can be found in similar forms throughout Europe. What distinguished them were the details.

Using scenes from plays and interview with the two brothers based on original texts, this docudrama shows how close the relationship between the two brother was.

## Paris: Still the World's Most Beautiful City?



2021 - 52 mins - FR

The famed City of Lights doesn't shine quite so brightly these days. Locals complain of dirty streets, poorly maintained roads, scruffy street furniture, horrendous traffic jams, and growing uncertainty.

The Olympics of 2024 are not far away – so how ready is the City of Lights? To find out, we talked to both officials and ordinary Parisians. Many tourists and residents complain of a lack of cleanliness, overflowing bins, graffiti, fly tipping, and an infestation of rats. In response, the town hall has created a service called “La Fonctionnelle” including emergency teams.

But not all of the workers are so motivated. A garbage collector tells us about the high levels of absenteeism, and various strategies that his team use to avoid work. It also takes several months for potholes to be mended by the highway maintenance teams, due to budget and staff cuts.

Several thousand people a year move out of central Paris. These are mainly families, driven out by soaring rents and family apartments being instead used as AirBnBs. Many Parisians deplore the changes in the city.

The number of bars in the 2nd arrondissement has doubled, squeezing pavement and parking spaces for residents. The noise levels make it impossible to sleep at night. Beyond the picture-postcard images – is Paris still the most beautiful city in the world?

## A Journey to the Heart of Secret Sicily



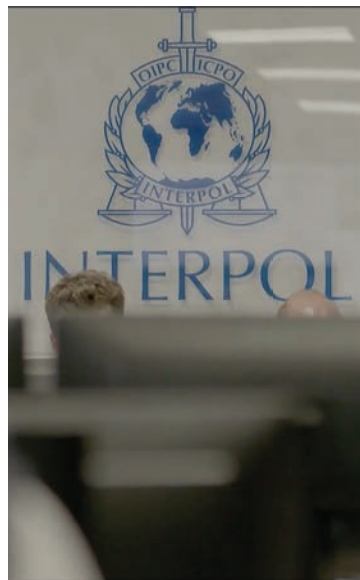
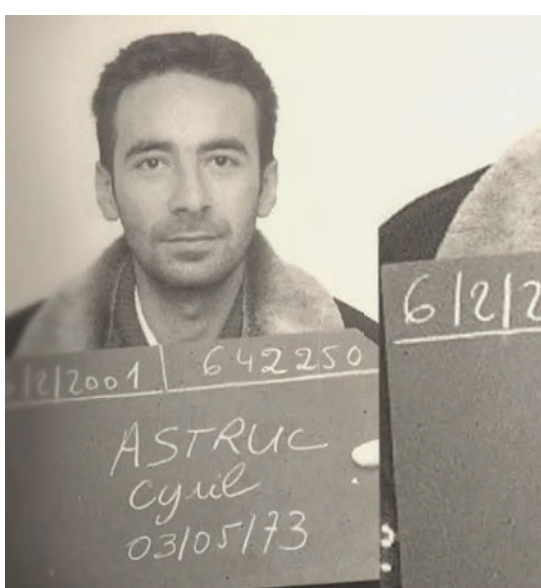
2021 - 56 mins - FR

It's the largest and one of the most popular islands in the Mediterranean yet, for many, Sicily remains an enigma. Its insularity, very specific code of honour, and violent mafia history has created the image of a closed, impenetrable society. In this film, we reveal a different side to Sicily.

The Palazzi Gangi in central Palermo is an outstanding example of Baroque architecture. Here, you can take a sightseeing tour lead by Princess Carine Vanni Calvello herself which pays for the Palazzi's ongoing restoration works. But nearby, piles of rubbish litter the great Sicilian city. Giovanni Moncada tirelessly roams the city, alerting authorities and demanding action, but in some neighbourhoods, people are so used to it that they prefer to close their eyes.

During the mafia's heyday, looking away and avoiding trouble became virtually a Sicilian tradition. Yet for the past few years, more and more people are breaking the silence. Men like Fabio and Vincenzo Conticello, two restaurateurs who, despite threats, refused to pay for the protection of the Mafia, the pizzo.

In Augusta, Father Palmiro Prisutto denounces the pollution from the industrial port which has caused the premature death of dozens of people.



# COMING SOON





## Marseille: Generation Kalashnikov

Marseille. One of the most dangerous cities in Europe. In 2020, 60 men were shot dead in gang related killings. Most were under 25.

The new generation of narcobandits embrace violence in a way that was unprecedented before. Their favourite weapon: the Kalashnikov. Teenaged lookouts are killed for a few kilos of drugs. Leaders are machine-gunned down in city buildings in the middle of the day to intimidate others.

Jérôme Pierrat, investigative journalist and specialist in organized crime, infiltrated the heart of Marseille's dangerous neighborhoods, where violence and drug trafficking have been on the increase for decades. In exclusive, shocking interviews, he spoke to everyone from the simple 'small' trafficker to hitmen, as well as the 'experts': police and magistrates who are trying to stem the explosion of these illegal businesses.

What generates such a spectacular wave of violence? What motives these young people to risk their lives? And how did they end up joining gangs? A shocking look at Marseille's hidden underside.

- Producer: TV Presse
- Director: Jérôme Pierrat
- Commissioned By: RMC Story

Ready May 2022





# DAY X: The Day Democracy Dies

Day X. The day a variety of different forces around the world are pushing for. The day democracy dies.

Democracy is under attack. Following the world's top counterinsurgency expert, this film investigates the fragility of our political system and its institutions, unveiling alarming indicators of how and why our society is descending into conflicts that have the power to end the world as we know it.

In the West, for decades there seemed to be no alternative to neoliberalism. But in recent years, the number of liberal democracies has declined in virtually all regions of the world. At the same time, many authoritarian states, led by China and Russia, have become more assertive. Some countries that appeared to be successful liberal democracies in the 1990s seem to be on the road to neo-dictatorships.

We accompany David Kilcullen, ex-soldier and military advisor, as he uncovers networks of white supremacists dreaming of white ethno-states, to street fights where the territories of right-wing and left-wing extremists overlap. We enter the bunkers of self-proclaimed survivalists and confront oligarchs in Silicon Valley seeking to replace democracy with neo-feudal tech dictatorships.

75 million Americans are convinced the 2020 presidential election was rigged. Far-right preppers have infiltrated intelligence services and the military in the US and Europe. Violence erupts where the territories of right- and left-wing militants overlap. How can we protect our democracy? Or is Day X coming?

- Producer: blue+green communication
- Director: Christian Tod
- Financial Support By: Austrian Film Institute, Vienna Film Fund

Ready Summer 2022



## PLANET KILLERS

They're the criminal masterminds killing our planet. In this series, we follow the operations of Interpol Environmental Crimes Unit as they track down the world's most wanted environmental criminals. We gained access to the police forces partnering with Interpol.

Environmental crime generates an estimated 300 billion euros per year. At the same time, the penalties are much lower than for other crimes, leading to the perception of it being 'low risk, high reward'.

Shahul Hameed, the Redwood Exterminator. Head of the criminal network that smuggles red sander wood, a wood threatened with extinction and prohibited for sale. Wanted by Interpol for the past seven years.

Cyril Astruc, the Prince of Carbon. One of the masterminds of the heist of the century, a five billion euros carbon bonds fraud.

M. X, the head of a criminal network trafficking in endangered Totoaba fish.

And Samuel Jefwa, the Ivory King. Accused of directing vast trafficking networks in elephant and rhino tusks.

Four portraits of a dozen of the most wanted environmental criminals in the world. One criminal. One environmental scandal. One hunt. One episode.

- Producer: Premières Lignes
- Director: Martin Boudot
- Commissioned By: France 5

Ready Autumn 2022



## UKRAINE: BACK TO THE COLD WAR

We trace the geopolitical history of the Ukrainian conflict from 2014 onwards, uncovering its roots in history. Archive is interspersed with interviews, including major political players from past and current negotiations,.

This story begins with geography. Ukraine sits between Russia and the European Union. A country caught between East and West – was there ever a third way for Ukraine? The conflict in Ukraine sits within the broad sweep of world history. It resurrects the old ghost of the Cold War between the USA and Russia, bringing that repressed conflict back to the foreground. It also brings back the clash of civilizations: the divide between the former Soviet world and liberal Europe.

Testimony from contributors will explain the consequences faced by Ukraine after the collapse of the USSR in 1991, and uncover the origins of the 2014 conflict with the Euro-Maidan movement. They detail the progression to the Minsk agreements, the Normandy summits, and the years of stalemate, followed by renewed tensions in 2021, leading inexorably to the current war. We have secured interviews with key political figures to give the French, American, German and Ukrainian perspective. We will present a multiplicity of points of view, both to elucidate a complex and serious situation, and also to bring humanity and clarity to the geopolitics.

The civilian populations of Donbass, who we started filming in 2021, are caught between two identities. On the one hand the European aspirations of Western Ukraine, and on the other, the region's historical ties with Russia. This film looks at the broad-scale geopolitical story as well as the focus on ordinary local people, blending chronological and thematic styles of storytelling.

- Producer: Talweg Production
- Director: Anne Poirat
- Commissioned By: France 5

Ready Autumn 2022

# THE CRYPTO QUEEN

A FILM BY JOHAN VON MIRBACH



## THE CRYPTO QUEEN

How Ruja Ignatova snatched \$15 billion - and then disappeared

In 2014, a new cryptocurrency was unveiled: OneCoin. At mass events resembling religious gatherings, charismatic founder, Ruja Ignatova, claimed it was on course to become the world's biggest digital currency and would change the world. In fact, it was a giant ponzi scheme. There was no blockchain, no pay-out system, nothing but the promise of fantastic rates of return. Ruja and her cronies invented a new, favourable exchange rate every day. And it worked: OneCoin was soon hyped as the cryptocurrency for the poor. A currency that would turn paupers into princes.

In truth, it only turned Ruja Ignatova into the Cryptoqueen. She threw lavish champagne parties in Frankfurt, Sofia and New York. She bought two dozen luxury properties around the world. Until she went AWOL. At present, nobody knows where she is. But despite all that, many investors continue to believe in OneCoin. How did Ruja Ignatova manage to dupe authorities and clients alike? Who knew what when? How does OneCoin manage to continue to operate? And who are the shady people behind the Cryptoqueen?

This film is not just a simple whodunnit. It's a story about 21st century capitalism and the greed that drives it - a symbol of the excesses of a poorly regulated financial system. For OneCoin's investors, the dream of magically multiplying returns became a nightmare.

- Producer: A&O Buero
- Director: Johan von Mirbach
- Commissioned By: ARTE

Ready Autumn 2022





**SERIES**





• 2013 - 2022  
• 7 x 52 mins  
• ENG, FR

• **Producers:**  
• Ligne de Front  
• La Famiglia  
• Les Films de l'Odyssée  
• Tony Comiti Productions

• **Commissioned by:**  
• M6

## Love and Sex

It makes the world go round, yet attitudes towards love, sex and relationships differ wildly all over the globe. In some countries, falling in love is seen as disruptive and dangerous. Others believe love should come after marriage. In this series, we travel across the world to discover the differing attitudes to love and sex.

In liberal and sexually-open minded, Scandinavia, children are taught to challenge the gender stereotypes that society imposes on them. In China, the one-child policy has led to a surplus of male singles and a new market has sprung up around dating. In Japan, women are tired of waiting for a man are choosing to marry themselves instead. In India, we hear the story of the country's first openly - and illegally - gay prince and witness huge and elaborate weddings. In the USA, we meet the three-person polyamorous 'thruple' raising four children. Meanwhile, in Russia, we see how customs and patriarchy are shaping modern relationships.

## Episodes

1. Love and Sex in West Africa (2022)
2. Love and Sex in Scandinavia (2021)
3. Love and Sex in Russia (2020)
4. Love and Sex in USA (2019)
5. Love and Sex in India (2018)
6. Love and Sex in Japan (2016)
7. Love and Sex in China (2013)



## Green Warriors

A series of scientific investigations into environmental scandals facing the planet. Journalist Martin Boudot tracks down the big environmental scandals around the world: contaminated rivers, air pollution, toxic waste, illegal exploitation of resources, poaching of endangered species...

By carrying out detailed scientific analysis on samples, Martin gets around obstacles and outsmarts bans to reveal what some companies are trying to hide — a factory that discharges its polluted water into a river, a toxic mining waste site located next to a residential area, poisoned villages next to soybean plantations...

## Episodes

1. Soil Threat (2021)
2. Cursed Uranium (2021)
3. Coal in the Lungs (2021)
4. Paraguay's Poisoned Fields (2019)
5. South Africa's Toxic Townships (2018)
6. Indonesia: The World's Most Polluted River (2018)

• 2018 - 2021  
• 6 x 52 mins  
• ENG, FR

• **Producers:**  
• Premières Lignes

• **Commissioned by:**  
• France 5





## Dicing with Death/ Deadliest Journeys

The popular series from Tony Comiti available in both a 52 and 25 min format.

Dodging avalanches in Siberia. Jumping onto moving trains in Mexico. Whizzing across Bolivia's mountains on home-made cables. Every day, children, migrants and workers undertake incredible journeys in order to make ends meet.

In these unique films, we journey on some of the world's most dangerous routes and explore the lengths people go to in order to change their destinies.

### Latest Episodes

1. Madagascar: Satan's Corridor (2021)
2. Nepal: On the Brink (2021)
3. Afghanistan: Valley of Merchants (2021)
4. Central Africa: At Your Own Risk (2021)
5. Colombia, the Intrepid of the Andes (2021)
6. Honduras: The Force to Live (2021)
7. Ukraine: In the Mist of the Carpathians (2021)

- 2008 - 2022
- 91 x 52 mins
- 68 x 30 mins
- ENG, FR
- **Producer:**
- Tony Comiti Productions
- **Commissioned by:**
- France 5





## Dangerous Roads

This series follows the forces of law and order around the world as they deal with horrific road accidents and try to prevent road fatalities.

The E85, in eastern Romania is the most dangerous road in Europe. There are more than 2,000 deaths and 40,000 serious injuries each year. Why is this road so dangerous? One reason is that the E85 is the gateway to Europe for all the traffic of the Ukrainian mafia and they will do anything necessary to avoid the police.

In America, highways 80 & 90 cross the Rocky Mountains, an immense mountain barrier of 3000 km. During winter, cold, blizzards and snow create some of the most extreme traffic conditions in the world. To protect drivers, the highways in the Rockies have their guardian angels. For two months, a team followed these anonymous heroes who save lives every day. Meanwhile Highway 95, connecting Miami to New York, is the second most dangerous road in the country.

• 2021 - 2022  
• 5 x 52 mins  
• ENG, FR

• **Producers:**  
• Impala  
• Tony Comiti Productions

• **Commissioned by:**  
• W9

## Episodes

1. Texas (2022)
2. Bulgaria (2022)
3. Miami - Washington (2021)
4. The Rocky Mountains (2021)
5. Romania (2021)



# FEATURE HIGHLIGHTS





## Shadow Game

Every day teenagers who have fled their war-torn countries try to cross Europe's borders in search of protection and a better life. They travel through a shadow world of minefields, bears, fast-flowing rivers, smugglers and border guards, desperately trying to win what they call 'The Game'.

Now that fences have gone up all over Europe, seeking asylum has become almost impossible. Risking their lives, the teenagers undertake a treacherous journey that often takes months or even years. Along the way, they grow up fast. Will they overcome the numerous obstacles they face? And will they find a new home?

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## The Cancer Conflict

It's estimated that up to up to 90% of cancer patients look for alternative or complimentary treatments, but if they refuse conventional treatment, it can double the risk of death. In a world of misinformation, how can patients make an informed choice? And what are the consequences of turning away from experts?

We follow two cancer patients. Grant, who has chosen evidence-based treatment not available to him from his local health service, and Surinder, who has chosen to turn her back on conventional treatment and to trust entirely in alternative medicine.

When your life is on the line, how far would you go?

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## Libya, No Escape from Hell

Thousands of refugees are trapped in Libya's hellish detention centres, where abuse, rape and extortion is rampant. They live in subhuman conditions, awaiting someone – the militia, Europe, the UN, anyone – to decide their fate. We investigate the entire detention system, how this traffic works, the role of the militias and the way in which their control is exercised.

Officially, Libya's 26 detention centres are run by the GNA, the UN-recognised government in Tripoli. In reality they are in the hands of the militias that control the country, who see migrants as a ready source of cash. The European Union finances the camps but then takes no responsibility for what happens there.

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## Nasrin

Narrated by Academy Award-winner Olivia Colman and secretly filmed in Iran by women and men who risked arrest, this film follows the work and life of renowned human rights lawyer, Nasrin Sotoudeh.

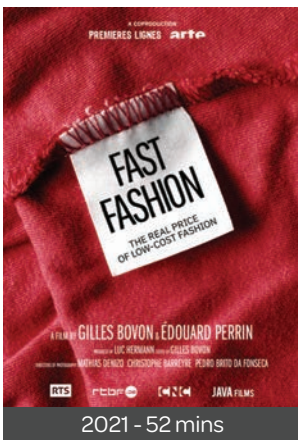
In the courts and on the streets, Nasrin has long fought for the rights of women, children, LGBTQ, religious minorities, journalists, artists, and those facing the death penalty. She was arrested in June 2018 and sentenced to 38 years in prison, plus 148 lashes. Even from prison, she has continued to challenge the authorities.



## Dying to Divorce

Filed over five years, 'Dying To Divorce' takes viewers into the heart of Turkey's gender-based violence crisis and the recent political events that have severely eroded democratic freedoms. Through intimately shot personal stories, the film gives a unique perspective on the struggle to be an independent woman in modern Turkey.

More than one in three Turkish women have experienced domestic violence and the number of femicides is rising. But some Turkish women are fighting back. Ipek Bozkurt, a courageous lawyer, is determined to challenge this misogynistic violence by putting abusive men behind bars.



## Fast Fashion

Creating a dress for ten euros in Europe, in less than a fortnight. It's not only possible, but it's becoming the norm. Since the fashion industry went down the path of fast fashion, it's always both faster and cheaper – no matter the consequences.

Let's start with those suffering the most: the workers. They work between 12 and 15 hours a day for salaries less than half the legal minimum wage. And in abominable working conditions. Chemical products in textile factories often poison the workers and local residents. According to the brands, they no longer have time to create. In order to satisfy an insatiable consumer appetite, copying the competition's models makes things go faster and cheaper – even if it means risking a court case now and then...



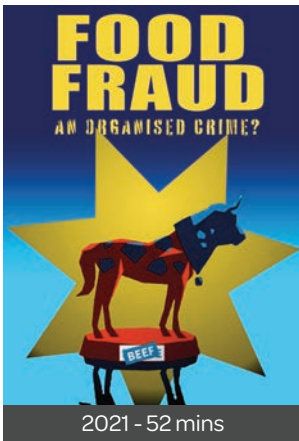


## Ghosts of Afghanistan

The West invaded Afghanistan in 2001 with promises of democracy, freedom and women's rights. It was a disaster. Hundreds of thousands of people were killed. Corruption and abuses were endemic.

As a young and idealistic war correspondent, Graeme Smith followed the troops into battle in Afghanistan. Now he returns to a place that gave him nightmares to see if there is hope for peace. Smith revisits old friends and acquaintances and sees the deep divisions in the country.

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## Food Fraud

Horse-meat labelled as beef. Honey diluted with cheap sugar syrups. Counterfeit extra-virgin olive oil. Food crime is a multi-billion dollar industry affecting everything from the cheapest to most expensive ingredient. 10% of what we eat is thought to be adulterated. "What we know for sure is that food fraud is growing exponentially and it's more and more worrying," states one consumer advocate.

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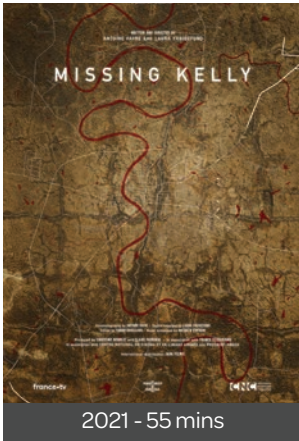


## The People vs Agent Orange

The Agent Orange catastrophe did not end with the war in Vietnam. Today, all over the world, a primary component of that toxic herbicide controls weeds in farming, forestry, parks—even on children's playgrounds. The chemical wreaks havoc on the human genome, causing deformed births and deadly cancers.

After decades of struggle and tragic personal losses, two heroic women are leading a worldwide movement to end the plague and hold the manufacturers accountable. In France, Tran To Nga is suing the American chemical industry for poisoning her Vietnamese family. And in America, Carol Van Strum exposes the continuing use of toxic herbicides.

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## Missing Kelly

In the twilight of his life, Mike, an ordinary American man from Kentucky, is convinced of one thing: his son Kelly was murdered. The police have closed the case but Mike intends to uncover the truth.

In the course of his investigation, the old man reminisces about his past. He wonders about his own trajectory and that of his generation. A history of the American twentieth century emerges. Through the portrait of this “ordinary” man from the southern United States, we offer an immersion into Christian white America. Mike is one of those “forgotten”, for whom the American dream never came true.

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## The Marriage Project

What happens when patients from a mental ward are encouraged to form relationships, get married and live as a family? Despite strong opposition, one hospital in Iran is finding out.

As a selection committee begins evaluating patients, hidden affections come to the surface. Finally, the team selects two patients to form the first couple. Are these two patients capable of having a relationship that leads to marriage? What do their families think? And what about the patients who weren't selected but still crave human relationships?

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## On the Line

Every year, over 100,000 Mexicans living in the USA are deported to Mexico. Many of them have grown up and spent decades in America, working, paying taxes, starting families. Some can't even speak Spanish. In a matter of days, they find themselves torn away from their children and loved ones and escorted across the border. Unable to return home and unable to appeal their deportation.

Rocio, Richard and Sergio are just three of those affected. We follow them for nearly a year as they struggle to make sense of the situation they are now in and rebuild their lives.

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