

# **JAVA** FILMS

2022

AUTUMN  
**CATALOGUE**





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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# NEW RELEASES







2022  
60 mins  
ENG, FR

**Producer:**  
Magneto

**Director:**  
Agnès Hubschman

**Commissioned by:**  
France 5

## Musk vs Bezos: The New Star Wars

The two richest men in the world are engaged in a vicious space race that has implications for us all.

With his company, Blue Origin, Jeff Bezos has thrown himself into space tourism and revolutionised access to space. He sees himself as the leader in this burgeoning 'New Space' market. But he faces a determined opponent: Elon Musk, the eccentric head of SpaceX. Musk's company has already disrupted the traditional aerospace launch industry and now he's aiming for Mars.

When Musk first tried to buy a Russian rocket back in 2001, the chief engineer of the Russian Space Agency thought he was a joke. But that only made Musk more determined. Rather than buy rockets, he decided to build them and invested \$100 million dollars in the creation of SpaceX. By 2008 SpaceX had a contract with NASA to supply flights to the International Space Station.

In 2016, Musk announced an ambitious, widely ridiculed plan to colonise Mars within 30 years. In the meantime, Bezos was working on plans to colonise the moon. The two billionaires are also racing to launch the most satellites. This allows them to deliver low latency broadband data services everywhere on the Earth... and to monopolise all future terrestrial communications.

So where will it end? We investigate.



2022  
83 & 52 mins  
ENG

**Producer:**  
Kennedy Films

**Director:**  
Frankie Fenton

**Funded by:**  
Film Ireland

## Atomic Hope: Inside the Pro-Nuclear Movement

‘Atomic Hope’ follows a tiny global movement of unpopular pro-nuclear activists, who strongly believe we need nuclear power in order to decarbonize our energy systems, before catastrophic climate change occurs.

Intimately filmed over a ten year period, these advocates for nuclear energy come from all over the world; from Japan to Switzerland, America to Australia. But these individual activists face clashes and opposition at every juncture. Nuclear meltdowns, costs, radiation fears and nuclear waste are just some of the very serious issues which traditional environmentalists have against this technology.

However in the face of this pushback and conflict, they argue that “science and data is all we have”. It’s the science they base their environmental movement on, which directly challenges popular beliefs and myths around nuclear energy and these prevailing issues.

So are they right? In the face of a very real climate emergency, with the clock ticking towards irreversible climate change, is it now time to take a sober look at the science? To stop the mass closure of nuclear power plants and fully reconsider nuclear energy as a viable solution?

# THE CRYPTO QUEEN

A FILM BY JOHAN VON MIRBACH



2022  
90 & 52 & 4 x 25 mins  
ENG, GER

**Producer:**  
A&O Buero

**Director:**  
Johan von Mirach

**Commissioned by:**  
ARTE

## The Crypto Queen:

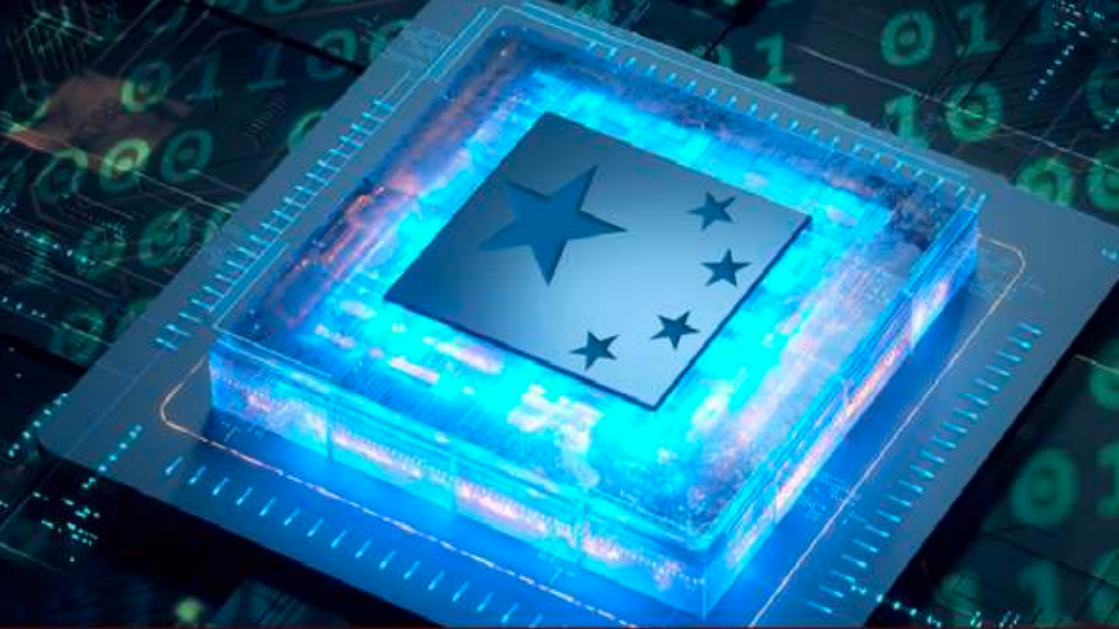
How Ruja Ignatova snatched \$15 billion -  
and then disappeared.

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?

In this film, also available as a series, we gained rare and exclusive access to close friends and colleagues of Ignatova - the people who knew her best. They tell the unbelievable story from the inside.





• 2022  
• 52 mins  
• ENG, FR

• **Producer:**  
• Babel Doc

• **Director:**  
• Nicolas Vescovacci

• **Commissioned by:**  
• ARTE

## Chip War

A new world order is taking shape before our eyes. The Covid-19 pandemic showed the extent to which great powers are dependent on strategic products. The persistent shortage of semiconductors, essential to our daily lives, is reshaping geopolitical relations, fuelling inflation and increasing tensions between America and China.

It's estimated that 10 million cars worldwide were not produced in 2021 because manufacturers did not have enough semiconductors. From the computer to the toaster via our tablets and our refrigerators, microprocessors or semiconductors equip all our daily devices. They are of national strategic importance powering all advanced military and civilian technologies. Yet while demand for the quantity and quality of semiconductors has been growing, the amount of places they are produced has been shrinking. Only a few countries have the specialised knowledge and ability to produce cutting-edge chips with 63% of all chips produced in Taiwan.

That one island, which is already on the frontline of a superpower struggle between the US and China, dominates production means that the world's economies are dependent on the stability of Taiwan. So what can be done to secure microprocessors? And how is the battle for semiconductors already affecting our daily lives?



2022  
52 mins  
ENG

**Producer:**  
Talweg Production

**Director:**  
Anne Poirer

**Commissioned by:**  
France 5

# Ukraine: The Road to War

We trace the geopolitical history of the Ukrainian conflict from 2014 onwards, uncovering its roots in history. Production began in May 2021, when the conflict was at a standstill and the international community was trying to solve it. From the beginning, we had access to top officials participating in these negotiations. Back then, we already wanted to show what was at stake in those negotiations, the weaknesses of Europe and the return of Cold War dynamics.

Key interviewees include François Hollande (former French President), Kurt Volker (special representative of the Trump administration in Ukraine), Petro Poroshenko (former Ukrainian President) and Alexey Meshkov (former Russian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs).

This documentary will also tell the story of civilians in Donbas. In December 2021, we spent ten days filming with the inhabitants of Zaitsevo and Obitne, two towns sitting very close to the frontline. For years, these civilians had been caught in the middle. Since the February invasion, many of these civilians have stayed in their homes in Donbas. They welcomed us into their lives, where war was enmeshed in everyday reality. Some told us about their families torn between pro- and anti-separatists; others about the fragility of the ceasefires; others yet about their nostalgia for the U.S.S.R. Our crew met them there last May and filmed their new daily reality.



2022  
57 mins  
ENG

**Producer:**  
Wisteria Films

**Director:**  
Nic Balthazar

**Commissioned by:**  
VRT

## Duty of Care: The Climate Trials

‘Duty of Care’ tells the exclusive, inside story of Roger Cox, the first and only lawyer to have successfully sued a government and an oil giant in landmark court cases that established that catastrophic climate change can be made illegal. Roger’s ground-breaking cases against the Dutch government and oil giant Shell established that those in power owe a duty of care to citizens to avoid catastrophic climate change, stunning legal experts and sending shockwaves through parliaments and corporate boardrooms around the world.

With echoes of the lawsuits against Big Tobacco, this inspirational film gives viewers a behind-the-scenes experience of the David vs Goliath battle as one Dutch property lawyer turned litigation maverick takes on powerful states and the world’s largest oil company in the court room drama of our lifetime.

With interviews from experts and activists leading the wave of international climate litigations triggered by Roger’s successes, the film presents a fresh and inspiring story about, and for, future generations of climate leaders, as Lady Justice takes over where politicians and profit makers have obstructed and delayed. Can Roger, now one of Time Magazine’s Top 100 people, and the pioneers of climate litigation succeed before it’s too late?



2022  
52 mins  
ENG, GER

**Producer:**  
A&O Buero

**Director:**  
Larissa Klinker

**Commissioned by:**  
NDR/ARTE

# The Science of Fatherhood

What happens to men when they become fathers? How do men change psychologically and physically during pregnancy, birth and the first years of having children? In this film we go on a journey of discovery and follow three men during their adventure of becoming a father.

Fathers are special: they belong to the rare 5% of all male mammals that take care of their offspring. Nature has specially equipped them for this because they go through crucial changes when their children are born. Nevertheless, scientific research has so far mainly focused on mothers. But researchers have now begun to study the effects of fatherhood on men and their children.

Similar to mothers, fathers are physiologically and hormonally altered by pregnancy, childbirth and childcare. For example, an expectant father's levels of the "love hormone" oxytocin increase significantly, helping him to develop positive feelings for his child. In addition, at birth his testosterone levels drop dramatically, which increases his sensitivity.

We visit scientists around the world in their research facilities and laboratories and show the amazing results of their studies. We also follow three fathers in Germany, France and Sweden through the first years of parenthood.



• 2022  
• 62 mins  
• ENG, FR

• **Producer:**  
• Magneto

• **Director:**  
• Ovidie

• **Commissioned by:**  
• France 2

## Spanton vs the French Police

Multi-award-winning director Ovidie re-examines the issue of consent in “Spanton vs. the French Police”.

In 2014, Canadian tourist Emily Spanton walks into a bar in Paris. She meets a group of men who turn out to be French police officers from the celebrated national SWAT team, BRI. After several drinks, they invite her to their office nearby. What happens next is a matter of dispute. Emily presses charges against the cops for rape but they deny all allegations. The case is intensely covered in the media.

At first, the system sides with the men. The defence focuses on what Emily was wearing that night. On her blood alcohol level and her supposedly “sexual” attitude. The cops are cleared. But Emily appeals and, as the first #metoo movement starts to make waves internationally, things stand in a completely different light. The case takes a major twist and the policemen are sentenced to prison.

Then, on 22 April 2022, the appeals court overturned their conviction. Ovidie’s new film is a compact metro-thriller that asks questions which trouble us all in the post #MeToo era.





2022  
52 mins  
ENG, FR

**Producer:**  
Babel

**Directors:**  
Mathilde Cusin  
Alban Alvarez

**Commissioned by:**  
ARTE

## The Rohingyas: Trapped in Exile

Following massacres by the Burmese army in 2017, 740,000 Rohingya fled en masse to neighbouring Bangladesh, where they were trapped in the Cox's Bazar refugee camp. Today, the camp, has become the most dangerous, densely populated refugee camp in the world. Conditions are squalid but the alternative may be even worse.

Two years ago, the government of Bangladesh decided to move some of these refugees to the isolated island of Bhasan Char, located four hours away in the Bay of Bengal. This military base, nicknamed "prison island", has been transformed into a reception camp for the Rohingyas. Already 23,000 have been relocated and Dhaka hopes to transport 100,000 in total. For the first time since the camp opened, Bangladesh has allowed a Western team to travel there.

The island is vulnerable to cyclones and it is not certain that the dam built will be enough to protect its residents. Upon arrival, families are assigned a personal space, but denied the possibility of work or education and, above all, the right to leave. "We don't know how long we will stay here. Bangladesh will take us where it decides," states Mounir, settled for 13 months with his family. He already regrets relocating here.

But Bangladesh does not want to grant the Rohingya the freedom to come and go, for fear that these refugees will end up integrating. Ultimately, they want to relocate the refugees back to Burma.



2022  
52 mins  
ENG, FR

**Producer:**  
Impala Productions

**Director:**  
Barbara Hinderholtz

**Commissioned by:**  
W9

## Extreme Paparazzis: The Scoop Hunters

Road accidents, fires, murders, shootings and police chases... US news channels are dedicating more and more airtime to covering these events. Every evening, hundreds of professionals go scoop hunting. Their goal: to capture pictures of the most sensational stories to feed the continuous news channels. To achieve this, there is only one solution: be on the alert all night aboard a vehicle equipped with radios connected to the various police, fire and sheriff departments.

Zak Holman has become the king of night reporters. And to stay at the top, he does not hesitate to take risks: driving at more than 200 km/h on the highway to get to the scene. On the other side of town, Jamie Araki, is trying somehow to find a place for herself in this ultra-competitive and above all, very dangerous environment. Every evening, the 22-year-old young woman takes big risks alone in her car in the heart of the riskiest neighborhoods of the city.

In Texas, in San Antonio, business is booming for Ken Branca. At 41, he is the town reporter. In 10 years, he has seen everything, filmed everything. He specializes in shootings. This year, Ken is twice as busy. He has covered fifty shootings in the past two months.

We followed these extreme scoop chasers for months to record the stories behind the stories.

## War in Ukraine: How Putin Manipulates the Russian People



2022 - 59 mins - ENG, FR

Months into the invasion of Ukraine, Vladimir Putin's propaganda is running at full speed in Russia. Independent media have all been shut down, the main social networks blocked. Opponents who did not flee have been thrown into prison. Throughout the country, no dissonant voice against the war is tolerated.

Every evening, on the state television channel Rossiya One, Vladimir Soloviev, Russia's most famous journalist, delivers gross untruths about the war and constantly brandishes the use of the nuclear bomb. He agreed to receive us backstage on his show, a few days after being the victim of an alleged assassination attempt by a neo-Nazi group and the CIA. In fact, the 'attack' was widely believed to have been fake.

Tatiana Felgenhauer worked for Echo radio in Moscow, which was forced to stop broadcasting in March. Courageously, the journalist continues to inform the public about the consequences of the war through her Youtube channel. But the young woman fears for her safety. Since our shoot, she has fled the country.

As for the economic consequences of the war, again, it is the West that is held responsible. With the departure of foreign companies, many Russians are unemployed. Considered unjust, these sanctions have created strong resentment towards Europe and the United States.

## The Black Sea: Under War's Shadow



2022 - 55 mins - ENG, FR

It is one of the most tormented seas in the world. Under communism, it was a *mar sovietica*, surrounded on most of its perimeter by the USSR and its communist satellites, Romania and Bulgaria. Since the end of the Soviet empire, it has become the place where Russia, Crimea, Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey, Georgia and especially Ukraine face each other. With regions annexed and under international embargo, ports bombed and destroyed, ships threatened, blockades and population displacements, the Black Sea has become a focal point for all these tensions.

Nevertheless some places along the coast continue to attract thousands of holidaymakers, despite the war, and often because of it. In Crimea or Sochi, the Russian Riviera, nightclubs and youth festivals thrive in the shadow of fighter bombers. Elsewhere, ports have never been so overloaded, even overwhelmed, as in Constantza in Romania, through which passes part of the Ukrainian export trade following the blockade of the Ukrainian port of Odessa. Further still, the Turkish coastguards have never had so much work to control traffic and ships, as in the Bosphorus Strait, where they inspect cargo ships every day in search of weapons or prohibited goods.

The Black Sea is a crossroads of trade and culture. We look at how its residents live today under the disruption of the war in Ukraine.

## Ukraine: War Photographers



2022 - 54 mins - FR

What toll does photographing constant suffering take on the war photographer? What are their limits? In the age of social networks, where everyone is a photographer, how has their role changed?

Eric Bouvet is one of the most successful photo reporters in the world, covering wars including Afghanistan, Iraq, Chechnya and Libya. He returns to Ukraine, eight years after covering the Maidan revolution, and lets us follow him at work. From Lviv to Kyiv, behind the sandbags and overturned cars, a resistance is born and he captures everything. His heartbreaking image of a child touching his father's hand through the pane of a train window, just before fleeing into exile went around this world. After he took that photo, the father turned to him and said he didn't know if he would ever see his child again.

In addition to the emotional distress, war reporters often have financial problems. They are expected to pay their own expenses in the hope of later recouping if they capture 'that' key image. And then there is also the difficulty of covering the conflict as they would like. "We imagine that the photographers who cover the conflicts run every day under the bombs and avoid bullets but it's not really that," he explains. "Most of the time, we are facing the problems of the civilians ... neither side wants to show what is happening there."

## Ukraine: Women in War



2022 - 55 mins - ENG, FR

Although women are exempt from conscription in Ukraine and granted asylum abroad, many of them have chosen to stay and act. We meet the mothers and girls, combatants and carers, politicians and resistance fighters who are involved in the daily battle for Ukraine.

Traditionally, Ukrainian women have remained withdrawn from public affairs. But that changed in 2014 when many mobilized in Maidan Square to demand the fall of the pro-Russian government or to enlist in the army. Commander Maroussia, was among the first women to enlist in the army in 2014 to fight pro-Russian separatists in the Donbas. This mother of two has become an inspiration for many other women, who have followed in her footsteps.

We also obtained rare authorisation to follow a woman engaged in the regular army to the front. Since the beginning of the conflict, Iana, 30 years old has fought on the frontline. "Since the beginning of the fighting, I wanted to be here, with an assault rifle, in the trenches."

Sophia, 20, a refugee in the metro in Kharkiv under the bombs, manages as best she can to feed her one-year-old son. In Bucha, Natacha and her daughter Vika wander through their destroyed city, after spending 40 days holed up in their cellar. We also meet Tatiana and her husband, looking for their son Youri, 29, in the ruins and temporary morgues of the city.

## Oligarchs & Billionaires: The Most Beautiful Yachts in the World



2022 - 54 mins - FR, ENG

Since the invasion of Ukraine at least 13 luxury yachts linked to Russian billionaires, valued at between \$8 and \$600 million have been seized. Some oligarchs, like Alexander Abramov and Roman Abramovich, have moved their yachts to Turkey to avoid the sanctions. Other superyachts linked to oligarchs have suddenly 'gone dark,' disappearing off global tracking maps and turning off their automatic identification systems.

Yachts have always been the ultimate status symbol, coveted and despised in equal measures. At the annual Monaco super yacht exhibition, interior designer Sabrina Monteeone-Oeino takes us on a tour of her latest creation. But in a world threatened by global warming, superyachts consume nearly 500 litres of diesel per hour.

However, through new technology and new uses, the yachting world is trying to redeem its bad reputation. Francis Lapp has invented a solar power yacht. Other manufacturers are working on hydrogen powered engines. In this film, we investigating the changing world of luxury yachting.

## USA: Luxury Camping



2022 - 54 mins - FR, ENG

Forget cramped caravans, these luxury camping cars are more like palaces on wheels. Terri and Richard's is the size of a bus, complete with made-to-measure marble kitchens and bathroom, extendable surfaces and heated toilet seats. It cost over \$2 million but enables them to escape the heat of Florida every summer for Michigan. They're what's known as 'snowbirds,' spending seasons living in other states.

On average, snowbirds change their cars every two years, turbo charging the luxury van market. The market is also boosted by Hollywood stars. Mariah Carey's features side extensions and an unfolding second floor that can be transformed into a dance floor! Other camping cars come with a helicopter pad on the roof.

Over a million Americans have adopted the 'nomad' way of life. Some, like Richard, are 'part timers,' travelling for a few weeks alongside their work. Others, like, Jennifer and JR, who live aboard their bus with their two children, have left their old life behind completely and embraced life on the road.



## Mozambique: An African Mirage



2022 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

Jihadist groups have allied themselves with ISIS in Northern Mozambique and several thousand fighters have spread terror through the region. As a result, more than 3,000 people have died, and 800,000 have been displaced.

The Rwandan army, the most battle-seasoned troops on the African continent, were called in to help and in just a few weeks they succeeded in retaking Caliphate strongholds. But the peace is fragile and poverty, injustice and corruption feed the conflict. Refugees have been stuck in camps for over a year, suffering from severe shortages of the most basic necessities.

Mozambique is one of the poorest countries in the world. Huge gas deposits were discovered in the north, but, due to the threat of jihadists, all plans are on hold for the moment.

The country is also rich in rubies. We gained exclusive access to the biggest ruby mine in the world. Every day hundreds of tons of earth are sifted in search of precious gems.

Rubies, gas reserves, pristine beaches... and jihadists. Mozambique is a country torn between its rich natural resources and the ever-present threat of armed conflict.

## 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.

## Namibia: Africa's New Far West



2022 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

Namibia has the third highest levels of income inequality in the world. 6% of the population own 70% of the land and here, the wounds of German colonisation run deep. Between 1904 and 1908, the Germans established concentration camps where the indigenous Herero and Nama people were interned. Up to 80% of them died in what Germany later recognised as the first genocide of the 20th Century. While the descendants of these victims, like Karvita, live on illegal settlements in constant fear of eviction, the descendants of these colonists continue to own most of the land and have no problem justifying their inheritance.

Most of Namibia's vast natural resources are owned or controlled by foreigners. The diamond industry is dominated by DeBeers and the ruling Swapo party, widely seen as corrupt, is propped up by its historic ally: China. The construction and uranium industries are controlled by the Chinese and documents leaked in 2021 revealed that North Korea was illegally subcontracted to build the country's State House.

Most of the country is sparsely populated, enabling nature to flourish. It's home to one to one of the greatest wildlife populations in the world, including the only free roaming black rhinos. But these animals are constantly threatened by Chinese mafia while global warming is increasing desertification, threatening indigenous communities.

## Rwanda: Words of Silence



2022 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

French soldiers based in Rwanda during the 1994 genocide stand accused of raping the women who sought refuge with them.

Prisca, Marie-Jeanne and Concessa say they survived the Rwandan genocide and sought safety in refugee camps, only to be repeatedly raped and abused by the French soldiers sent there to protect them. All describe similar horrors: abduction from their tent, the gang rapes, and the photos of the assaults taken by the soldiers. "We naively thought that the white man was a saviour, that he would bring peace," sighs one of the women. While the French army denies all accusations of rape, the three women filed a complaint with the French courts in 2004 and 2012. The investigation is now at a standstill.

As time goes by, the survivors are concerned with preserving the memory for themselves and their community. In this film, Concessa, Prisca and Jeanne return to the sites of their crimes and recount what happened.

A reflection on the unspeakable and the power of words, on the weight of silence.

## 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 punitive expeditions. We met one of their former members.

## Marseille: Generation Kalashnikov



2021 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

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.

## Innocent on Death Row II: About Time



2022 - 52 mins - ENG

In 2014, filmmaker Jessica Villerius met death row inmate, Clinton Young, who had been convicted of a double homicide and became convinced of his innocence. Her documentary 'Innocent on Death Row' exposed the weakness of the whole case, proving the shootings could not possibly have taken place the way the prosecutor alleged.

These and other new facts, including serious misconduct by the prosecution, led to Young's execution being halted just 8 days before it was due to take place. He is granted a new trial and freed on given bail to await his new trial.

Clinton was 19 when he was imprisoned. He is now 38. After almost 20 years of solitary confinement, how do you adapt to life outside? In addition, the strict conditions of his bail prevent him from living in the same state as his family and even going to the supermarket across the road from his house. He's terrified of making the slightest mistake and being sent back to prison. He's free but not free.

## 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.

## Dangerous Roads: Spain



2022 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

The AP9 and AP7 are two of the most dangerous roads in Spain. We spent months filming here, capturing everything from drunk drivers and out of control lorries to disintegrating caravans and the foggy microclimate that causes deadly pileups.

Albert and Jorge are on the track of a driver who ran through a police checkpoint and almost ran over a policeman. Shortly after, alongside the road they find a man so drunk he seems virtually comatose but he denies being the driver of the car found just a hundred metres away. They quickly establish that he is pretending to be comatose to avoid questioning and that the car is his.

The AP7 serves the largest ports in Spain, like Barcelona and Valencia, facilitating trade between the peninsula and the rest of the world. It's the busiest motorway in Europe for heavy goods vehicles but in 2021 lorries were involved in 10% of all mortal road accidents. Today, the police have set up a checkpoint. One of the lorries they stop is 5,000 kg over the legal weight limit. A simple gust of wind could cause it to lose its balance.

The local microclimate also causes serious accidents every year. Fog regularly covers an area of 100 km, causing monster pileups, like the one in 2014 involving 30 vehicles. Today, Hector tries to console a man who lost control driving in the fog. His wife was injured and his children were also in the car.

## Dangerous Roads: India



2022 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

The roads of North India stretch from the peaks of the Himalayas to the capital New Delhi. Every day, more than 100 million people use them and they account for 11% of all accidents worldwide.

With 450,000 accidents and 150,000 deaths every year, the number of deaths on Indian roads is eight times higher than that of the European Union. There are several reasons for these staggering figures. The roads themselves are built without asphalt or guardrails, and are used by a mix of carts, motorcycles, cars and animals. Northern India has nearly 380 million inhabitants, and among them thousands of farmers who travel only with buffaloes or horses. They also use the highways, risking their lives and causing spectacular accidents.

But the chaotic traffic and users who drive dangerously and disregard any rules cause additional problems. Drivers do not hesitate to drive against the flow of traffic or to overtake on both sides. The thick fog that spreads regularly in the New Delhi region causes terrible crashes every year. And in the Himalayas, any mistake can be fatal. The slightest deviation from the road propels cars and trucks into ravines of more than 300 metres depth.



## Lebanon's Crisis: The Last Hope



2022 - 52 mins - FR

Long considered the Switzerland of the Middle East, Lebanon is now going through the worst economic crisis in its history. 80% of the population lives below the poverty line. In one year, food prices have jumped 500% due to galloping inflation.

For Riad, who runs a grocery store in the suburbs of Beirut, business has become hellish. Every morning, calculator in hand, he changes the labels of his products according to the day's exchange rate. An operation all the more complex as his store is plunged into darkness, due to lack of electricity. The Lebanese government no longer provides more than two hours of electricity per day in the country. It is impossible for the population to heat, light or use their refrigerator.

The Lebanese pound has lost 90% of its value. The only ones to get away with it are those who are paid in dollars. The greenback, which is exchanged for a fortune against the local currency, has given birth to a new privileged social class in the country.

In a bankrupt state, plagued by corruption, six out of ten Lebanese now dream of leaving the country. In Tripoli, in northern Lebanon, Mohammed and his son left by sea to reach Germany. If the trip was cut short off the Turkish coast, the young father is still ready to take all the risks to reach the European Eldorado.

## Finland: The Happiest Country in the World?



2022 - 52 mins - FR

It is a small country with endless winters and yet, for the fourth consecutive year, Finland has just been crowned the happiest country in the world according to the UN.

The list of advantages of the Finnish way of life is very long: an education system among the best in the world, excellent social security, no insecurity or corruption and a country at the forefront of equality between men and women. Finland is led by a 35-year-old woman and a female-dominated government. Here, they have faith in its institutions to the point of leaving the prisons open. Tourists can even walk in peace among the prisoners.

So is Finland really the happiest country in the world? Maybe not! In Finland, winters are endless and alcoholism is high. Finland, a country of less than 6 million inhabitants, shares an immense border with Russia, 1,300 kilometres long. The Finns have developed a network of bomb shelters and bunkers that can host more than the capital's population. Finnish bomb shelter technology is the best in the world, capable of withstanding nuclear and chemical attacks.

The Finns also have a much darker side than their smooth, polished surroundings might suggest. The proof is: their passion for black metal music and thrash metal, with violent overtones and even satanic references, which is hugely popular. Black metal has even been performed in churches! So what does Finnish happiness look like?

## Extreme Right: The End of a German Taboo



2022 - 54 mins - ENG, FR

In 2017, the AfD (Alternative for Germany) shocked Europe by winning 94 seats in the Bundestag, becoming the first elected political party in postwar Germany to come from the far right. Four years later, the party was placed under observation as a suspected far-right extremist group that poses a real threat to German democracy. But despite its recent terrible election results and internal divisions, the AfD doesn't need to win elections to be dangerous. How did it come to this?

Angela Merkel's decision to open Germany's borders in 2015 to nearly two million refugees and migrants turned the AfD from an obscure fringe party into a powerful xenophobic far-right force. Reports of assaults and rapes committed on New Year's Eve 2015 by gangs of migrant delinquents boosted their popularity and in 2017 they shattered the German taboo of no far right parties in the Bundestag.

Former journalist, polemicist, Michael Klonovski, AfD candidate, often compared to Eric Zemmour, agreed to let our cameras follow him during the last days of his campaign in Chemnitz.

In recent years a string of violent hate crimes committed by people close to neo-Nazi circles, including the murder of a pro-immigration politician, has made the AfD too toxic for most people. However, it has left an indelible mark on the German political system.

## Bosnia: The Last Tape



2021 - 52 mins - ENG, CAT

All the men in Sifa's family went missing in the Srebrenica massacre and were later identified in the mass graves, with the exception of her elder brother. Now, Sifa has to return to her native Bosnia for one more funeral.

The agreement that ended the Bosnian War was signed in November 1995. But is this agreement imposed by the international community strong enough to guarantee future peace? This is the question posed by Sifa Suljic, a Bosnian from Srebrenica who ended up rebuilding her life in Catalonia. She is now returning to her country to bury the remains of her last family member to disappear in the massacre.

In this journey for answers, she tries to find out what happened to her brother and how neighbours who had grown up together ended up despising and killing each other. And there is one question always on her mind: could it happen again?

## Rewild



2022 - 90 & 52 mins - ENG, FR

Temperatures are rising and biodiversity 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.

Yet there is a solution: rewilding. Limiting human activities on immense areas so that they resuscitate and allow all living things to benefit from them. 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.

## China: The Uighur Tragedy



2022 - 90 & 52 mins - ENG, FR

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.

## 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 shamed 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.

## USA: Climate Wars



2022 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

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 state every year. But despite this, many Americans continue living as if nothing is happening. According to one poll, 56% of Republican voters do not believe in global warming and talk 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 a 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 workers 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 continue to preach that climate change is fake news. The United States remains the most climate-sceptical of Western countries. But if many farmers remain climate sceptics, 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.

## 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 skyscrapers. 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.

## DNA: The End of Crime?



2022 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

It was a landmark achievement with the implication to solve 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. A point already reached in the United States and China. 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, another 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?



## Greenland: Life at the End of the World



2022 - 52 mins - FR

It's the largest island in the world and 80% of it is covered by an ice cap. This immense land of isolated ice fascinates. And more and more tourists are setting out to conquer it.

Between polar temperatures, icebergs and polar bears, Greenland remains a raw and hostile land. The 56,000 Greenlanders have learned to live in these extreme conditions. In the village of Oqaatsut, reindeer and seal hunting and fishing punctuate the daily life of the thirty-five villagers. Here, there is no running water, no doctor or hairdresser. And to get around, the sled dog remains the most effective means.

In Nuuk, life is a little less harsh than in the rest of the country. Greenlandic youth, increasingly connected, are determined to break the isolation of this frozen universe by frequenting nightclubs, concerts and even gourmet restaurants. But to cook, you have to be imaginative because the refrigerators are often empty. On this polar land, made up of 90% permafrost, it is impossible to grow vegetables. All fresh products are imported by ship from Iceland and Denmark.

But if nothing grows on this frozen territory, the subsoil is nevertheless full of treasures: uranium, iron, hydrocarbons, rare earths and even rubies, among the most beautiful and rarest on the planet. We profile life at the end of the world.

## One Year in Monaco with Prince Albert & Princess Charlene



2022 - 56 mins - FR

Monaco, second smallest state in the world after the Vatican, has nearly 40,000 inhabitants. Here, the four seasons live to the rhythm of major events. Some famous ones like the Monaco Grand Prix or the prestigious Red Cross Charity Gala. Others more confidential, religious or heritage like the feast of Sainte-Dévote, the Christmas of the Prince's Palace or the picnic of the Monegasques.

We follow Prince Albert and Princess Charlene over the year as they attend and supervise these events.



COMING  
SOON





# Greenwashing

Faced with climate change and pressure from consumers, more and more multinationals are committed to “carbon neutrality”. But can we believe their claims of ‘net zero’ or is this simply greenwashing?

In order to call themselves carbon neutral, many of these large companies essentially rely on carbon offsetting, financing ‘ecological’ projects via carbon credits rather than reducing emissions. The most popular projects are tree plantations. Between the buyer of credits and the one who receives the funds, a whole business has developed. Companies connect their customers (Total, Engie, Air France, etc.) with reforestation projects around the world. The intermediary companies then dispatch the funds and take a commission.

But to ensure the success of its business model, the intermediaries focus on the most profitable projects: those that are inexpensive and not complicated to implement. For example, planting trees, without worrying about what will happen to the populations, replanted trees, agricultural practices on site. Very often these carbon offset projects are not effective or even have a negative impact on the environment and local populations.

One example is Nespresso, offset champion who has pledged that “every cup of coffee will be carbon neutral by 2022”. We investigate the true viability of their claims.

- **Producer:** Première Lignes
- **Director:** Claire Tesson
- **Commissioned By:** France 2

Ready November 2022



## Prosecuting War Crimes in Ukraine

When Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, the Ministry of the Interior and Justice formed a new division to investigate cases of possible war crimes and crimes against humanity. By early June, the Prosecutor's office had documented more than 14,000 alleged Russian war crimes, identified more than 600 suspects and initiated proceedings against approximately 80 of them.

It's the first time investigations into war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide have been carried out during the actual conflict. The priority: to quickly determine who did what, where, when and on the orders of which superior. It is also a way of countering Russian propaganda: collecting the immediate evidence will ensure that war crimes and crimes against humanity in Ukraine are not, as in Grozny and Syria, forgotten by history.

We follow the prosecutors, forensic investigators and cyber police through the course of three specific investigations. The rape of two women in Berestyanika by two Russian soldiers. An attack by 10 cluster bombs in Kharkiv which caused the death of 10 people, including an eight-month-old baby and wounded 37 others. And launching 240 missiles and occupying the village of Kozacha Lopan near Kharkiv. Two Russian soldiers stand accused of launching 80 of the missiles.

Through these three investigations, we show how the war crimes units prepare solid cases, both for the Ukrainian justice system and for the international criminal court. How these teams collect evidence and find witnesses. How they establish who was responsible and how they try to deliver justice.

- **Producer:** Babel Doc
- **Director:** Elizabeth Drévillon
- **Commissioned By:** France 5

Ready December 2022





## Bosnia: Putin's Wolves

As part of Russia's wider geopolitical struggle with the West, the Kremlin seems to be seeking to destabilise the Balkans by supporting Bosnia's Serb separatists. Like thirty years ago, Serbian anti-Muslim nationalism is on the rise and the warning signs are slipping under the media's radar.

Groups like 'Serbian Honour' are supported by hundreds of thousands of people on the social networks, including leading politicians in both Bosnia and Russia. This association of pro-Russian Serbian paramilitary ultranationalists is vocal in its admiration for Vladimir Putin, his project for a greater Russia and the rejection of the Western model. Serbian Honor is part of an ecosystem of Serbian nationalist movements likely to be proxies of the Kremlin in a new conflict that would destabilize Europe and NATO. That's the fear of the CIA and the main Western intelligence.

Then there's 'The Wolves of the Serbian Republic', the Serbian section of the notorious Russian biker gang, the Night Wolves. Since the invasion of Ukraine, their support for the Kremlin has been unwavering and they are even believed to be participating in the operations underway in Ukraine. The activism of Serbian Honor and the Wolves is one of the most visible manifestations of a massive return of Serbian nationalism in the Balkans, similar to the one that triggered the Bosnian war thirty years ago. The Kremlin knows that a new conflict would divert Western attention, expose EU weaknesses and force NATO to intervene...

- **Producer:** SlugNews
- **Directors:** Jean-Pierre Canet & Aude Léa Rapin
- **Commissioned By:** M6

Ready December 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 smuggling 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 a vast trafficking in elephant and rhino tusks.

In this 4 x 52 mins series, we join interpol on the search for four of the world's most wanted environmental criminals. One criminal. One environmental scandal. One hunt. One episode.

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

Ready December 2022



## Poison(s)

Viktor Yushchenko. Permanently disfigured by dioxin when he tried to steer Ukraine towards closer integration with Europe. Alexander Litvinenko. Killed with radioactive polonium after defecting to the UK and criticising Putin. Sergei Skripal. Targeted with novichok after spying for Britain. Alexei Navalny. Vladimir Kara-Murza. The list of people believed to have been poisoned on Putin's orders goes on and on.

In the 1920s, the Russian Secret Service established the first poison laboratory, tasked with killing enemies of the Communist regime. When the Soviet Union collapsed, the poisoning of enemies seemed to die with it. All that changed when Vladimir Putin came to power. For twenty years, Russian poison has run through the veins of international diplomacy.

First there's the actual poisons - dioxins, polonium or novichok - used to silence critics and send a strong message to would-be opponents. Then there's the poisoning of justice systems and principles, like when the British government blocked requests to hold a public inquiry into Litvinenko's death out of concerns of 'international relations.' The poisoning of our financial system by tainted money from Russia. As Kremlin insider, Sergei Pugachev, states: 'Putin, who owns everything in Russia, corrupts the West...and the West is happy to be corrupted.'

If the sponsors of each poisoning have never been identified with certainty, the exploration of what went on behind the scenes when they took place sheds light on the relationship between the Kremlin and the West. Behind each of these cases, a showdown is being played out. Each poisoning reveals the underside of a formidable game of chess straight out of the times of the Cold War.

- **Producer:** Little Big Story
- **Director:** Jennifer Deschamps
- **Commissioned By:** ARTE

Ready January 2023



## Flash Wars: Autonomous Weapons, AI & the Future of Armed Conflict

Since the invasion of Ukraine, many things that seemed like science fiction have become reality. In March 2022, a Russian kamikaze drone controlled by artificial intelligence was shot down in Kiev. In response, the US supplied their own models to Ukraine. Private firms donated satellite internet and AI-surveillance software that can track corpses and looters. Russia threatened to hit the UK with an autonomous nuclear torpedo, while emerging high-tech powers like Turkey struck deals with both sides. The AI arms race that experts had warned about for years is now real. It will not only shape the wars of the future but is also transforming the way we think about security at home.

AI promises superiority in all weapon categories, higher efficiency and a dramatic increase of operational speed. So dramatic, in fact, that observers fear that AI-driven conflicts could escalate so quickly, that human actors will not be able to react in time. They point to scenarios from the financial markets where so called “Flash Crashes” - triggered by competing algorithms - have become frequent, but remain little understood. They see a real danger of humanity losing control over its war-machines.

‘Flash Wars’ dives into the disturbing world of autonomous weapons. We explore why it’s so hard to teach morality to an AI and if it’s possible that autonomous weapons could make future wars more humane. And we follow ex-hacker Alberto Pelliccione into a secret world of spy software, military contractors and cyberweapons sold by European companies to authoritarian regimes. First, there was the invention of gunpowder, then the atomic bomb. Now we find ourselves at the threshold of another dramatic escalation in the field of armed conflict.

- **Producer:** Blue+Green Films
- **Director:** Daniel Andrew Wunderer
- **Commissioned By:** ARTE

Ready March 2023



## Tax Wars: The Battle for Tax Justice

It's estimated that \$427 billion in tax is lost every year to global tax abuse by multinationals and wealthy individuals. The pandemic and war in Ukraine have exposed, as never before, the harsh realities of growing income inequality in a globalised economy. Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, the world's 10 richest men have doubled their fortunes while the income of 99 percent of humanity fell. Everywhere, government coffers are drained and public services cut. In developing countries, the spectre of a debt crisis has reappeared.

But the money to fund quality public services does exist: hidden in tax havens. 'Tax Wars' takes viewers behind the scenes of a global effort to put people before profits, hold multinationals accountable, and make the world's most powerful corporations pay their fair share of taxes. Along with world-renowned experts like Joseph Stiglitz, Thomas Piketty, and Eva Joly, this film examines the limits of the international agreement on the taxation of multinationals announced in October 2021.

It also explores the possibility to trace all hidden wealth through the creation of a Global Asset Register. Efforts to sanction Russian oligarchs have been stymied by a wall of financial secrecy. Too much wealth is hidden in tax havens, using bank accounts, companies, and trusts that aim to keep their final beneficiaries unidentifiable. 'Tax Wars' will highlight the mechanisms, underlying trends, and forces at work in the tax justice battle.

- **Producers:** Mechanix Films & Yuzu Productions
- **Director:** Hege Dehli
- **Commissioned By:** ARTE

Ready June 2023



## Pakistan: Our Best Enemy

Officially, Pakistan is a major ally in the War on Terrorism and strategic partner of the West. But it's been repeatedly accused of encouraging and providing a safe haven for terrorists. So what game is it really playing? Is there any coherency or strategy in its actions and who is pulling the strings? This film recounts how Pakistan has managed to become the West's best friend and its worst enemy at the very same time.

We tell the story of Pakistan through the prism of its relationship with Europe and America, showing how what happens in Pakistan has direct consequences in the West. Since 1947, Pakistan has mastered the art of playing a double game with its Western allies, using them for its own national interests while pulling the wool over their eyes with limited collaboration. This discrepancy has become even more obvious since 9/11. During the last 20 years, Pakistan has managed to build a nuclear arsenal despite all international treaties, to restore Taliban power in neighbouring Afghanistan, to create a myriad of terrorists groups whilst pretending to participate in the counter-terrorism effort and to pocket billions of dollars US and EU funding.

But have we ourselves been better allies? During this time, and particularly since the withdrawal from Afghanistan, the West has distanced itself from Pakistan and grown closer to their deadly enemy. India now tops the list of the French and US arms exports in South Asia. How is our own turnaround perceived on the Pakistani side? What could the consequences be if 'The Land of the Pure' becomes even more isolated from the West?

- **Producer:** SlugNews
- **Directors:** Jean-Pierre Canet & Jean-Baptiste Renaud
- **Commissioned By:** France 5

Ready September 2023





# The Click Trap:

## The Dark Side of Google's Advertising System

Google has redefined our civilization. With more than 3,500 million daily searches and a 92% global share, the search engine has completely changed the way we access information.

We all assume that Google Search results are trustworthy but many people don't know that the top positions of the results page are paid advertisements, from which Google makes most of its income. Every day, thousands of people worldwide fall prey to cybercriminals and unscrupulous companies who use Google Search's opaque advertising system to promote their scams. The tech giant doesn't monitor the veracity of the ads and victims are powerless as there are no laws that can apply.

Andrea Hall lost her savings after investing in unregulated mini-bonds that came up in a "low-risk investment" google search. BP spent billions of dollars on google advertising after the Deepwater Horizon environmental disaster to secure top positions in searches for "oil spill" or "gulf disaster" and direct people to their own PR. And according to one study, 80% of the pharmacies that advertise on Google are illegal with many selling products that can be potentially harmful to users.

Is it time to regulate online advertising?

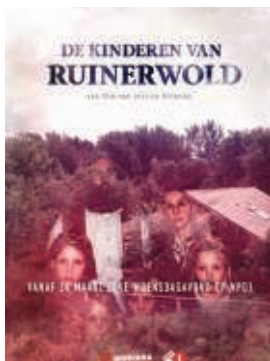
- **Producers:** Polar Star Films & Yuzu Productions
- **Director:** Peter Porta
- **Commissioned By:** ARTE

Ready November 2023



**SERIES**





## Children of Ruinerwold

On October 13, 2019, the Dutch village Ruinerwold became world news when a man walked into a local bar and requested help. When the police arrives, he tells them that his father has kept him and his five siblings isolated from the world, secluded on a hidden farm for years.

The father, Gerrit Jan van Dorsten, was a self-proclaimed prophet, who taught his children that the outside world is a dangerous place and that they should never go outside of the farm. It appears that van Dorsten has three more children, all adults that have fled the farm earlier. Their father was arrested on charges of deprivation of freedom, physical abuse, sexual abuse and money laundering. The nine mysterious children of Ruinerwold were all everyone could talk about for days.

A week after the farm's discovery, filmmaker Jessica Villerius started what would turn into 18 months of intensive filming with the four oldest children. In this four part series, we follow them as they adapt to life outside the farm and cope to terms with all they have lived through. They talk about their hidden existence, the faith of their father and the alleged abuse within the family. We also see them celebrate a birthday for the first time, receive their own ID and visit their father in prison. Exclusive access to footage filmed by their father of their time in the farm adds added weight to their testimonies.

- 2021
- 4 x 52 mins
- ENG, Dutch

- **Producer:**
- Posh Productions

- **Commissioned by:**
- BNN/VARA





## 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...

• 2018 - 2022  
• 9 x 52 mins  
• ENG, FR

• **Producer:**  
• Premières Lignes

• **Commissioned by:**  
• France 5

## Episodes

1. Lead (2022)
2. Petrol (2022)
3. Pollution (2022)
4. Soil Threat (2021)
5. Cursed Uranium (2021)
6. Coal in the Lungs (2021)
7. Paraguay's Poisoned Fields (2019)
8. South Africa's Toxic Townships (2018)
9. Indonesia: The World's Most Polluted River (2018)



2022  
3 x 52 mins  
ENG, FR

**Producers:**  
SlugNews  
Babel

**Commissioned by:**  
W9

## Dangerous Cities

We examine life in some of the world's most dangerous cities.

In Cape Town, some townships have become no-go zones, plagued by murders, violent robberies and illicit trade of every kind. The police are pushed beyond their limits by the level of violence. Many locals choose to carry guns to defend themselves. Meanwhile the middle classes barricade themselves into houses that are increasingly heavily fortified.

In Rio de Janeiro, the 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.

Meanwhile in Kabul, the population of four million people face terrorist attacks, Taliban oppression and natural disasters.

## Episodes

1. Kabul (2022)
2. Cape Town (2022)
3. Rio de Janeiro (2022)





## 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. Guinea: Life on a Thread (2022)
2. Venezuela: The Curse of Black Gold (2022)
3. South Sudan: The Shipwrecked on the Nile (2022)
4. Peru (2022)
5. Nepal: On the Brink (2021)
6. Central Africa: At Your Own Risk (2021)
7. Madagascar: Satan's Corridor (2021)

- 2008 - 2022
- 95 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. 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. In India, drivers dodge the buffalos and cows, overtaking on both sides of the road. Meanwhile, in Spain the police target drunk drivers and overburdened lorries.

## Episodes

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

2021 - 2022

7 x 52 mins

ENG, FR

### Producers:

Impala

Tony Comiti Productions

Babel Doc

Digivision

### Commissioned by:

W9



## 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 who 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)

- 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





# PAST HIGHLIGHTS





## 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. The goal: restore the Ice Age "mammoth steppe" ecosystem and avoid a catastrophic feedback loop leading to runaway global warming.

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.....



## 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.



## 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.





## 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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## 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.

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.

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## 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.

Their stories overlap at a new reentry program for women, run by Malika, an advocate formerly incarcerated in the same prison. Filmed over three and a half years, 'Apart' traces their steps as they reconstruct lives derailed by drugs and prison.

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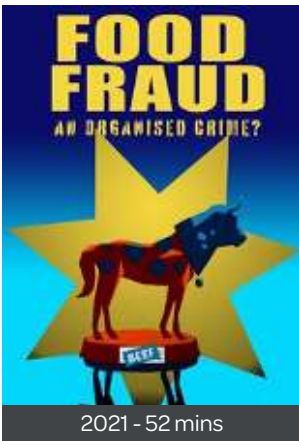
## Femicidio

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.

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.

"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.

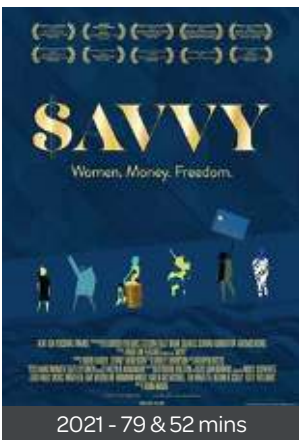
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## Food Fraud

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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## Savvy

'Savvy' 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.

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# 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 and reshaped our relationships with each other and our environment. But a company that started out as the cool underdog to Microsoft is now subsumed in a wave of controversies, facing a major backlash.

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



# No Fear, No Favour

In the heart of sub-Saharan Africa’s magnificent wilderness areas, women and men risk their lives to counter the rampant poaching crisis.

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



# Zebras: Gifted People

“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?

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



