

# JAVA FILMS

## 2023

A person in a dark coat stands with hands on hips, looking at a tall, green, pixelated skyscraper in a city setting. The building is composed of many small green squares, giving it a digital or pixelated appearance. The person is in the foreground, and the building is in the background. The sky is overcast, and there are other buildings and trees visible in the background.

SPRING  
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 2022, our documentaries screened at 140 festivals around the world, winning 33 awards & 10 special mentions.

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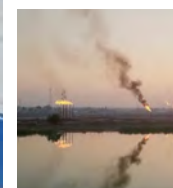
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# NEW RELEASES







2023  
3 x 52 mins  
ENG, FR

**Producer:**  
Magneto

**Directors:**  
Jérôme Fritel  
Sofia Amara

**Commissioned by:**  
France 5

## Hezbollah Inc.

It's widely recognised as a terrorist organisation, responsible for many atrocities including the Beirut port blast and destabilisation of Lebanon. But 42 years on, the 'Party of God' remains stronger than ever. It has transformed itself from a small paramilitary group backed by Iran into an omnipotent political party with the largest private army in the world. A 'state within a state', whose extensive charity network ensures the popular support of the Shiite community while its military wing attempts to redraw the borders of the region and erase Israel from the map.

But in 2008, after amassing evidence that Hezbollah was earning up to \$1 billion a year running an international crime syndicate trafficking in drugs, money laundering and other criminal activities, the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) tried to 'bring down Hezbollah'. Their secret mission was called 'Project Cassandra', and it ran for over eight years, using wiretaps, undercover operations and informants to map Hezbollah's illicit networks and cut off funding. Then, suddenly, it was shut down: sacrificed on the altar of realpolitik to accommodate the US-Iranian nuclear deal.

This three part series tells the story of 'Project Cassandra', through the testimonies of DEA agents and other people involved. It's a tale that helps explain the history and rise of Hezbollah, making a complex geopolitical story accessible to a larger audience.

### 1) Cassandra or the Prophecy of Chaos

On August 4, 2020, the city of Beirut was devastated by the explosion of hundreds of tons of ammonium nitrate, stored in the port. All eyes turned to Hezbollah, an Islamist movement linked to Iran, which controls a large part of Lebanon. Despite pressure from the street and the international community, the "Party of God" refused any independent investigation into the causes of the explosion. For 40 years, its militants have infiltrated all the workings of the Lebanese state and have defied the law. However, in the mid-2000s, a handful of police officers from the D.E.A., the American anti-drug agency, tried in the greatest secrecy to bring down Hezbollah. The code name of their operation: Cassandra. Their investigation begins in the United States on the still smoldering ruins of the World Trade Centre....

### 2) The Long Hunt

The assassination of Prime Minister Rafik Hariri on February 14, 2005 caused an earthquake in Lebanon and in the international community. All eyes turned to Syria, which was accused of being the sponsor of this attack. The army of Bashar al-Assad, which occupied part of the country, was forced to retreat amid hostility from the local population. With the withdrawal of the Syrians, Hezbollah lost a long-time ally and protector. More seriously, it also found itself in the dock, suspected of complicity in the murder of Hariri.

### 3) In the Name of the State

France has been the preferred country for Hezbollah militants to seek asylum since 2010. It offers several advantages: the potential to blend in with a large Lebanese community and free movement on European territory. Paris was chosen as a bridgehead for laundering money from cocaine trafficking. The D.E.A., the American anti-drug agency, alerted the French police. Together they opened a new chapter in Operation Cassandra, named "Operation Cedar" after the tree that symbolizes Lebanon.





2023  
3 x 52 mins  
ENG, FR

**Producer:**  
Little Big Story

**Director:**  
Jennifer Deschamps

**Commissioned by:**  
ARTE

## Poison(s)

For 20 years, several poisoning cases have implicated Vladimir Putin and the Kremlin. Masters in the art of using poison, Russians have turned it into a strategic weapon. Behind each of these cases, at the cost of a few grams of poison, a tug of war between the West and Russia: struggle for influence, turf wars, financial and energy battles.

To trace this history, four cases are worth exploring:

2006 – Alexander Litvinenko (deceased)  
2015-2017 – Vladimir Kara-Murza (imprisoned in 2022)  
2018 – Sergei Skripal (disappeared)  
2020 – Alexei Navalny (imprisoned in 2022)

Each poisoning story reveals a chess game, in line with the Cold War, and sheds light on what has been played out since the outbreak of the conflict with Ukraine.

2023  
52 mins  
ENG, FR

**Producer:**  
SlugNews

**Directors:**  
Jean-Pierre Canet  
Aude Léa Rabin

**Commissioned by:**  
M6

## The Balkans: Putin's Wolves

As the wider geopolitical struggle between Russia and the West intensifies, support from the Kremlin has emboldened Bosnia's Serb separatists. The CIA and Western intelligence services are worried by the rise in both Serbian and Muslim nationalism. Meanwhile the warning signs coming from this volatile region have slipped under the media's radar.

Russia has considerable leverage in Bosnia, as the region is highly dependent on Russian gas. And it wields influence through another powerful regional tool: The Serbian Orthodox Church. The Russian influence is clear in "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 reveal to our team that some of them are active on the frontline with Russian forces. Back home, the bikers display the letter 'Z' to show their support.

The rise in nationalism strikes fear in the hearts of the Muslim population, who remember the war. However they are met with anger from Serbs who believe that they, too, were victims of the war. These Serbian nationalists feel that only Russia recognises the extent of their suffering. The Kremlin knows that a new conflict would divert Western attention, expose EU weaknesses and force NATO to intervene.



## Your Face or Mine?

Treatment and promo available on request

2023  
52 mins  
ENG, FR

**Producer:**  
Première Lignes

**Director:**  
Claire Tesson

**Commissioned by:**  
France 2

## 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?

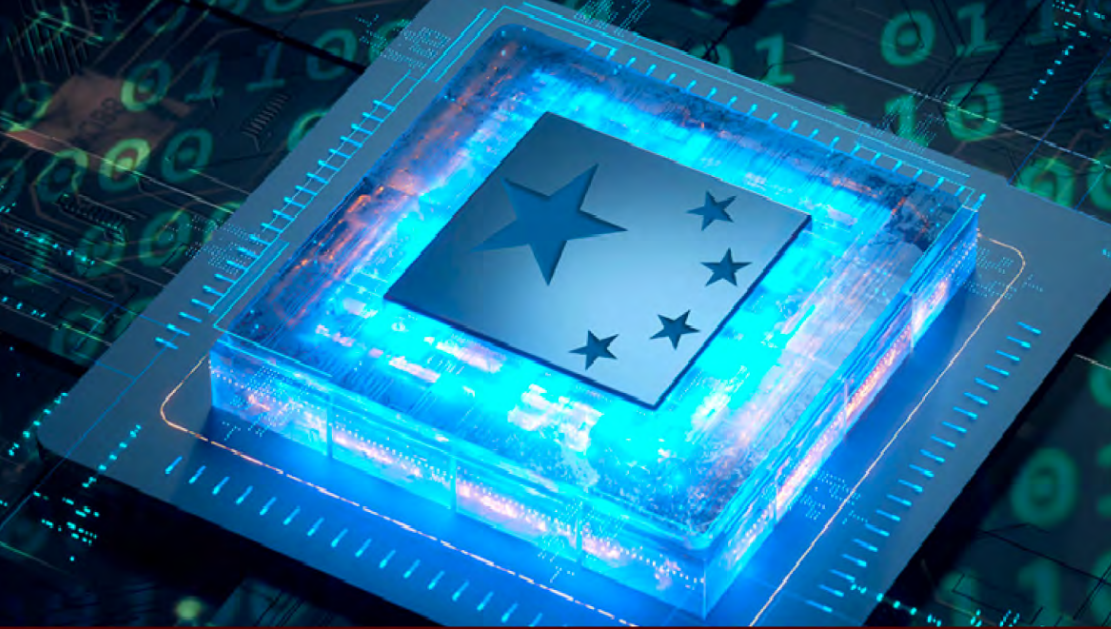
In order to call themselves carbon neutral, many of these large companies essentially rely on carbon offsetting, financing ‘ecological’ projects via carbon credits rather than reducing emissions. The most popular projects are tree plantations. Between the buyer of credits and the one who receives the 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 local people and agriculture, or eventually to the replanted trees themselves. 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.

Confidential





• 2023  
• 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?

• 2023  
• 70 & 52 mins  
• ENG, FR

• **Producer:**  
• Babel Doc  
  
• **Director:**  
• Elizabeth Drévillon  
  
• **Commissioned by:**  
• France 5

## 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 the following June, the Prosecutor's office had documented more than 14,000 alleged Russian war crimes and identified more than 600 suspects.

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.

We follow the prosecutors, forensic investigators and cyber police through the course of three specific investigations. The rape of two women in Berestyanka by two Russian soldiers. An attack by 10 cluster bombs in Kharkiv which caused the death of 10 people and wounded 37 others. And the launch of 240 missiles as well as the occupation of the village of Kozacha Lopan near Kharkiv.

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.



2023  
52 mins  
ENG, FR

**Producer:**  
Yemaya Productions

**Directors:**  
Mélanie Van Der Ende

**Commissioned by:**  
M6

## Love and Sex in Italy

Italy has the lowest birth rate in Europe, with a birth rate of less than 1.2. At this rate, Italy's population could reduce by 16 million over the next 50 years. Traditionalists fear for the status of the family, and reactionary Catholic campaigners are pushing back on abortion rights. They have considerable influence among doctors, who can refuse to perform an abortion based on conscientious objection. Seventy per cent of doctors in Italy refuse on that basis.

Italy is famous for weddings, and many couples come from around the world to celebrate a fairytale wedding here. Yet, among Italians, less and less people are getting married, and those who do are getting older. Less than half of Italians celebrate a traditional wedding in church. Two thirds of young people (18-34) still live at home with their parents, and it is difficult to leave home. These 'failure to launch' youngsters are called bamboccioni - 'big babies' who refuse to cut the cord.

This is even more prevalent in the impoverished south of the country where one in two young people are unemployed. Without a home of their own or enough money to afford a hotel room, their clandestine trysts are often limited to the back of a car.

We meet a tailor who equips his clients with the perfect made-to-measure elegance necessary for seduction, and we meet hopeful young men practising their chat up lines on the street corner.



2023  
52 mins  
ENG, FR

**Producer:**  
Bizarre Productions

**Director:**  
Natacha Rostova

**Commissioned by:**  
ARTE, RTS

## Russian Voices

An unprecedented immersion in the heart of a Russia that has become inaccessible to foreign media since the invasion of Ukraine.

This documentary was directed by a young Russian filmmaker, who for security reasons must remain anonymous. It is through their gaze that we discover a deep and invisible Russia. Filmed in the Tver region, since February 24, the date of the start of the offensive, we encounter families embroiled in a war, in the grip of massive, televised state propaganda. For sometimes financial, sometimes ideological reasons, these families sent their sons, their husbands, their brothers into a fratricidal conflict with another Slavic people.

On their return from the front or between two services, they recount the horror of what was presented to them as a "special military operation" to liberate populations supposedly oppressed by a Nazi Ukrainian regime.

On the ground, they saw the lies of the propaganda, the lack of preparation of their army and the war crimes ordered by their superiors against Ukrainian civilians. They return home shocked by the reality of the front but also plagued by doubts about the legitimacy of their presence in Ukraine and the outcome of the war: Some admit the failure of Vladimir Putin's regime, others find justifications for this conflict which is bogged down, remaining under the influence of the regime's lies.





2022  
52 mins  
ENG, FR

**Producer:**  
Sable Rouge

**Director:**  
Brando Baranzelli

**Commissioned by:**  
M6

## The Netherlands: The New Cocaine Mafias

Over the past few years the Netherlands and Belgium have become major hubs for drug trafficking in Europe. Almost 80% of the cocaine in Europe has passed through either Rotterdam or Antwerp. This has led to a new phenomenon: the “Mocro Mafia,” Dutch people of Moroccan origin who are engaged in the criminal underworld.

The gangs started by trafficking hashish from Morocco to the Netherlands. Now they use the same routes to transport cocaine, which is far more profitable. They source drugs from the Latin American cartels and traffic the drugs into Europe. As a result, the “Mocro Mafia” is one of the richest criminal organisations in the world.

The ultra-violent “Mocro Mafia” gangs have unleashed a reign of terror. They kill lawyers, magistrates, journalists, all without a second thought. They have even threatened government ministers in Belgium. Anyone who challenges their network is a potential target.

The drug money is so pervasive within the economy that, according to some, Belgium and the Netherlands risk becoming narco-states. Public anxiety rose even further after the horrifying discovery of a torture chamber in a shipping container used as an ‘underworld prison’ by the gangs, as well as the murder of journalist Peter de Vries.



2023  
52 mins  
ENG

**Producer:**  
Luckyday Pictures

**Director:**  
Nikalas Catlow

**Commissioned by:**  
SVT

## Handmade: A Tale of Stop Motion

“Handmade” is a documentary film that tells the inspiring story of Nukufilm, the oldest surviving stop-motion animation studio in the world, founded in 1957.

During the Soviet era, Nukufilm was both financed and censored by the USSR government. In the 1980s, a new generation of animators took over. They had a more adventurous approach to stop-motion animation and were given the freedom to experiment with any style they wanted. Despite strict censorship regulations, they were able to conceal messages and layers in their animations without being detected.

When Estonia regained independence in 1991, Nukufilm lost its distribution through Moscow. The studio struggled to survive in a global market. However, they managed to learn the new market and become businessmen, surviving in the new free market economy.

The digital revolution had a profound impact on stop-motion animation, and Nukufilm embraced the change. They used digital techniques to view recorded material more quickly and compare it with the next frame, and nowadays, the use of digital techniques is essential to creating modern stop-motion animation. To date, Nukufilm has produced over 200 stop-motion animation films.



2023  
61 mins  
ENG

**Producer:**  
Prospektor

**Directors:**  
Sajid Khan Nasiri  
Els van Driel  
Eefje Blankevoort

## The Mind Game

When he was just 15, Sajid Khan Nasiri fled Afghanistan alone. After a two-year journey filled with danger and hardships – which he minutely documented on his phone camera – he arrives in Belgium to seek asylum. There, a whole new struggle begins. An intimate sequel to the prize-winning Shadow Game.

They call it ‘the game’: the life-threatening journey that many unaccompanied minors undertake seeking protection in Western Europe. For Sajid Khan Nasiri, the game started at 14 after the Taliban killed his father. Via Iran and Turkey to Eastern Europe he progressed ever closer to his destination, hunted down by violent police and hostile civilians. In clips recorded with his telephone camera, and in messages to filmmakers Eefje Blankevoort and Els van Driel, he keeps track of his progress.

He is sure that when he arrives, he’ll be able to relax, go to school and start a new life. But once in Belgium a new game begins: the mind game. Being a child, how do you deal with the enormous mental pressure of the journey, with distrustful authorities, and disturbing messages from the home front? An intimate documentary about the psychological pressure young refugees face.



2023  
68 & 52 mins  
ENG, FR

**Producer:**  
Yuzu Productions

**Director:**  
Chiara Avesani  
Matteo Delbò

**Commissioned by:**  
ARTE

## Don't Come Back: In the Ruins of Mosul

July 2017, Mosul is freed but is left in ruins. Ghadeer, a young journalist who fled to Brussels when Mosul fell into the hands of ISIS decides to abandon the promise of a future in Europe to return home. He and several friends create Radio One FM, a radio station independent from any religious, communitarianist or political ties, to promote peaceful coexistence in a war-torn society.

The first two years are utopic for the team of journalists. Radio One gains a national audience thanks to its documentation of the country's hardships. But without external financing nor advertisement, the Radio faces financial problems. They open a café to use its revenues to finance the station. But the journalists' independence comes under pressures from militias linked to the political clans battling for the control of Iraq. Corruption, power struggles and foreign interferences leaves the country once again teetering on the brink of civil war.

The story of Radio One mirrors the disillusion progressively affecting the Iraqi people. 20 years after the invasion of Iraq and the promises of democracy and state-building, the country is in a state of chaos.



# CRYPTOQUEEN

The OneCoin Scam - a film & docu series by Johan von Mirbach

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

**Producer:**  
A&O Buero

**Director:**  
Johan von Mirbach

**Commissioned by:**  
ARTE & NDR

## The Crypto Queen: The OneCoin Scam

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.

New Episodes Coming in September

## Oklahoma: The Most Conservative State in America



2023 - 53 mins - ENG, FR

Located in the heart of the Bible Belt, the most religious area of the United States, Oklahoma is considered to be among the most conservative states in America. Home to the highest number of prisoners sentenced to death in the country, Oklahoma also has some of the strictest abortion laws - and there are more women in prison here than anywhere else in the USA. Furthermore, a high proportion of the residents in the state are sceptical of climate change - and they are mostly white, rural and Republican. It is also in Oklahoma, where you can buy a weapon of war at the supermarket.

In the last Presidential election, Donald Trump acquired more than 90% of the votes across various counties in Oklahoma. Travelling across the state, we met a sheriff who calls himself the toughest in the state. For him, strict punishments are the only course of action, even for minor offences. We also followed anti-abortion activists, some of whom advocate the death penalty for women who have abortions, and who also campaign to ban books which promote the rights and representation of the Black or LGBTQ+ community.

We also met the last clinic practicing abortion in Oklahoma - forced to close its doors following the latest anti-abortion laws after being open for fifty years. Now, women seeking an abortion have to drive hundreds of kilometres to neighbouring New Mexico, where it is still legal.

## America: The New Conquest of the West



2022 - 54 mins - ENG, FR

The North-West of the United States has become the new Eldorado for Americans in search of wide open spaces and for nostalgic Americans freedom. The people who live in these breathtaking landscapes believe that the less the state intervenes, and the less rules and laws, the better! But not everyone is happy about the new arrivals...

This "Promised Land" today attracts those who flee the cities and unashamedly reject the woke, LGBTQ, Black Lives Matter movements, these trends that are shaking society everywhere else in the United States. Opposed to abortion, in favor of carrying firearms, these mostly white Americans, often Christians with evangelical tendencies, settle by the thousands in this part of America three times the size of France. And transform it little by little into a country apart. Like a new colony.

Gary Grabli and Tam Melacca follow the arrival of a family from San Francisco, and set out to meet these new settlers, Viper, the Jimi Hendrix-loving yet ultra-reactionary biker, Brett, the pro-Trump real estate agent who selects his clients according to their political ideas, Pastor Bradshaw who advocates holy war armed with a guitar and a pistol, or Ammon Bundy, who is campaigning for a post of governor when he has done two years jail time for armed rebellion against the FBI.

## Planet Killers: The Forest Destroyer



2023 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

Sahul Hameed is wanted for the trafficking of red sandalwood, one of the most expensive woods on the black market, a trade linked to violence and bloodshed in India. Interpol's environmental crimes unit considers him to be their top target for crimes linked to deforestation.

The prized variety of red sandalwood only grows in one particular region of the world, and the species has been devastated by illegal forest clearing. One tonne of pine is worth \$70, while a tonne of red sandalwood is worth \$130,000. This creates a significant motive for criminals who decimate valuable forests.

It was estimated that Sahul Hameed earned more than 120 million dollars in 2015 alone from this illicit trade. He has also been linked to the attempted murder of public officials and law enforcement in India. His heavily armed gangs have terrorized local law enforcement with as many as one hundred major smugglers reporting to him.

Our team speaks to a campaigning journalist as well as the investigators and Interpol, as they trace Sahul Hameed's links to organised crime and violence. Now based in Dubai, Hameed is out of the reach of investigators. He is the subject of an Interpol red notice which will trigger an alert if he travels to any of the 195 member countries, but for now, he remains at large.

## Planet Killers: The Ivory King



2023 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

Samuel Jefwa, the "Ivory King" and his brother, Nicholas, are the biggest ivory traffickers in the world. They are wanted by Interpol and law enforcement in multiple countries for ivory trafficking and organized crime.

In April 2015, Thai customs officers opened containers, stamped "Tea Leaves," that had been shipped from Kenya. Inside they found elephant tusks, almost three tonnes of ivory, a multimillion dollar haul.

Jefwa was the mastermind of this industrial-scale smuggling operation, earning the nickname "The Ivory King." The investigation revealed that he was exploiting local corruption, with a network inside the Kenyan customs authority, the logistics centres and the ports, and with possible links even to those close to the Kenyan government.

The Kenyan authorities and the environmental unit of Interpol launched an international manhunt, but somehow the two brothers have continued to elude them. The investigation extends from Kenya, to the United States and Singapore.

Samuel and his brother Nicholas are both still at large, under an Interpol red notice.

## Planet Killers: The Prince of Carbon



2023 - 53 mins - ENG, FR

The "Planet Killers" team have been granted exclusive access to the environmental crime unit of Interpol. This film is the inside story on the hunt for Cyril Astruc, the "Prince of Carbon."

Cyril Astruc has been a fugitive from justice for nearly ten years, on the run from both the French authorities and Interpol. He has an international arrest warrant for fraud and money laundering.

The so-called "Prince of Carbon" masterminded a huge carbon quota fraud, which misappropriated five billion Euros from European state coffers. This money had been earmarked to fight climate change and CO2 emissions, and the fraud meant that the carbon exchange system no longer had any effect in ecological terms.

From Israel to Belgium via the United States, Cyril Astruc slipped through the net of the investigators. He is a colourful character, reminiscent of Frank Abagnale ("Catch me if you can"), whose sophisticated scam laundered money through dozens, if not hundreds of bogus companies. The story of the Prince of Carbon is told by judges, by French, Belgian, Israeli investigators and the Interpol officers who work together to hunt him down.

## Planet Killers: Godfather of the Oceans



2023 - 54 mins - ENG, FR

Junchung Wu is the head of a criminal network which traffics in endangered totoaba fish, one of the most powerful criminal networks on the planet.

The totoaba fish is known as the cocaine of the sea, because one kilo of totoaba is worth even more than the same weight of cocaine. Totoaba swim bladders are used in Chinese traditional medicine, which has driven up the value of the fish. The traffic of totoaba is considered to be one of the most violent illicit trades in the world, and China requested Interpol to issue the red notice on Junchung Wu who is currently believed to be in Tijuana, Mexico.

The traffickers catch totoaba fish with gillnets which are indiscriminate killers of the endemic species. They entrap other animals such as the Vaquita Porpoise, which is critically endangered with as few as ten specimens left in the wild. The nets also trap sea turtles and other vulnerable species.

Meanwhile investigators face the risk of violence, and report having been attacked by poachers, their boats stormed, and even hit with Molotov cocktails.

The illicit trade is managed by the Sinoloa cartel in Mexico, via the so-called Sea Cartel, alongside the Chinese mafia who provide the finances and are the key to the whole supply chain, Wu Junchang is suspected of not only Totoaba trafficking but also human trafficking.



## The Return of ISIS



2023 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

In March 2019, the Islamic State was officially defeated with the fall of Baghouz. 27,000 men, women and children were taken prisoner. But the fall of Baghouz did not mean the end of ISIS. Its fighters have never accepted defeat and the group has reformed to try and organise their return.

The UN estimates that there are 10,000 ISIS fighters in the desert between Iraq and Syria. Another 10,000 jihadists are still imprisoned. The Kurds would like to try them for their many crimes but for the moment it is impossible. In January 2022, ISIS fighters attacked the Hassaké prison where many former fighters are imprisoned to try and free them and reform their army. It took ten days and many dead for Kurdish forces to reconquer the prison. Since then, the trials have stopped.

Then there's the question of what to do with the women and children. The Roj and Al Hol camps, where women and children are imprisoned, have become powder kegs. In August, Syrian forces discovered machine guns, rocket launchers and explosives there. We meet some of the foreign women imprisoned there, desperate to return home.

In Afghanistan and Pakistan, in Southeast Asia or in Egypt, in the Sahel, in Somalia, in Mozambique, organizations that swear allegiance to the Islamic State, multiply their attacks and summary executions.

## Sudan: Journey to one the most Closed Countries in the World



2023 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

Cut off from the world, Sudan, a former refuge of international terrorists, is one of the most unstable countries on the planet.

Since its independence in 1956, the country has experienced 18 coup attempts. After thirty years under the military-Islamist dictatorship of Omar el-Bashir, Sudan experienced a brief period of democracy in 2019. But this was quickly broken by a new coup which bought General Al-Burhan and his military junta to power. Since then, the country has closed completely.

Every week, thousands of Sudanese confront the security forces to demand the departure of the soldiers. In this revolution, women are at the forefront. After years of dictatorship and sharia law, where women were routinely flogged and humiliated, they yearn for freedom. The protestors know that their demonstration will be fiercely repressed so they try to protect themselves as best they can. But in the face of live bullets, they only have makeshift shields and plastic helmets. Even doctors and young children are targeted. And the arbitrary arrests multiple.

The political crisis has aggravated the economic situation with inflation running at 380%. Even before, Sudan was one of the poorest in the world. Now, even middle-class people are finding it increasingly difficult to survive. To get by, more than two million Sudanese have left the cities to seek their fortune in the desert.

## Green Warriors: Children of Lead



2023 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

From Peru, where the mineral is extracted, all the way to France, where the metal is refined, lead pollutes the earth, the rivers, food supplies, and local people.

Despite being banned in numerous products including fuel, paints and the manufacture of pipes, lead is still often used in buildings, weapon development, jewellery and even in batteries.

At Évin-Malmaison, France, lead from refineries has contaminated the earth underneath various schools, stadiums, parks and gardens. The farmers of the area can no longer feed their population, because their produce is too contaminated by this lead. It has become the most polluted area in France, and there are thousands of victims. Many children of the area have lead-poisoning and, as a result, serious neurological problems.

A team of journalists and scientists have begun an as yet unpublished study in which they are measuring the lead contamination in the environment and its effects on children's IQs. Hundreds of tests have been picked up by 34 media outlets with an unprecedented impact in France and Peru.

## Green Warriors: Damned by Iraq's Oil



2023 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

The investigation begins in Iraq, in the oil fields which extend from Nahr Umar to Halfaya. Black gold is a sensitive subject, a notorious source of conflict throughout Iraq's recent history. This region is as rich as it is dangerous. We meet local people who are convinced that pollution from flares at the oil refineries is responsible for a rise in illness, including childhood cancer. But the site is vital for Iraq, supplying energy to more than half the country.

We conduct a study to measure the levels of carcinogenic pollutants in the local community and reveal that children in the local area have benzene levels 70 times higher than the threshold recommended. The levels of the dangerous toxin naphthalene are the highest ever found in the scientific literature. According to this data, Iraqi children have eleven times more naphthalene in their bodies than German children and fifteen times more than American children. This chemical has no threshold effects. This means that just the presence of one molecule is dangerous for health.

We present our findings to the Minister, Walid Al Moussawi. As a result, he is preparing a case against Total Energies, the oil giant responsible for the flares at Nahr Umar.

However this danger is not unique to Iraq. We meet people in Gonfreville-l'Orcher, near Le Havre in France, who are concerned that pollution from the local oil refinery is triggering respiratory problems in their children.

## Green Warriors: Netherlands Forever Chemicals



2023 - 53 mins - ENG, FR

Many factories around the world use perfluorinated chemicals to make everyday products. Due to their chemical stability, these compounds are “forever chemicals” They do not break down. Even worse, they can build up inside the human body and cause health problems, including cancer, and compromise the immune system. Companies have routinely dismissed campaigners who insist that cancer cases have risen close to factories which use perfluorinated chemicals. They claim that only small amounts of chemicals are released into the environment. Our investigation proves that they are wrong.

Fifteen years ago Ted van der Vlies was diagnosed with leukemia. He lives in the shadow of the local chemical plant. Later he took part in a regional blood sampling campaign which showed that his blood was terribly contaminated with PFOA, a perfluorinated “Forever Chemical”

Our team investigated two chemical factories, in France and the Netherlands. We took samples of the air, of the soil in gardens close to the plants, in the river water upstream and downstream of the factory, in the tap water. We also tested samples of breast milk from breastfeeding mothers in the area.

The results were shocking. Our investigation has already had an impact in the fight to ban these “Forever Chemicals” which are impacting health and contaminating our planet.

## Kaliningrad: A Russian Fortress in the Heart of Europe



2023 - 54 mins - ENG, FR

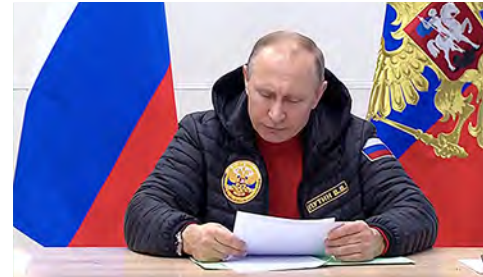
Located on the shores of the Baltic Sea, between Poland and Lithuania, Kaliningrad is a piece of Russia in the heart of Europe. It has been transformed into a military fortress where the Russian Baltic fleet comprising of 30,000 soldiers and hypersonic missiles with nuclear capability are headquartered.

We were able to enter this closely guarded enclave, almost inaccessible since the war. We followed elections for the new governor. The outgoing candidate, Antone Alikhanov, who is totally loyal to Vladimir Putin, renewed his mandate with 80% of the votes.

Kaliningrad is under economic embargo by the EU and its population is suffering. Foodstuffs are becoming scarce. The price of coal is exploding. But, fed by the Kremlin's propaganda, most of the population supports the war. Only the Europeanized youth dare to half-heartedly criticize the government.

Kaliningrad neighbours, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, have been members of NATO and the European Union since 2004. They are doing everything they can to defend themselves. In Lithuania, ordinary citizens are taking up arms and training to become soldiers. Meanwhile in Latvia, the government wants to wipe out its Soviet past. It has ordered the dismantling of buildings glorifying the USSR era and restricted the use of Russian in public spaces.

## The Arctic: Putin's New Frontier



2023 - 54 mins - ENG, FR

The territorial ambitions of Vladimir Putin seem to have no limits. Another of his main objectives appears to be the colonisation of the Arctic and the North Pole, a project that has been ongoing for more than twenty years.

This area, which remains virtually unexploited, is one of the last El Dorados on the planet. The subsoil is full of oil, gas, rare earths and precious minerals like gold, uranium, copper. With global warming, these riches are now more accessible, fueling the greed of major Western powers.

But in this conquest of the Arctic, Russia already has a head start. For years, the country has been equipped with gigantic nuclear-powered icebreakers: a means of controlling navigation in the icy waters surrounding the North Pole. Vladimir Putin has invested in extraordinary industrial projects such as an enormous gas processing plant anchored in the permafrost, and the construction of an incredible floating nuclear power plant intended to supply energy to Pevek, a small isolated port north of the polar circle.

For Moscow, this policy also involves a militarisation of the region. Fearful of these expansionist ambitions, NATO decided to react by sending a strong message to the Russian President. The Atlantic Alliance recently gathered an army of 35,000 men in Norway to show that it could repel a possible Russian invasion at any given time.

## Hunting the Russian Oligarchs



2023 - 50 mins - ENG, FR

Since the invasion of Ukraine and European sanctions, the Russian oligarchs have become pariahs. By attacking their assets in Europe and freezing their bank accounts, the EU is convinced that this pressure on the oligarchs will, in turn, put pressure on Vladimir Putin to back down. But during the same period, about fifteen Oligarchs have died under strange circumstances. Do they really have the power to influence the Russian President? Or are they just pawns of his ambition?

To date, more than 1,200 people have been placed under EU sanctions and assets amounting to 17 billion euros frozen. But getting hold of what they really own is often complicated. Most of their assets are hidden in a mirage of shell companies. Many Oligarchs, like arms dealer Igor Kesaev, have already bought EU nationality giving them a range of rights. He was able to use his Cypriot nationality to buy a strategic island in Finland which threatens the security of the country.

Since the beginning of the Ukrainian crisis, a wave of strange ‘suicides’ among oligarchs is provoking many questions. Sergey Protosenya. Found hanging from a rope in his villa in Spain while his wife and daughter were stabbed. Alexander Subbotin. Poisoned by toad venom. Alexander Tyulyakov. Found hanged. Ravil Maganov, pushed through a window while in hospital. All in all, some fifteen oligarchs have died in a suspicious manner.



## Tyranny & Modernity: A Journey to the heart of Saudi Arabia



2023 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

Saudi Arabia. Long considered one of the most repressive and closed countries in the world, the country is opening up. In recent years, this desert kingdom has undertaken numerous reforms under the leadership of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. An estimated 3,000 billion euros have been invested to build solar power plants or futuristic real estate projects in the desert. However, at the same time, the Crown Prince suppresses any form of protest.

In Riyadh, the capital, spectacular skyscrapers rival those of Dubai. Now, women no longer have to wear the hijab. They can travel alone, ride a bike, or drive. After 35 years of being prohibited, cinemas have finally reopened and Saudis are discovering American blockbusters – even if many scenes are cut due to the strict censorship rules of the country.

Under the façade of new freedoms, MBS's regime is in many ways, more repressive than ever before. Freedom of expression, always constrained, is now non-existent. The country is ranked one of the 'worst of the worst' for political and civil rights by Freedom House. More recently, a woman was sentenced to 34 years in prison for using Twitter. Human rights violations are common in the country – where adulterous women can be subjected to stoning, while members of the LGBTQ+ community or political protestors also face execution.

## Between Grandeur & Repression: The New Egypt



2023 - 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.

## Australia: The Coming Climate Hell?



2023 - 60 mins - ENG, FR

Australia, one of the most beautiful countries on the planet, is also one of the most polluting. From fires and droughts to cyclones and floods, the country is no stranger to bearing the full brunt of global warming.

According to the Brown To Green Report, Australia is one of the worst performing members from the board on almost all counts: deforestation, coal mining, excessive water consumption, and carbon footprint. Despite this, the Australian government continues to encourage the production of coal. Most elected officials in the country are climate skeptics.

Whilst exploring the Australian desert, we decided to meet the present-day cowboys of the Outback, who live on isolated ranches located hundreds of kilometres away from the nearest village. They spend most of their time searching for water.

However, there has recently been an increase awareness of the climate crisis and people have started to take action. Among them, Aboriginal communities who have always protected and reclaimed nature, as well as activists who do not hesitate to openly criticise polluting companies. But a number of Australian states have adopted strict laws that threaten the right to peaceful protests, leading to numerous protesters running the risk of being put behind bars for their fight against climate change.

## Poverty in the UK: Forgotten By The Crown



2022 - 56 mins - ENG, FR

It's the great English paradox. If the country has a historically low unemployment rate of 3.6%, poverty is breaking all records: today, more than 15 million Britons are considered poor. That's almost a quarter of the population.

Galloping inflation and the explosion of energy costs in recent months and forced millions into poverty. But there is also the hyper-flexibility of wages and the growing uberization of hundreds of thousands of self-employed people. All aggravated by more than 10 years of severe cuts in social assistance and a disengagement of the State in the public services.

As a result, the United Kingdom, which had only a few dozen food banks in 2010, now has more than 2,000. Life expectancy is stagnating, even declining in the most disadvantaged regions where people die 10 years earlier sooner than elsewhere, victim of what is known as "shit life syndrome".

So, millions of Britons engage in voluntary work to make up for the shortcomings of the government. We went to meet England's working poor, all forced to rely on solidarity to survive. From Blackpool, a seaside town in the north-west plagued by poverty, to the green county of Cumbria on the Scottish border, one of the most rural in the country, where public transport and services have become almost non-existent, via Ashton-under-Lyne, a factory town paralyzed by the absence of economic prospects.

## The Roots of Drugs Trafficking



2022 - 56 mins - ENG, CAT

70% of the marijuana that is smuggled into Europe is brought in through the south of Spain.

This film goes inside the police operation to root out the traffic of marijuana into Spain. We ride along with the customs officers who patrol the Straits of Gibraltar as they chase down the smugglers, and investigate the criminal infrastructure that has been established around this trade.

Marijuana trafficking grew after 1992, when routes previously established by tobacco smugglers were taken over by hashish dealers. It has inevitably led to a rise in organised crime linked to the drug trade. As worldwide economic instability grows, so the drug trade expands further. The money from the drug trade is filtered through the legal economy. We also investigate the problem of marijuana grown within Spain. The Catalan police dismantle an average of two plantations a day. The police, prosecutors and judges work closely together but they lack resources, and the procedural and criminal law make their jobs more difficult.

We hear from those at the heart of the fight against the drug trade.

## Thailand: Return of the Sex Tourists



2023 - 52 mins - ENG, GER

As soon as Thailand reopened its borders to tourists, the pedophiles returned. And as poverty in the country has worsened, the successes achieved in the past decades in the fight against pedophile sex tourism are now on the line.

Officially, the child prostitution that once existed in Pattaya has ended. But according to child protection agencies and the deputy police chief “the children who are being abused are getting younger and younger, and the violence that is being done to them is getting worse and worse.”

We investigate how the so-called ‘normal’ sex tourism creates structures in the red light districts that acutely endanger children. We speak to the European men who equate paying for sex as a kind of ‘aid’ and hear the point of view of the women forced to sell their bodies.

We also follow a case of a German tourist, who allegedly had sex with prostituted children in a bar. But to the surprise of the Thai police, he was able to leave the country by paying a 50,000€ bribe. Surprisingly, he agrees to speak to us and admits to the bribe but claims he could not get a fair trial in Thailand.

## Las Abogadas: Attorneys on the Frontline of the Migrant Crisis



2022 - 58 & 95 mins - ENG

‘Las Abogadas’ follows four immigration attorneys over a four-year odyssey, as the US government upends every law, to protect those fleeing from violence and war.

From setting up a legal clinic in a Volkswagen bus in the middle of five thousand desperate migrants, to forcing border guards to follow the law and accept a blind woman into U.S. custody, to crossing the border to counsel African migrants stuck in Tijuana, to giving legal advice in the brutally hot Mexican sun to families desperate to see American soil — we watch our characters’ surreal journeys to try and help.

Rebecca, Charlene, Jodi, and Mulu face intense desperation and frustration. Days are filled with endless and crushing defeat. On occasion, a success — a family reunited and offered the chance to plead their case for asylum. Rebecca writes a parent’s phone number on a child’s arm in Sharpie and bundles her up to send her into the freezing detention center in San Ysidro. “If this was my daughter, I would hope someone would be there for them,” she says, fighting back tears.

Even with the change in presidential administrations in the United States, our attorneys and their clients continued to face greater challenges than they could have imagined.

## First to Stand: The Cases and Causes of Irwin Cotler



2022 - 57 & 72 mins - ENG

‘First to Stand’ follows Irwin Cotler and his team of young activists as they take on the cases and cause of political prisoners and human rights activists battling against the world’s most repressive regimes.

Cotler began fighting for freedom and justice in law school with the landmark case of Russian refusenik Natan Sharansky, for whom he devised his “mobilization of shame” against the human rights violator — essentially, a PR blitz against a superpower to convince them that holding a political prisoner is bad for their image. The strategy led to Gorbachev releasing Sharansky in 1986. Tyrants aren’t amused by someone embarrassing their regime in front of the rest of the world — especially Vladimir Putin. Like others who crossed Putin’s path, Cotler was poisoned in Moscow. But the attempt on his life hasn’t dampened his commitment. He is today, one of the world’s most effective activists in the protection of human rights.

With unprecedented access, we follow Cotler and his team from the streets to the strategy sessions and corridors of power, as he meets with the heads of state arguing passionately for his clients’ release.

First to Stand is about committed human rights activists who know if they stand up, it won’t be long before others are standing with them.



## The Sultanate of Brunei: The Kingdom of all Superlatives



2023 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

At 76 years old, Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei is now the longest reigning head of state in the world. He has been on the throne since 1967.

He is also one of the richest men on the planet. Thanks to the oil and gas of his small kingdom, his personal fortune is estimated at 18 billion dollars. Holder of all the powers, he rules his country with an iron hand. A follower of a rigorous Islam, his 440,000 subjects are subject to Sharia law.

Next January, the Sultan will marry one of his seven daughters, Princess Azemah, to his nephew. Before the wedding, the Sultan's daughter and her son-in-law will each have a series of lavish ceremonies in the most beautiful residences of the country. They will meet at the powder ceremony at the Sultan's palace, Istana Nurul Iman. Worthy of a fairy tale, all of its 1788 rooms and 257 golden bathrooms are adorned with precious stones.

The official ceremony will take place in the throne room and will end in the evening with a royal banquet. 2000 of the world's most select guests will be present. As a welcome gift, they will receive diamond-encrusted jewelry. In attendance will be the Princess's younger brother, Prince Mateen. The darling of the kingdom, he has become one of the most coveted bachelors in the world. An exclusive look at the most secretive, the richest and the strictest sultanate in the world.

## Cheerleaders: The Hidden Face of the American Dream



2022 - 55 mins - ENG, FR

They're icons of American culture and serious athletes in their own right. They form a veritable institution in the United States, entertaining millions of Americans every weekend with their acrobatic displays that require years of training. Every year, the very best cheerleaders from across the country come together in Daytona Beach, Florida for the National Cheer Competition. In this documentary, we follow a team on their journey to the championship and examine the changing face of American cheerleading.

For many young Americans, being a cheerleader is not just a passion, but also an opportunity to secure a place in a great college. In the United States, where the average university tuition is 50,000€ per year, cheerleaders can win full scholarships. 16-year-old Gigi spends 30 hours a week in high school, and an additional 20 hours a week working at a restaurant. Then, three times a week, she travels six hours to attend a prestigious cheerleading academy. If she can win one of the coveted scholarships, all the sacrifices will be worth it.

Cheerleading is a sport where image is everything. "We have a specific way that they want us to do our hair and makeup for game day," explains one cheerleader. But some teams are moving away from ultra-short, sexy costumes. Sammy's team now cheers in jogging pants. "I feel more comfortable now. People look at me for my dancing and not for my body."

## The Tsaatan of Mongolia: Last of the Free Men



2023 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

They're known as the "Reindeer People". They are one of the most amazing tribes of the planet. Numbering only 200, they live in the north of Mongolia, in a deserted and frozen region.

Long isolated from the world, these nomadic reindeer breeders have kept all their ancestral traditions and practice shamanism. They live in simple canvas tents in temperatures that reach minus 40 degrees in winter, but they never complain and say they are happy to live like this, free, in the middle of a sublime and preserved nature. Their happiness and their way of life, day by day, offers a striking contrast with our western lives.

But today, the modern world is catching up with them. School, which has become compulsory for children in recent years, is at the center of all their questions. What to do? To preserve the children from a progress they consider harmful or to educate them and offer them the possibility of integrating into the current world? These nomads know that they will have to choose between their traditions and civilization, between their freedom and comfort. Conscious of being at a turning point in their history, will the Tsaatan manage to survive the meeting of their world and ours?

A spectacular journey into a timeless universe, miraculously preserved.

## The Science of Fatherhood



2022 - 52 mins - ENG, GER

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 ask brain researchers, geneticists, sociologists and psychologists. And we accompany 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 both fathers themselves 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, as this is nature's way of 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 from pregnancy to infancy.

## 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.

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



2023 - 55 mins - Eng, FR

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

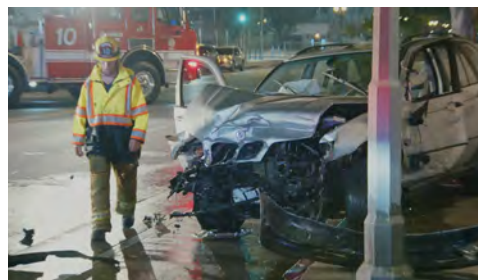
Their targets: Muslims, Jews, migrants, left-wing association leaders who, according to them, threaten the continent with a “great racial replacement”. We spent two years investigating these semi-clandestine networks in France, Germany and Romania.

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: Los Angeles



2023 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

Los Angeles. The largest city in the United States, with the busiest road networks in the country. Here, every year, there are more than 55,000 reported accidents - one every three minutes!

There are many reasons behind this shocking figure: from dangerous behavior like speeding, to people driving under the influence of alcohol and marijuana, which was legalized in 2018, to the incredible density of the traffic.

Then there's another scourge of the roads that is particular to Los Angeles: the takeovers. These illegal takeovers of the highways, where hundreds young of drivers take over the city's intersections at night to play loud music and try out the riskiest moves, often result in fatalities.

2 am in Los Angeles and another serious accident has just taken place. Two cars have collided, sweeping away a fire hydrant and creating a geyser of almost 10 meters. One of the drivers is in a critical condition. This accident, like many others, was caused by faulty lights.

We follow paramedics from the biggest company in Los Angeles, including Bernie, a father of two and a paramedic for more than 15 years. More than 400 paramedics who work in shifts 24 hours a day to help the victims of the road.

## Dangerous Roads: Thailand



2023 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

Thailand, the most popular tourist destination in Asia, it is also one of the most dangerous countries in terms of road safety. With more than 20,000 people killed on the asphalt every year, the “country of smiles” is the second most deadly country in the world.

Nearly three quarters of the victims are drivers of “two-wheelers”. Here, many people regard helmets as optional and there is a national passion for speed. Another major source of accidents are the tuk tuks. These three-wheeled vehicles are one of the most popular means of transportation for tourists and are often involved in pile ups.

Illegal races are also organized all over the country, sometimes in the middle of urbanized areas or on busy roads, like in the capital, Bangkok. Saraya's life was destroyed when a car travelling at more than 100 km in the city center mowed down her husband and seriously injured her five year old daughter.

To help these road victims, Thailand relies on responsive emergency services. But, surprisingly, in Bangkok, the ambulance drivers are all volunteers. And they also have to buy their own material. The authorities try to make the roads safer but as fines never exceed 500 bahts (13 euros) as well as the problem of corruption within the police, it's a challenge. It's hoped that the implementation of a point-based license, from January 2023, will make a difference.



## Dangerous Roads: Albania



2023 - 53 mins - ENG, FR

Albania is one of the poorest countries in Europe. With a population of only 2.8 million, this small country nestled between mountain ranges and the Adriatic sea only became a democracy in the 1990s, and is now aiming to join the European Union.

But the roads in Albania are notoriously dangerous, with 13 fatal road accidents per 100,000 people. Albania has the fourth-highest fatality rate in Europe. One two-lane road, where there is one fatal accident per week, has even been nicknamed "The Death Road." In particular, there is a problem with reckless overtaking. We ride along with the Albanian police and also look at some of the most common accidents.

Another complication is the worship of supercars in Albania. Every night in Tirana, cars circle the street as if they were models on a catwalk. Land Rovers, Mercedes, Lamborghini... But this passion is not only limited to the most wealthy. This fascination leads to an obsession with souped-up cars in general, with many Albanians spending money not just to embellish their car with custom wheels and accessories but also to supercharge the engine, striving to have the fastest possible car.

We investigate the dangerous roads of Albania, some of the most hazardous in Europe.

## Dangerous Roads: Poland



2023 - 54 mins - ENG, FR

With one death every 4 hours, Poland is one of the most dangerous countries in the European Union in terms of road safety. The roads suffer from an explosive cocktail of excessive speed, irresponsible behavior, and drinking and driving. However, the country's road legislation is among the strictest in Europe in terms of blood alcohol content. And for good reason, because the country has one of the highest per capita levels of consumption of alcohol in Europe.

Another peculiarity of our European neighbors are the open tolls. From December 2021, Polish drivers no longer have to stop at certain tolls. Payment is taken directly via surveillance cameras. The problem is that this "free-flow" system, which was introduced to improve traffic flow, has since caused multiple accidents. Excessive speed is another problem especially among "drifters", sports car enthusiasts who challenge each other in speed races.

To curb this phenomenon, the Polish police have super-powerful cars at their disposal. The so-called "speed" brigades are equipped with big German cars. These cars are built for the chase, able to follow the most irresponsible drivers. The Polish traffic police practice zero tolerance, and the slightest infraction of the traffic code can be very expensive! Fines can go as high as 1,000 euros in some cases, particularly for repeat offenders.

## Switzerland: A Country Like No Other



2022 - 55 mins - FR

In the cosmopolitan cities of Geneva, Lausanne or Zurich, or in the rural valleys or in the mountain villages, the distinctive Swiss identity never fails to surprise its visitors.

Switzerland is the country with the most firearms per capita, just after the US. However, there is hardly any gun violence, and never any mass shootings.

Although Switzerland is a neutral country, guaranteeing the inviolability of its territory and the right not to get involved in a conflict, it is one of the few European countries where military service is compulsory. The country has three hundred and twenty thousand atomic shelters, the most spectacular of which are dug into the mountains.

With a superbly trained military, the country's borders are jealously guarded. Here there is no free flow of goods with neighbouring countries. The customs officers are not only looking for drug dealers, but for smugglers too. The price of meat is twice as high in Switzerland as in France, so many Swiss people try to hide sausages, roast beef or ribs under the seats of their cars as they cross the border.

In Lausanne, from six o'clock in the morning, the agents of the cleanliness brigade are on the hunt for signs of incivility. Spitting on the ground, leaving a cigarette butt on the pavement, or throwing a can into the wrong bin are all crimes leading to heavy fines.

## The Azores: A Lost Paradise in the Atlantic

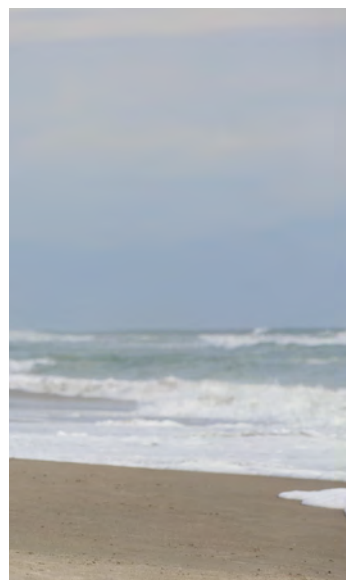
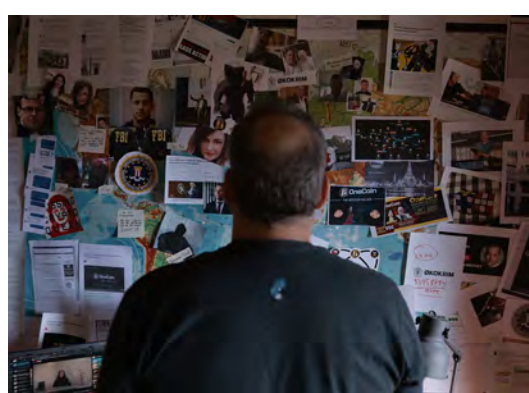


2022 - 54 mins - FR

A small Portuguese archipelago isolated in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean between Europe and America, the Azores are one of the most unique places on the planet.

Nine islands offering an incredible range of natural landscapes reminiscent of the volcanoes of Hawaii, the moors of Scotland, the rice fields of Asia or the primary forests of New Zealand. A highly fertile land with a mild, temperate climate where everything grows. The Azores is home to the only tea plantation in Europe. A family business run exclusively by women.

For those who love unspoiled spaces and ecotourism, this is a dream destination. On the beach of Faja de Santo Cristo, a spiritual retreat combining meditation and surfing takes place. There is only one way to get there: a two-hour hike.



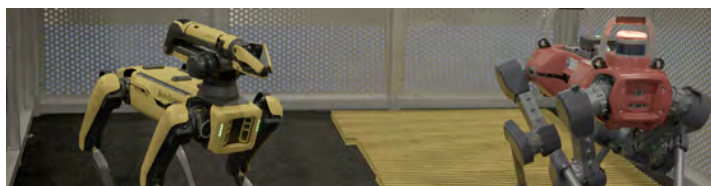
## Flash Wars: Autonomous Weapons, AI & the Future of Armed Conflict

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 July 2023





## Lie To Me

‘Lie to Me’ is the story of how tech nerd and blockchain expert Bjørn Bjercke overturned the OneCoin pyramid scheme, the biggest Crypto fraud in history. But more than that, it’s also the story of how and why people keep getting scammed. Why people were so ready to believe in OneCoin and why, even now, so many refuse to believe it was all a big con. What can we learn to spot the red flags?

OneCoin launched in 2016 with promises to be the world’s biggest cryptocurrency. But all cryptocurrencies are run on blockchains and OneCoin never had one. Months later, Bjercke was contacted by a recruitment agency and offered a large salary, car and flat in exchange for building a blockchain. The fact that OneCoin was launched without one meant it had to be scam and Bjercke immediately went public. But other people who were headhunted and offered lucrative positions within the company and who also knew it was a scam accepted the jobs. Why? What makes one person go along with a fraud and another go public?

Bjørn’s story is supported by a rich archive material, interviews with fraud victims from Oslo, London, Stockholm and Uganda, experts in crypto and branding, fraud hunters and journalists. Since the fall of OneCoin, Bjørn has been working with authorities all over the world with exposing new and upcoming frauds, just like OneCoin. “It’s still the same message. Recruit more members.”

‘Lie to Me’ is a feature documentary of an ongoing fraud, about greed, villains and nerdy heroes, deception, and personal tragedies in a digital world and real life.

- **Producer:** Hacienda
- **Director:** Dag Mykland
- **Commissioned By:** NRK, SVT

Ready September 2023



## Nomad Solitude

Laurie, Kristy and Linda each live alone on the roads of America, sleeping in their vehicles. They are just three among thousands of modern American nomads who can no longer afford to pay for conventional housing.

‘Nomad Solitude’ follows each woman, revealing the daily reality of their lives outside the mainstream. The nomad lifestyle is often represented as aspirational, and was popularised by the Oscar-winning film “Nomadland.” Many nomads have their own Youtube channel, as there is such an appetite to know more about this lifestyle, perhaps based on some romantic idea of the nomad life.

The film is a visual feast of the breathtaking wide open spaces of the USA. We see the freedom of their lives, but also the intense solitude, with all its beauty and its desolation. There is a deep emotional core to the film as the women are each determined to stay positive about their path.

With no money to spare, these three sixty-year old women are fleeing, in their own way, a part of their history that has left a deep mark on them. As they drive away from a conventional lifestyle, they try to reclaim some kind of peace. But as the miles pass and the seasons turn, despite their courage and resilience, their quest for a better future is challenged by unexpected events that hit a country in crisis. Will they nevertheless manage, at the end of the road, to find the serenity they are looking for, in order to become someone again?

- **Producer:** Yuzu Productions & Grizzly Films
- **Director:** Sebastien Wielemans
- **Commissioned By:** RTBF & BE TV

Ready September 2023



## International Adoptions: A Global Scandal

Over the past sixty years, over a million 'orphans' were adopted by Western families from around the world. Now many are discovering their past was a lie. From the children who were stolen from their mothers during the Pinochet dictatorship, to Africa's fake orphans, international adoption is at the heart of an unprecedented scandal. We join investigative journalists, activists and researchers in South Korea, Sweden, France, Chile, Germany, Holland and Switzerland. How did this colossal, lucrative market manage to prosper? And why does it live on today?

Even today, women are still being manipulated, threatened or tricked into giving up babies - often with the blessing of government authorities. If fraudulent practices continue today, in spite of the Hague Convention that has regulated international adoption since 1993, it is because the system itself is flawed and intrinsically favours corruption.

In many cases, these practices are coming to light largely due to pressure from adopted children who have grown into adults. Upon discovering the dubious conditions surrounding their adoptions, many begin to search for their biological parents and demand explanations. A search now made possible thanks to social media, the internet and the availability of ancestry tracing websites.

Alongside this, we follow the case of Melissa, now in her 40s, who was adopted from Chile. Like many adoptees, her file contains several irregularities. We follow her to Chile, where she tries to find out more about the circumstances of her adoption.

- **Producer:** Tangerine Productions
- **Director:** Sonia Gonzalez & Christine Tournadre
- **Commissioned By:** ARTE

Ready January 2024



## Click Bet

Online gambling platforms target the vulnerable, turning them into addicts, and ruining entire families. Sports betting platforms are perfectly legal. The authorities let them get away with the damage that they cause, perhaps because they earn so much from these giant companies. This film is an investigation across Europe, going to the very heart of this brutal industry.

The market for sports betting has boomed since the pandemic, even though the major sports events were all cancelled. Locked down, bored and inactive, many people got caught up in gambling.

There is often a first free bet. Then the algorithm takes over. It ensures that the gambler rapidly amasses small wins for as long as it takes to get him hooked. Then, when he is ensnared, the losses begin. He will continually chase the emotion of his first successes, taking out loans, borrowing, until he is drawn into a cycle of despair.

The platforms boast that they have only reached 10 % of their potential for expansion, revealing how much more misery might be in store for vulnerable people.

Gambling addiction has become an emergency, a key public health issue around the world. But governments seem powerless against it. They are no match for the compelling adverts featuring sports stars which proliferate on every screen and billboard. The adverts promise excitement, and easy money.

Our investigation reveals the ugly truth behind this predatory industry.

- **Producer:** Magento
- **Director:** Linda Bendali
- **Commissioned By:** ARTE

Ready September 2023





## Africa's Water Wars

Massive hydroelectric dams are under construction in Africa. Private international investors, the World Bank, China and African governments have invested in colossal dams, located at the source of the Nile.

These dams could have serious counter-development consequences on the local communities: population displacement, dredging and pollution. More worryingly, they are creating tension in the delicate power balance on the African continent.

Water is a sensitive and vital issue for the region. There is a decade-long complex dispute involving Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan, all countries which depend on the river's waters. As tensions over water increase, geopolitical shifts are being played out along the longest river in Africa, where nearly 300 million people rely on its waters to survive.

For Ethiopians, half of whose population does not yet have access to electricity, this dam is a source of hope. It will provide electricity to two-thirds of its 115 million inhabitants. The country even hopes to become an electricity exporter and be able to supply its neighbours, Kenya, Sudan, Eritrea and South Sudan.

The dispute threatens to destabilise an already fragile region. The main issue is who controls the waters of the Nile. The failure of negotiations between Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt could have dramatic consequences on the region and the rest of the world.

- **Producer:** Magneto
- **Director:** Sara Creta
- **Commissioned By:** ARTE

## 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 January 2024

Ready September 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 January 2024





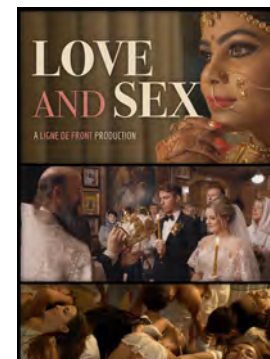
# SERIES



## 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.



• 2013 - 2023  
• 8 x 52 mins  
• ENG, FR

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

• **Commissioned by:**  
• M6

## Episodes

1. Love and Sex in Italy (2023)
2. Love and Sex in West Africa (2022)
3. Love and Sex in Scandinavia (2021)
4. Love and Sex in Russia (2020)
5. Love and Sex in USA (2019)
6. Love and Sex in India (2018)
7. Love and Sex in Japan (2016)
8. 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...

- 2018 - 2023
- 9 x 52 mins
- ENG, FR

- **Producer:**
- Premières Lignes

- **Commissioned by:**
- France 5

## Episodes

1. Children of Lead (2023)
2. Iraq: Damned by Iraq's Oil (2023)
3. Netherlands: Forever Chemicals (2023)
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)



## 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.

- 2008 - 2023
- 104 x 52 mins
- 68 x 30 mins
- ENG, FR

- **Producer:**
- Tony Comiti Productions

- **Commissioned by:**
- France 5

## Latest Episodes

1. Kenya (2023)
2. Guatemala (2023)
3. India (2023)
4. Sumatra (2023)
5. Chad (2023)
6. The Balkans (2023)
7. Alaska (2023)
8. Burundi (2023)





## 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. Miami - Washington (2021)  | 12. Florida (2023)   |
| 2. The Rocky Mountains (2021) | 13. Mexico (2023)    |
| 3. Texas (2022)               | 14. Argentina (2023) |
| 4. Bulgaria (2022)            |                      |
| 5. Romania (2021)             |                      |
| 6. India (2022)               |                      |
| 7. Spain (2022)               |                      |
| 8. Los Angeles (2023)         |                      |
| 9. Thailand (2023)            |                      |
| 10. Albania (2023)            |                      |
| 11. Poland (2023)             |                      |

2021 - 2023  
14 x 52 mins  
ENG, FR

#### Producers:

Impala  
Tony Comiti Productions  
Babel Doc  
AIMV  
Patrick Spica Productions  
Ligne de Front

#### Commissioned by:

W9



## 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.

One criminal. One environmental scandal. One hunt. One episode.

2023  
4 x 52 mins  
ENG, FR

#### Producers:

Premières Lignes

#### Commissioned by:

France 5





## 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 come 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 weight to their testimonies.

- 2021
- 4 x 52 mins
- ENG, Dutch

- **Producer:**
- Posh Productions

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



## 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 is 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

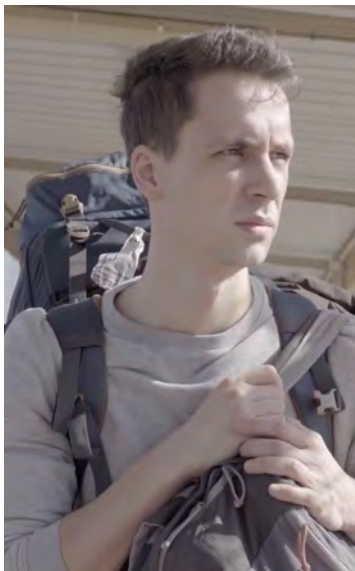
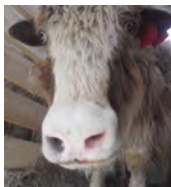
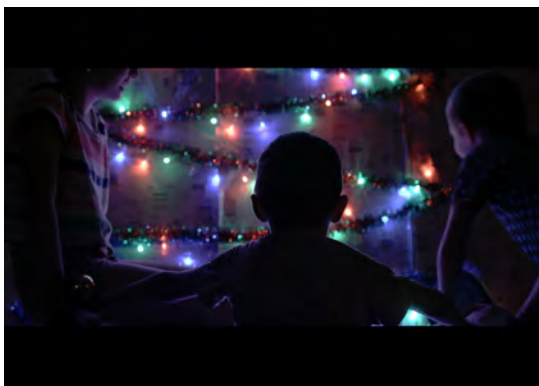
1. Kabul (2022)
2. Cape Town (2022)
3. Rio de Janeiro (2022)

- 2022
- 3 x 52 mins
- ENG, FR

- **Producers:**
- SlugNews
- Babel

- **Commissioned by:**
- W9





## 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



## Atomic Hope

'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. However in the face of this pushback and conflict, they argue that "science and data is all we have". So are they right? In the face of a very real climate emergency, is it now time to fully reconsider nuclear energy?



## Musk vs. Bezos: Star Wars

The two richest men in the world are engaged in a vicious space race that has implications for us all. For years, Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk have squabbled in the media over everything from who is the wealthiest to who did what first. But their rival space programmes, satellite launches and plans to colonise the planets have launched a new Space Age.

With his company, Blue Origin, Jeff Bezos has thrown himself into space tourism and, in doing so, has 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...

# 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. ....

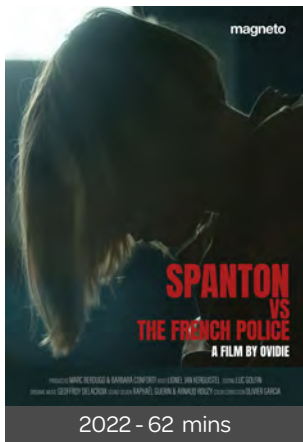


## Robin Bank

He stole half a million euros from thirty-nine different banks and then donated it all to social causes.

This is the story of Enric Duran, a Catalan activist who took out loans for half a million euros which he never intended to repay. Instead, he used the money to fund social projects and claimed he committed the robberies to expose bad practices of the banking system. He also wanted to encourage people to think differently and join him creating another, more equal and sustainable world.

Where do you draw the line between what is legal and what's legitimate? Can one person really save the world? .....

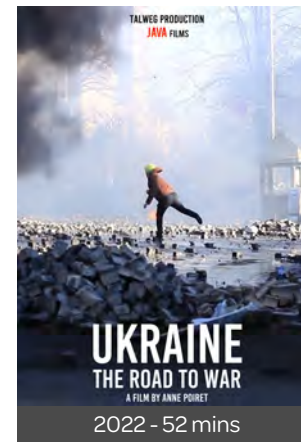


## Spanton vs the French Police

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.

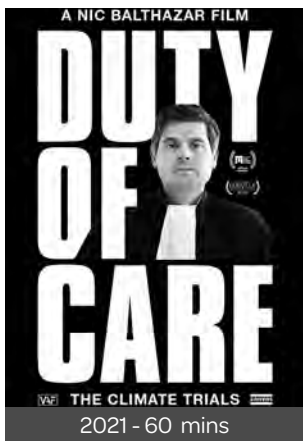
This is a compact metro-thriller that asks questions which trouble us all in the post #MeToo era. ....



## Ukraine: The Road to War

Although the war in Ukraine continues to dominate all the headlines, many have forgotten that a war had already been raging in Donbas for eight years. 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.

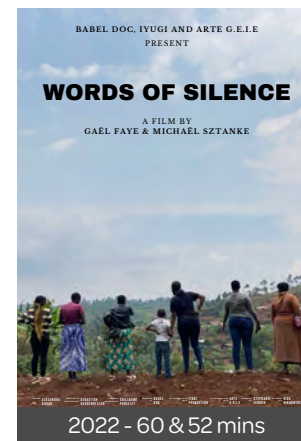
This documentary also tells the story of civilians in Donbas. For years, these civilians have been caught in the middle. ....



## Duty of Care

'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 catastrophic climate change can be made illegal. Roger's groundbreaking 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.

Can Roger, now one of Time Magazine's Top 100 people, and the pioneers of climate litigation succeed before it's too late? .....



## Words of Silence

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. 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.

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



