

JAVA FILMS

2023

AUTUMN
CATALOGUE

JAVA FILMS

Founded by Roch Bozino 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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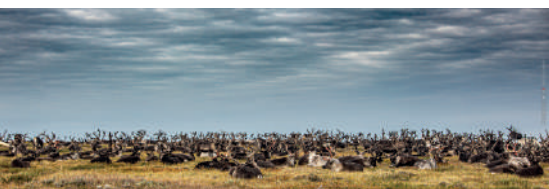
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NEW RELEASES





2023
95 & 52 mins
ENG, GER, FR

Producer:
Dreamer Joint Ventures

Directors:
Juan Camilo Cruz &
Marc Wiese

Commissioned by:
ARTE, SWR

Venezuela: Country of Lost Children

Corruption and mismanagement has turned Venezuela into a failed state. Over six million people have fled in recent years. Around one million children were left behind by their parents. This remarkable film follows two single mothers and their children over several months as they do what it takes to survive.

In the barrio Santa Rosa de Agua, health care has collapsed and children are dying from hunger. Carolina has set up a foundation to help feed them. But the barrio is so violent, she's had to send her own daughter, Victoria, to a children's home. The home is an oasis in the midst of violence and deprivation but many of the children, who haven't seen their parents for years, are traumatised. They struggle with feelings of rejection.

Most people in the barrio survive by violence, prostitution, begging. "I've had to do lots of things for my kids," confides Kiara. "Selling drugs, stealing, prostituting myself. Everything a woman can do for her children". Her eldest son, Yorbenis, 14, has already joined a gang and is on the verge of his first kill. Desperate, Kiara decides to leave the country for Colombia. She takes her small children with her while Yorbenis' remains behind. Now she's terrified that he will be murdered in her absence. She knows he is being hunted by rival gangs, as well as the police....



2023
52 mins
ENG, FR

Producers:
Babel Doc &
Together Media

Director:
Elisa Jadot

Commissioned by:
France 5

Turning Childhood into Content: The Dangers of 'Sharenting'

By the age of 13, the average child has 1,300 photos and videos of them online, posted on social networks by their parents. Social influencers regularly share details of their children's lives with their followers, sometimes even allowing fans to directly ask their children questions.

"If you think that sharing your child's life on social media is just an innocent act, I'm the proof that you are wrong," states Cam, now 24. She knows the consequences only too well, after private moments of her childhood were shared by her mother on social media. As a child, strangers would approach her in the street to discuss her period. She no longer uses her real name out of concern that people will do a google search and see all the intimate moments of her childhood.

Parents can profit from their own children, monetizing their daily life, their struggles and their private moments. Some of these video channels could be seen as an outlet for a covert form of child labour, promoting manipulation and mistreatment of children. Videos of YouTube star DaddyOFive 'pranking' his children were so shocking, they led to him losing custody. Then there was the 'cheese challenge', which encouraged parents to throw a slice of processed cheese on their baby's face, film the reaction and upload it on social media. We travel from Europe to the USA, via Canada and Dubai, to examine the harm caused by exposing children's lives online.



2023
52 mins
ENG, FR

Producer:
Magneto Presse

Director:
Stéphane Bentura

Commissioned by:
France 5

Abramovich: An Oligarch in the Shadow of Putin

The story of Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich is intricately intertwined with the twists and turns of Russian politics. From Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika to the economic hardship of the Yeltsin years, Abramovich made his way to becoming an insider in Vladimir Putin's mafia state.

This film traces his life from his childhood as an orphan in the Soviet era, to his role as an oil magnate with yachts and villas all over the world. Not to mention his time as the owner of Chelsea Football Club, which he was forced to sell due to sanctions. His life is like the story of a perfect tightrope walker, balanced between Putin and the West, shrouded in secrecy and ambiguity.

We reveal how he built his fortune, much of which is currently under sanctions. And also how he betrayed his old friend and mentor, Boris Berezovsky, who was found hanged in his bathroom just six months after fighting, and losing, a dramatic court case against Abramovich in London.

Roman Abramovich has never given an interview so director Stéphane Bentura traced Abramovich's connections in Russia, Lithuania, the UK and Portugal. He found first-hand witnesses to the big moments of his life, as well as exclusive archive and rare footage. Abramovich is as powerful as he is elusive, a man who continually covers his tracks. This film reveals the inside story of his life.



- 2023
- 90 & 52 mins
- ENG, FR
- Producer:
• Magneto Presse
- Director:
• Linda Bendali
- Commissioned by:
• ARTE

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.

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 they are 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.

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. We hear the personal stories of those whose lives were ruined by sports gambling.

Our investigation reveals the ugly truth behind this predatory industry.



2023
52 mins
ENG, FR, SPA, ARA

Producer:
France 24

Directors:
Jessica Le Masurier
Roméo Langlois

Commissioned by:
France 24

Your Face is Ours: The Dangers of Facial Recognition Software

Clearview AI is redefining our privacy. It's aiming to collect 100 billion images – that's 14 for every person on the planet - for its facial recognition database. Most of these images are scraped from social media without the owner's knowledge or consent.

Clearview claims that its database will serve as a force for good, helping to solve crimes and prevent espionage. But its clients include Middle Eastern Dictatorships, it has links to the far right, and the source of its funding has raised other concerns.

Its technology has already been licensed to the United Arab Emirates, where those who dare criticise the regime end up in prison or in exile. Surveillance cameras installed on roads and buildings allow the authorities to track people at all times. In America, Clearview AI is used to track undocumented immigrants and surveil protesters during civil unrest, as well as identify criminals.

Already there have been cases of false identification. Their technology has proven to be less accurate when it comes to identifying Black people. Under the EU's general data protection regulation (GDPR) it's illegal to collect people's biometric data – including their faceprints – without their explicit consent. France, Italy, Greece, the UK, Canada and Australia have all launched legal proceedings against the firm. We spoke to Clearview's CEO, Hoan Ton-That, and investigated the potential misuse of this technology.



2023
90 & 52 mins
ENG, FR

Producer:
Blue+Green Films

Director:
Daniel Andrew
Wunderer

Commissioned by:
ARTE

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 integrate morality into AI and if it's possible that autonomous weapons could make future wars more humane.



2023
52 mins
ENG, FR

Producer:
Galaxie Presse

Director:
Charles-Antoine de
Rouvre

Commissioned by:
France 5

Turbulent Times: The Future of Aviation

The air transport sector is struggling, with cut-throat competition, pressure from the environmental lobby, disgruntled passengers, rising energy prices, and the after-effects of the pandemic. It has suffered from one shock after another and is now in crisis.

The skies are opening up again after the Covid 19 pandemic. Traffic in the skies is gradually picking up, but pressing issues remain. After years of low fares, passengers now expect cheap flights, but the aviation industry is almost totally dependent on fossil fuels, leaving it vulnerable to rising oil and gas prices. In an age of global warming, flying is increasingly becoming socially unacceptable.

How can we reconcile the desire for travel, leisure and discovery with environmental responsibility? The industry once represented progress and technological innovation, offering easy access to far flung locations, extended holidays and quick breaks. But now the industry's main players are facing major financial challenges.

But are we ready to say goodbye to air travel?



2023
68 mins
ENG

Producer:
House Of Real

Director:
Martin Gulnov

Murky Waters

When is saving a life a crime? In 2015 Mo Abassi travelled to the Greek island of Lesbos with a humanitarian organisation to help refugees. He saved a group of people from drowning when their overcrowded boat got into difficulties. But then the local authorities arrested him and accused him of human trafficking.

Through numerous meetings with his defence attorney, Knud Foldschack, Mo is forced to account for every action that he and his team of volunteers took. Foldschack is a specialist in human rights cases who is determined to protect the long-established right of people to flee from war. Mo faces up to ten years in prison in a foreign country which would mean separation from his young children.

As the film reveals how the actual events leading up to the arrest unfolded, Mo's attorney becomes increasingly worried about critical pieces of evidence that he cannot explain away. The film reveals the complex tensions between local people, the coastguard, the authorities, the multiple NGOs on the ground, and how these tensions interact with the simple human instinct to save the lives of innocent people who are in danger of drowning right in front of your eyes.



- 2023
- 53 mins
- ENG, FR
- Producer:
• Yuzu Productions
- Director:
• Pierre-Olivier François
- Commissioned by:
• ARTE

The Dayton Legacy

Bosnia: A Fragile Peace

Nearly 30 years after the end of the war that ravaged the country, Bosnia appears to be again on the brink of collapse. This small, fragile and multi-ethnic state is stuck between identity crises and foreign influences, institutional fragmentation and secessionist temptations.

The Dayton Accords brought an end to the massacre but according to critics, "Dayton has turned Bosnia into a dysfunctional, irrational, and undemocratic state." In many ways, the peace agreement froze the conflict. Divisions that led to the war have become constituencies, institutional divisions necessary to preserve the vital national interest. So the country has a rotating tripartite presidency, 14 governments, 165 ministers and ethnic quotas at all levels making government incredibly inefficient.

Pushing for secession are both the pro-Russian President of the Serbs in Bosnia, and Croatian nationalists, who, with the support of Zagreb, demand the creation of a third entity. In the face of the crisis, Brussels granted Bosnia candidate status for European Union membership in December 2022. However, while Sarajevo must strive to meet the accession criteria, corruption, linked to foreign influences, has exploded in recent years.

As tensions raise fears of a risk of fragmentation, which side will win the ongoing struggle for influence in the Balkans?



Nenets vs Gas

2023
75 & 52 mins
ENG, FR

Producers:
Little Big Story &
Domino Production

Director:
Sergio Ghizzardi

Commissioned by:
ARTE

In the heart of the Arctic, the Yamal peninsula is the world's largest gas exploitation zone – a symbol of Russia's status as energy hyperpower. But the Yamal peninsula is also the ancestral home of the nenets, who have been pasturing here for over 200 generations. Every year, Vassily and his brigade undertake this 1500 kilometre journey. But for how much longer? Can they survive this industrialisation?

Today in Yamal, pastures have given way to gas fields. Growing towns, a railway, an airport, not to mention the deep scars on the landscape caused by the extraction of gas and oil, and the new nuclear-powered icebreakers which will create busy shipping lanes in the Arctic, are all changing the local ecosystem. With the industry dramatically modifying the landscape, accelerating the effects of global warming, the Nenets way of life is under threat.

As the permafrost melts, and the weather systems no longer follow their traditional ways of understanding, there is a risk that centuries of history and a whole way of life will be wiped out. While the region itself has been made wealthy by gas, up to 70% of the indigenous population live below the poverty line. They do not directly oppose the government, knowing that they will not win in any confrontation with Moscow. So they try to live alongside the gas exploitation, adapting their routes to the changing conditions.

Will these two worlds find a way to co-exist? How far is Russia willing to go to exploit the riches of the Arctic?



2023
88 mins
ENG

Producers:
Yuzu Productions,
Eklektik Productions &
Grizzly Films

Director:
Sébastien Wielemans

Commissioned by:
France 2

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 concept was brought more closely into the public eye by Oscar-winning film “Nomadland”. Online, the nomad lifestyle is often represented as aspirational: many nomads have their own YouTube channel. There is an appetite to know more about this lifestyle

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.

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 to find the serenity they are looking for?



- 2023
- 3 x 52 & 90 mins
- ENG
- Producer:
Medalia Productions
- Directors:
Hilla Medalia
Amos Roberts
- Commissioned by:
ABC Aus
HOT

Prisoner X

December 2010. A prisoner is found dead in his cell at one of Israel's maximum security prisons. He hung himself after 10 months in solitary confinement, and under 24/7 surveillance. None of the guards knew his name, or the nature of his crime. They knew him only as "Prisoner X".

The Israeli government placed a blanket gag order on the reporting of the story. The Prisoner's identity remained a mystery for another three years when an Australian journalist revealed the prisoner was Australian citizen Ben Zygier, an alleged Mossad agent. The film presents Ben Zygier's untold story, digging into the emotional, personal and political fallout of his story, but also poses the question: "What happens when you dare ask: 'What happened?'"

Testimonies paint a picture of a young agent whose ambition to excel did not match his actual skills, and that his mental fitness did not fit the profile of that required from a Mossad agent. The tension between the different, and at times contradictory versions of "Prisoner X"'s story, allows for dramatic storytelling and raises important questions of government transparency, and censorship, and the abuse of power "in the name of security".

What happened to turn a devout Jew and Mossad agent into someone seen as so dangerous by the state of Israel, his very identity had to be erased? What did he actually do?



2023
52 mins
ENG, FR

Producer:
Tony Comiti
Productions

Directors:
Charles Comiti
Arthur de Poortere

Commissioned by
LCI

Ukraine: Inside the Counteroffensive

We spent 10 days with Ukrainian soldiers in the trenches on the frontline. An exceptional testimony on this war of attrition.

Despite being supplied with modern weapons from numerous Western countries, Ukraine is struggling to gain any significant ground. The Russian army stands firm. This combat is defined by trench warfare. The opposing armies face each other, just like the First World War, fighting for every last inch of ground.

We follow the conflict through the eyes of two young soldiers. Plombyr, 24 years old, and Sergey, 29, both belong to the Arey battalion. Since 22nd February 2022, they have fought on every front, seeing friends killed before their eyes, barely escaping death themselves.

These soldiers are just a few hundred metres from the frontline, under constant heavy fire. They are short on rations, weapons, and ammunition, and faced with the powerful Russian army. They use their knowledge of the terrain and their determination, which are their best defence against the Russians.

In the trenches, the only objective is to endure, with no promise of what the next day will bring.



2023
3 x 52 mins
ENG, FR

Producer:
Magneto Presse

Directors:
Jérôme Fritel
Sofia Amara

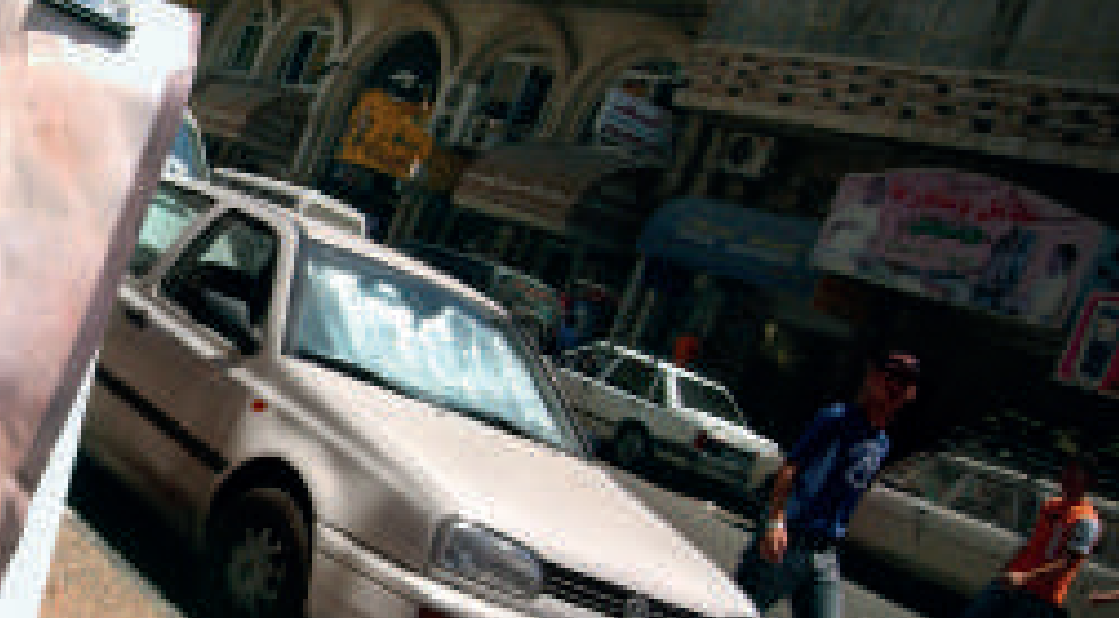
Commissioned by:
France 5

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 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, made a top secret attempt 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.



LITTLE BIG STORY
PRESENTS

Poison(s)

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.



1) The Threat

In November 2006, Alexander Litvinenko, the husband of Marina Litvinenko, was poisoned with radioactive polonium. After three weeks of excruciating suffering, he died accusing a man of his own murder: Vladimir Putin. The photo of his beardless face, destroyed by the poison, travelled around the world. Alexander Litvinenko was a former agent of the FSB, the Russian security services of which Vladimir Putin had taken charge of shortly before his accession to power. In the year 2000, Litvinenko had publicly denounced the collusion of his hierarchy with the mafia, via a filmed press conference where all appear masked, except him, speaking in the center. Then he fled with wife and child to London.

2) The Return of the Cold War

In Russia, in the early 2000s, another man experienced disillusionment with the arrival in power of Vladimir Putin. Serguei Skripal confided at length about his story to Mark Urban, a British journalist. He tells him that he was working for the GRU, the Russian military intelligence. At that time, his salary decreased and his benefits disappeared. Russia was in the midst of an economic slump. Even the civil servants of the intelligence were not paid any more. He decided to betray for money and gives the British secret services the official organization chart of the GRU. But very quickly, the Russians discover that he is a mole. They arrest him and send him to prison. He doesn't think he'll get out until one day in July 2010 when he learns that Russian spies have been arrested on American soil.

3) The War

February 24, 2022. 6h. Vladimir Kara-Murza wakes up in Moscow. He turns on his phone and discovers the unthinkable: Vladimir Putin has launched the invasion of Ukraine. The day before, the political opponent did not want to believe it. After watching the first images of the sirens echoing throughout Kiev, his thoughts turned to Europe: for him, this invasion is the result of the weakness of the West, which refused to hear, to understand what Vladimir Kara-Murza and others kept repeating: Vladimir Putin will not stop there. After the Donbass, the Crimea, the whole Ukraine from now on. A war at the gates of Europe.



2023
52 mins
ENG, FR

Producer:
Kraken Films

Directors:
Margaux Benn
Solène Chalvon Fioriti

Commissioned by:
LCP

Kabul Beauty

Their names are Sofia and Nigina. They're Afghans, beautiful, proud, best friends. And without really knowing it, icons of Kabul's youth. Behind the curtains of their beauty salon, whose exterior has been ransacked by the Taliban, they support a small team and a dream: to protect their last space of freedom.

Sophia and Nigina's salon is situated in central Kabul. Around twenty employees work there, seven days a week. It's a sanctuary for women: a place where men do not enter. Somewhere to get pampered, comfort each other and talk about the country's situation.

We began filming the day after the Taliban came to power on August 15th 2021. The new rulers of Afghanistan made a promise to the world: they have changed. For a year and a half, as the extremists impose new laws on Afghans, especially women, we follow the two friends. We filmed them in their beauty salon and across the Afghan capital: in a park where they are the only ones who still dare to show their faces; on the hilltops where they learn to drive in secret; on a big wheel where, with their hair blowing in the wind, they narrowly escape the Taliban...

And then, on the road to exile. The repression becomes too harsh, too suffocating, too violent. The young women's quest for lightness becomes a plan of escape... Which will test their resilience, their courage, and even their friendship.

Singapore: The Perfect City or Dystopian World?



Nova Prod - 2023- 52 mins - ENG, FR

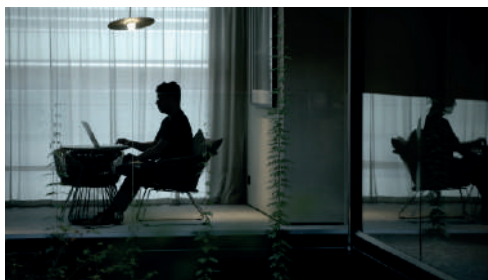
In Singapore everything is under control. There are countless restrictive rules: chewing gum, smoking in the street, jaywalking, throwing paper on the ground, talking on the subway or even walking around your home naked are all forbidden. These rules are enforced by robot dogs, who patrol the streets guided by AI.

Censorship is almost universal. Political opponents are harassed by the courts. Sexual minorities are under surveillance. And drug use leads straight to prison, or even execution in some cases. After a pause during the global lockdown, hangings have resumed.

We followed the daily lives of Singaporeans, punctuated by ultra-modern technology and prohibitions. In schools, hospitals, markets and streets, video surveillance cameras are everywhere. We also met those who have endured the regime's extreme severity: a former prisoner who spent twenty-five years behind bars for simple offenses, then sentenced to corporal punishment. Or pro-democracy activists who dream of greater freedom and end up in prison themselves.

Finally, we filmed a family whose father is awaiting execution on death row. His crime: having been in possession of thirty-five grams of heroin, where the law automatically sentences anyone in possession of more than fifteen grams to death.

Manufacturing Chaos



Kindred Films & The Docufactory - 2022 - 45 mins - ENG

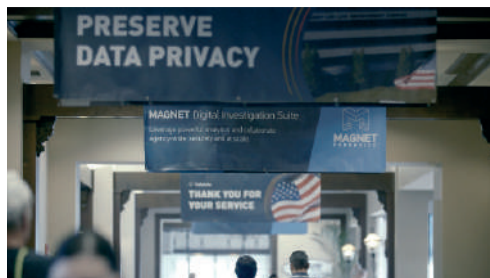
A deep dive into the world of disinformation, exploring how and why it's spreading at pace throughout the world, and the striking consequences for social cohesion and democracy. We reveal how similar ideas, words and memes infect rebel movements being sparked across the world.

The convergence of rising inequality, our increasing reliance on the online world, combined with new tools for manipulation, has enabled the creation of parallel realities. People living within the same community can now perceive the world in vastly different ways, depending on where they hang out online. The power to manipulate narratives and herd people toward falsehoods (be it about stolen elections, vaccine conspiracies, or who's to blame for any of your woes), raises the stakes so high that peace and cooperation are becoming increasingly fragile.

Agents knowingly dealing in falsehoods believe there is something to gain through creating chaos and eroding public trust – be they wealthy individuals who dislike a particular government, groups who oppose progressive societal changes, or authoritarian nation states keen to reset global power structures away from the grip of liberal democracies.

As we edge further toward a world where all economic and social interaction moves into the virtual world, what comes next?

Phantom Parrot



2023 - 86 mins - ENG

The revelation of a top-secret British surveillance programme brings down the dominoes in a dark and analytical film about technology, rights and structural racism – and about a man with the courage to speak out.

If British police ask for the password to your phone or computer, you must hand it over to them in accordance with an anti-terror law that came into force before 9/11.

When human rights activist Muhammad Rabbani refuses and is prosecuted, a journalist is able to uncover documents proving the existence of a top-secret surveillance programme, code-named Phantom Parrot, designed to copy the personal data of individuals at airports and border crossings – and people from minority backgrounds are often the first to be pulled aside.

And from there, the dominoes start falling in all directions in a dark detective film about technology, surveillance and structural racism in a time where knowledge might still equal power but where data is even better.

A razor-sharp analysis that unravels the threads and allows us to understand both the scale and gravity of the Phantom Parrot programme.

The Ultra Right & Neo Nazis: The New Terrorist Threat



Slugnews - 2023 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

Across Europe, the next generation of white supremacists are being radicalised. They fantasize about an ethnically pure Europe and are taking action. In Germany, a far-right plan to overthrow the state was averted. In France, six men were arrested for plotting to attack politicians. In Bratislava, a student with links to the far-right murdered two people outside an LGBT club. We met with the people who see themselves as ideologists of a racial war and investigate these new white supremacists and the threat they pose.

We spent two years investigating semi-clandestine networks in France, Germany and Romania. We set up a fake profile on a French neo-nazi forum. It's one of many spreading hate online and has over 3,600 members. There are also online dating sites exclusively for white people, celebrating 'white life, white love'. Members trade in Nazi memorabilia and we meet a man who served in the SS back in the Second World War. Shockingly, he still feels nostalgia for Nazi ideals.

A role-model for many of these 'white warriors' is Daniel Conversano, who left France for the 'white land' of Romania where he has formed a community of 'braves'. His followers include convicted terrorist, Login Nisin, who admitted to plotting to kill Christophe Castaner and Jean-Luc Melenchon. We visited Conversano and his supporters in Bucharest and questioned him on his views.

Syria : The Country Devastated by Bashar al-Assad



Ligne de Front - 2023- 52 mins - ENG, FR

While Bashar Al-Assad remains the undisputed leader of Syria, he is the master of a ruined country and a shattered people. The country is off-limits to all journalists, but our team managed to enter.

In eastern Aleppo, where the Sunni neighbourhoods were the first to rebel against Assad, not a single wall has been left standing. The city was relentlessly pounded by attacks from the Syrian army and the Russians for years. The once-bustling souk of Aleppo, an architectural jewel classified as a World Heritage Site, is now nothing more than a heap of stones. People are trying to survive without water or electricity, and cholera has even made a comeback. The country's economy is at a standstill with more than 90% of people living below the poverty line.

In Damascus, people almost go about their business normally. The seat of power was spared from the wider destruction and there are still a few trendy bars. Bashar al-Assad and his wife, Asma, continue to behave as if everything is normal, meetings with foreign heads of state or visiting earthquake victims.

In fact the dictator is only in control of 70% of the country. We managed to film in northwest Syria, which is still under Islamist control. On the front line, the fighters of the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham face the troops of Bashar el-Assad.

Iran: Inside the Resistance



Ligne de Front - 2023- 52 mins - ENG, FR

Iran has been in turmoil since the death of Mahsa Amini, who died after being arrested by the morality police for not wearing her headscarf correctly. Tens of thousands of people took to the streets to protest.

The regime is using strongarm tactics to quash the rebellion, imprisoning protestors, and using live rounds of ammunition on demonstrations. The bloody crackdown has left more than 530 dead. Some have suffered public executions after show trials.

Foreign journalists have been banned in an attempt to hide the violence from the rest of the world. But with the help of citizens and Iranian reporters we managed to film some of the daily lives of this population. Djina, 32, no longer wears a hijab in the street. A courageous act of defiance which could earn her 72 lashes if she is arrested.

Anyone who opposes the ayatollahs risks their life. We spoke to a young woman who was locked up in the infamous prison of Evin. She describes how violence, humiliation and rape are used to terrorise political prisoners.

Dissidents are not even safe abroad. We hear from Niaz about the plot by the Iranian intelligence services against his father, who was a refugee in France. They planned to capture him and execute him, despite him having refugee status in a foreign country.

Kaliningrad: A Russian Fortress in the Heart of Europe



Ligne de Front - 2023 - 52 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.

Wagner: Inside Putin's Private Army



Ligne de Front - 2023 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

What now for the Wagner Group and leader Yevgeny Prigozhin? For the past 14 months, Russia's rare military successes were achieved not by the regular army, but by the militiamen of the Wagner commando. They accounted for a quarter of all Russian combatants on the frontline and took part in the toughest fighting.

We obtained the testimony of three mercenaries who fought in Wagner's ranks. They give an insider's account of how the intelligence services trained and equipped the first fighters. They also provide valuable information about the feared founder of the militia, Dimitri Outkine, an admirer of the Third Reich and Nazi ideology.

We also investigated in Africa, which has become the terrain of conquest for Wagner's mercenaries. In Sudan, Mali, Mozambique and the Central African Republic, they are everywhere, putting their weapons at the service of authoritarian regimes to crush any opposition or rebellion. In exchange, they seize the natural wealth of these countries.

Wherever they go, Wagner commando sows death and desolation. Some of the victims tell of massacres, torture and rape. But Wagner is not just a military force. His men have become specialists in disinformation, not hesitating to stage fake mass graves or produce big-budget action films and propaganda cartoons. The aim: to convince local populations that Russia is their best ally.

Transnistria, Abkhazia & Ossetia: Phantom States



Ligne de Front - 2023- 52 mins - ENG, FR

Abkhazia, Transnistria, the People's Republic of Donetsk and North Ossetia. All breakaway republics, not recognized by the international community, and under the total control of Moscow. The Kremlin finances these regions, supports them militarily and uses them to destabilize neighboring countries and prevent them from joining the European Union. We travelled there in secret to find out what life in these phantom states is like.

Transnistria is a pro-Russian enclave located in Moldova. It is completely off-limits to Western journalists. The enclave is led by Viktor Gushan, a mysterious oligarch, a former KGB agent. The countryside there has hardly produced anything since the fall of the USSR. People survive on the free gas, social assistance and pensions distributed by Moscow.

Also dependent on Moscow are the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and North Ossetia. In Abkhazia, the 45,000 Georgians who live here are considered second-class citizens. They don't have the right to vote and they need to get a pass to be allowed to travel around. The study of the Georgian language is forbidden in schools, while the study of Russian is compulsory.

Ukraine is determined to seize back control of the Donbas, also known as the People's Republics of Donetsk and Luhansk. We meet citizens who are fighting courageously to defend their country against the Russian army.

Poland: A Divided Country



Ligne de Front - 2023- 52 mins - ENG, FR

Poland is more divided than ever before, between those who defend traditional values and those who want Poland to modernise and look to the future. The government has put in place an ultra-conservative policy which runs counter to the values of the European Union.

Despite injunctions issued by Brussels, Poland continues to exploit its black gold: coal. The use of coal makes Poland one of the most polluted states in Europe, and in many areas, the air has become toxic.

In Poland, many civil liberties are now under threat. Poland, along with Malta, is one of the last remaining countries in the European Union to ban abortion. As a result, 80,000 women have illegal abortions every year. The associations that help them risk criminal prosecution. We followed the trial of Justyna Wydrzyska, who faces three years in prison for supplying abortion pills.

Ultra-nationalist groups like the Youth of Greater Poland flourish. They defend the idea of a white, Catholic and openly homophobic Poland. Faced with these threats, some LGBT activists are even considering fleeing abroad.

Despite this, a large part of the population rejects this return to conservative ideology. The country is now divided between the defenders of traditionalist values and the supporters of a modern and tolerant Poland.

The Balkans: Putin's Wolves



Slugnews - 2023- 52 mins - ENG, FR

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. Then there's "The Wolves of the Serbian Republic," the Serbian section of the notorious Russian biker gang, the Night Wolves. Since the invasion of Ukraine, their support for the Kremlin has been unwavering: some of them are active on the frontline with Russian forces.

The rise in nationalism strikes fear into 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 what they have suffered.

Through the Serbian Orthodox church and the Wolves, Serbian ultranationalists have extended their influence into neighbouring Montenegro. About a third of the population remains pro-Serbian and largely pro-Russian.

The Tsaatan of Mongolia: Last of the Free Men



Sable Rouge - 2023- 52 mins - ENG, FR

They're known as the "Reindeer People". They are one of the most amazing tribes of the planet. With a population of 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.

Camping Cars in America: The Desert Rush



Pallas TV - 2023- 52 mins - ENG, FR

The world's biggest motorhome rally is in Arizona. Once a year it welcomes more than a million motorhome enthusiasts. These Americans might be rich, poor or anywhere in between, but they have one thing in common - they have fallen in love with a nomadic lifestyle.

They gather on a few dozen hectares of land. Some arrive in little campervans with only the barest and most essential amenities. Others are driving luxurious motorhomes worth a few million dollars, complete with marble flooring, master bedroom with king size bed, guest room, walk-in shower, heated toilet seats, fully equipped kitchen, and air conditioning. The market for motorhomes is booming in the USA: more than twelve million Americans own one. In 2020, the year when Covid first hit, orders grew by 53%. It's a lifestyle choice for many, such as the Huffaker family. This retired IT professional and his wife have lived on the road for the past five years. They are "snowbirds" who migrate to follow the sun.

But for others it is born of necessity. When their food truck business failed, Jackie and Richard found themselves on the street. They have lived in their minivan ever since. For Curt, who owns eleven car dealerships in the west, this rally is a golden opportunity. In ten days he hopes to sell two hundred and fifty vehicles: a quarter of his annual sales.

We go behind the scenes of this unique rally.

Monsters Car Shows



Pallas TV - 2023- 52 mins - ENG, FR

Every summer, hundreds of thousands of spectators visit monster car shows to watch the exploits of extreme stuntmen, ready to take any risk.

From huge 4x4s that pulverize and crush all kinds of cars to lorries that rear up like wild horses, spitting flames from their gleaming exhausts, these brightly-colored cars seem to come straight out of a Hollywood blockbuster. Then there are the motorcyclists who, clinging to their handlebars, fly through hoops of fire at 120 km/hour, then soar through the air. Who are these madmen perched on their monster cars and horses of fire?

A handful of families run this unusual business. Their knowledge is handed down from generation to generation. Two of them have agreed to open their doors to us, to take us behind the scenes of their curious business and take us on their tours. Originally from the Paris region, the Beautour family began performing in 1981. In the Hautes-Pyrénées, the three cousins of the Lafertin family take risks, even if it means putting their lives in danger.

Two families with different shows, but with one thing in common: ultra-spectacular, explosive shows, calibrated to the second and the centimetre. Yet despite their rigor and years of training, they can't always avoid serious accidents....

London: Capital of Tradition, Capital of Extremes



Ligne de Front - 2023- 52 mins - ENG, FR

With its iconic black taxis, red double decker buses and famously eccentric upper classes, London is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world.

Brexit has not dissuaded the tourists who still flock here to experience British elegance and luxury. In the British capital, people are not encouraged to adapt and conform. Instead, London embraces difference and diversity. Nobody raises an eyebrow when they see an eccentrically-dressed person. Grace, aged 19, is a student at the prestigious fashion school, Central Saint Martins, whose alumni include Alexander McQueen and Stella McCartney. She shows us the whimsical and outrageous side of London, where being queer is the norm.

But on the banks of the Thames, traditional Britishness conservatism still has its place. Under the auspices of Baroness Hayter, who represents the left-leaning Labour party in the House of Lords, we visit the House of Lords for high tea, to see these lawmakers in their powdered wigs.

The British capital is still rebellious but now young people are no longer blasting rock'n'roll or punk. Instead, drill rules the airwaves. We meet members of a north London gang who describe their lives in the tough areas where they live.

This is an immersion in the extremes of a complex city where conservatism and eccentricity are different sides of the same coin.

The Sultanate of Brunei: The Kingdom of all Superlatives



Yemaya Productions - 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 fist. A follower of a rigorous Islam, his 440,000 subjects are subject to Sharia law.

Next January, the Sultan will marry off 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.

Don't Come Back: In the Ruins of Mosul



Yuzu, Indyca, Arpa Films 2023 - 67 & 52 mins - ENG, FR

July 2017, Mosul is freed but 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 pressure 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.

The Mind Game



Prospektor - 2023 - 62 & 59 mins - ENG, FR

When he was just 14, Sajid Khan Nasiri fled Afghanistan alone. After a two-year journey filled with danger and hardships – which he meticulously 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 phone 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.

After the French Connection



Tony Comiti - 2023 - 2 x 52 mins - ENG, FR

For more than 50 years, Marseille has been regarded as France's drug capital. In the aftermath of the Second World War, old-fashioned Corsican and Italian godfathers ruled - the famous French connection. And today, more than ever, the city of Marseille is plagued by the narcotics trade, with 150 points of sale listed in the city.

We tell the story of drug trafficking in Marseille through the testimony of traffickers past and present, and of those who hunted them down: police officers, magistrates and customs officers.

Milou is a survivor. One of the last pillars of the notorious French Connection, the criminal organisation that made Marseille a centre of heroin trafficking during the 60s and 70s. He spent 16 years in prison and lost many of his family and friends in the settling of scores that bloodied Marseille in the 70s.

Policeman Antoine Sciblo was part of the dream-team that decapitated the French Connection. He fought a merciless battle alongside Judge Pierre Michel, who paid the ultimate price.

How did the milieu evolve, from old-fashioned thugs to the caïds of the cités? Have the rules of this deadly game changed? And how has law enforcement adapted?

Naples & the Amalfi Coast: La Dolce Vita?



Ligne de Front - 2023 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

With its towering cliffs and villages perched high on mountain slopes, like eagles' nests, the Amalfi coast epitomises the Dolce Vita. It became fashionable in the 1950s, visited by Jackie Kennedy and Sophia Loren, and it has never gone out of style.

The Amalfi coast depends on tourism, which provides 90% of its revenue. But not everyone welcomes the arrival of the tourists. Costanzo finds the crowds insufferable, but he has no intention of leaving the island. He is a devout Christian and is the guardian of a small church high up in the hills of Capri. It is a refuge away from the masses.

Franco has managed to find the perfect balance. He makes his money from the tourists, but doesn't have to deal with the crowds. His restaurant sits in a secluded cove which is not accessible by road. It's pure luxury, even if it involves somewhat complex logistics. He travels by boat to buy supplies, he picks up holidaymakers from boats at sea, and offers a boat-taxi service to take his customers back.

Only a happy few have access to these isolated coves. Most of the tourists have to compete to find their own little patch of sand. Private beaches dominate the coastline, but a local collective are fighting to take some of the beach back for public use.

The Forgotten Nuclear Victims



Little Big Story - 2023 - 55 mins - ENG, FR

From 1950 to 1990, France, the United States and the United Kingdom dropped hundreds of nuclear bombs on the Pacific islands. At the cost of sacrificing the local populations.

For a long time, the French State denied the impact of the bomb on these populations before finally setting up a compensation process for veterans. These compensations are uncertain and frequently curbed by a complex system.

It's the battle of a new generation fighting all around Oceania. In Tahiti, Hina, suffering from leukemia, clings to life driven by this desire to understand her illness and to know her heritage. Through her foundation, she helps those sick and Polynesians to reappropriate their nuclear history. Tens of thousands of kilometres away, in northern Oceania, another young woman is also leading this battle. Ariana is 25 years old, her grandparents are nuclear survivors. France was one of the last countries to enter the mad nuclear race, but the United States opened the ball in 1946 in the Marshall Islands. The population was evacuated, diseases and malformations appeared: the collateral damage of nuclear testing is important and immutable. A compensation process has been in place since the 1980s, but Marshall Islanders continue the battle for acknowledgment.

What is the future for the new generations?

Handmade: A Tale of Stop Motion



Luckyday Pictures - 2023 - 58 mins - ENG, FR

"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.

The Return of ISIS



Nomades TV - 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 executions.

Greenwashing: The Climate Killer



Premières Lignes- 2023 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

Faced with consumer pressure amid the climate crisis, multinationals increasingly vaunt their commitment to "carbon neutrality". But can we believe their claims of 'net zero' or is this simply greenwashing?

Many of these large companies rely on carbon offsetting to burnish their green credentials, financing 'ecological' projects via carbon credits rather than reducing emissions. The most popular projects are tree plantations. A huge business has emerged around buying and selling these credits. Companies connect giant corporations, which might be engaged in mining or petrochemicals, with reforestation projects around the world. The intermediary companies then disperse the funds and take a commission.

But to maximise profits, the intermediaries often focus on the simplest investments, those that are inexpensive and easy to implement. For example, planting trees, without checking on what happens to the site in future. Very often these carbon offset projects are not effective or may even have a negative impact on the environment and local populations.

Take Total Energy or Nespresso, an offset champion who has pledged that "every cup of coffee will be carbon neutral by 2022". We investigate the validity of their claims.





2022-2023
20 x 45 mins
ENG, FR

Producer:
Magneto Presse

Commissioned by:
France 2

Legendary Homes and Hotels

More than just buildings, these famous homes and hotels are the repositories for extraordinary visions, hopes and extraordinary stories. They are extraordinary sites, secret places, legendary homes and hotels. But these legends only exist thanks to the people who bring them to life.

In this series, we tell the stories of these incredible buildings. Meet the passionate men and women who live, work and maintain these places. Owners who are committed to preserving them, passing them on from generation to generation; janitors who know every detail; craftsmen who pamper them; little hands who contribute to their greatness every day...

Beyond their own history and through their characters, all these places tell the story of their territory: they are anchored in their region and in the reality of today's France. The Michelin-starred chef of a grande maison prepares the menus for a school canteen, an exclusive luxury hotel brings life to a shopping district... These stories are the essence of this collection, as are the memories linked to the places that make up their prestige.

From the opulent resort of GoldenEye in Jamaica to the famous Ritz Hotel in Paris or the castles of the Guyot Family, let yourself escape to a world of luxury and beauty.



Episodes

1. Hôtel La Ponche: The Source of the Tropezian Myth
2. Biarritz: The Guardians of the Palace
3. The Restaurants of the Nationale 7
4. Marseille Cité Radieuse: Le Corbusier's Utopia
5. The Guyot Family: A Life in Castles
6. The Moulin de Dannemois: Claude François' Secret Garden
7. The Marcon Family: The Stars of Saint Bonnet Le Froid
8. Beau-Rivage Palace: Swiss Hospitality par Excellence
9. Auberge du Père Bise, Annecy
10. Montenvers: A Hotel Perched High in the Mountains
11. La Côte d'Or Restaurant: The Chef's Legacy
12. Rosa Bonheur's Castle
13. Château Frontenac: Quebec's Landmark
14. The Ritz: A Thousand and One Lives
15. Champ de Bataille: A Versailles in Normandy
16. Grand Hotel Tremezzo: La Dolce Vita on Lake Como
17. The Carlton: An Icon Reborn
18. GoldenEye: 007's Secret Jamaican Hideaway
19. Domaine de Baumannière: The Legacy of Provence
20. Le Belles Rives Hotel in Juan-les-Pins: Life is a Party



2021 - 2023
15 x 52 mins
ENG, FR

Dangerous Roads

Producers:

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

Commissioned by:
W9

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.

1. Miami - Washington (2021)

Unbelievable crashes, car pile-ups and intense confrontations: we investigate Interstate 95 from Washington to Miami.

2. The Rocky Mountains (2021)

In the Rocky Mountains, the first storm of the season is in full force: strong winds and record snowfall have turned the roads into a giant ice rink. Emergency workers are on the front lines.

3. Romania (2021)

Irresponsible drivers, who often mix alcohol and speed, the state of the roads and the total absence of adapted infrastructure have made Romania the most dangerous country in Europe for drivers.

4. Texas (2022)

Why are there so many accidents on Texas' highways? We uncover the secrets of the fabled Interstate 35, the road where danger waits at every turn.

5. Bulgaria (2022)

Drink driving and speeding are common on the country's poorly maintained roads.



6. India (2022)

Roads built without asphalt or guardrails, used by a mix of carts, motorcycles, cars and animals, chaotic traffic and dangerous drivers...

7. Spain (2022)

The AP9 and AP7 are two of the most dangerous roads in Spain. From drunk drivers and out of control lorries to disintegrating caravans and the foggy microclimate that causes deadly pileups...

8. Los Angeles (2023)

LA. 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.

9. Thailand (2023)

Thailand ranks second in the world for road accidents. The fault lies with the reckless behaviour of some... and a culture of speed that fascinates the Thai.

10. Albania (2023)

Albania is one of the most dangerous countries on the continent when it comes to road safety. More than 35,000 people die on the roads every year.

11. Poland (2023)

We follow the police taking a hard-line policy when it comes to ensuring road safety. Equipped with high-powered vehicles, they hunt down reckless drivers.

12. Florida (2023)

On the Interstate 4, nearly one accident in four is caused by people over 65. The state does not require senior citizens to retake driving tests after a certain age.

13. Mexico (2023)

Drivers who have bought their license, the deadly war between rival cartels and poorly maintained roads have made the autopista del sol one of the world's most dangerous roads.

14. Argentina (2023)

20% of drivers in Argentina have no license and more than one in three cars on the roads of Argentina are not in a roadworthy condition.

15. Canada (2023)

Extreme weather conditions, excessive speed and drink-driving: this explosive cocktail makes Quebec's Route 132 the most dangerous road in Canada.



2018 - 2023
9 x 52 mins
4 x 26 mins
ENG, FR

Producer:
Premières Lignes

Commissioned by:
France 5

Green Warriors

Now available in both a 52 & 25 min format, journalist Martin Boudot investigates environmental scandals around the world.

From contaminated rivers, air pollution, toxic waste, illegal exploitation of resources to the poaching of endangered species. By carrying out detailed scientific analysis on samples, he 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...

1. Indonesia: The World's Most Polluted River (2018, 52 mins)
The Citarum river in Indonesia is the world's most polluted river. One of the main polluters is the fashion industry: 500 textile factories throw away their wastewater directly into the river.

2. South Africa's Toxic Townships (2018, 52 mins)
Johannesburg is considered the most uranium-contaminated city in the world. Waste dumps from around 600 abandoned mines sit next to residential communities, blowing polluted dust into homes and contaminating the soil and water supplies.

3. Paraguay's Poisoned Fields (2019, 52 mins)
Since 2001, five million hectares of forests have been destroyed in Paraguay to make way for soybean plantations. Soy fields now surround many villages and their children and residents are being poisoned by pesticides.



4. Coal in the Lungs (2021, 52 mins)

Every year, 500,000 Europeans die prematurely due to air pollution. One of the main causes of this pollution is coal, still used in many countries. And this air pollution has no borders. It contaminates the entire continent. In Poland, 75% of electricity is produced from coal. Rybnik, Poland, is one of the most polluted cities in Europe.

5. Cursed Uranium (2021, 52 & 26 mins)

We follow the uranium path from Niger to Europe to reveal the extent of the radioactive pollution created. Every year, Niger produces over 2,500 tonnes of uranium concentrate, creating tonnes of toxic waste. In nearby villages, radioactivity levels exceed those of the Chernobyl Prohibited Zone.

6. Soil Threat (2021, 52 & 26 mins)

Over the last 50 years, our use of phosphate based fertilizers has quadrupled. Most fertilizers come from Morocco, where the pollution from phosphate mines is poisoning local drinking supplies, causing birth defects in animals and health problems in children. But also present in most phosphate-based fertilizer is cadmium, a toxic heavy metal linked to kidney and bone disease.

7. Netherlands: Forever Chemicals (2023, 52 mins)

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.

8. Iraq: Damned by Oil (2023, 52 & 26 mins)

The people who live near Iraq's oil refineries are convinced that pollution from flares is responsible for a rise in illness, including breathing difficulties and childhood cancer. We investigate.

9. Children of Lead (2023, 52 & 26 mins)

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.



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

Love & Sex Around the World

Love may make the world go round but 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.

1. Love and Sex in China (2013)

With an estimated 180 million singletons in China and people traditionally marrying early, the race to find a soulmate before surpassing the sell by date is frantic. Singles fairs, where CVs are passed around, speed-dating and lessons in the art of seduction are all examples of a booming westernised market. But there is a massive imbalance in the sexes due to the penchant for male offspring since the single-child policy was introduced in 1980. Future brides are in short supply...

2. Love and Sex in Japan (2016)

In the land of the Rising Sun, love and relationships are in danger. A quarter of all Japanese people aged 30-40 are virgins and 50% of the population admits to not having sex regularly. The country has developed a unique industry from this phenomenon, with the trend of 'solo weddings' emerging: young women who marry themselves.



3. Love and Sex in India (2018)

It's the birthplace of the Kama Sutra and Bollywood romances but in real life, kissing in the street or just talking about sex in India is considered obscene. In a place where 90% of marriages are arranged and the bride's family must pay a large dowry, young girls are taught that society considers them a burden. Millions of baby girls are abandoned or illegally aborted.

4. Love and Sex in the USA (2019)

From sex scandals with global repercussions to promoting a national chastity movement, American views on sex veer from one extreme to the other. We travel across the country to find out more. Silicon Valley executive, Nathalie, doesn't have time to look for a soul mate. So she's hired a relationship coach for \$30,000 to do it for her.

5. Love and Sex in Russia (2020)

It's a country of contradictions, where love and sex clash with customs and patriarchy. Where traditional values and large families are glorified but 40% of children grow up without a father and domestic abuse isn't a crime. Welcome to Putin's Russia.

6. Love and Sex in Scandinavia (2021)

With its reputation for being liberal and sexually-open minded, Scandinavia leads the world when it comes to gender equality. Its empowered women are not afraid to express their desires. But is gender equality enough to ensure harmony between men and women? In this episode, we go in search of the secrets of Nordic love.

7. Love and Sex in West Africa (2022)

From polygamy and 'hook ups' to forced marriages and dowries, we reveal the modern realities of romance in the Ivory Coast, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Senegal. When it comes to love and sex, these African countries are caught between tradition and modernity.

8. Love and Sex in Italy (2023)

Italy has the lowest birth rate in Europe. At this rate, Italy's population could reduce by 16 million over the next 50 years. Less than half of Italians celebrate a traditional wedding in church. Two thirds of young people still live at home with their parents, and it is difficult to leave home. But despite this, it remains the most romantic country in the world for many.

Planet Killers: The Godfather of Oceans



Premières Lignes- 2023 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

Junchung Wu is the head of a criminal network which traffics 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 trafficking of totoaba is considered to be one of the most violent illicit trades in the world. China has requested Interpol 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.

Planet Killers: The Forest Destroyer



Premières Lignes- 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



Premières Lignes- 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



Premières Lignes- 2023 - 52 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.



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

Producer:
Tony Comiti Productions

Commissioned by:
France 5

Dicing with Death/ Deadliest Journeys

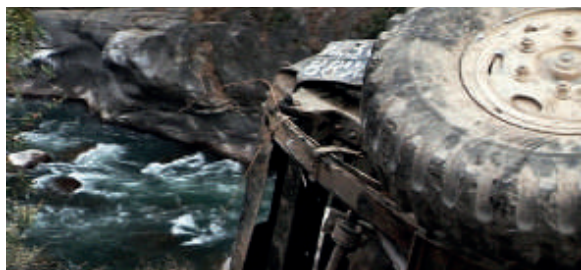
The popular series from Tony Comiti available in both a 52 and 25 min format.

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

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

Latest Episodes

1. Chad: The Desert Takes on Water (2023)
2. India: Of God and Men (2023)
3. Sumatra: Cursed Treasures (2023)
4. Guatemala (2023)
5. Kenya (2023)
6. Venezuela: The Curse of Black Gold (2022)
7. Congo: Thrill of the River (2022)
8. South Sudan (2022)



9. Peru: From the River to the Jungle (2022)
10. Guinea: Life on a Thread (2022)
11. Afghanistan: Valley of Merchants (2021)
12. Nepal: On the Brink (2021)
13. Madagascar: Satan's Corridor (2021)
14. Colombia: Intrepid of the Andes (2021)
15. Ukraine: Mists of Carpathians (2021)
16. India/Bangladesh (2020)
17. Jamaica (2020)
18. Bolivia: Yungas in the Clouds (2020)
19. Botswana: Run for your Life (2020)
20. Mauritania: Desert Drivers (2020)
21. Ivory Coast: Gold & Cocoa (2020)
22. Brazil: Dust & Fire (2020)
23. Zambia: Life Goes On (2019)
24. Bhutan: Happiness at all Costs (2019)
25. Namibia: The Devil's Cauldron (2019)
26. Siberia: Land of Ice People (2019)
27. Armenia (2019)
28. Congo: Jungle Messengers (2019)
29. Cuba: Viva la Vida (2019)
30. Ghana: Business on the Go (2018)
31. Nicaragua (2018)
32. India: Himalayan Tightrope Walkers (2018)
33. Guatemala: Land of the Maya (2018)
34. Paraguay: Unconquerables of Chaco (2018)
35. Lesotho: The Snow Kingdom (2018)
36. Philippines: Man & Monsoon (2018)
37. Peru: Vertigo in the Andes (2018)
38. Sierra Leone: The Urge to Live (2018)
39. Myanmar: No Fear (2018)
40. Malawi: Spirits of the Mist (2018)
41. Argentina (2017)
42. Kazakhstan (2017)

43. Australia (2017)
44. Argentina (2017)
45. Kazakhstan (2017)
46. Australia (2017)
47. Tanzania: Race for Life (2017)
48. Nepal: Way of the Wise (2017)
49. Brazil: Stronger Together (2017)
50. Pakistan: Valley of Immortals (2017)
51. East Timor: Mysterious Island (2017)
52. Mozambique (2017)
53. Ethiopia (2017)
54. Colombia/Venezuela (2016)
55. Borneo: Jungle Convoy (2016)
56. Senegal: Head out of Water (2016)
57. Cameroon: Birds and Lizards (2016)
58. Madagascar (2016)
59. Afghanistan (2016)
60. Benin: Cotton at all Costs (2016)
61. Congo: Last Train to Katanga (2015)
62. China's Dragon Road (2015)
63. Suriname (2015)
64. Haiti: Hell in Paradise (2015)
65. Peru/Amazon (2015)
66. Vietnam: Masters of Mekong (2015)
67. Mongolia (2015)
68. Kyrgyzstan (2015)
69. Bolivia: Comes the Floods (2014)
70. Myanmar (2014)
71. Georgia (2014)
72. Bangladesh: Journey to Dhaka (2014)
73. Gabon (2014)
74. Guinea: Forgotten People (2014)
75. Congo Kivu (2014)
76. Somaliland (2014)



CRYPTOQUEEN

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

2022 & 2023
90 & 52 & 4 x 25 mins
ENG, GER

Producer:
A&O Buero

Director:
Johan von Mirbach

Commissioned by:
ARTE & NDR

Crypto Queen:

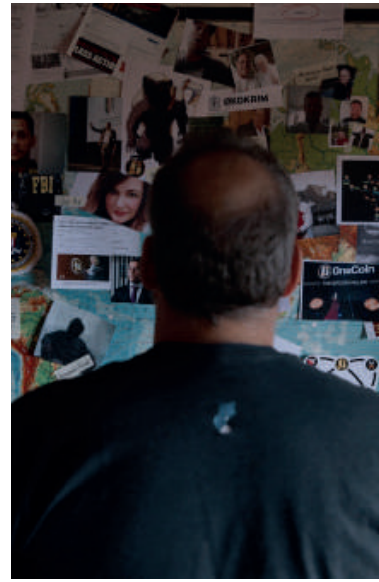
The Onecoin Scam

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.

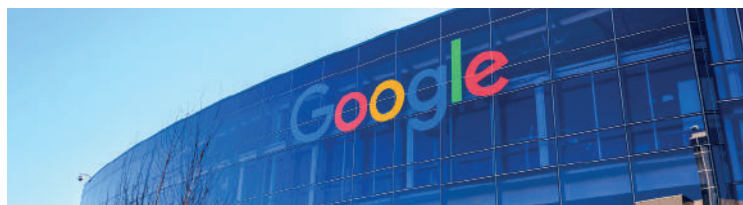
In truth, it only turned Ruja Ignatova into the Cryptoqueen. She threw lavish champagne parties in Frankfurt, Sofia and New York. She bought two dozen luxury properties around the world. Until she went AWOL. At present, nobody knows where she is. But despite all that, many investors continue to believe 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 Episode Coming in November



COMING SOON





Israel, the Radical Temptation

After seventy-five years of existence, Israel is at a turning point. The country is facing a crisis never seen before: a crisis that smacks of civil war. For the first time in its history, there is a conflict between two segments of the country's Jewish population, as witnessed by the massive demonstrations that have taken place since January 2023, the largest since the creation of the Hebrew state in 1947.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, dependent on the results of a corruption trial, has allied with extremist religious Zionism movement. This doctrine, which combines politics and religion, ultimately aims to establish a Jewish theocracy and annex the territories conquered in 1967. The cornerstone of the government's programme, which has generated so much opposition in the country, is a judicial reform project designed to weaken the High Court of Justice and thus rid the executive and legislative branches of any checks and balances. The Prime Minister will be able to push through an amnesty for himself and his allies will be able to weak-en an institution likely to oppose their political project, by virtue of a fundamental law on human rights passed in 1992.

To understand the current crisis in Israel, this film profiles two ministers who represent religious Zionism in the current Israeli government: Itamar Ben Gvir, Minister in charge of internal security - and Bezalel Smotrich, Minister of Finance. The film will provide a better understanding of their ideology, their background and of the history of this hitherto marginal movement. It will also show the extent to which the traditional Right, Likud, is fractured from within by this extreme right-wingisation of the country's parliamentary and political life.

- Producer: Yuzu Productions
- Directors: Jérôme Sesquin, Nitzan Perelman
- Commissioned By: ARTE

Ready January 2024



America : The New Battle for Abortion

On June 24, 2022, in the United States, the justices of the Supreme Court, the country's highest judicial body, struck down a symbol of women's freedom: the right to abortion. This retrograde decision was imposed by judges aligned with the religious ultra-right wing of the Republican party, who have become a majority on the country's most powerful institution. An earthquake of global proportions, attacking a fundamental right acquired 50 years ago in America.

Since then, 16 states have already taken steps to restrict abortion or are in the process of banning it. The 9 most radical states have banned abortion even in cases of rape and incest. But the majority of Americans overwhelmingly support the right to abortion. A citizens' resistance is taking shape. They are reaching out to all women in need, trapped in states where Christian fundamentalists forbid them the freedom not to have children.

Filmed on the border of the Bible Belt states in the Midwest, this documentary profiles the commitment of civil society, doctors, lawyers, volunteers and individuals determined to preserve the right and access of their fellow citizens to abortion.

- Producer: LSD Films
- Directors: Sophie Przychodny, Cyril Denvers
- Commissioned By: France 5

Ready March 2024



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

Ready January 2024



The Secrets of Flight

By studying the flight of insects and birds, scientists hope to create the next generation of efficient bio-inspired flying machine. Like the famous inventions of Leonardo da Vinci, they are reimagining new ways of flight.

Animal flight is one of the most complex tasks that evolution has ever managed to achieve. It has been a source of fascination for humankind since antiquity. Leonardo da Vinci drew inspiration from nature to design the first flying machines. Unfortunately, they would never take flight. Today paleontologists and biologists are rewriting entire pages of the history of life on earth, thanks to their discoveries regarding the first flying insects, and how the theropod dinosaurs' transformed into birds.

From pterosaur's ultra-light bones to corvid's anti-turbulence feathers, nature has developed an extensive set of solutions for efficient flying. Physicists and biomechanists are decoding the aerodynamics of flying animals. Based on this new research, engineers and roboticists are working on building tomorrow's bio-inspired drones and airplanes.

Thanks to 21st-century scientists, Leonardo's dream is becoming a reality: deciphering nature's art of flight to create fantastic flying machines.

Producer: Magneto Presse
Director: Clément Champiat
Commissioned By: France 2

Ready January 2024



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
- Directors: Sonia Gonzalez & Christine Tournadre
- Commissioned By: ARTE

Ready April 2024



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



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 February 2024



Maduro: The Indestructable

This is the story of a man who never gives up. A man who has regained the place that the Bolivarian revolution had given him: at the helm of Venezuela, sitting on the world's largest oil reserves, a man who is clinging to his destiny: to lead Venezuela's socialist revolution... whatever the cost.

Yet nothing has ever been simple for Nicolas Maduro. His entire career has been made up of great victories and bitter failures. From the very bottom of the social ladder, this bus driver has risen to the pinnacle of power. He knew the years of opulence, when his country was the richest in Latin America, and he participated in its downfall. His authoritarianism, ideology and years of poor economic choices precipitated the ruin of the country he has ruled with an iron fist for nine years.

Strangled by international sanctions, he was left for dead. This time, it was certain, he wouldn't get away with it. Anyone else would have given up, abandoned power in the face of public outrage. He chose blind repression. He was the last man, no doubt, to still believe in his lucky star... until an incredible twist of fate, combined with his political acumen, put him back at the center of the world stage. The war in Ukraine has profoundly shaken international geopolitical stakes. The world is now in desperate need of what lies beneath Venezuela's surface. Black gold could once again crown as king the man who was previously the pariah of the international community.

- Producer: Kraken Films
- Director: Paul Cabanis
- Commissioned By: ARTE

Ready February 2024



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?

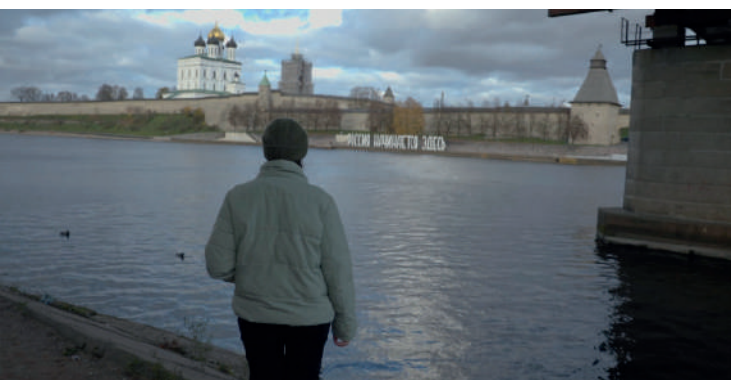
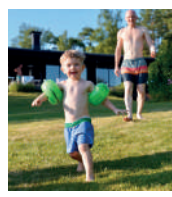
OneCoin launched in 2016 with promises to be the world's biggest cryptocurrency. But all cryptocurrencies are run on blockchains and OneCoin never had one. Months later, Bjercke was contacted by a recruitment agency and offered a large salary, car and flat in exchange for building a blockchain. The fact 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 January 2024



PAST HIGHLIGHTS





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.

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.

So what can be done to secure microprocessors? And how is the battle for semiconductors already affecting our daily lives?

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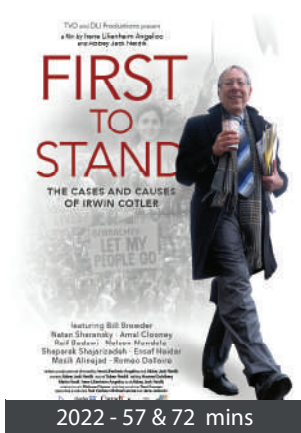


Las Abogadas

'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. Rebecca, Charlene, Jodi, and Mulu face intense desperation and frustration. We watch our characters' surreal journeys to try and help.

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.

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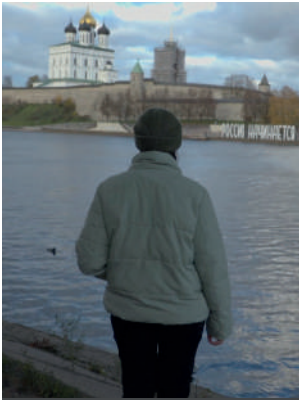


First to Stand

'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.

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.

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2023 - 52 mins

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.

A portrait of Russian society in the midst of an identity crisis.

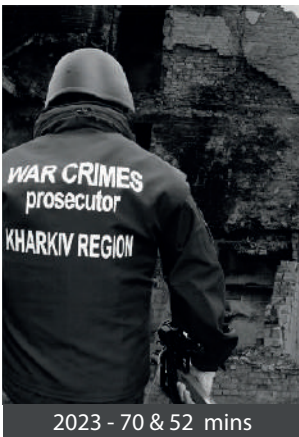


2022 - 52 mins

The Science of Fatherhood

What happens to men when they become fathers? How do men change psychologically and physically during pregnancy, birth and the first years of having children? In this film we go on a journey of discovery and ask brain researchers, geneticists, sociologists and psychologists.

Similar to mothers, fathers are physiologically and hormonally altered by pregnancy, childbirth and childcare. 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.



2023 - 70 & 52 mins

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.

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.

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.

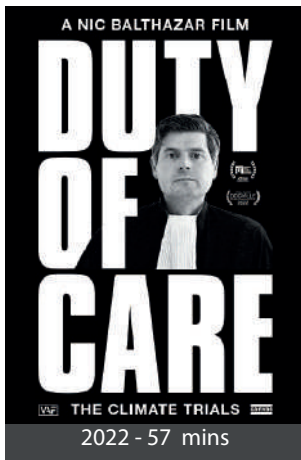


Atomic Hope

'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?

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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?

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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...

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2022 - 80 & 52mins

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?



2022 - 101 & 57 mins

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.



2022 - 62 mins

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.

