



'The Click Trap': The Dark Side of Digital Advertising

2024
95 & 52 mins
ENG, FR

Producers:
Polar Star Films
Yuzu Productions

Director:
Peter Porta

Commissioned by:
ARTE.TVE

Programmatic advertising systems are responsible for placing the vast majority of digital ads on the web, using sophisticated algorithms to automatically match products with potential customers. Only a handful of big tech and social media companies control this technology, helping sustain their monopoly over this multi-billion dollar industry.

- The Click Trap will reveal how this same digital advertising economy is also helping to fuel scams, dis-

mis-information and extremist hate online, making dodgy and even criminal "content creators" rich in the process. Drawing on expert testimony, the documentary will investigate what real world impact digital advertising is having on our societies and question whether there's a safer and more ethical way to do business.

Is it time to regulate online advertising?



Tax Wars

2024 : It's estimated that \$427 billion in
90 & 52 mins : tax is lost every year to global
ENG, FR : tax abuse by multinationals and
 : wealthy individuals. The pandemic
 : and war in Ukraine have exposed,
Producers: : like never before, the harsh realities
Mechanix Films & : of growing income inequality
Yuzu Productions : in a globalised economy. Since
 : the beginning of the Covid-19
Director: : pandemic, the world's 10 richest
Hege Dehli : men have doubled their fortunes
 : while the income of 99 percent
Commissioned by: : of humanity fell. Everywhere,
ARTE : 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.



Maduro: The Indestructable

2024 : This is the story of a man who never
52 mins : gives up. A man who has regained
ENG, FR : the place given to him after the
 : Bolivarian Revolution had given
Producer: : him: at the helm of Venezuela,
Kraken Films : sitting on the world's largest oil
 : reserves, a man clinging to his
Director: : destiny: to lead Venezuela's socialist
Paul Cabanis : revolution... whatever the cost.

Commissioned by: : Yet nothing has ever been simple
ARTE : 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 put the
man who was previously the pariah
of the international community
back on the throne.

SOME SCAMS ARE JUST TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE



LIE TO ME

HACIENDA FILM PRESENTS LIE TO ME DIRECTED BY BÅR TYRMI PRODUCED BY DAG MYKLAND DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY TROND HØINES
EDITED BY JO ELDØEN NPK STORY BY DAG MYKLAND, BÅR TYRMI AND ELLEN MORGENSTIERNE DESIGN BY SIMEN LAURITZEN STENSRUD

A HACIENDA FILM PRODUCTION



Lie to Me

2024 : 'Lie to Me' is the story of how tech
90 & 52 mins : nerd and blockchain expert Bjørn
ENG : Bjercke overturned the OneCoin
pyramid scheme, the biggest

Producer: : Crypto fraud in history. But more
Hacienda : than that, it's also the story of
how and why people keep getting

Director: : scammed. Why people were so
Dag Mykland : ready to believe in OneCoin and
why, even now, so many refuse to

Commissioned by: : believe it was all a big con. How can
SVT, NRK : 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. Knowing it meant that OneCoin was launched without one meant, Bjercke immediately

went public. But others who were headhunted and offered lucrative positions 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 about an ongoing fraud, about greed, villains and nerdy heroes, deception, and personal tragedies in a digital world and real life.

Porn: A Ruthless Business

2023 : A major investigation into the
52 mins : workings of porn sites and the
ENG, FR : people behind them. More than
half of 12-13 year-old boys and

Producer: : a third of girls the same age visit
Premières Lignes : porn sites every month. With just
a few clicks, they can access them

Director: : via cell phones or computers. One
Marie Maurice : of the most popular is Pornhub.

Commissioned by: : These porn platforms rack up over
France 2 : 5 billion visits a month and are
among the top 20 most-visited

websites in the world. But a lot of the amateur content featured on these sites has been put online without the consent of the people featured.

Multi-award-winning investigative journalist Marie Maurice spent over

a year investigating the people behind these sites. Behind Pornhub is the Canadian multinational Mindgeek. As the New York Times revealed, Pornhub is overrun with videos of rape, minors, revenge porn, and other stolen, racist and misogynistic content. A study conducted in 2022 found that 1 in 5 of the titles on the front page represented sexual violence.

To dismantle the mechanics of these behemoths, former employees have agreed to give an insider's account of how these platforms operate. We also hear the stories of the victims whose lives have been destroyed by revenge porn...



Apocalypse Rwanda

2024 : The Rwandan genocide of 1994,
52 mins : in which a million people were
ENG, FR : slaughtered in three months,
: is widely recognized yet often

Producer: : misunderstood. This film seeks to
Babel Doc : challenge the narrative that frames
: the genocide as merely an instance

Directors: : of inter-ethnic violence in Africa,
Michaël Sztanke : irrelevant to a wider, especially
Maria Malagardis : European, audience. It argues that

Commissioned by: : the massacre of the Tutsis was not
France 5 : an outbreak of collective madness
: but the culmination of decades of
: planning, deeply entrenched in the
: legacies of European racism and
: colonialism.

: By tracing the origins of the
: genocide back to 1959, the
: documentary exposes the sequence
: of events and mechanisms that
: led to the atrocities of 1994. It
: explores how ethnic divisions

were deliberately created and
manipulated, and how geopolitical
rivalries, particularly between
America and France, contributed to
a global indifference that allowed
Hutu extremists to prepare openly
for the massacre. The film also
delves into the role of societal
manipulation and polarization in
turning ordinary people against
each other.

Featuring interviews with a range
of key figures, including
President Paul Kagame,
survivors, perpetrators, experts,
and diplomats who attempted
to prevent the violence, this
documentary presents a
moving and thought-provoking
investigation into one of the most
devastating tragedies of our time.

Afghanistan: The Last Resistance

2024 :
52 mins :
ENG, FR :

Producer:
Nomades

Director:
Morade Azzouz

Commissioned by:
ARTE

: He's Public Enemy Number One
: to the Taliban. A hunted man who
: refuses to stop fighting. Khalid
: Amiry, a former colonel in the
: Afghan special forces, now leads
: resistance to the Taliban in the
: Panjshir Valley. Featuring never-
: before-seen amateur footage shot
: by the mujahideen themselves
: and the Taliban, this exclusive film
: provides a first-hand account of
: their fierce resistance,

: Two hours from Kabul, a forgotten
: guerrilla war is being waged. In
: the heart of the Panjshir province,
: the Mujahedin have retreated
: into the mountains, braving the
: cold and the ever-growing Taliban.
: This landlocked valley was the
: birthplace of Commander Massoud,
: a national hero assassinated in

2001 and famous for his fight
against Soviet forces. Today, another
name echoes in these steep
mountains: Khalid Amiry. When
the Taliban regained control of the
country in August 2021 and many
Afghans were desperately trying
to leave the country, he and his
men "went underground". Leaving
aboard two refurbished helicopters
loaded with weapons, which had
been abandoned on the tarmac
in Kabul, Khalid Amiry flew to the
Panjshir Valley to continue the fight.
Cut off from the rest of the world
and without the support of the
international community, which
fears that helping them could fuel
a civil war, Amiry and his men are
short of food and ammunition. But
still they refuse to submit.



The Nile Dam: A Dangerous Power Game

2024
52 mins
ENG, FR

Producer:
Magneto Presse

Director:
Sara Creta

Commissioned by:
ARTE

Source of life for over 300 million people, the Nile has always been at the heart of power struggles for control of its water. For the past 10 years, Ethiopia's construction of the Grand Renaissance Dam, the largest dam ever built in Africa, has poisoned relations between Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan, and shaped the geopolitics of the region.

Located some twenty kilometres from the Sudanese border, the dam holds the promise of prosperity for Ethiopia, who wants to use it to boost its economy and become a regional energy power. Construction is nearing completion, and the country has begun selling the electricity generated to its neighbours.

But Egypt has always considered itself the absolute master of the Nile, and the Renaissance Dam represents a direct threat to its national security. Citing a "historic right" to the river, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sissi threatened: "I say loud and clear, no one must touch a single drop of the Nile's water. Otherwise the region will experience unprecedented instability."

As for Sudan, Egypt's staunch ally, its position on the dam remains ambiguous. Rich in mineral and water resources, the Horn of Africa is today a strategic region in the throes of change, with new players like the United Arab Emirates stepping in to take advantage of its fragility and reshuffle alliances.

Da Vinci's Dream: The Secrets of Flight

2024
90 & 58 mins
ENG, FR

Producer:
Magneto Presse

Director:
Clément Champiat

Commissioned by:
France 5

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 dinosaurs transformed into birds.

From the pterosaur's ultra-light bones to the 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 twenty first-century scientists, Leonardo's dream is becoming a reality: deciphering nature's art of flight to create fantastic flying machines.



America: The New Battle for Abortion

2024
52 mins
ENG, FR

Producer:
LSD Films

Directors:
Sophie Przychodny
Cyril Denvers

Commissioned by:
France 5

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.

El Salvador: Maras, Mega Prisons & 'The World's Coolest Dictator'

2024
52 mins
ENG, FR

Producer:
Pallas TV

Directors:
Martin Fossati
Mario Pécot

Commissioned by:
M6

We gained exclusive access to the world's biggest and toughest prison in El Salvador, housing 15,000 prisoners. The prison is the symbol of President Nayib Bukele's relentless crackdown on gangs.

El Salvador has long held the record of most dangerous country in the world, caused predominantly by gang warfare between MS13 and Barrio 18. In 2022, the country's young president, Nayib Bukele declared a ruthless war on gangs. Over 75,000 alleged members of MS 13 and Barrio 18 have been arrested and thrown into prison, specifically the specially-built Terrorism Containment Center.

And this policy of repression is working. Neighbourhoods that

were once run by killers are now calm. Buoyed by the support of the population, Bukele continues his merciless manhunt for gang members. The last ones still at large are fleeing abroad. We spoke to one former gang member, now on the run.

Nevertheless, as documented by Amnesty, this crackdown has resulted in systemic human rights abuses. Police are under pressure to meet arrest quotas and innocent people have been imprisoned. These "blunders" do not thwart President Bukele's security policy. To prove how secure his country is now in November 2023 he hosted the 'Miss Universe' competition. He has embraced the title of 'the world's coolest dictator'.



Dissidents

2024
75 & 52 mins
ENG

Producer:
C35 Films

Director:
Yi Chen

Funders Include:
New York
Foundation for the
Arts
Open Society
Foundations

From harassing relatives back home to disrupting protests and spying on critics in other countries, China is one of the most aggressive governments in targeting dissents abroad. We follow three dissidents in America as they continue their fight for democracy.

Juntao Wang, a primary organizer of the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests and one of the world's most renowned Chinese dissidents, has led the Democratic Party of China for more than a decade from the New York headquarters. But wherever he goes, pro-Beijing mobs often follow. While showing support for Taiwan's democracy, his group is violently attacked.

Artist Weiming Chen, who criticises the Chinese government through

his sculptures, has been spied on and has his work burnt down. Meanwhile asylum seeker, Chunyan Wang, forced into exile after her house was appropriated by the Chinese government, is constantly surveilled. She takes her protest directly to the Chinese Vice Premier during the U.S.- China trade talks. But her attempts to hand him a petition lead to her being arrested and charged with a criminal case, facing 10 years of imprisonment if found guilty.

Combining intimate observational footage, rich archival materials and an investigative approach, the film reveals the extent to which Chinese repression extends beyond its borders.

India under Modi: The New Hindu Superpower

2024
52 mins
FR; ENG

Producer:
Babel Doc

Directors:
Sébastien
Daguerressar,
Sadia Rao

Commissioned by:
France 5

What if the next world superpower was India, not China? With its 1.4 billion inhabitants, India is already the most populous country in the world. Under the leadership of Narendra Modi, India has embraced both ultra-productivity and ultra-nationalism. Everything that happens in the world happens in India on a much larger scale.

In the past decade, Modi has transformed and reshaped the country: for the better according to his supporters, for the worse according to his opponents. India is now the fifth largest economy in the world and has democratized access to technology. No one can deny the scale of the country's social, political

and cultural transformation. Slowly but surely, Modi is positioning India as a counter- balance to the West. He has silenced his opponents, rewritten the national narrative to the point of erasing whole swathes of its own history and created a new apartheid.

But India, which often seems so distant and far removed from our preoccupations, has also become the magnifying glass of global challenges. The strategic choices made by Narendra Modi to manage his population of 1.4 billion reflect our own choices on a global scale. For it is also in India that the solutions to many of the world's problems are to be found....



The Body Politic

2023
90, 82 x 52 mins
ENG

Partners Include:
The Sundance
Institute, ITVS,
IDA

Director:
Gabriel Francis
Paz Goodenough

Licensed by:
PBS POV

In a city overwhelmed by violence, the only thing worth fighting for is peace.

Like many areas in the United States, the City of Baltimore has been plagued by gun violence. Amid the George Floyd uprising, Brandon Scott, a young, black, reform-minded leader, is elected mayor. He grew up here during the city's most troubling years and has lost friends to gun crime. He hopes to lower violence rates with a new more supportive approach. While previous administrations relied on policing and incarceration, Scott stresses the need for prevention and offering alternatives. He wants to give people hope.

But after entering office and barely getting a chance to enact his first safety reforms, violence surges to new highs. As the media and political foes attack his 'woke' policies, his commitment to his principles put his political future in jeopardy. For months, the Governor of Maryland, who controls access to State funding, refuses to even meet with him.

With unfettered access, cameras follow him and his team of young leaders throughout their first year in city hall. Will his holistic approach lead to healing and serve as a blueprint for the rest of the nation?

Climate Emergency:
When the Young Radicalise



Ligne de Front - 2024 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

They're blocking highways, spraying works of art with soup and slashing 4x4 tires. These contemporary environmental activists are prepared to do anything to make their voices heard in the face of 'climate inaction.'

Extinction Rebellion, Dernière Rénovation, Soulèvements de la Terre: in recent years, the number of environmental groups advocating civil disobedience has multiplied. To attract the attention of governments, media and the general public, they stage spectacular actions. Their mass mobilizations attract thousands of people and sometimes things turn ugly..

So who are they? And how far are they prepared to go? Exceptionally, the Dernière Rénovation collective gave us permission to follow preparations for their next secret operation. The activists have drawn up a precise plan: some will create a diversion by throwing paint while others will chain themselves to railings.

But the radical methods of these new environmentalist collectives are dividing public opinion. Governments are coming down harder and harder against these movements.

We spent several months following the lives of these men and women who are prepared to do anything to raise the alarm about global warming.

Oil, Destroyed Forests & Starving Bears:
The Other Face of Canada



Nova Prod - 2024- 52 mins - ENG, FR

With its 500,000 lakes, unique boreal forests, polar bears and wildlife, Canada has a reputation for being one of the most beautiful places on earth. But it is being hit by increasingly frequent climatic disasters. Catastrophes with global repercussions. Yet the country is doing very little about global warming, it is one of the worst performers in the G7 and one of the world's leading producers of fossil fuels.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has built his political program on ecology. But he has relaunched numerous oil projects, including a gigantic pipeline that will triple the country's fossil fuel production.

We went to meet the Inuit, the first Canadians to live near the Arctic Circle, and the first victims of global warming, about to be swallowed up by rising sea levels. We also filmed the polar bears, starving and threatened by the melting ice pack. As their food runs out, they are coming closer to towns and humans. Finally, in the woods threatened by the logging industry, we see the extent to which greenwashing is wreaking havoc. Young saplings, meant to replace 10,000 year old primary forests, are now also threatened by logging and forest fires.

Is Canada, with its image as a model student and friend of nature, a climate hypocrite?

Hammas: The Terrorist Organisation that Wants to Destroy Israel



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

Saturday, October 7: the world wakes up in shock. Over 1,300 Israeli civilians have just been massacred. At the helm is a terrorist group: Hamas. An Islamist faction that no one, least of all Israeli believed capable of such an operation. So who are these men, with their green bandanas, capable of such atrocities? Who are the organization's supporters? How did they manage to plan this attack?

With the help of leading experts, we investigate the rise of Hamas. We investigate its leaders, in particular the coordinator of the "al-Aqsa flood" attack: Mohammed Deif. The other mastermind of the organization is Ismaël Haniyeh, head of the political bureau. He has taken refuge in Qatar.

Thanks to the testimonies of former members of the Israeli intelligence services, we reveal the methods that enabled Hamas to slip under the radar of the Shin Bet, Israel's internal security service: underground caches, a network of dozens of kilometers of tunnels, old-fashioned communications, homemade rockets and also the use of modern technologies.

According to its former director, Ami Ayalon, the Shin Bet had relied solely on electronic surveillance to the detriment of human intelligence. We reveal the financial support Hamas received to carry out this operation.

Hackers: Identity Theft



Tipimages Prod - 2023 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

Cyberspace is less secure than ever as hackers exploit human error and technical vulnerability to hold it to ransom for their personal data. Companies, public bodies, schools and individuals have all become victims of cyber attacks.

In this revealing documentary, victims tell how internet criminals have destroyed their lives. According to U.S. experts, hackers steal an estimated six trillion dollars every year. And the figures are increasing. In 2022, cyberattacks increased by 26% in Europe and 38% worldwide.

But while most reports focus on the financial damage caused by hackers, the human cost can be devastating. In America, a baby died after hackers jammed a piece of equipment in the hospital. Other victims have committed suicide or left their families out of shame.

Venezuela: The Country of Lost Children



DreamerJoint - 2023 - 90 & 52 mins - ENG,

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....

Turbulent Times: The Future of Aviation



Galaxie Presse - 2023 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

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?

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. 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.

Swiss Guards: The Pope's Mysterious Army



Sable Rouge - 2023- 52 mins - ENG, FR

It's the smallest and most mysterious army in the world: the Pontifical Swiss Guard. We were granted exceptional access to these men of faith and combat, from their recruitment in Switzerland to their military training in the heart of the Vatican.

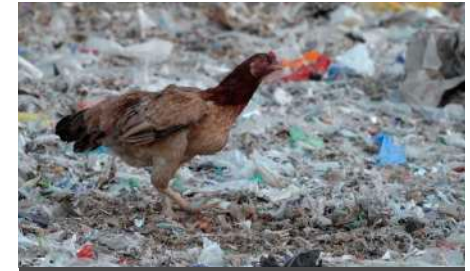
Made up of 150 men, this elite corps lives in barracks in the heart of Vatican City. All must be Swiss nationals and devout Catholics. All have sworn to fight to the death to protect their faith and the Holy Father.

We see them at official ceremonies, escorting the Pope with their armor and halberds from another era. But beyond the folkloric aspect of their costumes, these Swiss Guards receive top-level military training: martial arts, close protection and handling of the latest automatic weapons.

They are heirs to a 500 year old tradition in which the Pope's protection and security were assured by mercenaries from Switzerland. At the time, these fighters were considered the most seasoned and loyal.

Trained to wield both halberds and semi-automatic assault rifles, the Swiss Guards form a unique army. But who are they really? What motivates these young boys to join this military and religious corps? An insight into a world usually closed to the cameras.

Indonesia: Sinking into Disaster?



Ligne de Front - 2024 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

Obsessed with the unbridled exploitation of natural resources, Indonesia is sinking into an ecological disaster that could be irreversible.

On islands that were once sanctuaries of biodiversity, mines and factories have replaced the forest. Local fishermen now catch almost nothing in their nets and the sea is black with pollution. By destroying the jungle with no regard for the environment, industrialists are also threatening the survival of tribes that previously had no contact with civilization.

Yet Indonesia is one of the first to be affected by global warming. The capital, Jakarta, is threatened by rising sea levels. The city is slowly sinking and residents live with constant flooding. The government has decided to move the capital and build one from scratch, on the island of Borneo. Titanic construction work has begun, gutting forests and displacing entire villages.

We met Daru, an activist respected by the population and feared by the authorities. For the past 15 years, she has been fighting against plastic pollution, used as fuel by many factories spitting out black fumes. Microplastic particles contaminate not only the air, but also food productions. Despite a ban on plastic waste imports in 2019, thousands of tons still arrive illegally from Europe, South Korea and Canada.

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 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 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.

Georgia: Torn Between Europe and Russia



Patrick Spica Prod - 2023 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

Every year, eight million visitors come to discover the breathtaking wilderness of Georgia, visit its charming seaside resorts and casinos. But the pearl of the Caucasus is also an explosive powder keg. In this former Soviet satellite, the Cold War never ended.

Even if the majority of Georgians dream of Europe, part of the population still supports Russia. And some far-right militants, close to Putin, are increasing their hate speech against the West. In the north of the country, pro-Russians have even seceded. Two regions, South Ossetia and Abkhazia, have declared their autonomy.

Georgian president, Salomé Zourabichvili, a committed Westerner, has to perform a perilous balancing act. On the one hand, she wants to join the European Union. On the other, she has to deal with a government close to the Kremlin, long headed by Bidzina Ivanishvili, an oligarch who made his fortune in Russia.

The President also has to contend with profound social inequalities. Outside Tbilisi, the capital, a large part of the population survives on just a few euros a day. Most of them are small farmers or miners living in remote provinces or high mountain villages.

Chili: The Country of Extremes



Tony Comiti Prod - 2023 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

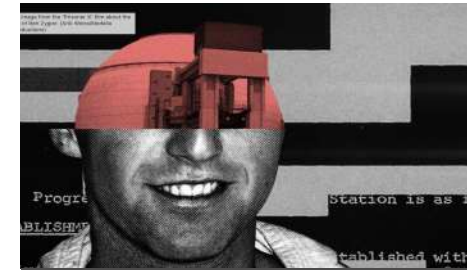
Chile is going through a social and environmental crisis that is fracturing society. A wealthy country envied by its impoverished neighbours, it is undergoing a migratory crisis on an unprecedented scale. Shantytowns are multiplying. Insecurity and crime are exploding, creating unprecedented tensions in society. The long-privileged middle class finds itself caught between extremes.

Chile is little-known for being a country with colossal mineral wealth: the world's leading producer of copper. The Atacama Desert is home to the world's largest open-pit mine Chile also mines Lithium and Manganese, and holds some of the most productive salmon farms and marine resources in the world.

At the head of this economy are major industrial groups, most owned by old Chilean families. Some made their fortunes in the 70s, thanks to close ties with General Pinochet's regime. Among these, the Perez Cruz family opened their doors to us. This family has a monopoly on gas distribution and embodies a small Chilean elite intent on defending traditional values.

Another concern is the effects of global warming and the pollution generated by the mining and textile industries, especially in a country with such a harsh climate. In some regions, it no longer rains.

Prisoner X



Medalia Prod - 2023 - 90 & 3 x 52 mins - ENG

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. No 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 a journalist revealed the prisoner was Australian citizen Ben Zygier, an alleged Mossad agent. The film presents his untold story, digging into the emotional, personal and political fallout, 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 whose mental fitness did not fit that required from a Mossad agent. The tension between the different, at times contradictory versions of "Prisoner X"'s story, 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 Israel, his very identity had to be erased?

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, with one thing in common: ultra-spectacular, explosive shows, calibrated to the second and the centimetre. Despite their years of training, they can't always avoid serious accidents...

Dangerous Roads: South Africa



Impala Prod - 2023 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

With a population of 61 million, South Africa is one of the most unequal countries in the world, with one of the highest crime rates. Its roads are a reflection of the country: extremely dangerous.

With nearly 14,000 deaths on the road every year, it is one of the riskiest countries in the world to be a driver. One of South Africa's specialities

is the shared taxis. There are almost 200,000 drivers who drive these vehicles, many in a totally irresponsible manner. A problem that the traffic police are trying to curb.

Another danger: holes in the road. There are several million potholes, responsible for spectacular accidents. Added to this are accidents caused by drink drivers, which stretch the emergency services to its limit.

Recalcitrant drivers, vehicle hold-ups and fatal accidents. An exceptional journey with the police services of the country with the most dangerous roads in Africa.

Dangerous Roads: Sierra Nevada



Impala Prod- 2023 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

In the west of the United States the Rocky Mountains stretch from New Mexico to Canada. One road in particular crosses it: Interstate 80, one of the most dangerous in the country. The extreme weather conditions make the mountain ranges particularly difficult.

In winter, blizzards and snowstorms quickly make the roads impassable. To help them, roadside professionals like Joey, work around the clock. Another man of action in the region: the firefighters from Station 97. Among them are Jameson and Nathan. Right in the heart of the mountain range and covering an area of 1,600 km, they have to be ready to intervene in situations as perilous as they are varied. But their missions would be impossible without the help of the Californian Department of Transport.

At the head of the local branch is Pete Labrance. He is responsible for closing the roads in the event of heavy snow. Despite the extreme conditions, there are those who will brave any danger to get as close as possible to dangerous areas. These are the storm chasers. The Rockies are one of their favourite hunting grounds. Like Tod and his son Michael, long-time enthusiasts, many of them get behind the wheel as soon as heavy snowfalls are announced in the region. Their aim: to get the shot that will be seen around the world...

Dangerous Roads: Chicago's Gang Road



Impala Prod- 2023 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

Chicago has one of the most dangerous road networks on the American continent. The cause: crime.

Carjacking - the theft of a car accompanied by threats or violence against the driver - has become a speciality of Chicago gangs. An average of 10 take place every a day. Other car thieves have started using a new method which involves a simple USB cable. The offenders, often minors, proudly display their crimes online. But the consequences can be tragic, with hit-and-runs and collateral damage.

Another scourge: extreme weather conditions. In winter, temperatures approach minus 30 degrees and recurring blizzards are often the cause of impressive pile-ups.

These extreme conditions benefit the breakdown companies. Some do not hesitate to take advantage of disorientated motorists and, in some cases, the result is bills running into several thousand dollars - bills that are both unjustified and illegal. It has become such a problem that special units have been set up to protect drivers.

Green Warriors: Paris Metro, Air Alert!



Premières Lignes- 2024 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

Millions of people take the metro to work every day. But how safe is the air in the Paris metro? We spent eight months measuring the levels of heavy metals in the fine particles throughout the Parisian underground network and the outskirts in 332 metro and RER stations.

We also investigated the impact of its air vents on the surrounding neighbourhoods. These vents emit much more polluted air than ambient air and the most contaminating ones might be hidden among Parisian buildings.

Bastien Berthier, 42, is a metro conductor. Since he started this job, his health has been deteriorating. He believes the pollution of the subway is responsible.

Our studies support Bastien's opinion. All metro and RER passengers are more exposed to heavy metals and the overall pollution level in the network is, on average, almost 5 times higher than the WHO thresholds. This excessive pollution is added to the ambient air of Paris which infiltrates the stations.

This new season of 'Green Warriors' investigates major global environmental scandals and confronts the industrial and political leaders implicated. Their investigations make headlines around the world.

Green Warriors: Asbestos, Our Sick Schools



Premières Lignes- 2024 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

Twenty-six years after its ban, asbestos, a carcinogenic material, is still present in many buildings in France, particularly schools. Over 85% of school buildings are likely to contain asbestos. Yet no one knows the exact extent of the danger. No official census of asbestos-contaminated schools has yet been carried out by the authorities. Meanwhile, according to figures from Santé Publique France, nearly 100 teachers die every year from mesothelioma: asbestos-related cancer. What about the children?

For a year, the 'Green Warriors' team investigated the number of schools in France still containing asbestos, contacting 50,000 schools and 35,000 mayors' offices. Dozens of samples were then taken in some of these establishments to measure asbestos contamination, with the help of scientists. The results had an unprecedented impact, resonating as far away as Kazakhstan, where unprecedented analyses were carried out by the 'Green Warriors' team. For the first time, people living near Kazakh asbestos mines can hold their authorities to account.

This new season of 'Green Warriors' investigates major global environmental scandals and confronts the industrial and political leaders implicated. Their investigations make headlines around the world.

Green Warriors: Flame Retardants



Premières Lignes- 2024 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

Since the 1970s, flame retardant chemicals have found their way into everything. From furniture and household appliances to toys and baby products. They work by starving a fire of oxygen for a short time, allowing more time to fight a fire before it gets out of control. But they only slow down fires by a few seconds and they have serious impacts on our health.

They are classified as hormone disruptors and suspected carcinogens. Firefighters are particularly exposed. Cases of cancer are multiplying. Some don't survive and die in silence.

With the help of American and European scientists, we spent a year investigating the dangers posed by these chemicals. We took dozens of samples across France to measure firefighters' contamination with flame retardants.

But this investigation goes beyond the case of firefighters alone. We discover how these toxic flame retardants are leaching into the environment and our drinking water. This new season of 'Green Warriors' investigates major global environmental scandals and confronts the industrial and political leaders implicated. Their investigations make headlines around the world.

The Sultanate of Brunei: The Kingdom of all Superlatives



Yemaya Prod - 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. 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. All-powerful, 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 Sultan's palace, Istana Nurul Iman. Worthy of a fairy tale, all 1788 rooms and 257 golden bathrooms are adorned with precious stones.

2000 of the world's most select guests will be present. As a welcome gift, they will receive diamond-encrusted jewelry. Princess's younger brother, Prince Mateen is the darling of the kingdom; he has become one of the most coveted bachelors in the world. An exclusive look at the most secretive, richest and the strictest sultanate in the world.

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.

Phantom Parrot



Rubix - 2023 - 52 & 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.



SERIES



Legendary

2022-2023
20 x 45 mins
ENG, FR

Producer:
Magneto Presse

Commissioned by:
France 2

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 Baumanière: The Legacy of Provence
- 20 Le Belles Rives Hotel in Juan-les-Pins: Life is a Party



2021-2023
18 x 52 mins
ENG, FR

Dangerous Roads

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

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Commissioned by:
W9

Episodes

- 1 Miami - Washington (2021)
- 2 The Rocky Mountains (2021)
- 3 Romania (2021)
- 4 Texas (2022)
- 5 Bulgaria (2022)
- 6 India (2022)
- 7 Spain (2022)
- 8 Los Angeles (2023)
- 9 Thailand (2023)
- 10 Albania (2023)
- 11 Poland (2023)
- 12 Florida (2023)
- 13 Mexico (2023)
- 14 Argentina (2023)
- 15 Canada (2023)
- 16 Sierra Nevada (2024)
- 17 Chicago (2024)
- 18 South Africa (2024)



2018 - 2024
12 x 52 mins
4 x 26 mins
ENG, FR

Green Warriors

Producer:
Premières Lignes
Commissioned by:
France 5

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...

Episodes

- 1 Indonesia: The World's Most Polluted River (2018, 52 mins)
- 2 South Africa's Toxic Townships (2018, 52 mins)
- 3 Paraguay's Poisoned Fields (2019, 52 mins)
- 4 Coal in the Lungs (2021, 52 mins)
- 5 Cursed Uranium (2021, 52 & 26 mins)
- 6 Soil Threat (2021, 52 & 26 mins)
- 7 Netherlands: Forever Chemicals (2023, 52 mins)
- 8 Iraq: Damned by Oil (2023, 52 & 26 mins)
- 9 Children of Lead (2023, 52 & 26 mins)
- 10 Paris Metro, Air Alert! (2024, 52 mins)
- 11 Asbestos, Our Sick Schools (2024, 52 mins)
- 12 Flame Retardants (2024, 52 mins)



Love & Sex

2013 - 2023
8 x 52 mins
ENG, FR

Around the World

Producers:

Ligne de Front
La Famiglia
Les Films de l'Odyssée
Tony Comiti Productions
Yemaya Productions

Commissioned by:
M6

Love may make the world go round but attitudes towards love, sex and relationships differ wildly all over the globe.

In China, the one-child policy has led to a surplus of male singles, and a new market has spread up around dating, while in Japan, women are growing tired of waiting for a man, and choosing to marry themselves instead. In India, we hear the story of the country's first openly - and illegally - gay prince, and witness huge and elaborate weddings. And in the USA, we meet the three-person polyamorous 'thruple' raising four children. In this series, we travel across the world to discover the differing attitudes to love and sex.

Episodes

- 1 Love and Sex in China (2013)
- 2 Love and Sex in Japan (2016)
- 3 Love and Sex in India (2018)
- 4 Love and Sex in the USA (2019)
- 5 Love and Sex in Russia (2020)
- 6 Love and Sex in Scandinavia (2021)
- 7 Love and Sex in West Africa (2022)
- 8 Love and Sex in Italy (2023)

Planet Killers: The Godfather of Oceans



Premières Lignes- 2023 - 52 mins - ENG, FR

Junchung Wu is head of one of the most powerful criminal networks on the planet, trafficking endangered totoaba fish,

Known as the cocaine of the sea, 1 kilo of totoaba is worth more than its weight in cocaine. Totoaba swim bladders are used in Chinese traditional medicine, driving up its value. The trafficking of totoaba is considered one of the most violent illicit trades in the world. China has requested that Interpol issue the red notice on Junchung Wu, currently believed to be in Tijuana, Mexico.

The traffickers catch totoaba fish with gillnets which are indiscriminate killers of the endemic species, 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, boats stormed, and even hit with Molotov cocktails.

The illicit trade is managed by the Sinolao cartel in Mexico, via the so-called Sea Cartel, alongside the Chinese mafia who provide the finances and are the key to the 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 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. As subject of an Interpol red notice, he 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.



Dicing with Death - Deadliest Journeys

2008-2024
109 x 52 mins
90 x 30 mins
ENG, FR

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

Producer: Dodging avalanches in Siberia. Jumping onto moving trains in Mexico.
Toni Comiti Productions 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.

Commissioned by: France 5

Latest Episodes

- 1 : Mongolia (2024)
- 2 : Nigeria (2024)
- 3 : Alaska (2024)
- 4 : Balkans (2024)
- 5 : Burundi (2024)
- 6 : Chad: The Desert Takes on Water (2024)
- 7 : India: Of God and Men (2023)
- 8 : Sumatra: Cursed Treasures (2023)
- 9 : Guatemala (2023)
- 10 : Kenya (2023)
- 11 : Venezuela: The Curse of Black Gold (2022)
- 12 : Congo: Thrill of the River (2022)
- 13 : South Sudan (2022)
- 14 : Peru: From the River to the Jungle (2022)
- 15 : Guinea: Life on a Thread (2022)
- 16 : Afghanistan: Valley of Merchants (2021)
- 17 : Nepal: On the Brink (2021)
- 18 : Madagascar: Satan's Corridor (2021)
- 19 : Colombia: Intrepid of the Andes (2021)
- 20 : Ukraine: Mists of Carpathians (2021)
- 21 : India/Bangladesh (2020)
- 22 : Jamaica (2020)

- 23 : Bolivia: Yungas in the Clouds (2020)
- 24 : Botswana: Run for your Life (2020)
- 25 : Mauritania: Desert Drivers (2020)
- 26 : Ivory Coast: Gold & Cocoa (2020)
- 27 : Brazil: Dust & Fire (2020)
- 28 : Zambia: Life Goes On (2019)
- 29 : Bhutan: Happiness at all Costs (2019)
- 30 : Namibia: The Devil's Cauldron (2019)
- 31 : Siberia: Land of Ice People (2019)
- 32 : Armenia (2019)
- 33 : Congo: Jungle Messengers (2019)
- 34 : Cuba: Viva la Vida (2019)
- 35 : Ghana: Business on the Go (2018)
- 36 : Nicaragua (2018)
- 37 : India: Himalayan Tightrope Walkers (2018)
- 38 : Guatemala: Land of the Maya (2018)
- 39 : Paraguay: Unconquerables of Chaco (2018)
- 40 : Lesotho: The Snow Kingdom (2018)
- 41 : Philippines: Man & Monsoon (2018)
- 42 : Peru: Vertigo in the Andes (2018)
- 43 : Sierra Leone: The Urge to Live (2018)
- 44 : Myanmar: No Fear (2018)
- 45 : Malawi: Spirits of the Mist (2018)
- 46 : Argentina (2017)
- 47 : Kazakhstan (2017)
- 48 : Australia (2017)
- 49 : Argentina (2017)
- 50 : Kazakhstan (2017)

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

CRYPTOQUEEN

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

Crypto Queen:

The Onecoin Scam

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

Producer:
A&O Buero

Director:
Johan von
Mirbach

Commissioned
by: ARTE & NDR

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

Producer: Yuzu Productions
Directors: Jérôme Sesquin, Nitzan Perelman

In the space of a year, Israeli democracy has wavered. From the judicial reform that deeply divided the country during the first nine months of the year, to the war against Hamas that followed the tragedy of the 7 October massacre by the terrorist organisation, Benjamin Netanyahu's government, the most right-wing in the country's history, has continued to deepen the internal divisions in Israeli society and has led the country to face the worst existential threat in its history since its creation in 1948.

Commissioned by: ARTE

Two men embody the radical initiatives of this government. Two leading ministers who occupy regalian functions: Internal Security and Finance. Their names: Itamar Ben Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich. Two complete unknowns on the international scene, brought to light by the events of recent months. They are the heirs of two ideological currents that were once marginal: Kahanism and religious Zionism. Today, they are throwing all their weight behind their ideological agenda: imposing Jewish supremacist legislation in the case of the former, and re-founding biblical Israel in the case of the latter.

Who are they? What do they want? What is their background?

An investigation into two men whose strategy is to sow chaos in order to advance their ultimate project: to impose Jewish law on "Greater Israel", from the sea to the Jordan River, and thus definitively annex the West Bank, Gaza and even beyond.

True Believer:

Producer: EuropaCorp

And God created Trump

Director: Laurence Haïm

Produced by Luc and Virginie Besson and directed by Laurence Haïm, one of the few journalists permanently accredited on Donald Trump's press plane during the 2016 election, this is a unique look at the 2024 Presidential election.

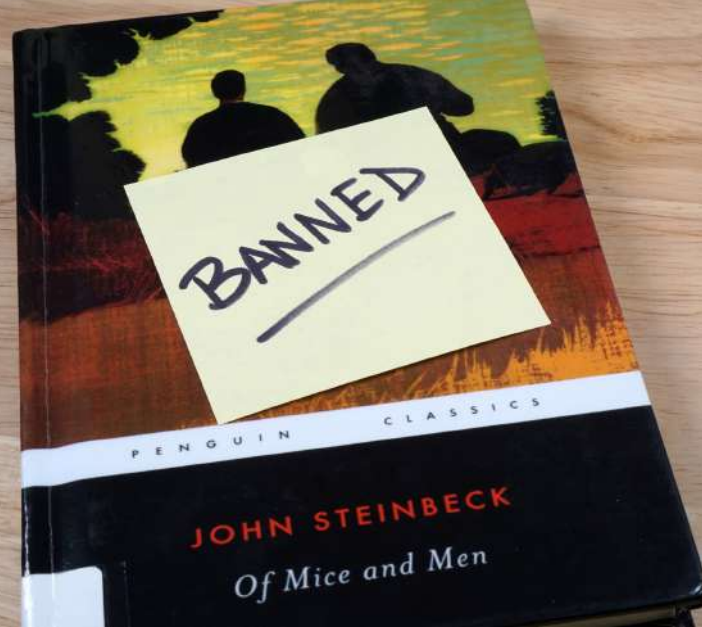
Commissioned by: France 2

How is it that the country with the largest number of scientists in the world, which is inventing the technologies of tomorrow, is on the verge of tearing itself apart? How is it that Trump is succeeding in this tour de force, rallying to his cause the ultra-rich, the ultra-poor and part of the middle class? Even more incomprehensible, why is this man, who is being prosecuted in 91 cases, whose background and behaviour is the very antithesis of that of a saint, being hailed as 'God Sent'. How did it come to this?

To deconstruct and understand the Trump of 2024, Haïm has been following him since the beginning of his campaign, immersed as closely as possible with his team and supporters. This is a road movie about AmericaTrump, the candidate and his supporters in an increasingly fractured America: an America disillusioned, split in two, sometimes conspiratorial and convinced that it can only regain its power with the help of 'God, Guns & Trump'. Without descending into caricatures, it captures the essence of the Trump campaign and this new populist democracy: the America of 2024.

Ready July 2024

Ready September 2024



International Adoptions:

A Global Scandal

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

Library Wars

- Producers: : Cultural wars have transformed politics in the US into identity politics
 Temps Noir : dividing the electorate and calcifying political differences and party loyalties.
 FilmOptional : For the past decades, abortion divided the country and the voters. Now it's
 International : public libraries that have been transformed into the new battlefields in
 : America's cultural wars.
 Director: :
 Ilan Ziv : According to the American Library Association (ALA), book bans and
 : attempted book bans have hit record highs and have spread beyond school
 Commissioned by: : libraries to targeting public libraries. The vast majority of the books targeted
 ARTE : are children's literature, including classics like 'Where's Wally' (which
 : featured a topless beachgoer), 'Winnie the Pooh' (because talking animals
 : are offensive to God) and 'Harriet the Spy' (for setting a bad example to children).

One organization that has taken the fight against "offensive books" to a whole new level is Moms For Liberty. It has become notorious for targeting libraries. Using the rhetoric of 'parental rights', it has spearheaded the growing opposition to the discussion of gender and sexuality in the classroom. Librarians caught up in this culture war have found themselves branded as pedophiles and lost their jobs: libraries have been defunded and the ALA is facing the biggest challenge in its history.

How can one explain this seemingly sudden focus on books, in school and public libraries? What is behind this rise in censorship? This film follows four distinct stories that illuminate and explain the evolution of this newest battleground in America's long culture war.

Ready September 2024

Ready September 2024



OnlyFans:

Producer: **The New Sex Workers**

Slugnews

Platforms like MYM and OnlyFans are transforming the sex industry.

Directors: More than just channels for selling nude photos or videos: they're also

Lila Berdugo communication platforms, enabling 'fans' to connect with and proposition 'content creators'. But who are the people behind the webcams? What have

been their experiences? We spoke to hundreds of creators to find out.

Commissioned by: Unsurprisingly, they are almost exclusively female, usually between the ages of 18 and 27. Professionals. Influencers. Students in precarious situations.

France TV Slash

Some have a few dozen followers. Others have tens of thousands. Mado, 24, is a novice and in a similar position to the vast majority of creators for these platforms. She has only a few subscribers so offers her content very cheaply and feels a great pressure to gain more visibility - even if it means quickly testing her limits. She's our entry point into this world because with Mado, we quickly come to explore the first steps: the scams, the naivety too.

"When you start out on these platforms with limits, it's obvious that you're not going to keep them. There's so much money on offer", explains Noochka. Via live messages, customers can ask for content without censorship. Violent "kinks", fetishization, racist fantasies, and sometimes pedophilia. The webgirls find themselves alone, faced with the darker sides of their clients' sexuality. Through our characters' stories, we show how these applications have turned their lives upside down. From the constant pressure to post content all the time to the difficulties in separating out their private lives. A rare, up-close and personal account of the lives of these new sex workers.

Ready October 2024

The Social Trap:

Producer: **5 Women vs the Big 5**

Babel Doc

Adolescents who are connected to their smartphones for more than 5 hours

Director: a day are 66% more likely to suffer suicidal symptoms than those who use

Elisa Jadot it for 1 hour a day. 44 U.S. states are currently suing Meta, blaming it for the malaise of an entire generation. Faced with powerful tech giants like

Commissioned by: Meta, Tiktok, Snapchat, X and Discord, how can we protect children and their childhood? For the first time in history, state legislators and parents in the USA and Europe are joining forces to fight the digital giants. Among them are 5 women who have chosen to turn their daily lives upside down to fight back against the Big 5.

France 5

Alexis, Elisabet, Sofia, Laure and Socheata. They are victims, mothers, doctors and lawyers. They're all behind a movement to change the destiny of future generations. Alexis, a victim of screen addiction, was amongst the first to take Meta to court, accusing it of "inciting suicide". Elisabet is a mother of three, in just a few days, over 10,000 parents joined her WhatsApp group to fight for a 'phone-free youth'. As a result, the state has banned smartphones in schools. Sofia is a psychiatrist and pioneer in the treatment of screen addiction in children, some are as young as seven. Socheata has been involved in the fight ever since her son was manipulated by an Internet predator. She has joined an association and works alongside cybercrime police officers to track down pedophiles. Laure is a lawyer determined to change the laws that protect the Big 5. Through the struggles of these women, we will discover that digital control is a major public health and safety issue that goes beyond what we imagine.

Ready December 2024



The Science of Boredom

Producer: A & O Buero : In our fast-paced, always-on world, stress and burnout are skyrocketing. But now scientists have discovered an unexpected way out of the hamster wheel: boredom. Boredom is much more than pointless idleness. It sparks creativity and refreshes our brains. Yet, too much can lead to "bore-out," a stress akin to burnout. Find out why we should all goof off more in this fascinating film that proves boredom is anything but dull.

Commissioned by: ARTE : The statistics are concerning: one in three people experiences work-related stress, and over half feel overwhelmed by the digital overload. The toll of multitasking and constant availability is evident, with stress-related illnesses skyrocketing, even among teenagers. One contributing factor to this epidemic could be the disappearance of boredom as we speed up our lives. By constantly reaching for our smartphones and inundating ourselves with social media updates, we deprive our brains of the chance to enter idle mode, with significant repercussions, as cautioned by scientists.

Boredom is not merely about a lack of stimulation but also involves a subjective sense of challenge. It can fuel creativity and social interaction, yet it can also contribute to a range of illnesses, including depression, high blood pressure, addiction, and eating disorders. It has the power to propel individuals to greatness or push them to the brink of despair. In an engaging and visually captivating manner, this film explores the dynamics of overwork, underwork, and boredom through diverse scientific lenses, offering profound insights into our brains, our psyche, and the evolution of humanity.

PAST HIGHLIGHTS



Ready July 2025



Poison(s)

The list of people believed to have been poisoned on Putin's orders goes on and on. For twenty years, Russian poison has run through the veins of international diplomacy. Among all the killings, several high-profile cases have made their mark. What goes on behind the scenes as they take shape sheds light on the relationship between the Kremlin and the West. Behind each of these cases, there is a tug of war, with major diplomatic and geostrategic issues. Struggles for influence, attacks on the integrity of the empire and its energy resources, each poisoning reveals the underside of a formidable game of chess in the line of the Cold War, and lays the foundations of what has been played out since the beginning of the conflict with Ukraine.



Hezbollah Inc

It's widely recognised as a terrorist organisation. But 42 years on, the 'Party of God', remains stronger than ever. It has transformed itself from a small paramilitary group backed by Iran into an omnipotent political party with the largest private army in the world. A 'state within a state', whose extensive charity network ensures the popular support of the Shiite community, while its military wing attempts to redraw the borders of the region and erase Israel from the map. But in 2008, after amassing evidence that Hezbollah was earning up to \$1 billion a year running an international crime syndicate trafficking in drugs, money laundering and other criminal activities, the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) set up a secret mission to 'bring down Hezbollah'. It was called 'Project Cassandra'.



Flash Wars

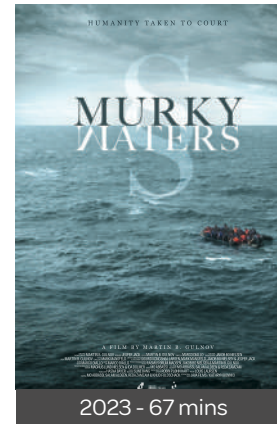
'Flash Wars' dives into the disturbing world of autonomous weapons. Since the invasion of Ukraine, many things that once seemed like science fiction have become reality. The AI arms race that experts had warned about for years is now real. It will not only shape the wars of the future but will transform the way we think about security at the "homefront", with police and private security forces hungry for new tech. AI promises superiority in all weapon categories, higher efficiency and a dramatic increase of operational speed. First, there was the invention of gunpowder, then the atomic bomb. Now we find ourselves at the threshold of another dramatic escalation in the field of armed conflict.



Nenets vs Gas

In the heart of the Arctic, the Yamal peninsula is the world's largest gas exploitation zone - a symbol of Russia's energy hyperpower. But the Yamal peninsula is also the ancestral home of the Nenets, who have been pasturing here for over 200 generations. But for how much longer? Can they survive this industrialisation?

Today in Yamal, pastures have given way to gas fields. 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. What shape will the fight between these two worlds take?



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.

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.



Kabul Beauty

Their names are Sofia and Nigina. They're Afghans, beautiful, proud, best friends. And, without knowing it, icons of Kabul's idle 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.

We began filming the day after the Taliban came to power on August 15th 2021. The new rulers of Afghanistan promised the world that they have changed. For a year and a half, as the extremists impose new laws on Afghans, especially women, we follow the two friends in their beauty salon and across the Afghan capital.



2023 - 90 & 52 mins

Click Bet

All over Europe, sports betting sites prey on the vulnerable, luring them into addiction. The majority of these platforms belong to powerful multinationals who resist regulation. Gambling addiction has become an emergency, a key public health issue around the world.

Today, in many countries, betting companies still face no regulation or restrictions on their marketing, free bets, VIP schemes, or sports sponsorships. Our investigation reveals the ugly truth behind this predatory industry. We hear the personal stories of those whose lives were ruined by sports gambling.



2023 - 67 & 52 mins

Don't Come Back

July 2017, Mosul is freed but is left in ruins. Ghadeer, a young journalist who fled to Brussels when Mosul fell into the hands of ISIS decides to abandon the promise of a future in Europe to return home. He and several friends create Radio One FM, a radio station independent from any religious, communitarianist or political ties, to promote peaceful coexistence in a war-torn society. The first two years are utopic for the team of journalists. 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 leave the country once again teetering on the brink of civil war.

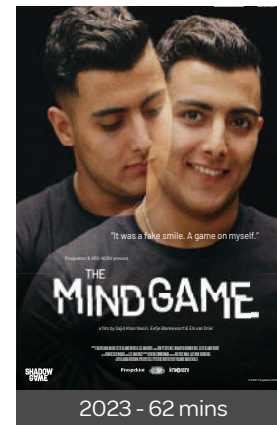


2022 - 60 mins

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...



2023 - 62 mins

The Mind Game

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

Throughout his long journey, Sajid was convinced that when he arrives in Europe, he would 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?

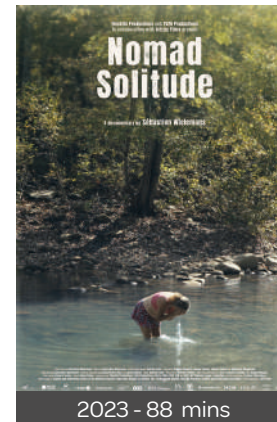


2023 - 83 & 58 mins

Handmade

"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.

This film offers a glimpse into stop-motion animation production today, as well as rare archive material from stop-motion animation history. This debut film is a tribute to the art of stop-motion animation, and an ode to the perseverance and creativity of the Nukufilm studio.



2023 - 88 mins

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. With no money to spare, these three sixty-year old women are fleeing 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 an unexpected national crisis.. Will they manage to find the serenity they are looking for, in order to become someone again?

