



Selection
Spring/Summer 2022

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Africa from Above

Take to the skies to see *Africa from Above*, a stunning series showing a fresh perspective of the continent. Each episode takes viewers on a spectacular aerial adventure, soaring over natural wonders and diverse habitats.

From the air, we gain fresh insight into the wild animals who have adapted to flourish in sometimes inhospitable surroundings, from mountains and jungles to vast desert dunes, and on the dramatic and contrasting coastlines of the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, and the Mediterranean Sea.

The series also celebrates the people who live and work in various countries, from vibrant cities to deep in the African bush, and explores their history, architecture, engineering and industries — to uncover how they live in some of the most extreme environments on Earth.

We fly with expert conservationists, adventurers, and extreme athletes, landing to explore the most spectacular points of interest along the way. An uplifting and visually captivating series that shows the remarkable diversity of the continent.

Wildlife & Nature

10 x 50' or 3 x 50' UHD

Scheduled for Summer 2022

Produced by Off the Fence for ZDF Enterprises in association with ZDF, Arte, ORF and UKTV

COMING SOON

Wildlife & Nature

4 Lions versus Hyenas

Although behavioural scientists have been studying and documenting the ecology of African predators for years, few animals are so misunderstood by the public as lions and hyenas. We are all familiar with the cliché of lions as the noble 'kings of the savannah' against the hyenas' reputation of being cowardly devious scavengers.

The two-part series *Lions versus Hyenas* corrects this misconception and provides a fresh perspective of these ancient adversaries. Reality often proves to be the opposite of viewers' frequently held prejudices.

Wildlife filmmaker and long-time Africa expert Reinhard Radke has long been fascinated by documenting the conflict between lions and hyenas, showing the adaptations of these rivals, their different hunting techniques, and family structures. The result is an impressive portrait of two extraordinary, often misunderstood, competitors and hunters.

Wildlife & Nature

2 x 50' UHD
Produced by Doclights/NDR Naturfilm
in association with NDR
distributed by ZDF Enterprises

NEW





The Secret Life of Badgers

Our forests are filled with creatures, some of them very familiar to us, and others not. There is one inhabitant everyone thinks they know — but hardly anyone ever gets to see: the badger.

This documentary shows that, contrary to their reputation as grumpy loners, badgers have close family bonds. Follow a female badger and her two cubs as they learn to walk and take a few shaky steps outside. Get to know the entire badger clan and the creatures who share their habitat as the seasons change, and the badgers prepare for the long months of hibernation in winter.

This remarkable documentary finally reveals the secrets of the elusive creatures, showing them as they really are — clever omnivores, skilled master builders, and social family animals.

Wildlife & Nature

1 x 50' UHD
Produced by Doclights/NDR Naturfilm
 and Ego Film for NDR
 in association with Arte and nordmedia
 distributed by ZDF Enterprises

NEW



Grimms' Forest: The Nature of Fairy Tales

The image of romantic forests filled with mystical creatures, in part influenced by the fairy tales and legends of the Brothers Grimm, still shapes our perception of nature. But where did these stories originate, and was there a kernel of truth on which they are based?

Grimms' Forest is a wildlife documentary with a twist. It explains the symbolism and meaning behind both well-known and more obscure stories, and combines these observations with insights into nature and animal behaviour. For instance, the big bad wolf in Little Red Riding Hood symbolises an intelligent but evil man, and the fairy tale likely influenced how wolves are perceived as dangerous loners. Yet, wolves are actually highly sociable animals who live in families and hunt in packs.

This wildlife documentary is particularly suited for a viewing slot over the festive period.

Wildlife & Nature

1 x 50' UHD
Produced by Doclights/NDR Naturfilm for NDR
 distributed by ZDF Enterprises

NEW



Equator – The Line of Life

The equator wraps Earth in a 40,000 kilometre ribbon of sunlight, abundance and astonishing nature. In doing so, it crosses the continents of Africa, Asia, and America, as well as the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans.

Scientists refer to it as the cradle of life because all species first arose here, and as the museum of life because creatures here rarely go extinct. Now, as the warmest region of our planet gets hotter because of global warming, the equatorial paradise is changing.

Equator – The Line Of Life is an engrossing series that explores this change while revelling in the fascinating beauty of this amazing place that holds the greatest biodiversity on Earth.

Wildlife & Nature

12 x 50' or 3 x 50'
Produced by Primitive Entertainment
 and Spiegel TV
 in association with ZDF, Arte, NHK,
 Discovery Canada and ZDF Enterprises

AVAILABLE



Rescued Chimpanzees of the Congo with Jane Goodall

In the second season about the chimp sanctuary Tchimpounga, we shift our focus to its future. We reconnect with familiar faces, such as Dr. Rebeca Atencia, and of course the leading conservationist Jane Goodall – and not forgetting the chimps like Wounda, Lemba, or Anzac. Our unique access enabled us to delve deeper into the science behind chimp rehabilitation.

Join us and a group of very special chimps on their captivating journey towards their release. Guided by experts like chimp psychologist Dr. Alexandra Rosati, we'll see first-hand what it takes to be part of the release group and we'll discover deeper truths about chimp society – and our closest relatives.

Wildlife & Nature

12 x 50'
 5 EP and 1 x 50' special (S01) available
 6 EP (S02) in production
S02 scheduled for Autumn 2022
Produced by Off the Fence Productions
 with the support of the Jane Goodall Institute
 for CuriosityStream
 in association with ZDF Enterprises

SEASON 2 IN PRODUCTION

Science & Knowledge

Going Circular

Going Circular unlocks the secrets to an innovative concept called circularity, an economic system based on the idea that nothing should go to waste. It's a deceptively simple idea that is at the heart of nature and the natural world, but very few of us actually live this way. And yet, it has the potential to save our planet's resources and save us from the ravages of future climate change.

The film tells the story of four visionaries from around the world, whose thinking shapes and informs the concept of circularity: 102-year-old inventor Dr. James Lovelock, biomimicry biologist Janine Benyus, engineer and designer Arthur Huang, and financier John Fullerton. The extraordinary experiences of these very different people changed the way they think about humanity's future.

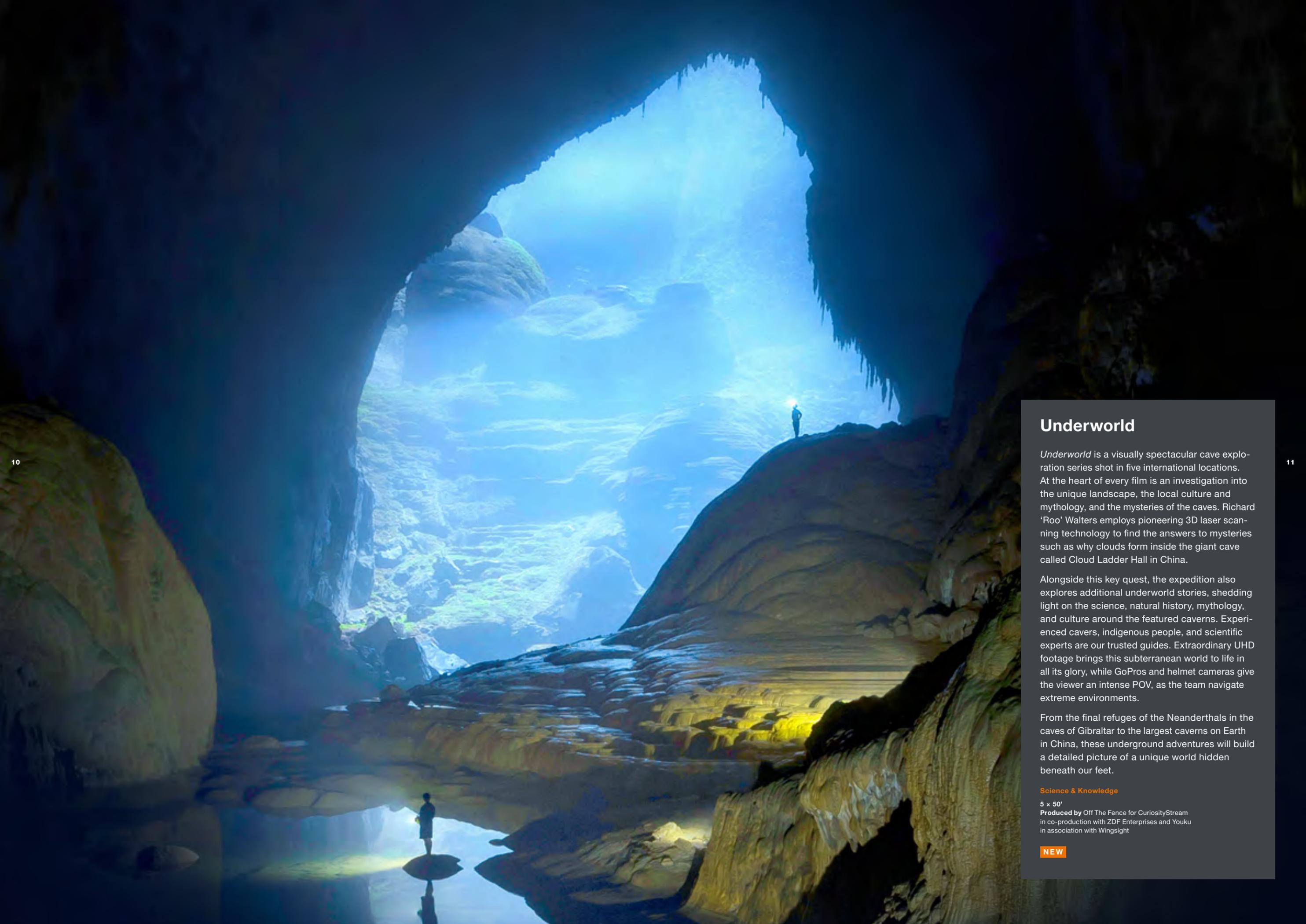
Through the deeply personal transformation of each visionary profiled, the film explores concrete solutions individuals and communities are using to move toward a more circular society, rethinking everything from our food, our cities, our financial system, even our fashion industry.

Science & Knowledge

1 x 90'
Produced by Off the Fence for CuriosityStream
in association with ZDF Enterprises, ZDF, and Arte

NEW





Underworld

Underworld is a visually spectacular cave exploration series shot in five international locations. At the heart of every film is an investigation into the unique landscape, the local culture and mythology, and the mysteries of the caves. Richard 'Roo' Walters employs pioneering 3D laser scanning technology to find the answers to mysteries such as why clouds form inside the giant cave called Cloud Ladder Hall in China.

Alongside this key quest, the expedition also explores additional underworld stories, shedding light on the science, natural history, mythology, and culture around the featured caverns. Experienced cavers, indigenous people, and scientific experts are our trusted guides. Extraordinary UHD footage brings this subterranean world to life in all its glory, while GoPros and helmet cameras give the viewer an intense POV, as the team navigate extreme environments.

From the final refuges of the Neanderthals in the caves of Gibraltar to the largest caverns on Earth in China, these underground adventures will build a detailed picture of a unique world hidden beneath our feet.

Science & Knowledge

5 x 50'
Produced by Off The Fence for CuriosityStream
in co-production with ZDF Enterprises and Youku
in association with Wingsight

NEW



AI: The Last Invention

Imagine a future in which we build artificial brains that expand our abilities and make us more powerful than ever before – a super-intelligence that is even smarter than us humans.

Today, artificial intelligence is already in cars, smartphones, and machines. But what will our future look like with artificial

intelligence? Scientists see enormous opportunities in this technology – but also extraordinary risks. Can we control artificial intelligence that is smarter than us?

This docudrama tells a compelling fictional story based on contemporary analyses and scientific research. World-leading scientists comment on selected scenes and show us their visions of the future with illustrative CGI.

This film gives a fictional, but at the same time, shockingly realistic idea of our not-so-distant future, which – in a way – has already begun in our present-day world.

Science & Knowledge

2 x 50' or 1 x 90'
Scheduled for Spring 2022
Produced by Gruppe 5 for ZDF and ZDF Enterprises

COMING SOON



Incredible Canals

Canals are impressive masterpieces of human engineering. Join us for a closer look at three of the most well-known waterways of great historical and economic relevance.

The first is Canal du Midi, built under Louis XIV, which provided Toulouse with access to the Mediterranean Sea some 200 kilometres away. Today, it is the oldest canal still in use in Europe and a UNESCO World Heritage site.

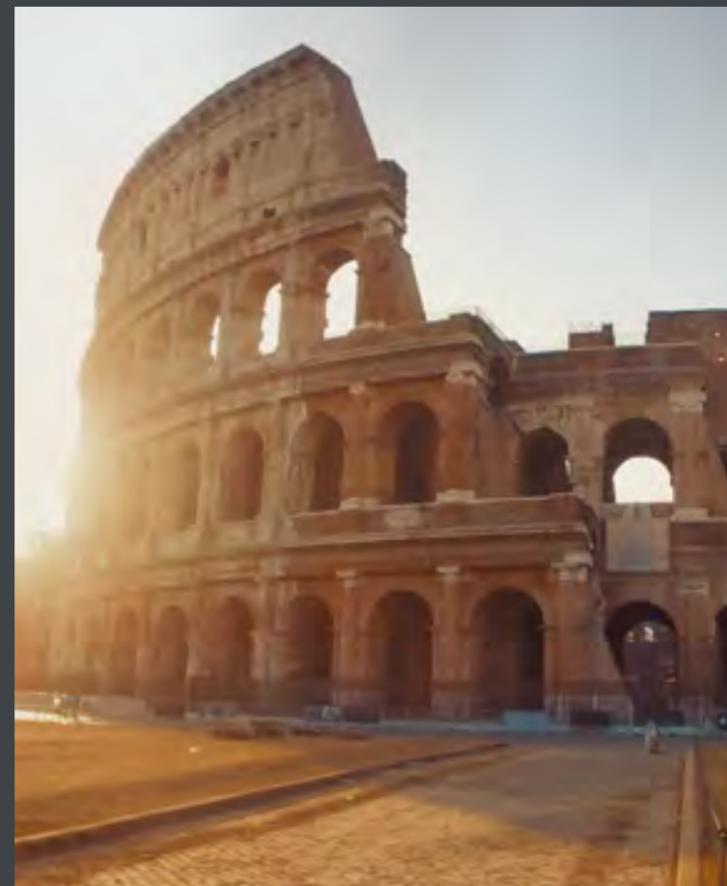
The documentary also explores the Canal de Bourgogne, built at the end of the 18th century, which connected the Mediterranean Sea with the Atlantic. Finally, we explore the Grand Canal of Alsace, which was built over 100 years later and is mainly used to generate electricity.

Explore the history and engineering behind these technological works of art in this fascinating documentary.

Science & Knowledge

1 x 50'
Scheduled for Spring 2022
Produced by Pernel Media
in association with RMC Découverte

COMING SOON



Ancient Engineering

After the great success of season 1, the second season of *Ancient Engineering* continues to unearth the secrets of the early engineers who pioneered the techniques that we still see in use today in buildings and monuments around the world.

We explore a variety of extraordinary structures and inventions, designed by past masters, that changed the world in which we live. Ten episodes cover a range of topics such as the creation of ancient stadiums and deadly weapons, answer questions such as how gold changed the world, and explore how some of the most important tools and technologies were developed.

We delve deep into the extraordinary engineering behind historical house building, how the first bridges were built, how ancient civilisations built the Americas, and the secrets behind the world's first waterways. Each episode reveals how these pioneering designs still influence the engineers of today and continue to shape our modern world.

Science & Knowledge

20 x 50'
10 EP (S01) available, 10 EP (S02) in production
S02 scheduled for Summer 2022
Produced by Off the Fence for CuriosityStream
in association with ZDF Enterprises

SEASON 2 IN PRODUCTION

History & Biographies



¹⁴ The Lost Pirate Kingdom

Pirates are the stuff of myth and legend – swashbuckling outlaws who bring murder and mayhem to the high seas. But these rogues are not a Hollywood invention. They are all too real.

The true pirates of the Caribbean struck terror into the world's most powerful empires, threatened trade, and liberated slaves. These Robin Hoods of the sea changed the course of history by creating their own democratic republic in Nassau. Pirates, and their fight for freedom, are the pioneers of American independence.

The Lost Pirate Kingdom tells the legendary exploits of the heroes and villains of this remarkable epoch. This ambitious, six-part drama documentary reveals the squabbling, the greed, the battles, the heroism, the politics, the alliances, and the betrayals of the most flamboyant and ruthless characters in history.

History & Biographies

6 x 50'
Produced by World Media Rights
in association with Netflix
and ZDF Enterprises

NEW



The Year that Rocked the World

Some years are more memorable than others. *The Year that Rocked the World* takes us back to iconic years in human history, years that stand out due to shocking events, incredible human achievements, or life-changing moments.

Told through the personal recollections of expert contributors such as John Simpson (BBC News), Nicholas Thompson (CEO of The Atlantic), musician Kym Mazelle, and playwright and critic Bonnie Greer, the series relives stunning global moments with stories from the worlds of politics, crime, natural disasters, celebrity news, and scientific breakthroughs.

From the celebration of the fall of the Berlin Wall to the horror of the Indian Ocean tsunami, the shocking death of Princess Diana, and the revolutionary invention of Google, each episode takes us around the planet and into the past. What led up to the events of these incredible years, and how did they change the course of history to create the world as we know it today?

History & Biographies

5 x 50'

Produced by Off the Fence for CuriosityStream in association with ZDF Enterprises and ZDFinfo

NEW



Crime Scene: Antiquity

Crime has been around since the beginning of human-kind. History tells stories of rage and hate, greed and suffering, death and destruction. Nothing lets us look deeper into the dark abyss of a past epoch than the murders and misdeeds committed during it. But many crimes of the past remain unsolved today. The perpetrators were not identified or punished, and evidence hasn't been presented against them — until now.

Modern technology can solve the unsolvable cases of the past, revealing the truth about crimes committed even thousands of years ago.

In the five-part documentary series *Crime Scene: Antiquity*, profilers, weapons experts, geneticists, and historians use modern forensics and experimental archaeology to identify the criminals. In the process, they shed light on the darkness of historical criminal cases and provide answers to long-forgotten questions.

History & Biographies

5 x 50'

Produced by taglicht media Film- und Fernsehproduktion for ZDFinfo in association with ZDF Enterprises

AVAILABLE



Cold Case

The violent murder of an Egyptian pharaoh, the inexplicable disappearance of two young princes, or the questionable suicide of a troubled artist – the futuristic series *Cold Case* reopens the darkest chapters of history. Using modern forensic science techniques and criminalistics, we revisit infamous cold cases such as Ramses III, King Richard and the two Princes, and Vincent Van Gogh.

Renowned *Black Panther* actor Florence Kasumba guides the audience through six unsolved cases, supported by CI experts. 360° virtual imaging places the viewer at the scene of the crime, with film noir aesthetics and chilling documentary sections turning history into a thriller. Accompany Florence as she examines evidence and witness statements, separates fact from fiction, and develops new theories about what really happened.

History & Biographies

6 x 50'

Produced by Story House Productions in association with ZDF, Arte and ZDF Enterprises

NEW



The Abyss: Rise and Fall of the Nazis

Europe in the 1920s and 1930s – a continent licks its wounds after the devastation of World War I. In this fertile breeding ground for dissent, authoritarian regimes are on the rise.

The Abyss: Rise and Fall of the Nazis takes a fresh look at the Third Reich from a global and current perspective. It tells us how the Nazis conquered Germany and then half of Europe within a few years. How could that be, with the horrors of World War I still so fresh? Why did it take so long before they were stopped? A combination of previously unpublished archive material, historical sources, and an international team of experts paint a new picture of Hitler's regime.

The series unpacks the complex sequence of events that enabled the new regime, and allowed violence and brutality to unfold on an unbelievable scale. A look at history with direct relevance to the world today.

History & Biographies

10 x 50'
Produced by ECO Media TV Produktion
in association with ZDF Enterprises for ZDFinfo

AVAILABLE

Frontlines

Frontlines presents a roll call of desperate courage: Midway, Anzio, Monte Cassino, Omaha, Hill 112, Bastogne, Iwo Jima and Berlin. Moments and locations where luck and quick thinking often proved as critical as planning and firepower. Compelling first-person testimony, unique locations, cutting-edge analysis, and vivid storytelling bring these crucial WW II front lines alive and dispel common myths. Told not only from the foxhole, bunker or cockpit, but also by those in vital support roles.

This revealing series takes us around the globe, bringing historical events to life from all angles, providing particular insights into the often crude medical treatments and long-term psychological trauma. *Frontlines* takes you deep into the heart of the action, to reveal the turning points in some of the war's most decisive confrontations.

History & Biographies

8 x 50'
Produced by Impossible Factual
in association with ZDF Enterprises

AVAILABLE



Inside Japan's War

Inside Japan's War adds a dimension to our understanding of the Second World War in the Asia-Pacific region. The series features the Japanese perspective: Why did Japan fight? What was the Japanese strategy? What was the Japanese objective? What was it like to live in Japan during the years of victory – and the years of complete devastation?

Using the chronology of the Japanese war experience as the series' structure, *Inside Japan's War* combines still and moving image archives, personal accounts, expert interviews, contemporary images, and graphics and animation

to give insight into how Japan succeeded in rapidly establishing one of the largest empires the world has ever seen. And we find out why utter devastation followed, and what it meant to be Japanese during those tumultuous years.

This is not a war story – but it is a story about war.

History & Biographies

4 x 50'
Produced by Wildbear Entertainment
in association with ZDF Enterprises

NEW



War Gamers

It is 1st January 1942. U-boat attacks have reduced Britain's supply line from the United States to a trickle. If Britain runs out of supplies, it will lose the war.

Churchill thumps on the table and demands that the Royal Navy determine why Hitler's U-boats are winning the Atlantic war. The Royal Navy recalls an officer, Gilbert Roberts, who had left the force due to injury. He is brought back because he has a unique talent: he knows how to recruit and train war gamers. With a dedicated team, he can unpick the German U-boat strategy and work out how to defeat the opposing force.

But there's one problem: there are no male officers available to join a war gaming school. They are all at sea. Captain Roberts, undaunted, recruits a team of women – all members of the Women's Royal Naval Service (WRENS). Most are in their twenties. He finds a mathematical prodigy, an accountant, and even a top-class hockey player. None of the women has

ever been to sea. Together these WRENS unpick how the U-boats are sinking so many British and American ships, and they devise tactics to defeat them.

On 5th May 1943 their tactics are used against the largest fleet of German U-boats ever to attack a convoy. The convoy is ONS.5. In a massive battle, which stretches from Iceland far out into the mid-Atlantic, the U-boats are frustrated and defeated by the WRENS' war gaming.

The Germans call the month of that battle 'Black May'. In 31 days, they lose 41 U-boats. In the end, Grand Admiral Doenitz reluctantly withdraws his U-boats from the Atlantic.

But the WRENS' story has never been told – until now.

History & Biographies

6 x 50'
Scheduled for Autumn 2022
Produced by World Media Rights for CuriosityStream
in association with ZDF Enterprises

IN PRODUCTION



Our Continents

They are the building blocks of our world. They represent the amazing diversity of nature and culture on our planet. Continents shape our life as we know it today.

The story of the six inhabited continents starts long before the arrival of humankind. The milestones of their geology, climate, flora and fauna have also influenced our path and the evolution of the many faces of human civilisations fundamentally.

Each episode travels back to the birth of a continent. Geology, weather, climate, ocean currents, the migration of the species, and human settlement are the milestones of the epic journey each continent takes. It is the unexpected links between the continents that forms the heart of the series.

The six-part series *Our Continents* reveals a rich treasure trove of remarkable findings that connect history, science, and everyday culture of the world.

History & Biographies

6 x 50' UHD
Scheduled for Autumn 2022
Produced by Story House Productions for ZDF
in association with Arte and ZDF Enterprises

IN PRODUCTION



Planet of Treasures

Humankind has long produced lists of remarkable feats of creation, from the ancient seven wonders of the world to the UNESCO list of World Heritage sites, which currently number 1,121 treasures. Almost half of these sites are threatened by natural disasters, war, urbanisation, or decay.

In *Planet of Treasures*, historian Sir Christopher Clark takes the viewer around the globe to explore mind-blowing World Heritage sites. His path leads from the Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt to the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania, from the Palace of the Winds in India to the Jordanian desert, from the lagoon city of Venice to the Mexican city of Teotihuacan, and the city of Hue in Vietnam, along with many other impressive cultural sites and natural monuments.

This six-part series takes viewers on a whirlwind trip around the world to discover the world's most impressive historical sites and understand their significance.

History & Biographies

6 x 50' or 3 x 50' UHD
Produced by interscience film for ZDF
in association with ZDF Enterprises

AVAILABLE



Ancient Apocalypse

Ancient Apocalypse investigates six stories of the collapse of some of the world's greatest civilisations.

Ruins can be found on every continent – places where only the stones bear witness to the tales of fallen peoples. These ruins may be buried underground, hidden in the shade of a jungle canopy, or lost amidst the teeming activity of a modern city. However, they all raise the same questions. How could something so remarkable almost vanish from the face of the earth? Why do civilisations collapse?

These societies were reduced to nothing, obliterated by natural disasters. In this six-part series, we uncover the scientific reasons for the disappearance of some of history's most fascinating peoples. The episodes deal with the end of *The Akkadian Empire*, *The Lost City of Helike*, *Sodom and Gomorrah*, *The Mystery of the Sea Peoples*, *the Maya Civilisation*, and *Doggerland*.

History & Biographies

6 x 50'
Produced by World Media Rights
for ZDF Enterprises and ZDFinfo

AVAILABLE



Myths: The Greatest Mysteries of Humanity

Myths exist from every period in human history and remain powerful even centuries after they are first told. But how much truth is there to myths, and can we separate fact from fiction?

Each episode of the riveting series *Myths: The Greatest Mysteries of Humanity* examines these questions with the assistance of scientists and amateur researchers. Archaeologists uncover ancient graves and go on underwater expeditions in locations across the globe. Follow in their footsteps as they head to ancient Egypt or disappear into the middle of the Bermuda Triangle.

From biblical stories such as *The Holy Grail*, to historical mysteries like *The Search for Attila's Tomb*, to modern urban legends such as *Mothman*, the series explores inexplicable events and ancient legends.

History & Biographies

10 x 50' and 1 x 50' special
10 further episodes in development
Produced by Story House Productions
for ZDFinfo and ZDF Enterprises

AVAILABLE



Legendary Heroes

Legendary heroes of the past shape our culture and everyday life to this day, but are these fabulous tales fact or fiction? We set out to find the answers.

In this new three-part documentary series, we search for the truth behind some of history's most iconic and legendary heroes. In the first episode, we start with Noah, chosen by God to survive the catastrophic flood alongside his family and an ark

full of animal pairs. The second episode asks if King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table really existed. In the final episode, we explore the Nibelungen saga and consider whether the medieval epic is concerned only with Siegfried the Dragon Slayer and his heroic deeds, or if the tale also provides a fresh perspective on the role of women in the Middle Ages.

With the help of renowned scientists from various faculties, the series sheds light on the historical context, reveals connections,

and unearths unexpected facts about these heroes we thought we knew so well.

History & Biographies

3 x 50'
Scheduled for Spring 2022
Produced by NFP for ZDF
in association with Arte
and ZDF Enterprises

COMING SOON

