

# Lions for Kings

**Selection**  
Fall/Winter 2023/24



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## Ancient Apocalypse | S02

Every continent has its share of ruins. Places where crumbling stones tell the stories of fallen civilisations, whether they are buried under the earth, hidden in the shade of the jungle, or in the chaos of a lost city. They all raise the same questions – how could something so gigantic simply vanish, and why do civilisations collapse?

This new six-part season of *Ancient Apocalypse* provides insights into the downfall of some of history’s greatest empires. From the Mexican Aztecs, who succumbed to European invaders and the contagious diseases that accompanied them, to the ancient Minoans of Crete, who were fatally weakened by a volcanic eruption.

We take note of the warnings of history, as we explore the stories of the Vikings of Greenland, hit by a triple onslaught of plague, climate change, and the loss of the ivory trade; and the Moche of Peru, whose god-like rulers were undermined by unprecedented weather events.

History & Biographies  
12 x 50'  
S01 (6 EP), S02 (6 EP)  
Produced by World Media Rights  
for ZDF Studios and ZDFinfo

NEW SEASON



# History & Biographies

## 4 Myths: The Greatest Mysteries of Humanity | S03

Myths have captivated us for thousands of years. We puzzle over unexplained phenomena, mysterious places, and superhuman heroes. What if the legends are more than just fiction? Across the globe, researchers are working to solve the greatest mysteries of all time.

In each episode of the series *Myths: The Greatest Mysteries of Humanity*, scientists uncover ancient tombs, examine artefacts, and go on expeditions in search of the origins of historical legends and myths. From biblical stories to ancient mysteries, historical figures to modern urban legends, the series explores phenomena such as the Lost Tribes of Israel, the search for El Dorado, one of the most prominent queens of antiquity, Cleopatra, Bigfoot and Yeti, and even zombies. Archaeologists, historians, and adventurers try to unravel the myths of inexplicable events and ancient legends.

History & Biographies

20 x 50'  
S01 (5 EP), S02 (5 EP), S03 (10 EP)  
Produced by Story House Productions  
for ZDFinfo in association with ZDF Studios

NEW SEASON







## History's Greatest Myths

We accept the stories of pivotal moments in history as they are described in textbooks as facts, but what if our understanding of historical events isn't accurate? With the passing of time, and the fading of memories, incidents are sometimes blown out of proportion, and an altered version of the truth is established.

The series questions long-held beliefs about central figures and momentous events in the modern and ancient world. Using archive material, evocative graphics, and engaging interviews with experts, *History's Greatest Myths* traces how historical facts were muddled, and modern mythologies were created.

In six fascinating episodes, we explore how people have used conspiracy theories and fake news throughout history to blur the lines between fact and fiction, how narratives were woven together from selected sources, and how unsolved mysteries were exploited to fuel myth-making.

History & Biographies

6 x 50'  
Produced by WildBear Entertainment  
in association with ZDF Studios

NEW



## Ancient Superstructures | S03

Around the world, and throughout time, people have built mythical and mysterious structures, from Tikal in Guatemala, the Holy Sepulchre in Israel, Chichen Itza in Mexico, the Sphinx in Egypt, Notre Dame de Paris, and the Château de Chambord.

In the third season of *Ancient Superstructures*, we delve into the more legendary ancient structures to decipher their secrets. These monuments impress with their immense size and remarkable architecture.

How and why were they built, what makes them significant, and how have they survived the centuries? Beyond the superficial appearance, what are the mysteries that surround them? In aerial and satellite images, using Lidar to reveal the terrain on which they are built, we explore each structure, before moving in closer to film on a microscopic scale, to understand the materials used and the challenges of soil, ageing, and preservation.

History & Biographies

14 x 50' UHD  
S01 (4 EP), S02 (4 EP), S03 (6 EP)  
Scheduled for Spring 2024  
Produced by Pernel Media  
in association with RMC Découverte,  
Histoire and ZDF Studios

NEW SEASON IN PRODUCTION



## Amerigo Vespucci – Forgotten Namesake of America

Everyone knows Columbus, but few know Vespucci. And yet, the continent of America was named after the banker and explorer Amerigo Vespucci. This film attempts to find the truth about the almost unknown Italian – was he a swindler, as was later claimed, or a daring navigator who first recognised the significance of Columbus' discovery?

A banker from Florence, sent to Seville in 1491 by the Medici banking house, Vespucci met Columbus and helped finance an expedition to reach Asia on the western route. Until he died, Columbus remained convinced he'd landed in India, but Vespucci set out to see for himself. His report on his voyages, 'Mundus Novus', was a bestseller, and he mapped a large part of the unknown coast. In 1507, the German cartographer Martin Waldseemüller noted a name on a map of this new continent: America. Vespucci may have been forgotten, but his name lives on.

History & Biographies

1 x 50'  
Produced by Atlantis Film for ZDF  
in association with Arte and ZDF Studios

NEW



## The Fatal Conflict – Judea and Rome

The two-part series, *The Fatal Conflict – Judea and Rome*, explores the tumultuous life of King Herod, and unpacks the glorious rise and tragic fall of Judea under the reign of the Roman Empire. Although 70 years apart, these two events are forever connected by one man who was charged with chronicling the events leading to Judea's fall – the controversial historian Flavius Josephus.

This fascinating series provides a fresh perspective, using the words and deeds of this infamous Jewish acolyte, general, historian – and alleged traitor. Utilising a mixed media approach, it breathes life into the story of Jerusalem's rise and fall. Expert interviews, dramatic recreations, animation, and stunning CGI weave a visual tapestry as rich as the story itself.

History & Biographies

2 x 50'  
Produced by WildBear Entertainment  
and Anthos Produzioni  
in cooperation with ZDF, Arte,  
Focus Mediaset and ZDF Studios

AVAILABLE



OPEN  
FOR CO-PRODUCTION

# The Lost Women Spies <sup>6x50'</sup>

In April 1942, Winston Churchill and his cabinet took the controversial decision to send female agents to the front line in France. This proved an immense challenge for Vera Atkins of the Secret Operations Executive (SOE), who had to find women who would pass as French, train them as spies, and parachute them into occupied France. Many of them never came back. This film tells the story of Vera's efforts to locate the lost female spies after the war, and what became of them.





## Secret Weapons of World War II

*Secret Weapons of World War II* explores the extremes of weapons innovation as nations fought for victory or struggled to avoid defeat. Incendiary bats, flying wings, rubber tanks, and guns that shoot around corners – in times of war, there is no such thing as a bad idea, but not all of these ideas worked or even made it beyond the planning stage.

*Secret Weapons of World War II* also tells the story of the unknown weapons that

influenced the course of the war, changed history, and impacted our daily lives. Like the small top-secret device invented to improve radar, the magnetron, which is now found in most kitchens as a microwave. This is the story of desperate inventions that resulted in jet engines, rockets, lasers, and computers. This is the story which, behind the apparent silliness of pigeon bombs and death rays, is about the birth of the digital age – and the nuclear age.

### History & Biographies

6 x 50'  
Scheduled for End of 2023  
Produced by WildBear Entertainment  
in association with RTL,  
Viasat and ZDF Studios

COMING SOON



## Hitler's Power

In one of the most consequential moments of the last century, on January 30, 1933, Adolf Hitler came to power in Germany. The three-part series *Hitler's Power* takes a closer look at the events leading up to this fateful day, and the terrible events that followed.

The series explores how an inconsequential 'nobody' gained such power so quickly, and why people followed his lead. It also asks why the Nazi leader was confident of the approval of most Germans, even when it was clear the war was lost. And what led the Germans to support the atrocious crime against humanity, the Holocaust?

Newly discovered photos provide an unusual perspective of Nazi society in times of war and peace. With historical film footage, photos, documents, personal testimonies, graphics, and analysis from renowned experts, the series explores the dictatorship, focusing on the relationship between the leader and the people.

### History & Biographies

3 x 50'  
Produced by Ecomedia,  
History Media and ZDF Digital for ZDF  
in association with ZDF Studios

NEW





## Giants of Art

A ground-breaking three-part documentary series that dedicates each episode to an extraordinary artist – Michelangelo, Rembrandt van Rijn, and Vincent van Gogh.

Discover the men behind the genius, and how their lives were shaped by their artistic talent. From the rebellious Michelangelo and his sometimes fraught relationship with the popes, to the tragic life of Rembrandt, who died alone and impoverished, and the troubled genius van Gogh. Innovative technology shows Michelangelo's paintings in unprecedented detail, a 'new' Rembrandt is created with the help of AI, and x-ray analyses provide stunning insight into van Gogh's creative process.

Compelling cinematic re-enactments bring these artists to life, showing pivotal events and the creation of their masterpieces. International art historians and renowned scientists provide additional in-depth knowledge of these three giants of the art world.

### History & Biographies

3 x 50'  
Produced by Bilderfest  
for ZDF and Arte

NEW



## Revolution!

Imagine a documentary film made between 1789 and 1795. This is our 'embedded' French Revolution: an exceptional, immersive experience seen through the camera lenses of those who dive into the heart of history, following every twist and turn.

It's the story of the fall of the world's most glorious and ancient monarchy – and of the people's revolt that tore apart a nation and continent balanced between hope and war. It's a gripping narrative, told as it takes place – live and through the eyes and voices of those who witnessed and participated in the French Revolution: politicians, journalists, citizens...

Our film plays on the codes of documentary films to immerse the viewer in a critical political moment, as if the events had just occurred.

### History & Biographies

2 x 50' UHD  
Produced by Nilaya Productions  
for France Télévisions  
in association with Curiosity Stream  
and ZDF Studios

AVAILABLE



## 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 first 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 Studios for ZDFinfo

AVAILABLE



## The Balkans in Flames

The collapse of Yugoslavia in the 20th century was the result of a multitude of wars and conflicts that plagued Southeast Europe for over a hundred years. The appalling cruelties of the past still linger in many hearts and minds in large parts of the region, resulting in ongoing violent confrontation, one of the reasons for the continued deployment of the UN Blue Helmets. For some people, it is impossible to forget the bloody past.

This documentary series gets to the bottom of the causes of the conflicts and wars. The statements of contemporary witnesses and international experts assist the investigation of the crisis in Southeast Europe. It is an examination of the genesis of the state, the era of dictator Tito, the Yugoslav wars of the 1990s, and the influence of the past on the present.

### History & Biographies

3 x 50' and 1 x 50' Special  
Produced by CineCentrum  
for ZDFinfo and ZDF Studios

AVAILABLE



# History of Love

5x50'

**As long as there have been people, they have had sex. But what about love?**

When did it come into the world? And how has it changed since we stopped living in trees? This five-part documentary series tells how love and sex have developed in the course of human history. Inspired by Yuval Harari's "Sapiens – A Brief History of Humanity", the programme focuses on major turning points and revolutions in the life of love.



# Science & Knowledge

## Mega Building Collection

What drives scientists, inventors, and engineers to push the limits of what is possible? These innovators continually strive to design and develop technology, machines, and buildings that help us defy the challenges of space and time.

In five new episodes of this captivating collection, we discover incredible buildings, vehicles, and projects and provide viewers with fascinating insights into ground-breaking achievements in technology and engineering. Each episode focuses on a specific technical achievement. Come with us on a journey across the Pont de Normandie, the largest cable-stayed bridge in Europe, across the vast tidal power station on the northern coast of Brittany, France, until we reach supersonic speed with the high-tech fighter aircraft, Dassault Rafale. Finally, dive silently with us into the ocean depths in the newest nuclear-powered submarine of the Barracuda class.

- Episodes:**
- Megabridges – Spanning the Void*
  - Supertrains – The Race for Speed*
  - Megadams*
  - Supertunnels*
  - Incredible Canals*

- New Episodes:**
- Record-Breaking Highways*
  - Record-Breaking Bridges*
  - Record-Breaking Fighter Jets*
  - Record-Breaking Submarines*
  - Record-Breaking Dams*

**Science & Knowledge**

10 x 50' (5 new episodes)  
Produced by Pernel Media  
in association with RMC Découverte  
and ZDF Studios

NEW EPISODES





2x50'

# TIME

A Journey Through Thousands of Years

Time is omnipresent. We talk about it dozens of times a day, without thinking about what it really means. In this two-part production, we present numerous theories, depicting each as an overarching continuum from the past to the present. Beyond historical time measurements, such as sundials, water, and sand clocks, we engage international experts, interweaving the past and present, leaping through time using a variety of special effects to entertain and inform viewers of the wonders of time.





## Smart Swarms

Swarms – whether insects, animals, birds, or even humans – are powerful and complex coordinated actions between individuals, working together to benefit the community. Some see a higher intelligence in a swarm, while others doubt the wisdom of crowds. Swarm behaviour has even been equated with herd stupidity.

In this two-part documentary, internationally renowned scientists and experts from diverse research fields dispel prejudices and show the intelligence of swarms. Using fascinating high-speed recordings and thermal images of various natural swarms, the researchers attempt to break down swarm codes, explain strange collective behaviour, and explore how we can learn from nature to bring about astounding technological advances.

This series aims to help viewers understand the intelligence and organised chaos of swarms, even as they are mesmerised by the swarms' astonishing beauty.

**Science & Knowledge**  
**2 x 50' UHD**  
**Produced by** Spiegel TV for ZDF  
in association with ZDF Studios

**NEW**



## Secrets of the Night

When the day's colours fade, and the light of the moon immerses the world in a shimmering glow, the most secretive time of day begins – the night. The night polarises. It fascinates us, yet, at the same time, we have always been terrified of it. The two-part series *Secrets of the Night* explores day's much less talked about, notoriously gloomy sister – linking cultural history and the natural sciences and looking at questions the night asks of us. What does it do to us and our environment?

Intricate CGI, special camera techniques, and light drones built especially for this two-part series provide astonishing, extraordinary images and illuminating knowledge from a kingdom never seen or experienced in this way before.

**Science & Knowledge**  
**2 x 50'**  
**Produced by** Gruppe 5 Filmproduktion  
for ZDF in association with ZDF Studios

**AVAILABLE**



# Wildlife & Nature

## Namibia's Natural Wonders

Namibia is a country of contrasts, from the arid savannahs to flowing rivers and rugged coast-lines. This documentary explores the natural wonders of the country in southern Africa.

Despite the dry and barren habitat, the Kalahari Desert in the east is home to a range of rare and fascinating creatures. The ground pangolin resembles a cute dinosaur but is endangered due to habitat loss and illegal trafficking. Animals must be resourceful and clever to survive in the world's oldest desert and one of the driest places on Earth, the Namib. Around 150 elephants still roam the desert, covering long distances in search of water. The only certainty here is change, as the wind constantly reshapes the dunes.

On the coast of Namibia, in contrast, the Atlantic crashes onto rugged cliffs and vast beaches while fur seals try to escape their most dangerous predator – the brown hyena.

Wildlife & Nature  
2 x 50' UHD  
Produced by Doclights  
in association with ORF and Arte

NEW







## Brotherhood of Lions

An immersive and compelling story of the daily lives and struggles of five young lions in the Black Rock region of Kenya's Masai Mara reserve. Born in 2017, the lions were given names by the Masai people to suit their personalities: Olumina, the lame one, is the most sexually active but has difficulty walking. Olosiadu, the stay-behind,

is cautious and often isolates himself. Lorkulup, the tag-along, has a permanent runny nose that hinders him from hunting with his brothers. Orpadan, the hunter, is always in the lead and first to their prey. Oloborr, the sister-killer, is the strongest male and the boss of the group.

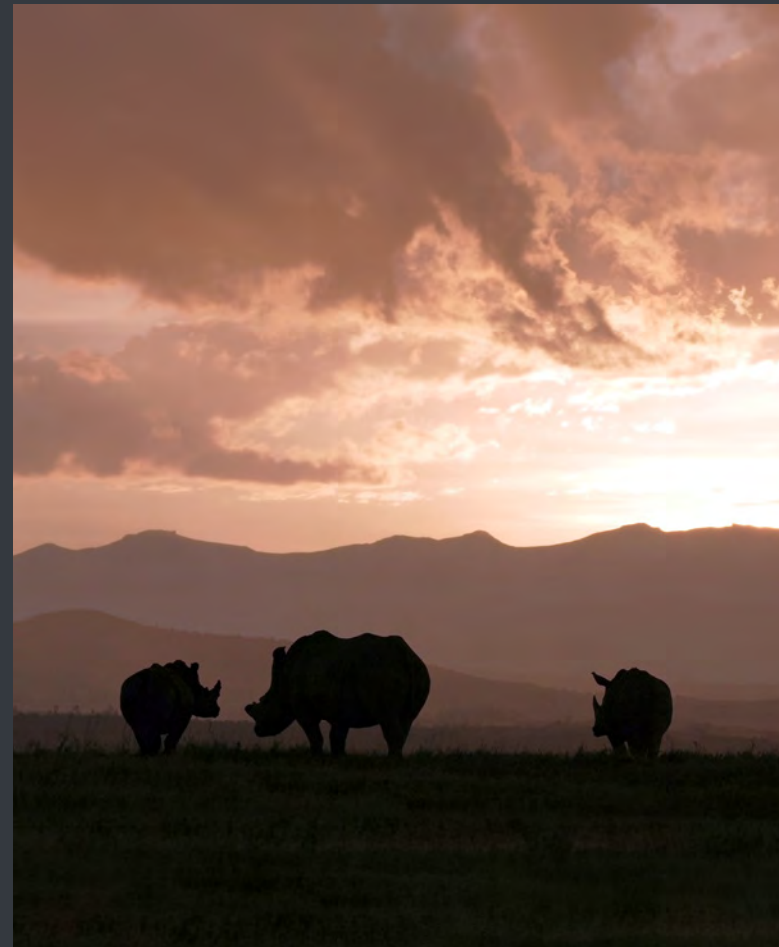
Following the lions for the first five years of their lives, this is a gripping and thought-provoking documentary that

offers fascinating insights into the lives of these majestic animals, while highlighting threats such as poaching and habitat loss.

**Wildlife & Nature**

**3 x 50' UHD**  
**Produced by** Doclights  
 in association with NDR and Arte

**NEW**



## A Rhino's Life

This intimate portrait of a family of white rhinos in Uganda goes beyond stereotypical stories of poachers to reveal the daily lives of these giants of the savannah. The film focuses on nine-year-old Malaika and her two-year-old son, Elias, who rarely moves from her side. However, major changes are coming for Elias as his mother is pregnant again.

We follow Malaika as she confidently leads her son through the Ugandan nature reserve, showing him the best spots for a mud bath, and protecting him from bull rhinos. The two are inseparable, and every day, Elias learns something new. But one day, Malaika goes into labour, and suddenly, everything changes.

This is the first time a rhino's birth has ever been filmed in the wild. In moving scenes, we watch Elias' inevitable, painful separation from the mother, who until then has always protected him.

**Wildlife & Nature**

**1 x 50' UHD**  
**Produced by** Doclights and NONA for NDR  
 in association with Arte, ORF, NHK

**NEW**



## Africa from Above

Africa, the planet's most captivating continent, seen like never before. Merging satellite imagery, aerial photography, and CGI, this landmark three-part series captures Africa's most spectacular waterways, cities, and wildlife from a totally new perspective. Explore the unique creatures and incredible natural wonders that define this continent, from its harshest deserts to the abundant wildlife of the Serengeti. Witness the breathtaking scale of Africa's industries, from the world's biggest diamond mine, and a three-mile-long steel-train, to an immense solar farm in the Sahara. Travel along the life-giving waterways that have shaped this continent – including Victoria Falls, the Okavango Delta, and the Nile, the world's longest river – and its huge variety of lakes, and a coastline teeming with spectacular wildlife.

In addition to the successful ten-part series, *Africa from Above* is now also available as a 90-minute single feature, and in a stunning 3 x 50' version packed with striking images.

**Wildlife & Nature**

**3 x 50' UHD**  
**Produced by** Off the Fence for ZDF Studios  
 in association with ZDF, Arte, ORF and UKTV

**NEW**





## Seas in Motion

Prize-winning wildlife filmmaker Thomas Behrend spent more than two years filming in the waters of the North and Baltic Seas to explore these diverse marine habitats off the shores of Europe. Innovative drone and underwater camera technology provide an intimate insight into the lives of rare sea creatures, including behaviour never before captured on film.

We follow the first precarious weeks of a baby catshark in a Norwegian fjord, the return of seahorses to the coast of Normandy, the lives of grey seals on the Shetland Islands,

and explore the North Sea's largest seal colony on the Danish island of Anholt.

The North Sea is a habitat of superlatives, with enough food for everyone, from giant sharks to tiny shore crabs. This breathtaking, multi-faceted documentary portrays not only the magnificence of the oceans, but also the vulnerabilities.

**Wildlife & Nature**

**4 x 50' UHD**  
Produced by Doclights for NDR and ARD  
in association with Arte and Terra Mater

**NEW**





## Poland's Wild East

In one of Europe's last truly wild regions, animals that have long since disappeared elsewhere still roam. The primeval forest of Białowieża, on Poland's eastern border with Belarus, is home to bison, beavers, otters, European elk, and even wolves. The Biebrza National Park provides a valuable sanctuary for these animals and rare wetland birds.

Once in danger of dying out, an international breeding programme has boosted the number of bison in Eastern Poland to over 1,500 of these majestic creatures. Beavers and otters swim and dive through the meandering river, perfectly adapted to the sub-zero temperatures.

Around 2,500 wolves live in the area, mostly in harmony with the local population. Like elks, wolves can be dangerous, but they tend to avoid populated areas. The conser-

vation of this wilderness may help them survive increasing urbanisation and intensive agricultural practices.

**Wildlife & Nature**  
**1 x 50' UHD**  
**Produced by** Doclights  
in association with Arte and ORF for NDR

**NEW**



## Badass Bears of Romania

The bear capital of Europe, with over 6,000 animals roaming through the Transylvanian forests and beyond, Romania is fascinated with bears. A breeding programme started by the dictator and hunting enthusiast Ceausescu boosted numbers, but the bears remained even after his regime was dismantled.

This thought-provoking film follows three brown bear cubs through their first year as they first explore their natural environment and then later urban regions. Finding the balance between searching for food and staying in a safe environment is challenging for the bears, as coming close to humans is hazardous.

Interviews with three Romanians reveal the country's attitude to bears, from the shepherd trying to protect his flock, to the activist working to educate people on dealing with a bear encounter, and the wildlife ranger who wants to keep humans and bears out of each other's way.

**Wildlife & Nature**  
**1 x 50' UHD**  
**Produced by** Doclights  
in association with NDR, WDR,  
Arte and Terra Mater

**NEW**





## Germany's Wild North

Far from the well-known beaches of the Wadden and Baltic Seas lie the hidden treasures of Germany's northernmost state, Schleswig-Holstein. Turning inland towards the agricultural heartland, we discover the natural landscapes, lakes, woodlands, and estates that are home to incredible biodiversity.

From the dramatic silhouettes of red deer stags who gather in the morning mist to battle each other in their quest to win a mate, to their smaller cousins, the fallow deer, whose fawns leap through the woodlands in spring.

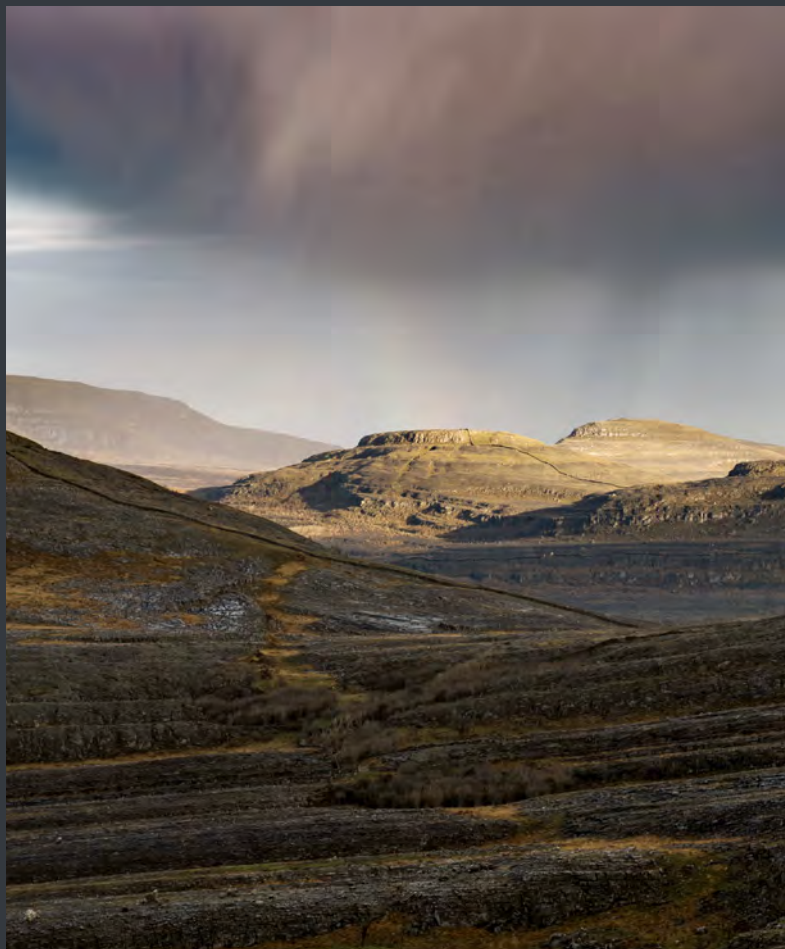
In the skies, we spot rare short-eared owls, as they chase predators to protect their young, and watch astounding murmurations of thousands of starlings, that rise and fall in breathtaking displays each spring and autumn.

Filmmaker Uwe Anders spent two years capturing the wonderful wildlife and biodiversity that lurks between farmland, motorways, and towns and cities.

**Wildlife & Nature**

1 x 50' UHD  
Produced by Doclights  
in association with nordmedia

**NEW**



## The Burren: Heart of Stone

A cinematic and breathtaking journey through one of Ireland's most compelling landscapes to discover the origins of the Irish people, the natural wilderness, and the diverse plants, animals, and birds that have made their home in the Burren.

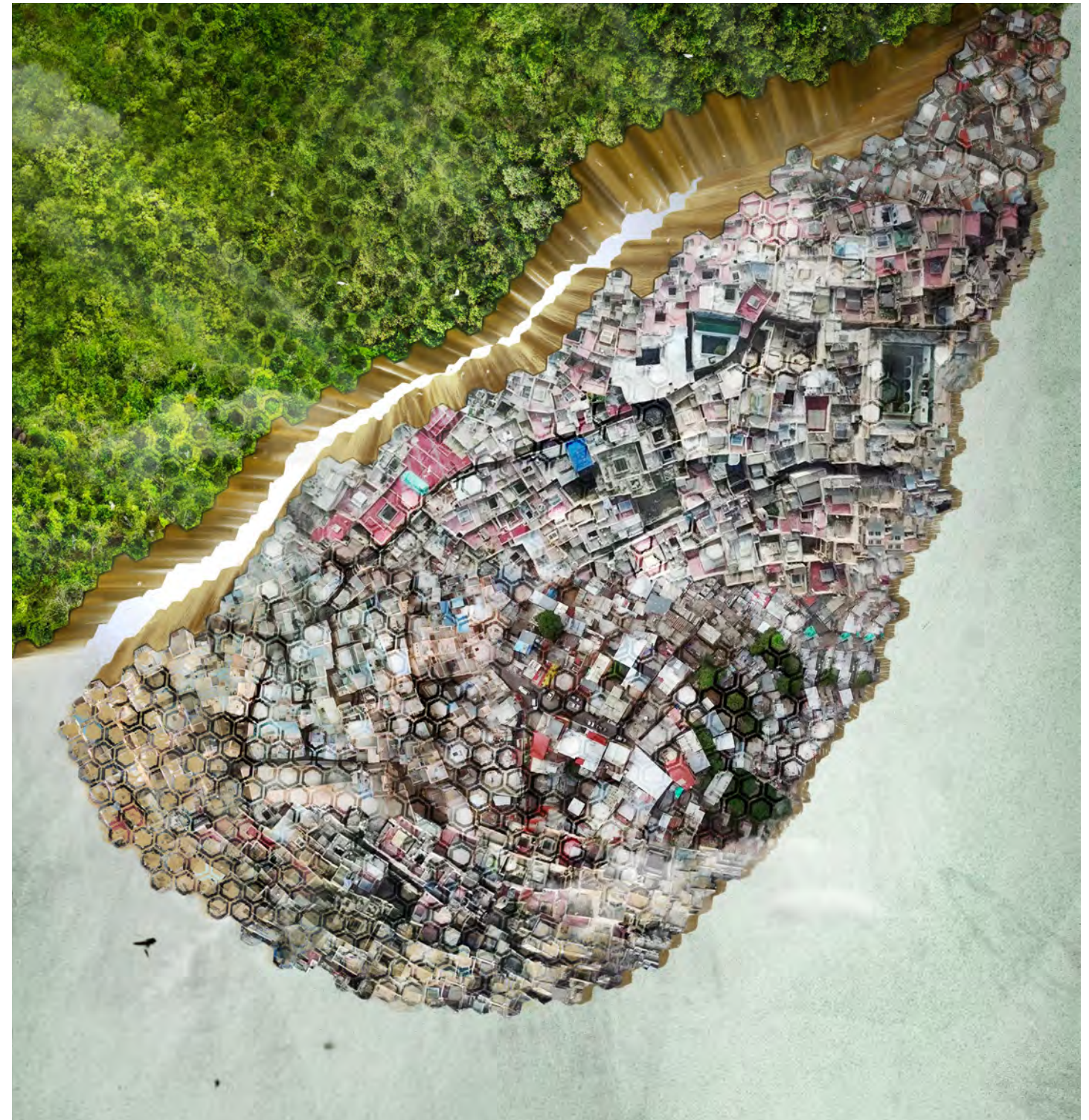
Created by award-winning cinematographer Katrina Costello and narrated by Brendan Gleeson, *The Burren* takes viewers through the natural cycles of the seasons to discover Celtic rainforests, underground caverns and mysterious lakes. Using creative techniques and re-enactments, based on a wealth of research, Costello tells the story of Ireland and the Irish people.

Combining intimate natural history photography with the insights of local contributors, the film captures the raw and complicated beauty of the Burren.

**Wildlife & Nature**

2 x 50'  
Produced by Silver Branch Films

**NEW**



## Colonies in Conflict

As we observe an alarming global decline in native bee populations, filmmaker Rajani Mani takes us on a journey of discovery to find the causes of this ecological crisis. This feature-length documentary explores the habitats of migratory wild honeybees (*Apis dorsata* or rock bees), from Mani's Bangalore neighbourhood to the forests and fields of India.

We discover the different attitudes people have towards bees – from seeing them as troublesome pests to essential helpers for farmers who rely on them for unmanaged pollination. Shot over two years in different locations in India, this is the first film to capture rock bees up close.

Though it reveals the shocking consequences of pollution, intensive agriculture, and pesticides on the rock bees, the film ends on a hopeful note, emphasising the

conservation efforts that can help revive dwindling insect populations and preserve biodiversity.

**Wildlife & Nature**

1 x 50'  
Produced by Elephant Corridor Films

**NEW**



OPEN  
FOR CO-PRODUCTION

# S P E C T R E

O F T H E J U N G L E

2 x 5 0 ' U H D

Deep in the South American rainforests, three female biologists embark on a perilous expedition to investigate a mysterious giant bat that preys on birds and mammals. Using specially designed microcomputers, the biologists record the predator's hunting behaviour and scientifically visualise it using an AI-generated avatar. For the first time, we can join in the nocturnal hunt of this stealthy predator. This thrilling documentary follows these dedicated researchers on their quest.





## The Chagos Islands – Hope for Coral Reefs?

In the middle of the Indian Ocean, more than 1,500 km from the nearest continent, lies an untouched, mysterious archipelago – the Chagos Islands. This group of 60 islands is one of the last pristine wildernesses on Earth.

The Chagos Archipelago is one of the world's largest marine national parks, and is strictly protected. A scientific

expedition has been granted access to this politically disputed territory for the first time. In times of climate change, as global reef communities face a growing crisis, the researchers seek to show how coral reefs fare in places with minimal human interference.

During a journey into the unknown, we follow in the footsteps of internationally renowned scientists, who aim to unlock

the secrets of a lost world and gain astonishing insights into one of the last true wildernesses on Earth.

Wildlife & Nature

1 x 50'

Produced by Gruppe 5 Filmproduktion for ZDF in association with Arte and ZDF Studios

NEW



## Iriomote – The Fabric of Life

In the south of Japan, between the China Sea and the Pacific Ocean, lies Iriomote Island. Covered by tropical forests, this island paradise is home to some of the earth's rarest animals, such as a leopard subspecies named after the island, the Iriomote cat. Other inhabitants include the Ryukyu flying fox, a local subspecies of the crested serpent eagle, and the vibrant ruddy kingfisher.

Prize-winning wildlife filmmaker Moritz Katz showcases the UNESCO World Heritage Site and biodiversity hotspot, including the largest mangrove forest in Japan, that lives and breathes with the tides, where a host of bizarre creatures emerge from the mud only at low tide.

The mangroves are also incredibly important to the island's human inhabitants,

such as 83-year-old textile designer Akiko Ishigaki, whose collections using Iriomote natural materials have been exhibited in the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Wildlife & Nature

1 x 50' UHD

Produced by NHK and Doclights in association with NDR, Arte and ORF

NEW



## Waterwoman

In this two-part programme, leading freediver Anna von Boetticher embarks on a journey with film-maker Henning Rütten to explore regions that are defined by water.

A world record holder in freediving, the extreme sport of diving without breathing apparatus, Anna can hold her breath for up to six minutes. She shares her experiences of training with the German Navy and mine divers, teaching them special breathing techniques. Fear is an emotion that Anna is familiar with, but as she says, “I’ll save that for later”.

Viewers will find themselves holding their breath as they dive with Anna to see blue sharks off the Azores, come in to close contact with crocodiles in Mexico, attempt to reach a secret mountain lake in Iceland, and swim through caves under the city of Budapest. Experience these aquatic wonders through Anna’s eyes as she explores them with just one breath.

Wildlife & Nature

2 x 50' UHD  
Produced by Doclights  
in association with NDR

NEW



## Deep Ocean

“What kinds of creatures live in the deep sea, and what are the conditions there?” Much about the zone remains a mystery even in the 21st century. The conditions are not uniform and differ depending on the region and depth.

Following the success of capturing the giant squid and deep-sea sharks in Japan’s waterworld, NHK now embarks on more deep-sea adventures. This time we are in the world’s oceans, to further explore the last frontier – the deep sea. With rare images in stunning 4K, we examine seldom-seen creatures and the diverse methods they have used to adapt and evolve to survive in this harsh watery environment.

Wildlife & Nature

2 x 50' UHD  
Produced by NHK  
in association with ZDF,  
NHK Enterprises and ZDF Studios

AVAILABLE

## Bushfire Animal Rescue

From the ashes of Australia’s devastating bushfires, wildlife survivors begin their long journeys to recovery. Australia’s fauna has evolved to coexist with bushfires, but these Black Summer fires are unprecedented in their scale, speed and intensity. Many native animals cannot escape or endure without human help.

We follow iconic species like koalas, kangaroos, wombats, and an endangered parrot through their rescue, rehabilitation and release. Remarkable tales of compassion and dedication are revealed along the way – from an orphan wombat growing too attached to her carer, to dramatic helicopter airdrops to feed remote rock wallabies.

When the fires finally burn out, Australia looks to the science, innovation and indigenous knowledge needed to safeguard fragile wildlife in an even hotter future.

Wildlife & Nature

1 x 50'  
Produced by WildBear Entertainment  
in association with THIRTEEN PRODUCTIONS  
for WNET and PBS,  
ZDF /Arte and ZDF Studios

AVAILABLE





