



4K

PUMAS AT THE END OF THE WORLD

1 x 50 min.

Written and directed by Dereck and Beverly Joubert

4K, 5.1 and Stereo

Executive producers: Sabine Holzer, Ivo Filatsch



TERRA MATER
Factual Studios

In a hidden realm at the end of the world ... amidst the massive mountains of Patagonia's Torres del Paine National Park, a strange story is about to unfold. In the last decade, this part of Chile has become a Puma stronghold, but the family of big cats that lives here are behaving in strange ways ...

Usually, pumas, also known as Mountain lions, are solitary cats. But in Torres del Paine, pumas live together, even hunt together—a whole family group have been observed cooperating to bring down prey. This type of behaviour has never been seen before.

Welcome to puma paradise and the story of a very unusual puma family who are breaking all the rules. The patriarch is a large alpha male called 'The Rock'. 'Mama Nessa' is the matriarch of the valley—she has raised many cubs in her long life, soon she will give birth to another litter. Mama Nessa has a sister, 'Hermana', who is always by her side.

The family's preferred prey is the guanaco. It's a member of the camel family, and just a bit smaller than one. Guanacos live in large herds and thrive in the rocky Torres del Paine landscape. They are fast runners, and the pumas are strong, but the cats don't have the endurance for a long chase. The only way to succeed is to get as close as possible without alarming

the guanaco. When The Rock attempts to catch a guanaco, at first he fails—but he's in no hurry, there are plenty of guanacos roaming the plains, plenty of food for his family. It wasn't always like this ...

Once, a long time ago, this was the land of the *gauchos*—these cowboys hunted the pumas, because they killed their sheep. Back then the land was bare. Ranchers burned down much of the vegetation to maintain their herds. But in 1959 Torres del Paine was declared a National Park by the Chilean government. Now nature has recovered and pumas dominate this rugged landscape.

It's December, and the guanacos are having their babies—they are not alone: in a dark cave at the shore of a turquoise lake, Mama Nessa has given birth to three tiny cubs. She must hunt to feed herself, so that she can provide enough milk for her young. Every night she leaves the den to hunt. Can Mama Messa manage to catch a guanaco? Where is her sister Hermana? Only a kill will ensure the survival of the family's next generation.

And while mother and cubs hold on to life, the family leader, The Rock courts danger. A big young male has appeared on the scene to challenge his leadership. Can The Rock fight his way to victory—retain his place as leader of the puma family and his territory at the end of the world?



www.terramater.com

Terra Mater Factual Studios GmbH, Wambachergasse 2, 1130 Vienna/Austria, phone +43-1-87003-0, fax +43-1-87003-27609, office@terramater.at

NATURE