

FUTURE PROJECTS SPRING 2024



IT'D A MATTER

CONSENT



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50 SHAPES OF PREY

Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**
5 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1+ Stereo

Wildlife films frequently show slow-motion, magnificent predators chasing their prey – and just occasionally one quarry escapes. But most hunts fail.

We take the prey's perspective to see how they survive a world of sharp claws, snapping teeth and slicing talons. Gazelles are finely honed running machines with the stamina to outrun a cheetah, the world's fastest terrestrial animal – in short sprints. If the gazelle escapes the first dash, the cheetah can't sustain a long chase. In the New World, pronghorn antelopes are just as fast – which seems excessive, but pronghorns evolved to outrun American cheetahs, now extinct.

The peregrine falcon dives at 300 kph and surely nothing can escape. But starlings or shorebirds form huge flocks and perform mesmerizing aerial displays – murmurations. Singling out one target is almost impossible.

Insects are tiny but far from defenseless. *Lonomia* moth caterpillars have venomous hairs so powerful they've even killed humans. Some bugs imitate something much more fierce. One lantern bug mimics an alligator, and the *Hemeroplanes* hawkmoth caterpillar accurately mimics a deadly pit viper. Moon moths have long tails with twisting paddles at the end that scramble the bat's sonar so they can fly under the radar ... all tricks keeping prey animals one step ahead of their predators.

A TAKIN'S TALE

Written and directed by **Heike Grebe and Michael Riegler**
Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**
1x50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

In the Himalayas, the Kingdom of Bhutan, or Drukylu, treasures the happiness and well-being of its people more than economic growth. This priority has allowed both its culture and biodiversity to thrive in a land the size of Switzerland. The documentary A TAKIN'S TALE examines the lives of the takins, Bhutan's national animal, which resembles a mix of moose, wildebeest, and bison. It shares its dense forest habitat with other elusive creatures like binturongs, who sleep in trees for protection. The film aims to shed light on these lesser-known species.

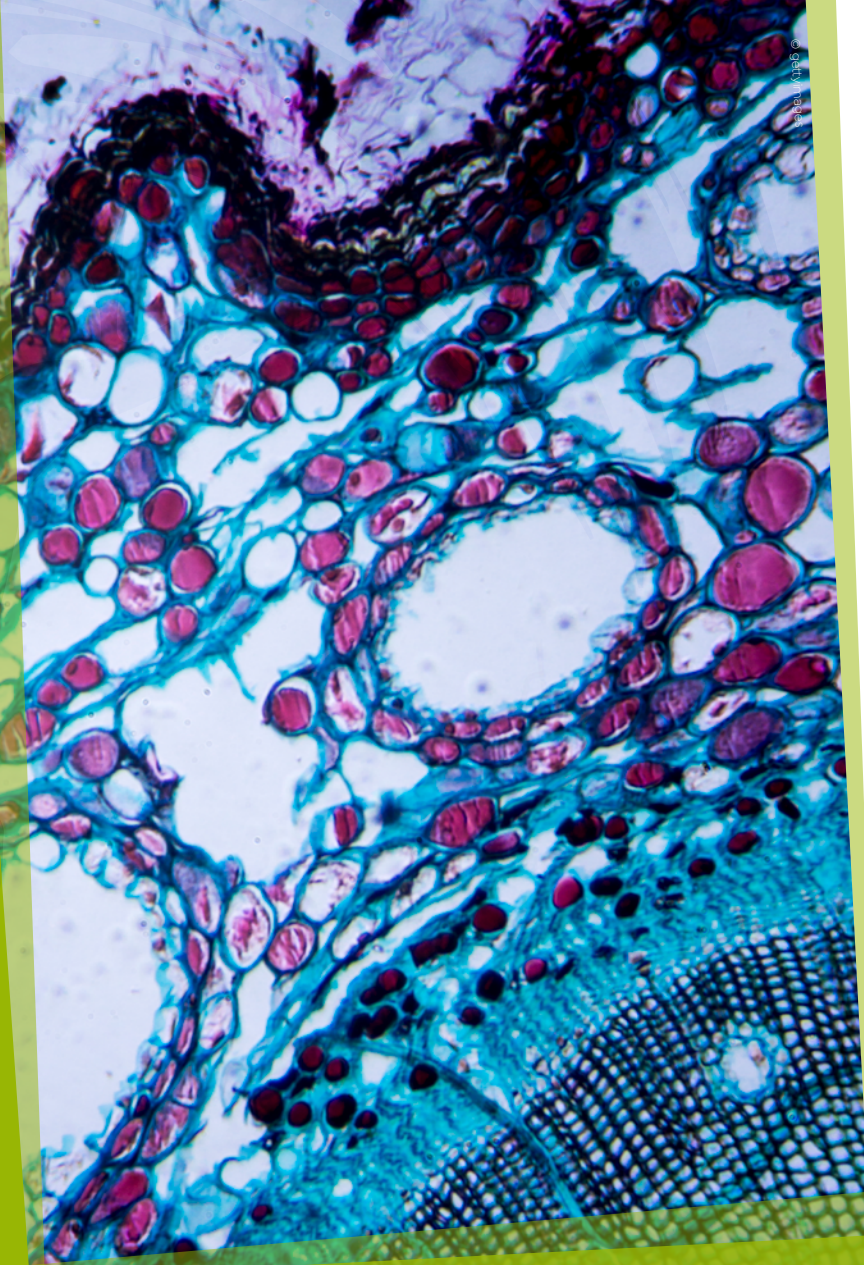
Each monsoon season, takins embark on a dangerous migration to high-altitude pastures for mating, facing threats from predators such as Bengal tigers and Himalayan brown bears. The film takes viewers on a journey along this migratory path, showcasing Bhutan's diverse landscapes from towering 7,000-meter peaks to lush valleys and pine-covered hills, all bustling with wildlife.

Creatures like snow leopards, bharals and gorals traverse the snow-covered cliffs; serows, tragopans, and red pandas navigate the terrain, too, constantly vigilant of predators like leopards, Tibetan wolves, and sloth bears.

This exploration provides a glimpse into Bhutan's extraordinary wilderness and how it's intertwined with local Buddhist culture, which values the connection between humans and animals due to the belief in infinite rebirth. Any animal could potentially be an ancestor. There is much the Land of the Thunder Dragon can teach us about the essence of happiness, suggesting a profound link between the contentment of its people and the welfare of nature.

A production of Terra Mater Studios





ALIVE!

Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**
7 x 50min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

What does it mean to be ALIVE? Life goes on all around us – but have you ever asked how? What makes life tick?

A cheetah runs down a gazelle in a dramatic high-speed chase. A spectacular yet familiar moment in natural history. It's impressive – but it's beyond belief when we see it from the perspective of this aground-breaking new series ... when we deconstruct it in both scale and time ... to reveal life's essential ingredients!

The latest science has uncovered amazing new insights into how life works and where it came from – about what it really means to be alive. This series takes us on a rollercoaster ride from big, spectacular natural history events to dramatic new images from within living cells, from monkeys to molecules, and through three and a half billion years of extraordinary moments on Earth to reveal the secrets of life.

In seven programs, using the most innovative technology and camera techniques, input from cutting-edge science and the skills of the world's great storytellers, we'll show how life on this planet is nothing short of a miracle.

You'll never look at nature – or yourself – in the same way again.

ALPINE SYMPHONY

EXPLORING NORTHERN ITALY

Written and produced by **Susanne Lummer**
Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**
2 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

This two-part wildlife documentary takes viewers on a seasonal journey through the awe-inspiring landscapes of South Tyrol and the Dolomites, and into some of the most beautiful and oldest mountainous national parks in Italy: Gran Paradiso, Stelvio, and Val Grande.

The first episode, set in spring and summer, follows the thawing of the mountains as snowmelt fills streams and waterfalls, nourishing the alpine environment yet also posing potential threats due to climate change. The documentary observes how wildlife like marmots and chamois adapt, with marmots moving to higher altitudes and chamois giving birth in secluded areas before migrating upwards. A highlight is the Alpine ibex in Gran Paradiso National Park, a species that narrowly escaped extinction and from which all Alpine ibexes now descend.

Transitioning to autumn and winter in the second episode of **ALPINE SYMPHONY**, viewers witness the transformation of South Tyrol's valleys as bears in Trentino gorge on berries and nuts to prepare for hibernation. As the landscape whitens with snow, animals like the white ptarmigan, Alpine hare, and ermine don their winter camouflage, leaving only tracks visible against the snow. The documentary captures the struggle for survival as young golden eagles, unable to hunt hibernating marmots, compete with bearded vultures for carrion.

Throughout the series, experienced camera teams bring intimate encounters with these animals to the screen, offering a vivid portrayal of the changing seasons and the resilience of wildlife in Italy's oldest and most picturesque national parks.

A production of Terra Mater Studios





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ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE

Written and produced by **Ruth Berry and Susanne Lummer**
Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**
1 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

Male – female. Man – woman. Mother – father. Simple, right?

Maybe not. In nature, gender is fluid, roles can be reversed, and homosexual behaviour is common. As they say on social media, “it’s complicated”.

By exploring the natural world, we challenge the widespread view that men are men, women are women, mothers are the child-rearers and gender is fixed at birth.

One common idea is that females look after the young and males are there just to fertilise their eggs. Yet many birds don’t fit this family structure. Male cassowaries guard the nest once the female has laid the eggs, and then raise the chicks as a single father. Seahorses are even famous for their males being ‘pregnant’.

But surely gender is fixed at birth? Not necessarily. There are many cases where an animal changes sex during its life. Clownfish live in small groups on their sea anemone. The biggest fish is the breeding female and the next biggest is the breeding male. All clownfish are born male and only become female when they become the dominant fish on their anemone.

And the great taboo – homosexual behaviour? It likely evolved very early in evolution and is one of the most ancient behaviours – an integral part of the evolution of life. As soon as sex evolved, animals just mated indiscriminately with either sex – ‘cheaper’ than evolving complex ways to distinguish the sexes – that came later. It’s not really aberrant behaviour at all – nothing could be more natural.

A production of Terra Mater Studios

AMERICAN AMAZON

Written and produced by **Eric Bendick and Thomas Winston**
 Executive producers: **Ivo Filatsch, Sabine Holzer**
2 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

This is a journey into the last secret wilderness in North America.

An ancient bastion of life anchored in place by two-thousand-year-old cypress trees. A labyrinth of flooded forests and pulsing arteries. A place buzzing with new stories: from the mass migration of the world's only social raptor, the swallow-tailed kite, to the dazzling spectacle of the ghost orchid and its surprising nocturnal pollinators.

A world where big mysteries still tread around every corner of the swamp: the cryptic behavior of the American black bear, the silent footsteps of the Florida panther. Tales bubbling up from crystalline springs and emerging out of serpentine blackwater rivers: the playful chatter of river otters, the heavy splashes of Gulf sturgeon, and the deep bellows of the American alligator.

Here, in the wet and wild American South, among the last stands of cypress, tupelo, strap ferns, pitcher plants, and

epiphytes, is what E.O. Wilson called "America's Amazon" — a hotspot of biodiversity rivaling anywhere on Earth — and yet somehow its story has never been told.

This is not a world where life comes easy. Flooded by epic tropical rains. Ravaged by intense wildfires. Locked in time by rare freeze events. This kingdom absorbs every extreme, and yet, like the delicate resurrection fern, always springs back to life.

A co-production of The WNET Group and Terra Mater Studios in association with PBS and CPB produced by Grizzly Creek Films



CHRISTMAS IN THE ALPS

Written and directed by **Andrea Gastgeb**
Executive producer: **Sabine Holzer**
1x50 min., 4K + Stereo

Embark on a captivating expedition into the heart of the Alps during the enchanting Christmas season, where the crisp air and crunching snow craft a scene of wonder. This journey isn't merely a passage of time but an immersive experience into age-old traditions set against the tranquil beauty of nature.

In a five-chapter narrative, the documentary delves into the lives of Alpine wildlife amidst the Christmas backdrop. The arrival of snow and frost signals a time for hibernation for creatures like marmots, while chamois and ibexes partake in their seasonal behaviors.

Despite the picturesque winter landscape, life in the Alps is a testament to resilience, with animals such as snow voles, hares, and ptarmigans demonstrating remarkable survival adaptations to the cold and storms. The festive season also sees reindeer, synonymous with Christmas though not native, gracing the Dolomites, complementing the fairy tale ambiance. The skies witness the return of the bearded vulture, a species once extinct in the area, now soaring again due to conservation efforts.

The Christmas tree, central to holiday festivities, stands more majestic in its natural habitat, serving as a vital refuge for various wildlife. Amidst the wild forests, young shoots nurture not just the trees but also the animals that depend on them.

High in the mountains, the life of a young golden eagle hunting in stormy weather contrasts with the snow hares, well-adapted with their white camouflage. This Alpine Christmas transcends mere celebration, weaving a story of life's persistence and the profound joy found in the simplicity of nature, leaving an indelible impression that endures beyond the holiday season.

A co-production of Terra Mater Studios and The WNET Group in association with PBS and CPB





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CREATURE CULTURE

Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**
3 x 50 mins, 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

We often think of “culture” as uniquely human but that this really isn’t the case.

We’ve known for some time that primates have a shared culture but are beginning to understand how widespread it is throughout the animal kingdom. We should no longer ask whether animals have culture – they do. So, are humans different from other animals?

What do we mean by “culture”? In this series, we refer to the sharing and passing on of learned behaviours. Culture existed long before us humans and is certainly not unique to *Homo sapiens*. New research shows that cultural heritage can be a driving evolutionary factor throughout the animal kingdom, just like genetic heritage.

EPISODE 1: WE ARE NOT ALONE

What is culture and how can it be understood among animals? We define the concept of culture and show how we can find it everywhere in the animal kingdom, not just in humans or great apes – it’s widespread among countless vertebrates, and even invertebrates. Fruit flies warn each other if parasitic wasps are nearby, and meerkats use something like initiation rites.

EPISODE 2: SING WITH ME

Sparrows were among the first animals to be recognised as having culture by scientists, nearly 60 years ago. They sing with regional dialects that even change over time. Humpback whales are famous for their songs, the meaning of which we still don’t fully understand.

EPISODE 3: USING TOOLS

It’s been known for some time that primates not only use tools but pass on the skills to others. And like humans, different families have different customs. In Australia, bottlenose dolphins wear sea sponges on their snouts while they rummage around the coral and seabed to stir up the fish they eat.

Produced by Terra Mater Studios

DEGREES OF LIFE

Written and directed by **Matt Hamilton**
Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**
6 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

Prepare to discover Planet Earth like never before! This strongly conceptual, visually stunning six-part series follows the world's most iconic and charismatic species as they battle for life beneath immense external forces.

Take a look at a globe. Bands of green, rust and white circle around it. Lush jungles, lonely deserts, seasonal forests, winter wonderlands; ever wondered why these different realms exist in fixed stripes around the Earth? Told through the eyes of the iconic creatures that call these places home, we follow the changing power of the sun between equator and pole as it binds all life on our planet.

Between equator and pole lie 90 degrees of latitude. As we head north and south from the equator at 0°, the sun's intensity changes, driving patterns of wind, rain and seasonal variation that shape the world's great biomes.

It is no coincidence that desert prevails at 30°, or boreal forest at 60°.

Modern drone, timelapse and moving camera techniques allow us to bring these processes to life, revealing the planet as a living, breathing organism over the course of six episodes.

When used alongside breathtaking behavioural sequences, the series will bring an immersive experience and fresh feel to natural history television.

What makes this series stand out? Spectacular imagery and behaviour. Immersive, conceptual storytelling. Our animal characters are but players on a cosmic stage, their fates bound by elemental forces ruled over by the sun. Change comes in seconds or years. Fire, flood, snow and ice bring drama, conflict and co-operation. The struggle for life is bound not by country or continent, but by degrees of latitude: the degrees of life.

A production of Terra Mater Studios



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DETHRONED

Produced and directed by **Aaron Gekoski and Will Foster-Gundy**
Executive producers: **Susanne Lummer, Sabine Holzer**
1 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1+ Stereo

There is a connection to big cats that runs deep within us. Throughout the history of Mankind, we have looked upon them with awe, wonder, reverence and respect.

Worshipped by the ancients, witnessed as gods – symbols of power so mighty they commanded the construction of our most impressive monuments – big cats arguably mean more to humanity than any other animal.

DETHRONED is a story of rediscovery, following photojournalist Aaron Gekoski across our planet in an attempt to uncover where we have parted ways with the big cats and what could happen if we continue to allow these great creatures to be traded, commodified and enslaved, to serve the purposes of humanity.

We begin in the jungles of Peru, one of the last great bastions of South America's biggest cat, the jaguar. What follows is a story through time and space, crossing continents to come face to face with lions, tigers, and leopards. Aaron infiltrates a group of Pakistani aristocracy who, have begun buying up big cats to keep as house pets.

In South Africa, he heads deep into the dark heart of the lion breeding industry. He treks the foothills of the Himalayas on the hunt for a man-eating leopard, exposes a tiger petting zoo and circus ring in Thailand, and has his life threatened in the Golden Triangle attempting to document the multi-million-dollar trade in big cats for traditional medicine.

DETHRONED asks us to not only consider our own relationship with big cats, but also to contemplate what becomes of humanity if we continue to destroy all that is sacred.

THE DIRTY DOZEN

Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**
12 x 30 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

**We like our world to be ultra-clean, trying to banish all dirt ...
but in nature, dirt – soil, mud and dung – provide a very good living.
We'll meet twelve creatures that thrive in dirt and see how vital
they are to the planet's functioning.**

Wild pigs create wallows of sticky mud, and many other creatures depend on these pig ponds, and the constant rooting of pig snouts through forest dirt crucially rotavates the soil.

Without earthworms, agriculture would collapse – they eat dirt and aerate the soil ... We'll meet the world's largest worm – the 3 metre long giant Australian Gippsland earthworm.

The rich, thick mud of estuaries supports flocks of shorebirds that follow the receding tide. Growing out of rich mud, tropical mangrove swamps are so diverse they rival rainforests. Here, mudskippers dig burrows and skip over the mud at low tide in extravagant leaping displays.

The world is full of shit – but dung beetles swarm to fresh dung, rolling it away to bury. Without them we'd be up to our knees in shit – as happened in Australia. Native dung beetles couldn't process dung from vast herds of cows, so dung lay thick on the ground, breeding millions of flies – only solved by introducing African dung beetles.

A production of Terra Mater Studios



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EUROPE'S AMAZON

Written and directed by **Szabolcs Mosonyi**
Executive producers: **Andrea Gastgeb, Sabine Holzer**
2 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

Everyone knows the Danube. But do you know its major tributary, leading from White Summits towards the Black Sea?

Where Drava and Danube meet, we encounter Central Europe's most spectacular inland delta; a secret realm of wetland forests, oxbows and floodplains, ever-shifting channels, islands and swamps vibrant with a stunning diversity of plant and animal life.

It gathers all the waters and rich sediments from a vast catchment area of countless ridges, slopes and valleys south of the Continental Divide and east of the Adriatic basin, featuring glaciers, snowy summits, a legion of lakes, widespread woodlands covering mountainsides and valleys and rolling green foothills – before these waters spill into the mighty Danube and end up in the Black Sea.

While **Episode I** portrays a bright, cold world in the midst of the very clouds that feed the river system, **Episode II** reveals an entirely different world of flooded broadleaf forests roamed by herds of red deer, of swamps and gravel banks inviting plovers and terns to breed and raise their young, of beaver lakes covered by wild water lilies and alive with fish, amphibians and turtles under giant willows with colonies of water-fowl – a wetland world vying with Brazil's Amazon or Florida's Everglades.

The makers of this film have grown up, lived and worked along this still secret gem of river. Being familiar with some of the great rivers of the planet, including the Amazon, the comparison they draw reveals the Drava's unique and fascinating character and uncovers many of its hidden treasures.

A production of Terra Mater Studios

EUROPE'S BADLANDS

Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**
3 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

The word 'desert' causes most people to think of the Sahara or the Gobi: vast sand dunes that cover large areas of countries and continents.

Inhospitable stony deserts like Death Valley or Australia's outback might come to mind – but the world's deserts are not limited to Africa, Asia, America and Australia. Europe's deserts are remarkable because of their unusual history, characteristics or geographic locations in Spain, Italy, in the Highlands of Iceland or on the volcanic island of Fuerteventura. There are tiny deserts in Sweden and Norway, and large ones in Poland, Serbia and Ukraine. They all continue to expand, and their growth is being exacerbated by climate change.

Spain's Tabernas Desert is often compared to the Badlands of North America. It is an inhospitable, sparse world created by centuries of low precipitation, extreme heat and strong wind erosion. The animals and plants that live here are specialists that have learned to survive despite the meagre resources. Meanwhile, wild cats and foxes roam the **Bardenas Reales** semi-desert in northern Spain. Little apart from saltwort grows on 400 square kilometres of sparse soil, and great bustards frequently fall prey to eagles and vultures. **The Highlands of Iceland** are an extensive

stony volcanic plateau interrupted by shimmering green oases of grass. At first glance, the area seems completely uninhabited, and heavy rainfalls, sandstorms and blizzards can occur anytime during the year. However, the desertification here is a result of human animal farming, rather than drought. The Highlands of Iceland are now the hunting grounds of arctic foxes, the island's original inhabitants.

In three episodes, we take a look at Europe's deserts – their present, but also their future.

A production of Terra Mater Studios





© gartenmaier

EUROPE'S WILD BORDERS

Written and directed by **Harald Pokieser**
Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**
4 x 50 mins., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

Raging oceans. Towering snow-capped mountains. Dense, mysterious forests. They all mark Europe's wild borders. These wild regions are home to wolves, bears, ospreys, sperm whales and penguins. In addition – and somewhat unexpectedly – Europe also contains the world's second-largest coral reef, vast lagoons, sea cows, green sea turtles and reef sharks.

The search for Europe's borders reaches from the Ural Mountains to the South Pacific and beyond, to the Antarctic. The term „Europe“ is by no means easily defined: Is it only the European mainland, or do the islands off the coasts count, too?

Is „Europe“ determined by geographical borders, or do political ones that include overseas territories count as well? In four visually stunning episodes, this blue-chip documentary series takes an open-minded approach, looking for answers wherever the adventurous journey to the remotest, wildest areas of Europe leads.

We take the viewer on a compelling journey around the outer edges of Europe, capturing the fascinating wildlife and spectacular landscapes of the border regions while exploring one apparently simple question: Where does Europe really begin, and where does it end?

A production of Terra Mater Studios

GAME OF MOONS A TALE OF ICE AND FIRE

Written and produced by **Ivo Filatsch**
 Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**
3 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1+ Stereo

Everyone knows the Moon – our Moon. Up till now, it is the only other celestial body besides Earth humans have set foot on. But the companion of our planet is by far not the only moon in the solar system.

It's probably the most prominent object in the night sky and has fascinated humans since the dawn of mankind, sparking legends, tales and myths, but also research and science all around the world.

All in all, there are more than 200 of these natural satellites orbiting other planets in the solar system, and even much smaller asteroids. All these moons are incredibly different regarding their size, but also in terms of their environments.

Studying these alien worlds in detail, scientists are getting a better understanding not only of the solar system, but of our world as a whole. And the better we understand our neighbourhood, the better we can take care of our home planet.

This three-part series is a visual, substantial and emotional rollercoaster ride through the solar system – exciting, entertaining, elaborate. It shows widely unknown foreign

worlds of extremes in our celestial neighbourhood, each single one amazing, fascinating, and unique.

A production of Terra Mater Studios



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GIGI GOES HOME

Written and directed by **John Capener and Upma Bhatnagar**
Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**
1 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1. + Stereo

GIGI GOES HOME centers on the plight of the red panda, an animal teetering on the edge of extinction due to habitat loss and illegal pet trade fueled by its endearing appearance. With the global population possibly as low as 10,000, red pandas face daunting survival challenges in their fragmented habitats across the Himalayan forests of Bhutan, Nepal, and India, separated by the Brahmaputra River.

The film follows Gigi, a young captive-bred red panda, being released into the wild in the Kanchenjunga Mountains on the India-Nepal border. This initiative is part of a conservation effort in two Indian national parks, which has increased the local red panda population from nearly zero to around 60.

Gigi's release is a significant event, symbolising hope and the culmination of 30 years of painstaking conservation work that has seen the numbers at the Darjeeling breeding center grow from 5 to 27. The film promises an emotional narrative, tracking Gigi's journey from birth to her critical first year in the wild, where she must navigate the challenges of finding food, avoiding predators, and locating other pandas.

Red pandas face numerous natural challenges: they have a brief mating period with females fertile for only a couple of days a year, and their cubs have a high mortality rate. Additionally, their main diet of bamboo offers low nutrition, requiring them to feed for the majority of their waking hours.

The film aims to provide the first comprehensive look at the life of a red panda in the wild, offering insights into their breeding, birth, maternal care, and the struggle for survival in their natural habitat. **GIGI GOES HOME** will not only celebrate the release of Gigi but also illuminate the real impact of conservation and the continued efforts required to preserve this enchanting species.

A production of Optimum Television / Thistledown Productions and Terra Mater Studios



HEALTHY CITIES MORE THAN HUMAN

Written and directed by **Heiko De Groot**
Executive producers: **Susanne Lummer, Sabine Holzer**
2x50min. + 1x90 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

Cities are like living organisms. Healthy and in perfect balance they can make their inhabitants happy, humans just as well as animals and plants. Thrown off balance, they get sick – and with them all the creatures living here.

Growing numbers of people and a capital investment boom are leading to a tremendous loss of green spaces, increased sealing of soils and a higher population density. The well-being of many cities is under threat.

The prevailing opinion is that cities belong to the people and that “nature” is the place for animals. We tend to forget that we have long since turned the countryside into an agricultural desert. What’s more, we urgently need to protect whatever remains of “nature” in our cities. What are the consequences of rapid urbanisation for biodiversity, cities’ ecosystems and people’s health?

We set off into the world of animals that have escaped to the city and tell their stories. These animals have adapted over time. Blackbirds sing louder and earlier in the morning to brave rush hour; urban foxes have grown shorter snouts

for they no longer use them to catch mice but tear open plastic packaging. White-footed mice in New York can now digest fast food instead of whole grains.

Intriguing behavioural animal stories, sublime city shots and the exciting projects of proficient scientists will reveal amazing connections in an attractive and entertaining way and give us a new look at life in our cities.

A production of Terra Mater Studios and federvieh in association with NDR / ARTE



HOLDING MY BREATH

Produced and directed by **Rick Rosenthal and Katya Shirokow**
Executive producers: **Andrea Gastgeb, Sabine Holzer**
1 x 52 min., HD, 5.1 + Stereo

**What does it take to find the ocean's most impressive animals and capture their behavior on camera?
How does one even know where to look for them in the big blue?**

Join 4-time Emmy Award-winning filmmaker and marine biologist Rick Rosenthal behind the scenes filming whales, dolphins, giant tunas, billfishes and manta rays, and discover his secrets for “getting the shot”.

For decades, Rick has filmed in the ocean waters out of sight of land, in waters thousands of meters deep – the open ocean. It's a world that feels like deep space, where hours and days can pass with no signs of life in the sea or sky. Then, in minutes, the seas explode into life with a massive

shoal of baitfish swirling just below the surface, attacked by dolphins and tunas torpedoing through, while seabirds dive-bomb from above. Without warning, out of the deep, a whale sweeps through the middle of the panicked shoal – its massive mouth swallowing thousands of the baitfish in a single mouthful.

Capturing such intense moments of action in the open ocean requires experience, patience and often, holding one's breath. Most open ocean animals perceive scuba divers'

bubbles as a threat and disappear when approached. To get close enough to film some of its most charismatic inhabitants, Rick and his open ocean camera-team often forgo their scuba tanks. Instead, they hold their breath – sometimes for minutes on end.

In HOLDING MY BREATH, we explore these and other back-stories of some of the most memorable natural history moments captured on camera by Rick and his team, most of which involved not breathing.

A co-production of Terra Mater Studios and Wild Logic LLC



rebecca/istock ©

ICON UNCOVERING THE SOUL OF SHERE KHAN

Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**
3 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

Narrated by Idris Elba

Tigers are one of the most elusive apex predators on the planet, and this series aims to unravel the many unknowns about them. By exploring the natural world of these big cats as well as their historical and cultural impact, **ICON** reveals extraordinary stories that create a greater understanding of the species.

This three-part series is part cinematic drama, part scientific investigation, and part blue chip natural history documentary, all woven together with a heart-led sensitivity to how tigers

have left their mark on our planet. We immerse ourselves in all aspects of the tigers' world, including the good, the bad, and the difficult.

In each hour-long episode, we will focus on specific tiger subspecies in the wild and unlock similarities between different types of tigers while also marveling at their unique geographical adaptations to their specific environments. These natural history stories will be interwoven with historical tales with important messages.

Stories which have to be told now, as Tom Gray, the Tiger Scientist for WWF's Tigers Alive Initiative, explains: "While Tigers might be omnipresent across our cultural landscape, their actual existence in the wild is reduced to a few pockets of their historical range. Wild tigers are found in just 10 countries, their historical range shrunk by over 95 %."

This spectacular series debunks and demystifies one of the world's most revered and feared apex predators on the planet.

A production of Terra Mater Studios and Think Lemonade Productions

JAGUAR BEACH

A film by **Ann Prum, Doug Shultz, Brian Moghari and Filipe DeAndrade**
Executive producers: **Ivo Filatsch, Sabine Holzer**
1 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

Where the king of the jungle becomes the king of the beach.

On a remote stretch of Central America's Pacific coast, far from tourist beaches, there is a unique dry tropical forest, the last of its kind on the planet.

Over 500 species of birds, wild pumas and ocelots, monkeys and 100 species of reptiles all make their home in this remote coastal oasis. And at the top of the food chain reigns the healthiest population of jaguars in Central America. We've only recently discovered why.

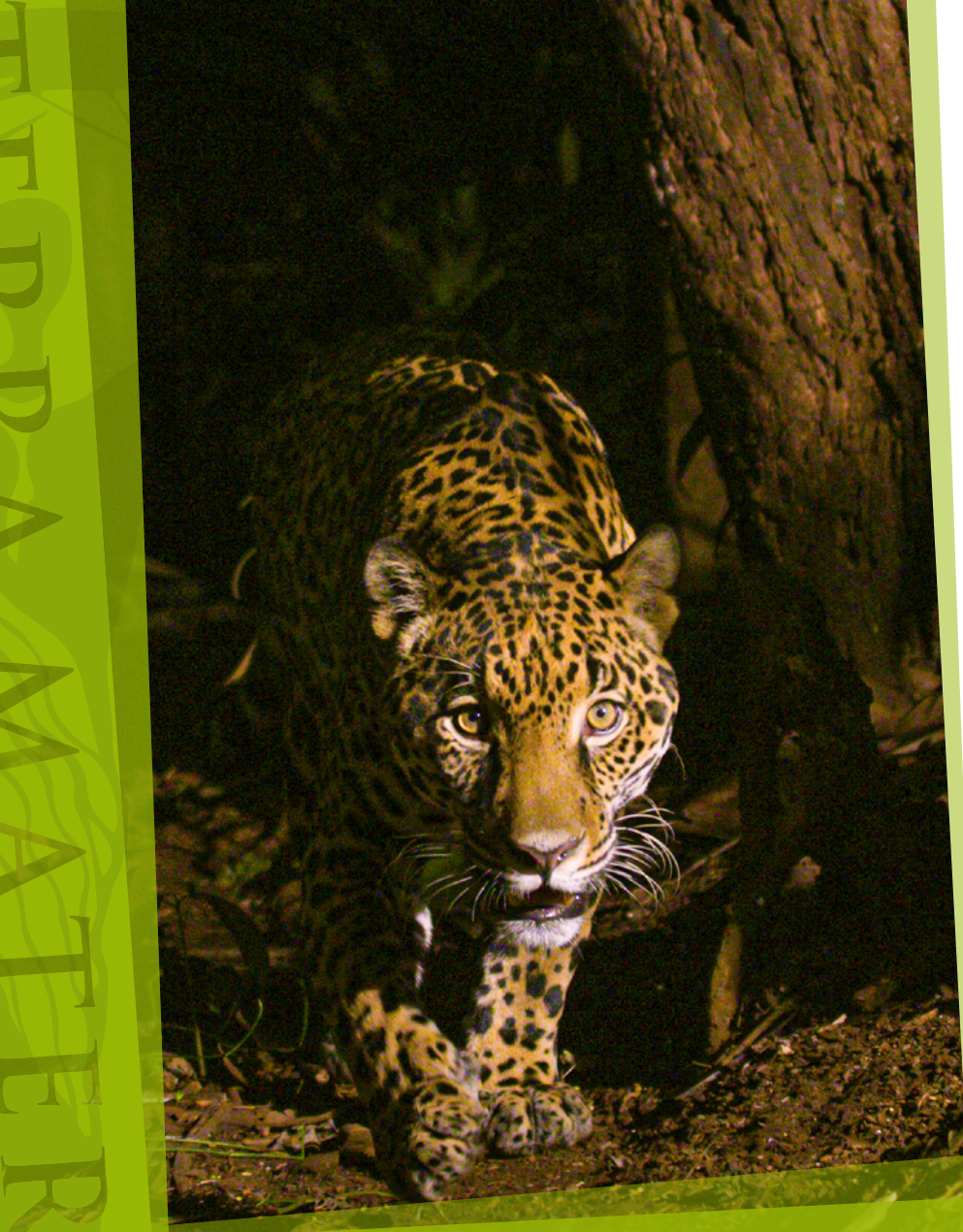
Here, on one isolated beach, the local jaguars have learned that there is more to eat than what's found in the forest. Under cover of night, these cunning cats slip out of the trees and onto the sand to stalk a surprising victim: sea turtles.

In cinematic blue-chip style, we'll follow several individual jaguars over the course of eighteen months, capturing their complex lives as they navigate this unique environment between forest and beach, hunting sea turtles, mating, rearing their young and battling for territory.

Through startlingly close and intimate filming with these cats, we'll transport audiences to a never-before-seen place where two worlds – the dry tropical forest and Central America's rich marine seascape – collide in a spectacular battle for survival.

For the first time, we'll tell this previously unknown story, how the lives of two of the world's most beloved species – the jaguar and the sea turtle – meet with spectacular consequences for everyone on **JAGUAR BEACH**.

A production of Terra Mater Studios and Coneflower Films Studios in co-production with The WNET Group in association with PBS and CPB and Tangled Bank Studios



TERRA MATER



KATAVI

Written and directed by **Owen Prümm**
Executive producers: **Martin Mészáros, Sabine Holzer**
3 x 50 min. + 1 x 90 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

An extreme weather phenomenon strikes remote, inaccessible Katavi National Park in Southern Tanzania. The powerful local tribes of hippo, lion and crocodile struggle for survival while defending their turf from intruders. This allegorical tale offers a fascinating insight into how an animal society can be affected by a changing climate and how this situation requires new strategies and changed behaviors from everyone.

In the secluded world of Katavi National Park, this documentary feature captures a once-in-a-lifetime event: during a very special year, a severe drought and flood due to a 90-year cyclic change in climate makes life increasingly difficult over the course of the seasons.

During the normal rainy season, Katavi flourishes. Babies are born and life is bountiful. But the dry season develops into an

extreme drought, until the last water holes dwindle into dark mud pools in which the residential hippos, lions and crocodiles are forced together, fighting for the last drop.

In stark contrast, the rainy season that follows the extended drought brings flooding to the region, creating havoc, cutting off members of the lion pride from each other, leaving them vulnerable.

The filmmakers lead the audience into an intimate drama that unfolds between these powerful clans over the most extreme year of our characters' lives. Our characters' plight to overcome lean and dark times is governed by the wisdom of generations. It ultimately weaves a message of tolerance, flexibility, and hope. A deeply resonant lesson we can all learn from, and one that has governed Katavi since time immemorial ...

A production of Terra Mater Studios and Shibumi Films in co-production with The WNET Group in association with PBS and CPB



KOSHA

SECRET LIFE OF A PANGOLIN

Written by **Ruth Berry**
 Directed by **Bruce Young and Wayne De Lange**
 Executive producers: **Susanne Lummer, Sabine Holzer**
1x50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

She is a small, harmless, scaly, ant-eating mammal with a ridiculously long tongue ... and no teeth. Her name is Kosha, and this is her story.

Kosha is an orphaned Temminck's ground pangolin from Zimbabwe, rescued from poachers when she was a pup, raised by humans and released back into the wild. Now fully grown, she offers her carers a rare glimpse into her secret life, when she takes them on an unexpected adventure down the pangolin burrow! What they learn along the way will jettison many existing theories about pangolin behaviour and biology. And help other rescued pangolins – the most trafficked mammals in the world – find a new home in Nature.

Kosha will give zoologist Ellen Connelly, conservationist Lisa Hywood and pangolin minder Luka Kamuhuni, the inspiration they need to change the fortunes of disadvantaged scaly anteaters across Africa.

Kosha motivates Ellen Connelly to trust in the simple process of observation. By watching Kosha over many years, she will gain an incredible foundation to learn

more about pangolins without interfering in their lives. Kosha gives Lisa Hywood the evidence to prove her animal rescue team in Zimbabwe have the specialist skills to rehabilitate pangolins seized from the illegal wildlife trade – and to bring new and improved ways to conserve pangolins.

And Kosha opens the door to a better life for local Shona man Luka Kamuhuni. Luka's connection to the little animal inspires him to learn about the pangolin's essential role Zimbabwe's biodiversity and to pass that message on to his people.

This is an uplifting story about the life of a little-known, highly endangered creature – with as many twists and turns as a pangolin's burrow.

A Silver Bullet Films / Terra Mater Studios production in co-production with The WNET Group in association with PBS and CPB

KUI BURI RECREATING PARADISE

Written and directed by **Heinz Leger**
Executive producers: **Ivo Filatsch, Sabine Holzer**
1x50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

There is a place in Southwestern Thailand that holds a secret.

The dense jungles of *Kui Buri National Park* seem a natural paradise. Here, some 300 wild Asian elephants are thriving – but this was only possible thanks to a special initiative that turned the long-time agricultural area of Kui Buri back into a Garden of Eden.

Alongside the elephants lives a vast number of animal species, like gibbons, wild dogs, and hornbills. For these remarkable birds, special conservation efforts have been made: instead of natural tree holes, whose numbers are decreasing due to deforestation, scientists have tested old wine barrels as replacements for the hornbill's nesting – with surprising success.

Moreover, Kui Buri is home to a mysterious creature, which the locals call *Krathing Daeng*. It's an extremely rare natural hybrid – a caprice of nature, created through the mating of two different bovine species: the *gaur*, the world's largest bovine, and the *banteng*, a smaller, more reddish species. In addition, there are sambar deer, and the Malayan tapir, the largest of all the subspecies – and the only one that lives in Southeast Asia. With all its bounty of species, *Kui Buri* is a true success story; it's become sort of a role model for national parks.



A production of Terra Mater Studios

LEMUR DIARIES

SURVIVING THE MODERN WORLD

Executive producers: **Cayley Christos, Sabine Holzer**
3 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

They hibernate underground, dance, play hide-and-seek and even get high. Lemurs are so much more than the ring-tailed critters we have come to know and love. Today, their lives are filled with unique challenges, new adaptations and an uncertain future.

L **EMUR DIARIES** is an enthralling 3-part series that delves into the captivating world of lemurs, presenting their extraordinary lives from their very own perspective. With an endearing and humorous touch, this series takes viewers on an emotional journey like no other. Experience their authentic firsthand encounters, as **LEMUR DIARIES** unveils their captivating tales that unfold in their remarkable lives.

EPISODE 1
“Family Bonds” delves into the intricate social structures of lemurs. From the Northeast to the Southern landscapes of Madagascar, we witness how family dynamics, alliances, unique communication methods and hierarchical relationships contribute to their survival in the face of changing circumstances.

EPISODE 2

“Masters of Survival” uncovers the ingenious survival strategies lemurs employ across regions. Whether it’s resourceful foraging, unique hunting techniques, or shelter-building, we explore how these adaptations enable lemurs to conquer the challenges presented by their ever-evolving environment.

EPISODE 3

“Harmony in Nature” focuses on lemurs’ pivotal role in maintaining the delicate balance of Madagascar’s diverse ecosystems. We showcase how lemurs’ feeding habits inadvertently aid in seed dispersal and forest regeneration, and the importance of human involvement in ensuring the survival of these remarkable creatures and their habitat.

LEOPARD DYNASTY

THE RISE OF RANA

Written and directed by **Aishwarya Sridhar**
Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**
1x50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

In the bustling city of Jaipur, home to 3.1 million people, the forests of Jhalana emerge as a sanctuary where wild leopards reign supreme. Once the hunting grounds of Jaipur's royalty, these forests are now dominated by Bahadur, a leopard who has impressively ruled for six years. Within his territory, his cubs, including the once-lazy Rana, grow and learn the ways of the wild. As Rana matures, he evolves from relying on his mother to becoming a skilled hunter, aspiring to take over his father's domain.

Now three years old and ambitious, Rana sets his sights on claiming his father's kingdom. He aims to establish his dominance by mating with Flora, one of Bahadur's females who holds prime territory. Against typical leopard behavior, Rana forms a year-long partnership with Flora, and they have a male cub, further solidifying his claim to the throne.

To prove his might, Rana takes down an Indian blue bull, showcasing his strength to the kingdom. His actions do not go unnoticed by Bahadur, who perceives the threat to his rule. In a brutal display of power, Bahadur attempts to eliminate the cub,

resulting in an injury to Flora. The stage is set for a climactic battle between Rana and his seasoned father. With youth and agility, Rana faces Bahadur's experience and might. The struggle for power is fierce, signaling that any change in leadership will come at the cost of violence, altering the dynamics of Jhalana's leopard kingdom forever.

A Terra Mater Studios, Bambee Studios, Ouragan Films & Think Lemonade Production





MARA: REBIRTH

A film by **Dereck and Beverly Joubert**
Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Ivo Filatsch**
1 x 52 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

MARA: REBIRTH looks at one of the most covered and well-known ecosystems in natural history, but dives deeper into a side of it that is almost never seen. What happens when the wildebeest migration leaves?

Our film starts with the dust of the disappearing migration as it heads off across the river and turns its face back to what is left. And that is something quite incredible. The real value of wildebeest of what they leave behind is in millions of tons of fertilizer that turns the grass into one of the richest landscapes on the planet.

And the best part is that for nine months, no wildebeest herds return.

Leopard cubs, jackal pups, elephant calves, young giraffes and zebra foals – they all give the story a latent sense of joy and fun, a celebration of nature that is not clichéd or reliant here on a migration and the usual crocodilian frenzy. Ours is a story of life, not death, of birth and growth, of the richness of a landscape that takes your breath away each dawn and gives it back again in meditation each evening.

Birth is one of the two things that is common to all of us around the planet. Our film is a lyrical but factual look into what happens most of the year in the Mara, and it is a journey. We hope you can join us.

A production of Terra Mater Studios and Wildlife Films in co-production with The WNET Group in association with PBS and CPB



NATURE'S BLUEPRINTS

Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**
3 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

Turn on the national or international news and it seems that our planet is facing overwhelming problems.

Record-breaking floods devastate some parts of the world while others suffer unprecedented droughts. Waste material clogs rivers and threatens ocean life. We're running short on energy and most of the energy we produce makes things worse by releasing carbon dioxide. Technological fixes haven't worked. We need a different approach!

Luckily for our future survival, nature's research and development department has been operating for three and a half billion years. In that time, it has solved all the

problems we now face and hasn't killed the planet in the process!

This series investigates the concept of biomimicry – exploring nature's blueprints to solve problems. We explore three areas, challenges that we must overcome urgently, if we're to reduce our impact on our own home planet: how to move around, how to create materials without trashing the environment and how to generate and use energy without compounding climate change.

We see developments in robotics creating robots that can explore environments that we can't, and have implications for new developments in medicine with prosthetic limbs. We investigate new materials that are lighter and stronger, are more flexible when needed. And we discover ways to generate clean energy that don't involve burning fossil fuels and are renewable.

Biomimicry is the science of the future.

A production of Terra Mater Studios

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NATURE'S RETURN

A film by **Petra Lederhilger, Susanne Lummer, Andreas Ribarits**
Executive producer: **Sabine Holzer**
1 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

How is it possible that, in the urban jungle of modern metropolises, young plants nonetheless poke their heads through cracks in the concrete, searching for the sun?

How do the large herds of zebras in the Okavango Delta survive the searing heat of the dry season and hold out for the first drops of rain in months? Can a grizzly bear mother and her four cubs live through North America's harsh winter?

What was the impacts of wolves' return to Yellowstone National Park?

All across the planet, even when faced with apparently impossible conditions, life persists. Despite setbacks, we invariably witness **NATURE'S RETURN.**

For decades, human beings have had a more dramatic impact on conditions on Earth than any other factor.

The Anthropocene epoch has caused natural systems and networks that have existed for millennia to become unstable – yet nature remains perhaps our greatest hope in this difficult situation. After all, it has spent millions of years adapting to new realities. No matter how great the effects of individual seasons, natural disasters or human influence are on existing ecosystems, nature invariably finds some way to return.
We just have to let it.

A production of Terra Mater Studios

TERRA MATER

THE NATURE OF CHRISTMAS

Written and directed by **Herbert Ostwald**
Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Thomas Weidenbach**
1x50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

Get ready for an enchanting journey through the natural history of Christmas! We will explore the fascinating connection between animals, plants, and mystical landscapes with this beloved holiday; a connection that has been cherished by many cultures for centuries.

Join us as we uncover the secrets behind the spread of evergreen mistletoe, discover how reindeer survive the frigid winter, and trace the origins of the beloved Christmas tree, joining tree-climbing harvester in dizzying heights. And don't forget social geese, patient donkeys and charming robins, which are also intricately intertwined with this holiday.

This documentary is a feast for the eyes with lavish images that will transport you to magical landscapes, and we've added a touch of humor and adventure to keep things entertaining.

Although Christmas is a Christian holiday, it has become a cultural phenomenon celebrated by people of all backgrounds. It's known as the "Festival of Love", bringing warmth and comfort to the cold winter months – or for those on the other side of the globe, a unique combination of beach parties and Santa hats.

This documentary will take you on a wild journey around the world to explore the fascinating **NATURE OF CHRISTMAS**. Join us as we discover the true magic behind this beloved holiday!

A co-production of Terra Mater Studios, Längengrad Filmproduktion, WDR and ARTE



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PANTANAL

RIVER OF REFLECTION

A film by **Dereck and Beverly Joubert**
Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**
2 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

By definition, the Pantanal is “an area of muddy seaside land which is covered with water at high tide.” But this description doesn’t do it all!

The Pantanal has a delta 15 x larger than Botswana’s Okavango, and is as beautiful – minus the elephants, and certainly not a muddy swamp. This film will bring a fresh set of eyes to one of the most amazing landscapes on the planet, in association with one of the most important conservation groups in Brazil, Instituto Homem Pantaneiro, run by Colonel Angel Rabelo. They are granting access to unique, and exclusive reserves along the Amalor mountain range on the border of Bolivia.

Pink ipê trees flush in July covering whole hills in bright colours, but not enough to disguise the flashes of red and green macaws or Amazon kingfishers. The range of “weird” animals is extraordinary, from piranhas to capybara, maned wolves, ocelot, giant otters, toucans, jaguars – they all make up the cast of characters, each telling the story of this place. We may look into the parallel species to those in Africa and reveal why so many are so similar.

PENGUIN BAYWATCH

Written by **Bertrand Loyer**
Directed by **Kevin Peyrusse and Marta Sostres**
Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Bertrand Loyer**
3 x 60 min., 4K, 5.1+ Stereo

Welcome to the Crozet archipelago, a unique penguin paradise!

Penguins are charismatic and funny characters. They always look as though they are ready to go out to a fancy dinner. And while they are clumsy on the ground, they are extremely graceful in the water.

Their neighbours on the beach are often naturally clumsy and grotesque as well: elephant seals look like gigantic bean bags when they leave the ocean to mate, give birth and moult. But while the elephant seal population is rising, king penguin numbers are decreasing rapidly. What is killing them?

Despite its humorous approach, the series relies on hard facts and serious science: telemetry data provides fascinating facts and the investigation raises puzzling questions. How deep and how long can a king penguin or an elephant seal actually dive? Why are elephant seal numbers rising, but penguin numbers are not? How and why do gigantic orcas eat small fluffy penguins? Can a penguin catch bird flu?

There is a dramatic plot behind this wildlife comedy, a mystery to be solved. Like an Agatha Christie novel, each episode, each chapter brings clues to light ...

To delve into the lives of penguins and their invasive neighbors, a new generation of talented film makers and divers is committed to spending extensive periods of time with them in their remote and hostile environment using the most advanced tools in 4K HDR cinematography.

A co-production of Saint Thomas productions and Terra Mater Studios and Ushuaia TV





RETURN OF THE LOST LIONS

Written and directed by **Ruth Berry**
Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**
1 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1+ Stereo

This is the story of Florence, a rare West African lion, and how she is bringing back her kind from the edge of extinction in Niokolo-Koba National Park – Senegal’s best kept secret.

N iokolo-Koba is bigger than Yellowstone. It is a rare gem, vast enough to be a refuge for many endangered West African animals including a little-known subspecies of lion. There may be as few as 120 West African lions in the wild, but in Niokolo-Koba National Park they have made a miraculous comeback thanks to one lioness, Florence. A decade ago, West African lions were undergoing a catastrophic population collapse. In Niokolo-Koba National

Park only 10 to 15 remained. Poaching was rampant. In response, Senegalese National Parks’ staff and NGO Panthera began anti-poaching measures and a project to collar and monitor the lions. Then, Florence came along. In 2023, Florence made international news when rare footage was filmed on a camera trap. She appeared with three lion cubs. For hours they ate from a buffalo carcass and played – as lion cubs do.

Scientists believe she has given birth to three litters – nine cubs in total – in her lifetime. She is now considered the matriarch of Niokolo-Koba. Now, as these lions fill in the landscape, new prides are forming in new areas.

In this precious, little-known place, comes a story of hope, thanks in no small part to Florence, the West African lion.

A production of Terra Mater Studios and Wildberry Productions

RIDDLE IN THE WIND

Directed by **Sacha Bollet & Bertrand Loyer**
Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Bertrand Loyer**
2 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

Something strange is happening, thousands of miles from the nearest landmass, on isolated volcanic islands in the so-called “Roaring Forties”. Certain animals are thriving while others are disappearing for mysterious reasons.

To solve this riddle, mammal and bird specialists set up camp on these rugged islands that are constantly lashed by the southern Indian Ocean lows in order to place an array of tagging devices on penguins, elephant seals, albatrosses, orcas and other large animals. The resulting data reveals a number of unexpected consequences of human activity that affect the birth and survival rates of ocean wanderers. Some scientists propose and implement a range of remedies.

STYLE

Studies of population dynamics can make great television!
The recipe is simple: take the rarely filmed but scenic locations of Crozet and Kerguelen islands, focus on charismatic and large animals in a pristine environment, and set up a riddle focussing on their mysteriously dwindling or thriving populations.
Next, add some spectacular animal behavior shots filmed with the latest UHD equipment; show scientists as CSI investigators / vets but make sure they only speak off-camera while attaching their hi-tech tags to animals; transform the data into spectacular 3D graphics; reveal a complex set of causes linked to human activity; end on a positive note (to show that there are some remedies for the mess we have created) and finally demonstrate that, with a little bit of care, nature can be resilient.

A co-production of Saint Thomas Productions and Terra Mater Studios





SAME, SAME – BUT DIFFERENT CHILDREN OF THE EVOLUTION

Written and directed by **Ivo Filatsch**
Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**
1 x 50 min, 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

Nature – evolution – has spawned countless creatures. Today, Earth harbours millions of species, from tiny microbes to the largest animal ever to have lived on our planet, the 200 tonne blue whale.

Animals live on land, in the oceans, and in the air – and most species look very different in size, limbs, body shape and appearance. Some of them are closely related – closer than you'd expect. Yet other species look surprisingly alike, with similar or even the same body features, even though they're not even related.

Did you know that the rock hyrax, the size of a cat, looking like a marmot – is related to the elephant, and to manatees? That we humans are related not only to primates, but also to colugos – air-gliding mammals that live in the jungles of Southeast Asia? Oddly, ostriches and crocodiles are also related, as they share the same ancestors: a special group of dinosaurs, called theropods.

At the same time, you'd expect a certain relationship between spiny hedgehogs, echidna and tenrecs. But nope, sorry. Whales and whale sharks? Same story, no relations. Let's not even get started on snakes and eels!

This film presents these and more discoveries in a fresh, entertaining, and yet very informative way. You will meet a lot of fascinating creatures with a wide variety of biological connections to one another – whether it's differences or similarities. And there's one crucial takeaway for everyone: diversity is the most natural thing on Earth.

A production of Terra Mater Studios



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SENTINELS EXPLORING NATURE FROM SPACE

Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**
1x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

Here on the ground, it's hard to appreciate how our planet works, or how truly global some creatures really are. But Earth is ringed by satellites sending images and data from space, and new GPS tags are so tiny they can track individual insects over long distances.

We'll reveal the planet's changes over a year, watching seasonal variations in plant productivity with instruments such as SeaWiFS and MODIS and see changing rainfall patterns as the Intertropical Convergence Zone moves north and south of the equator, bringing seasonal monsoons and a flush of new growth.

Painted lady butterflies migrate north from East Africa to Svalbard. But some journeys are much longer. Short-tailed

shearwaters migrate from Australia to the Bering Straits, following patterns of ocean currents visible from space.

Over the oceans, satellites measure complex patterns in sea surface height reflecting the mountains, valleys and plains hidden beneath kilometres of seawater.

And data from tagged humpback whales shows them migrating along underwater mountain ranges, seeking huge

canyons, where upwellings create rich feeding grounds.

We've discovered that every year, huge numbers of great white sharks migrate to a remote spot in the middle of the Pacific – but we don't yet know why.

Even all our technology hasn't solved some mysteries ... yet.

A production of Terra Mater Studios



WATER MATTER

SINGAPORE WILD DAY OUT

Written and directed by **Matt Hamilton**
Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**
1 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

Singapore is one of the most densely populated countries on Earth. Yet, amongst the hustle and bustle of this futuristic metropolis, nature thrives. This is the story of a wild day out in the lives of Singapore's lesser-known residents.

The sun rises over one of the greatest cities on the planet. Amongst skyscrapers and fading neon lights, the curious call of a rooster rings out. A red jungle fowl, ancestor to all domestic chickens, is looking for a scrap. This city has a wild side.

The daily alarm over and the commute begins. A family of smooth-coated otters, 10 strong, heads into Marina Bay to fish. A white bellied sea eagle sets out to hunt amongst giant

container ships. As people flood in from the suburbs, the macaques of Segar Road take their chance to raid gardens. By midday, quiet falls over the city. The otter and macaque family relax in the shade as, in quieter corners, wild boar try their best to steal people's picnics. Along the coast, however, some animals are working through the lunchbreak. It's low tide and mudskippers and sand bubbler crabs are in frenzied activity. Giant saltwater crocodiles, Singapore's top predator, stalk fish in the shallow waters.

Night in Singapore is when the more unusual residents come out to play; flying lemurs and strange pangolins. Palm civets stalk the rooftops and, on special nights, spawning coral puts on a show more magical than the city's lights.

Singapore aims to be the greenest city on Earth. From its first tree-planting day in 1971 to modern 'supertrees' that shelter orchids and sunbirds, this film reveals how nature has found a home in one of the world's greatest urban jungles.

A production of Terra Mater Studios and Dandy Lion Films

SOCIETIES

THE ANIMAL KINGDOMS

Written and directed by **Matt Hamilton**
Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**
3 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

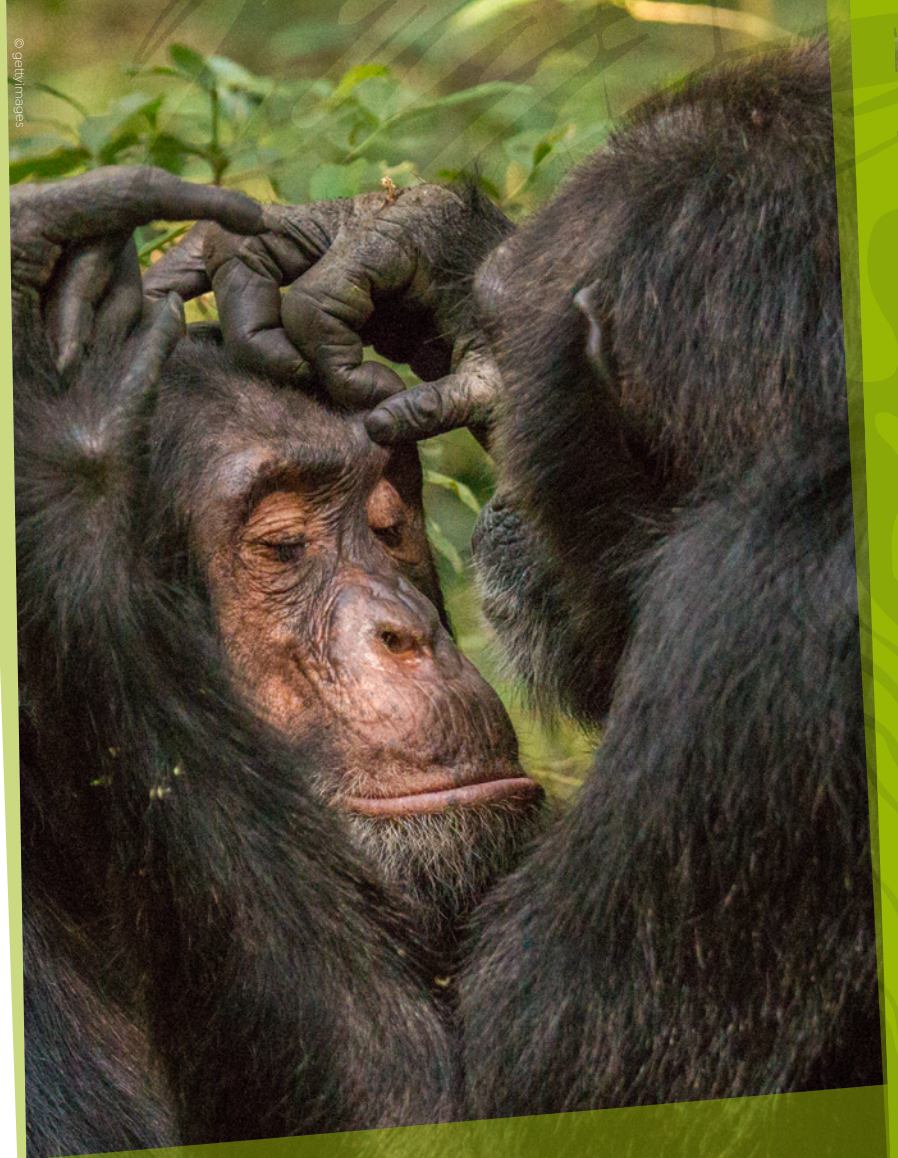
Epic spectacle. Intense drama. Conflict, co-operation, sacrifice and deception. What lies behind the natural world's most engaging stories? The answer is social life. The need to work together to survive.

Hunting wolf packs, nest-sharing birds, rafts of sea otters holding hands or trees that support each other through difficult times; societies and social behaviour take myriad forms. This spectacular three-part series reveals the infinite and fascinating complexities of social living, as well as the challenges faced by any animal society.

What is social behaviour? How do societies form? How are they maintained? How are they exploited for individual gain? How do they fail?

Never explored before, this concept brings new behaviours and characters to our screens, while also approaching more familiar scenes from an entirely new angle. We revisit key characters in different episodes, supported by a host of extraordinary and surprising second characters to uncover the success, and failure, of nature's great societies. As a social species ourselves, viewers will be gripped and stunned by the mirror it holds up to our own way of life.

A production of Terra Mater Studios and Dandy Lion Films



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SUM OF THE PARTS

Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**
5 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

We are all more than the sum of our parts – yet without those parts we wouldn't exist.

We know how the world looks by seeing with our **eyes**. But humans aren't the only ones to depend on the sense of sight, most animals also orient themselves using their eyes.

Whether dog, horse, shrew or human, we all have a **nose** in the middle or front of the face. It can be ruffled, can sniff and twitch, and is one of the most important sensory organs.

Some **ears** are the most obvious feature of the head – others can't be seen at all. They have one simple purpose, to perceive tones and noises.

Feet carry us through the world – human or animal. But not all feet are the same – two legs, four legs, eight legs, lots of legs; however how many feet an animal has, they allow it to move from one place to another.

Every mammal is covered in **hair**, some very sparsely, others with dense, fluffy fur – but even the naked mole is not completely naked.

Eyes, nose, mouth. Hands, feet. Ears. Hair. Skin. In a light, informative but entertaining series, we look at these parts, how they work, how they differ between animals.

A production of Terra Mater Studios



TINY ELEPHANT

Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Clare Birks**
1x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

TINY ELEPHANT introduces us to the world of one of the most adorable but mysterious elephant species on Earth, the Bornean Pygmy Elephant, through the life of a newborn calf named Buana, meaning 'Earth'. Narrating a largely untold story, the documentary follows Buana over her first year, offering a window into the lives of these rare and intelligent creatures, of which fewer than 1,500 remain.

Buana's journey is set against the backdrop of significant habitat loss due to expanding palm oil plantations and human development. The film highlights the dangers and conflicts arising from this environmental change, while also showcasing the vital work of local scientists and conservationists in Borneo. Their efforts to understand the elephants and the establishment of wildlife corridors and restored migration routes provide a glimmer of hope for the

species' survival. The Kinabatangan rainforest, known as the 'Amazon of Asia', is Buana's home and is a biodiverse haven for wildlife, though it faces threats from deforestation. The documentary follows Buana's migration from the mangroves of her birth, through the rainforest and a landscape altered by human activity, as she learns essential survival skills and inherits a memory map from her ancestors.

Buana's encounters with other forest inhabitants, her learning experiences, and the challenges she faces, including navigating plantations and villages, bring moments of drama, emotion, and humour. Her story is a poignant illustration of the real-life impact of habitat loss on individual animals, emphasizing the significance of positive conservation efforts. Buana's tale is a beacon of hope, underscoring the importance of preserving our planet for future generations.

A production of Oxford Scientific Films and Terra Mater Studios in co-production with The WNET Group in association with PBS and CPB



URBAN NATIONAL PARKS

WHERE WILDERNESS MEETS THE CITY

Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Thomas Weidenbach**
7x50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

Where wilderness meets the city: You'd think of National Parks as remote, wild places but many of them are surprisingly close to – or even within – major cities. And here, iconic wildlife lives alongside the seething metropolis.

This returnable series will travel the world to visit well-known cities and meet the less well-known wildlife on their doorsteps. We'll find a spectacular diversity of nature not only thriving but even taking advantage of their adjacent city. This is where some strange neighbours have learned to live together.

TABLE MOUNTAIN AND CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, SOUTH AFRICA

Table Mountain, often draped in cloud, rises from the sprawl of Cape Town in South Africa – a botanical wonder. Three quarters of the strange plants on the summit are found nowhere else in the world. The steep rock slopes are home to colonies of rock hyraxes, strange little creatures whose nearest relatives are elephants. Boulder Beach hosts a large colony of jackass penguins.

BISCAYNE BAY, FLORIDA, US

A stone's throw from Miami, Biscayne Bay has some of the largest remaining coral reefs on the planet, while manatees cruise the shallow waters. The bay is fringed by tidal forests of mangroves.

TIJUCA, RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

The statue of Christ the Redeemer towers over the city of Rio de Janeiro and over the Tijuca Forest, a verdant paradise compared to the hustle and bustle of Rio. Black capuchin monkeys, common marmosets and squirrel monkeys scurry through the forest canopy ... but need to look out for margays.

NAIROBI, KENYA

Nairobi National Park is one of the most extraordinary places on the planet. Herds of zebra and antelopes live out their lives against a backdrop of the skyscrapers of Kenya's capital city.

BUKIT TIMAH, SINGAPORE

Several National Parks weave through the city of Singapore, including Bukit Timah – the first of the forest reserves to be created back in 1883 and just 12 kilometers from the very centre of the city.

CUYAHOGA VALLEY, CLEVELAND, OHIO

No one would have expected that bald eagles circle just outside the Cleveland metropolitan area, or that coyotes and otters hunt there. The Cuyahoga Valley is one of the youngest national parks in the U.S., but its history is one of the most exciting.

DONAU-AUEN, VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Although the main channel is busy, the backwaters form some of the largest remaining floodplain forests and marshes along the Danube – the Donau-Auen. The park stretches from the centre of Vienna, downstream to Bratislava in Slovakia. Beavers, storks and bee-eaters call this place their home.



THE WEIGHT OF LIFE

Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**
1x50 min., 4K, 5.1+ Stereo

Life – there's a lot of it. We're familiar with reports of humans dominating the Earth. But there is far more life on the planet than just us. Who or what actually weighs the most?

In the oceans, almost 98% of the biomass consists of plankton, the basis of all life in the sea. Antarctic krill feed on the plankton and there are so many krill in the Antarctic waters that their total biomass is estimated at 500 million tonnes. In comparison, we humans only manage 100 million tonnes. An adult blue whale then eats 16 tonnes of krill a day.

But there's an enormous amount of unseen life right under our feet. In an area of 1 m³ of fertile soil, there are 1,000 trillion bacteria and 1 trillion fungi ... all invisible to us but weighing up to 2kg in total. This secret world is essential for our survival!

To feed humans, around 66 billion chickens, 304 million cattle and 1.5 billion pigs are slaughtered every year – yet nature must provide even more food. Approximately 45,000 spider species worldwide eat up to 800 million tonnes of prey every year – and spiders eat more insects than humans eat meat!

WEIRD BUT WONDERFUL

Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**
1 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1+ Stereo

Why does it always have to be about the handsome, the beautiful or the indescribably cute? Fluffy kittens, clumsy bear cubs and dainty foals on shaky legs may all be wonderful to watch, but isn't our world significantly more colourful, diverse and ... unusual? Isn't there more to life than big, beautiful eyes and soft, silky fur?

It is time to celebrate the less attractive members of the animal kingdom! After all, they often have the more interesting life stories, from tousled owl chicks and slimy beetle larvae to hairless wombat babies. At first glance, they may look like only a mother could love them – but they are fascinating creatures in their own right!

Young aye-ayes are also not much to look at. These long-fingered lemurs give birth to a single infant every two or three years, and the young aye-ayes are born with thin, shaggy fur, green eyes and oversized, droopy ears. Despite their unprepossessing appearance, young aye-ayes display some remarkable physical characteristics.

Closer to home, the dusty attics of old farm buildings in central Europe are often home to barn owlets that squeal loudly to let their parents know they are hungry. The older barn owls are elegant, silent nocturnal predators. The same cannot be said of their scraggy, squawking, semi-naked offspring. The owlets are born with old-looking faces obscured by a hooked beak.

Nature is full of baby animals that would never feature on posters or calendars, but which are none-the-less fascinating. This film celebrates these weird, wonderful creatures and the amazing animals they eventually become.

A production of Terra Mater Studios

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WHISPERS OF THE WILD TIGERS IN THAILAND

Written and directed by **Heinz Leger**
Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**
1x50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

WHISPERS OF THE WILD highlights the success of the Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary in Thailand as a beacon of hope for tiger conservation. With the global tiger population dwindling to just 4,000 to 5,000 mature individuals, occupying less than 3% of their historical range, Huai Kha Khaeng stands as a vital stronghold for these majestic animals.

Designated as a wildlife sanctuary in 1974 and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Huai Kha Khaeng is a critical corridor for tiger movement, essential for maintaining genetic diversity and population health. It's also a refuge for other endangered species like the samba and Eld's deer.

Thanks to the concerted efforts of conservationists, park rangers, scientists, and local communities, the sanctuary has

seen a remarkable increase in its tiger population, from 42 to an estimated 74, within a decade. Huai Kha Khaeng, along with its partner sanctuary Thung Yai, now hosts the largest population of Indo-Chinese tigers in the world, proving the efficacy of collaborative conservation.

The film emphasizes that despite this success, challenges such as poaching, habitat fragmentation, and human-wildlife conflicts persist, requiring ongoing dedication and innovative

solutions. Education plays a crucial role in the sanctuary's strategy, with programs designed to engage and transform individuals into advocates for tiger conservation.

WHISPERS OF THE WILD advocates for this model to inspire and inform global efforts to protect tigers. Through compelling storytelling and rare footage, the documentary aims to raise awareness and support for the conservation of these iconic animals, securing their future for generations to come.

A production of Terra Mater Studios



WILD CAPE TOWN

Produced and directed by **Katharina Pechel, Diana Keam and Wayne de Lange**
Executive producers: **Katharina Pechel, Sabine Holzer**
2 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

The documentary series WILD CAPE TOWN showcases the vibrant intersection of urban life and wild nature within Cape Town, emphasizing the city's unique relationship with its diverse fauna amidst a global rewilding trend.

The series, spread across two parts, is a visual and emotional journey through the city's stunning landscapes and the intimate, sometimes humorous, interactions between its human and animal residents. With an emphasis on the coexistence of species such as caracals, baboons, leopards, whales, sharks, otters, porcupines, and black eagles alongside five million people, the documentary series highlights the resilience and beauty of these creatures. It narrates the good, the bad, and the

comical aspects of their lives, promising viewers an insightful look into the extraordinary existences of Cape Town's wildlife.

Cape Town's reputation as an extreme sports hub is also a focal point, with activities like big wave surfing, mountain biking, rock climbing, and paragliding drawing adventurers closer to nature and enabling unexpected wildlife encounters. These activities contribute to the city's allure, where the passion for adventure is intertwined with a deep appreciation for the surrounding natural world.

The series not only captures the essence of Cape Town's wild heart but also benefits from the insights of a local filmmaking team well-versed in the city's nuances. Their proximity to the action and collaboration with top ecologists ensure a rich, informed narrative. **WILD CAPE TOWN** presents a multifaceted portrait of a city that thrives on the edge of wilderness, inviting viewers to experience its dynamic spirit and the daily dance between the urban and the wild.

A co-production of Table Mountain Films, Silver Bullet Films, Terra Mater Studios and Doclights / NDR Naturfilm

WILD INDIA

Written and directed by **Matt Hamilton**
Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**
2 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

**Spectacular scenery. Breath-taking diversity.
Dramatic change. This is the story of Wild India.**

India is one of the most biodiverse nations on our planet. Guarded by an impenetrable mountain range, the elements combine here to create an awe-inspiring realm of intense beauty, filled with charismatic animals.

Towering mountains, bone dry deserts, vast plains and tangled jungles. They may seem worlds apart, but, as our two-part series reveals, India's unique geography means all life in this country is deeply connected.

EPISODE 1: EARTH

India boasts breathtaking natural diversity. Our first episode delves into the amazing power of the Earth that led to India becoming one of the most biologically diverse countries on the planet. We explore the unique habitats of India – from the snow-capped mountain peaks, rain-soaked forests, grasslands, barren deserts to the Himalayan Mountains, the tallest on Earth. We witness magnificent and rare wildlife, including mighty tigers, endangered one-horned rhinos, Asian elephants, enigmatic long-tailed macaques, giant squirrels and the elusive snow leopard. Don't miss the chance to encounter India's extraordinary wildlife and natural beauty!

EPISODE 2: WINDS OF CHANGE

Experience the dramatic seasonal changes of India's distinct habitats in our second episode. Witness how the mighty Himalayas not only isolate but control India's climate, leading to the most intense monsoons experienced anywhere in the world. We find out how winter time, strangely, is the best time for Indian lions to raise their young, and we witness the fierce battles of male king cobras, the rutting of cheetal deer, and the arrival of thousands of demoiselle cranes. We capture the magic of India's seasonal changes.

WILD PERU

LAND OF EXTREMES

Written and directed by **Matt Hamilton**
Executive producers: **Sabine Holzer, Walter Köhler**
3 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

One nation; three distinct worlds. This three-part series tells the story of a land ruled by extremes, where life thrives in the most challenging conditions imaginable.

Extrême altitude, relentless rain and searing sun have seen ancient civilisations rise and fall. And yet, nature endures; this very adversity fueling some of the most spectacular gatherings of wildlife on our planet. With the world yet to wake up to the wonders of Peru, join us for an immersive cinematic journey as we uncover South America's best kept secret.

EPISODE 1: THE DIVIDING LINE

Peru lies entirely in the tropics, yet our series begins with a world locked in ice. At 18,000 feet, these are the tallest peaks of the Andes Mountains. Their staggering height prevents clouds from passing. It makes them the dividing line between two distinct realms; one wet, the other dry. To survive here takes extraordinary adaptation and resilience. Up here, great civilisations have fallen, but nature thrives.

EPISODE 2: THE FOREST OF MIRRORS

In our second episode, we visit a world of breath-taking complexity. Peru's Amazon rainforest is among the most biodiverse regions on Earth. Here, we discover a realm bursting with colour. A land of beautiful and bizarre species and intimate relationships. Like all of Peru's habitats, this is a uniquely challenging place to live, not least because these forests spend half their year submerged in water.

EPISODE 3: THE DESERT COAST

In our third episode, we visit Peru's extraordinary coastline. It is a land of immense contrast; where a seemingly lifeless desert meets some of the greatest gatherings of wildlife on Earth. On land, spectacled bears and sechura foxes struggle for existence beneath the searing sun. In the ocean, myriad marine mammals and enormous colonies of penguins and cormorants thrive on an abundance of prey.

A production of Terra Mater Studios and Dandy Lion Films

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WILD SAN DIEGO

Written and directed by **Neil Losin and Nathan Dappen**
Executive producers: **Ivo Filatsch, Sabine Holzer**
1x50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

With a population of ~3.4 million people, and more moving in every day, almost all of San Diego looks man-made.

But first impressions can be deceptive: look closely and you'll discover a landscape vibrating with wildlife! Sandwiched between harsh inland deserts and the cold Pacific Ocean, between Mexico and the rest of North America, San Diego is a meeting place. Where these seemingly inhospitable worlds collide, is an explosion of life.

However, the geographic isolation that created so much of San Diego's diversity is now one of its greatest threats. To survive here, animals and plants must learn to live alongside people, or they won't live at all.

We will discover the wild side of San Diego; we will see thousands of migrating ducks land on the bay, coyotes running past a baseball field, dolphins riding waves alongside surfers, whales breaching offshore from coastal skyscrapers. We'll witness California ground squirrels fixing up old tunnels, hummingbirds dipping their beaks into giant African Aloes flowers, and a puma prowling in a neighborhood canyon.

And we'll delight in Grebes dancing over the water in pairs, and harbor seals basking in the sun until it sets – only to marvel at brilliantly blue waves crashing on the beach later that night when dinoflagellates brighten the darkness with bioluminescence.

We'll follow the stories of wild animals making a living throughout a full annual cycle in a landscape reshaped by humans, and we'll discover how, despite its urban transformation, "America's Finest City" is still one of the wildest places in North America.

A Day's Edge and Terra Mater Studios production in co-production with The WNET Group
in association with PBS and CPB



WILD VIENNA

Written and produced by **Martin Mészáros**
Executive producer: **Sabine Holzer**
1 x 50 min., 4K, 5.1 + Stereo

Vienna – millions of visitors arrive every year, drawn by its art and culture, but there's a secret Vienna ... hidden in the shadows of imperial palaces, ancient churches and magnificent gardens.

Wild boar and roe deer roam spacious parks, kestrels nest on prestigious imperial architecture. Beavers and otters build nests in urban streams and ponds and, after dark, foxes – 4,000 of them at the last count – scavenge for food in suburban streets. In one park alone, scientists found more than 200 European hamsters.

Vienna is a unique combination of ecosystems – green spaces form over half of its land area, and parts of the city lie within the legendary Vienna Woods.

One of Europe's largest wetlands spreads along Vienna's Danube and on to the Austrian border, so that sea eagles patrol the skies and kingfishers dive for prey – the wetlands support more than 700 plant species, 30 species of mammals and 100 species of breeding birds. As the Danube winds through Vienna it divides around an island, over 21 kilometres long. "Danube Island" was built to control seasonal floodwaters and most of the year it's a huge public

swimming pool where people are blissfully unaware of being watched from puddles and marshes – in just a few decades, "Danube Island" has created its own ecosystem supporting frogs, toads, and the rare European pond turtle, but they're joined by the voracious North American red-eared terrapin, released by irresponsible terrarium owners.

Vienna even has its own wine industry, with vineyards sheltering the rare European green lizard, basking in the sun along vineyard paths and hunting for insects under the cover of vine leaves. From vineyard to imperial palace, from hidden ponds to deep, shadowy forests, join us on a tour of hidden Vienna.

A co-production of Terra Mater Studios and Doclights / NDR Naturfilm supported by RTR and Filmfonds Wien

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