

NEW
DOCS
SPRING
2024

Have a look at our
new line-up!

THE NEW ROLE OF THE PHILIPPINES

The Taiwan conflict has brought the Philippines back onto the global political stage. Will the island state under president Ferdinand Marcos Jr. become the new geopolitical demarcation line in the showdown between China and the US? The fact that the Philippines are riven by major internal political tensions makes the situation even more fragile. Film-maker Carsten Stormer, who has lived in the Philippines for many years, follows developments in the country and examines its geopolitical role in these turbulent times until the US's largest military exercise in the Philippines in May 2024. What do China and the US hope to achieve and which of the two superpowers will ultimately assert itself in this geopolitical struggle for the West Philippine Sea with its vital trade routes for Europe?

Current Affairs

Film by Carsten Stormer

Length 52'

Co-production DOCDAYS Productions
with ZDF/ARTE

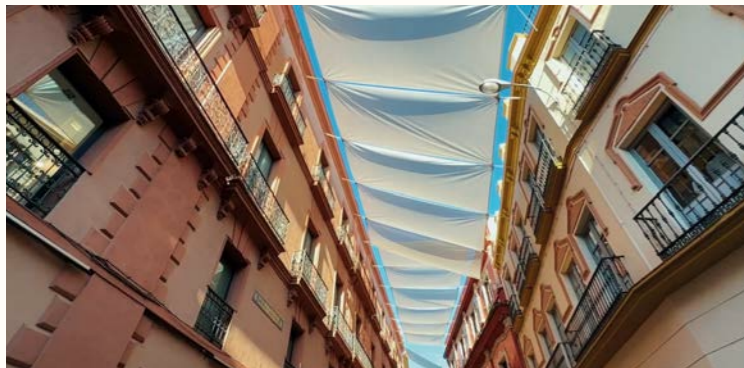
Original title In der Brandung
der Weltpolitik

IN PRODUCTION

Delivery August 2024

Tensions in the South Pacific are bringing the Philippines back onto the big geopolitical stage. Internal political tensions make the situation of the island state even more fragile.





HEATWAVES

Heatwaves are increasing in frequency, duration and intensity. One temperature record is quickly broken by another. In view of this alarming trend, scientists are concerned with one especially urgent question: just how hot will it become in future? Urban areas are impacted particularly severely by hot temperatures. According to experts, Paris may record temperatures of over 50°C in years to come. But heatwaves are an enormous challenge for rural areas, too, and even in the Mediterranean Sea, temperatures are rising at an alarming rate. Although our bodies have a number of cooling mechanisms, these are reaching their limits far faster than we thought possible. So how can we protect ourselves from extreme heat if temperatures continue to climb? What strategies can help us cope with this new heat reality? Scientists are searching for answers to these pressing questions, because the race against the thermometer has long since begun. We visit western European "hotspots" and find out about the different ways heatwaves are impacting our lives. International scientists and experts introduce possible management strategies.

Science

Film by Mike Pitt

Length 52'

Production mobyDOK for HR/ARTE

Original title Europa glüht – Wie Hitzewellen unser Leben verändern / L'Europe en surchauffe - Vivre avec les canicules

Year 2024

How are cities, agriculture and healthcare systems preparing for the heatwaves of the future? We visit European "hotspots", ask how heat impacts our lives and introduce possible management strategies.

WHEN WAR CAME TO OUR NEWSROOM

Mass graves in Mariupol, child abductions to Russia, atrocities by brutal mercenary troops – journalists from the Ukrainian investigative news project “Schemes” run by Radio Free Europe have spent two years reporting on the war in their homeland and experiencing it firsthand every day. This series offers a glimpse into their lives. Editorial meetings in bomb shelters, frontline investigations, the death of a colleague – all this is part of the journalists’ new reality. The highly professional and dedicated members of the team demonstrate the critical role fact-based journalism plays in Ukraine’s still fledgling democracy. As chief editor Nataliya Sedletska stresses: “What good would it be to win the war against the Russians if we lose Ukraine in the process?” The series sheds light on the work but also the personal lives of the journalists as they grapple with the grim realities of war. On 28 April 2022, Russian missiles targeted a residential building, killing Radio Svoboda journalist Vira Hrych. Struggling to come to terms with her loss, fellow journalist Serhiy Andrushko decides to make a film about the circumstances of Hrych’s death. The series reflects on the collective trauma experienced by people throughout Ukraine.

Editorial meetings in bomb shelters, frontline investigations, the death of a colleague – Ukrainian journalists from Radio Free Europe report on the war in their homeland, experiencing it firsthand every day.

Current Affairs

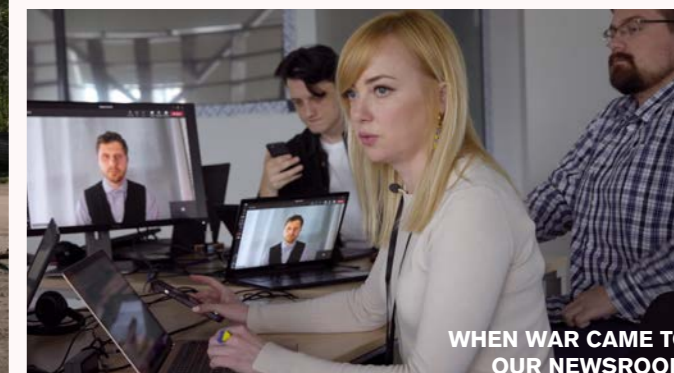
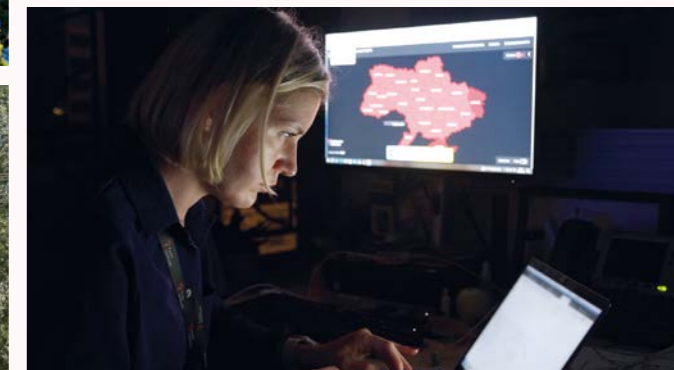
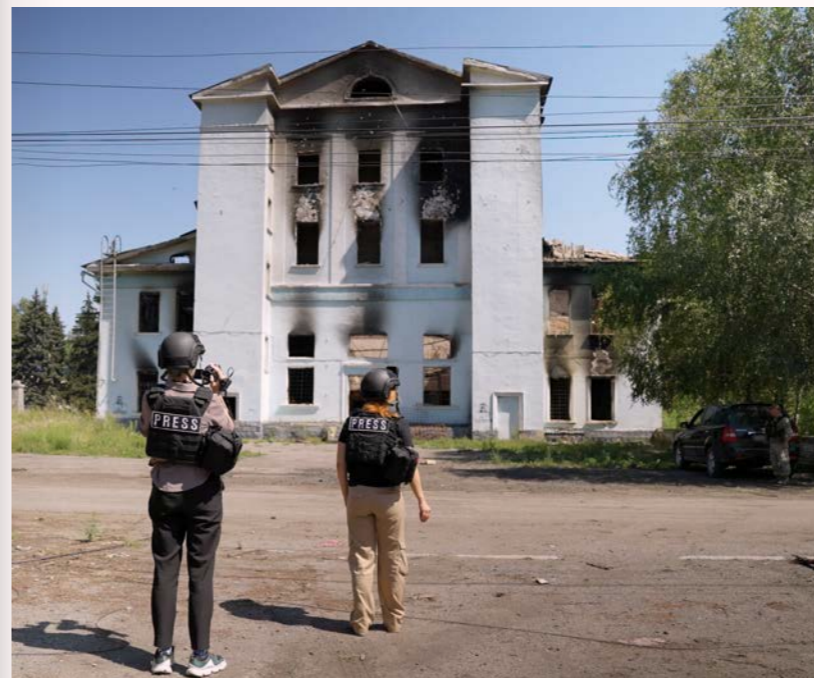
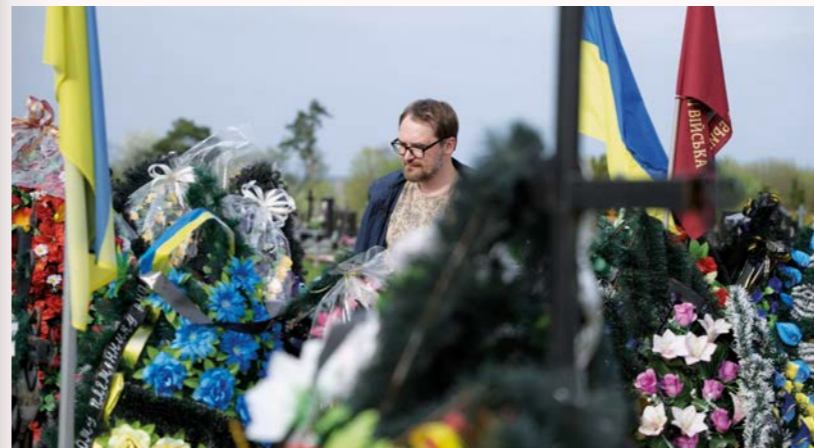
Films by Dominik Wessely

Length 3 x 30’

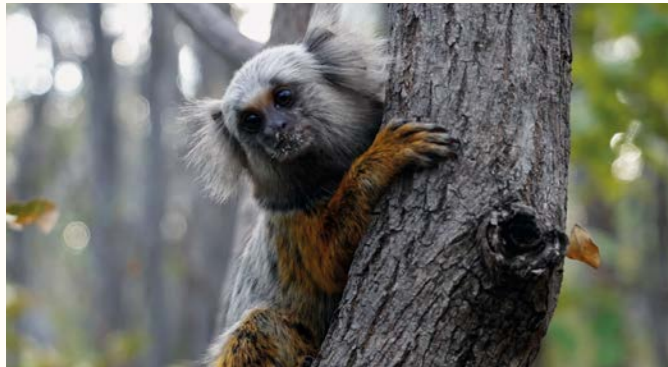
Co-production DOCDAYS Productions
with BR/ARTE, supported by
Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg

Original title Als der Krieg in die
Redaktion kam / Ukraine : Quand la
guerre s’invita dans la rédaction

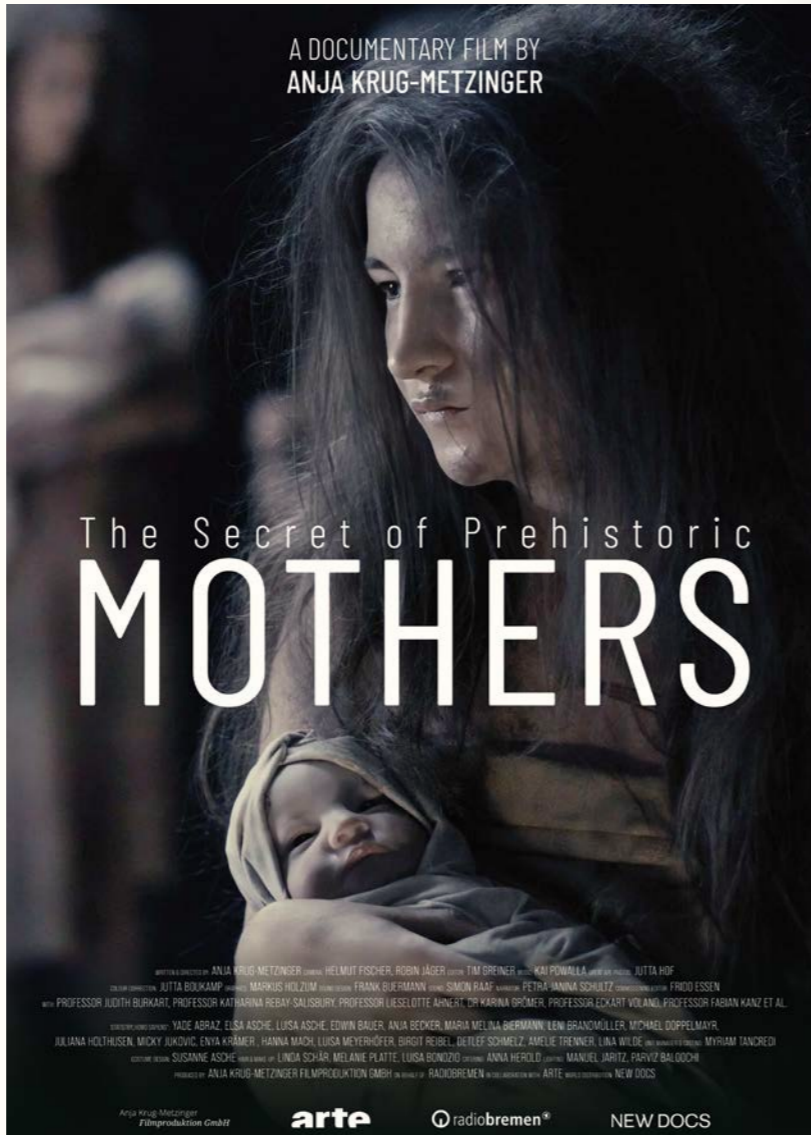
Year 2024



WHEN WAR CAME TO
OUR NEWSROOM



THE SECRET OF PREHISTORIC MOTHERS



THE SECRET OF PREHISTORIC MOTHERS

A million years ago, our ancestors only narrowly escaped extinction. Today, however, our astonishing ability to reproduce sustainably is threatening the survival of numerous species – including our own. What was motherhood like in prehistoric times? Was the mother solely responsible for her child? This scientific documentary takes us to the animal world – to the white-tufted marmosets – but also on an anthropological journey of discovery into the past and to remote corners of the world. What do we humans have in common with the white-tufted marmosets? We raise our young communally. This is key to the survival of the human species, because the cooperative support of mothers in a community is a highly successful reproductive strategy. On a remote Greek island, communal motherhood was practised in a bizarrely coercive way until well into the 19th century. In a historically isolated part of northern Germany, researchers are investigating the role of the grandmother in the evolution of mankind and for the first time uncover the cause of the universal conflict with mothers-in-law. Prehistoric grave findings also shed light on the importance of the individual mother and how she handled her children.

What was motherhood like in prehistoric times? Most recent archaeological findings prove that the cooperative support of mothers within a community became a successful reproductive strategy.

Science
Film by Anja Krug-Metzinger
Length 52'
Production Anja Krug-Metzinger
 Filmproduktion for Radio Bremen / ARTE
Original title Das Geheimnis der Urzeitmütter – Gemeinschaftliche Kindererziehung / Parentalité collective, une clé de l'évolution
Year 2024

DELICIOUS ITALY

Far from the bustling tourist hotspots, we look at the soul of Italy and find out more about the country through its culinary culture. Each episode is a journey of discovery that intrigues and inspires. Various protagonists offer us a personal glimpse of their everyday lives and invite us to visit their most sacred place: the kitchen. The recipes and ingredients reflect the culture of the country and are flavoured with the spectacular scenery of the individual regions. From the varied backdrops of Alpine peaks and plains, vineyards, national parks and the Piedmont lakes, the journey takes us to Tuscany and the coastal region around Livorno, where food cultures from the last seven centuries come together and wine-growing is considered the work of heroes. In the deep south, we travel through Apulia. The region that forms the heel of Italy's boot is one huge fruit and vegetable patch where all the ingredients of Mediterranean cuisine grow in abundance. With its rich vegetation, Sicily has a bit of Africa, Arabia, Byzantium and Athens, a little Rome and even a touch of Spain. Mixing Alpine and Mediterranean cuisines, South Tyrol builds a bridge between the south and north of Italy, and the Campania series explores a region around Naples that is rich in contrasts, with old and modern, chaotic and creative.

On this journey through Italy from South Tyrol to Apulia, our protagonists invite us to take a peek into their kitchens.

Lifestyle

Films by Lorenza Castella, André Schäfer, Francesca D'Amicis, Katja Duregger

Length 24 x 26'

Production Florianfilm Produktion for ZDF/ARTE

Original title Köstliches Italien / Délices d'Italie

Year 2019 - 2024

Seasons Delicious Piedmont 4 x 26' / Delicious Tuscany 4 x 26' / Delicious Apulia 4 x 26' / Delicious Sicily 4 x 26' / Delicious Campania 4 x 26' / Delicious South Tyrol 4 x 26'



DELICIOUS ITALY



ATIRKÜL IN THE LAND OF REAL MEN



ATIRKÜL IN THE LAND OF REAL MEN

On the vast plains of Kyrgyzstan, men continue to practise buzkashi, a team sport that has been popular in Central Asia for centuries. The aim of the game is to steal the trophy of a dead goat from the rival team of riders while remaining on horseback. We watch players gallop across the plains against a backdrop of snow-topped mountains and blue skies, jumping on each other like rugby players to grab the goat carcass and take it across the goal line. The sound of whinnying horses is intensified by exhilarating drum beats. Into this tough masculine world enters Atirkül, a woman with an enterprising spirit and a sense of humour. Tired of her husband being away from home all the time, she decides to get involved in horse trading. The film portrays the everyday life of this headstrong horse enthusiast and business woman, whose ambition is to find local young men to form her own buzkashi team and in this way preserve the heritage of her native region. Atirkül acts as an adviser and coach to the sometimes inexperienced buzkashi players, directing, feeding and financing the young men, while her involvement in the horse trading business gradually reveals the possibilities of overcoming gender roles.

Buzkashi has been a popular equestrian sport in Central Asia for centuries. It is played only by men. Atirkül, a woman with an enterprising spirit, enters this tough masculine world to form her own buzkashi team.

Human Interest

Film by Janyl Jusupjan

Length 65' / 52'

Co-production Cinédoc Films, CINEPOINT and Chagaldak Production, with the support of CNC, Czech Film Fund, Procirep Angola

Original title Atirkül in the Land of Real Men

Year 2023

Festivals and awards

IDFA, The Netherlands 2023 /

Ji.hlava IDFF, Czech Republic 2023 /

Taiwan International Documentary Film

Festival, Taiwan 2024 / Trento Film

Festival, Italy 2024

Human Interest

THE IMMUNE SYSTEM – GUARDIAN OF OUR HEALTH

Our immune system protects us against pathogens, harmful substances and malignant cell changes, making it as indispensable to us as our heart or lungs. But it can also turn against us and be potentially harmful. The immune system has no fixed location but is a network of systems spread throughout the body. Never before has it been the focus of so much scientific attention as it is today. In recent years, and especially since COVID, doctors and scientists have amassed extensive data and gained significant new insights. This scientific documentary offers us an insightful and entertaining view of our immune system, focusing on four key questions: What is the immune system? How can we boost it? Under what circumstances does it fail? And how can it be used to cure diseases like cancer? We present some intriguing examples, graphic explanations and interviews with international experts. A paediatrician in Hamburg explains how the immune system develops in infants and young children. An immunologist in Paris sheds light on the relationship between the microbiome and the immune system. A cardiologist in New York explores the connection between stress and the immune system. And an oncologist in Heidelberg uses immunotherapy to systematically combat cancer.

The immune system is indispensable for humans. It is both complex and fascinating. This scientific documentary offers us an insightful and entertaining view of our immune system, and shows us when it can fail and how we can boost it.

Science

Film by Larissa Klinker

Length 52'

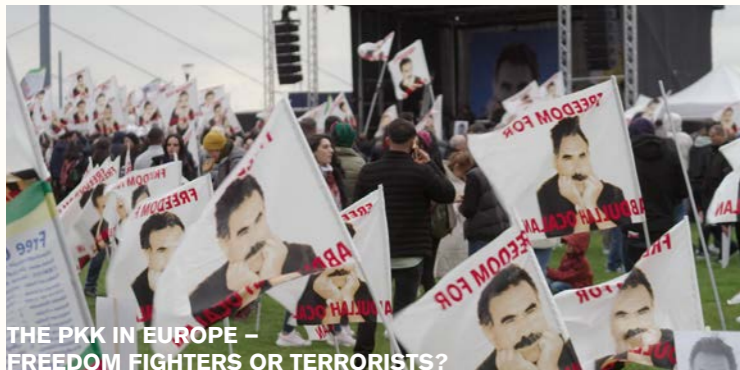
Production Hamburg Producers Media for
NDR/ARTE

Original title Unser Immunsystem –
Wächter der Gesundheit / Le système
immunitaire, un puissant gardien

Year 2024



THE IMMUNE SYSTEM –
GUARDIAN OF OUR HEALTH



THE PKK IN EUROPE –
FREEDOM FIGHTERS OR TERRORISTS?



THE PKK IN EUROPE – FREEDOM FIGHTERS OR TERRORISTS?

The PKK is on both the EU and US terrorist lists. But the Kurdistan Workers' Party is also an important ally in the fight against ISIS and has successfully driven the terrorist militia out of Kurdish settlements. Where does the PKK stand in Europe today? The relevant authorities struggle to take a clear stance. The PKK is repeatedly accused of radicalising and recruiting young people. Kurdish parents from Germany and France, whose children have joined the PKK and cut off contact, fear their sons and daughters will be deployed in active combat. But the PKK gives many young Kurds a sense of belonging, promising to protect the Kurdish language and culture. The film examines these contrasting perspectives. We meet investigators and high-ranking PKK representatives, experts, insiders and former members, who offer us nuanced insights into the organisation's methods and structures. The film explores the organisation's use of violence, analyses the geopolitical landscape and examines the PKK's role in Europe. It also asks how Germany, France and the EU should position themselves. Is the PKK now a friend or a foe? A freedom fighter or terrorist? The film takes stock of a complex situation.

Europe has an ambivalent relationship with the PKK, the Kurdistan Workers' Party, officially a banned terrorist organisation, but unofficially recognised as an ally in the fight against ISIS. How should the EU position itself in future?

Current Affairs

Film by Candan Six-Sasmaz

Length 52'

Production Hamburg Producers Media for ZDF/ARTE

Original title Die PKK in Europa –
Freiheitskämpfer oder Terroristen? / Le PKK
en Europe – Lutte armée ou terrorisme?

Year 2024

THE RACE FOR RAW MATERIALS

This series of investigative documentaries uncovers the reality behind the race for raw materials. While it creates prosperity and job opportunities, it comes at a great cost to both people and the environment. How can Germany meet its demand for raw materials? Will it abandon principles for the sake of the energy transition and economy? The EU imports oil and gas from Azerbaijan and intends increasing imports in future. But the country is governed by an authoritarian system and opposition is repressed. Nevertheless, EU politicians continue to court the regime. The research reveals that European politicians are systematically "rewarded" for turning a blind eye to Azerbaijan's autocracy in return for access to critical resources. Chile and Brazil are important suppliers of lithium, which plays a central role in electromobility. Industry representatives take a closer look at how lithium is extracted and discover that far more raw materials would have to be extracted from Chile's mines to satisfy resource requirements. Meanwhile, in Brazil, investors are hyping "green lithium" as particularly sustainable. But what is the truth behind the suppliers' grandiose promises?

The series of investigative documentaries shows how the race for raw materials creates prosperity and jobs, but simultaneously inflicts harm on people and the environment. Do countries have to abandon their principles for the sake of the energy transition and economy?

Current Affairs

Films by Daniel Harrich

Length 4 x 45'

Production Diwafilm for SWR

Original title Am Abgrund –
Kampf um Rohstoffe

Year 2024

Episodes Corruption – for Oil and Gas
from Azerbaijan / Raw Materials of the
Future – China Takes the Lead / Lithium
and Copper – Limited Prospects in Chile
for Germany / Mining and Environmental
Destruction – Greenwashing in Brazil?



THE RACE FOR
RAW MATERIALS

REMARKABLE WOMEN – PAINTERS FROM THE RENAISSANCE TO CLASSICISM

They were exceptional in their work and fearless in their dealings with society: this film portrays four extraordinary female artists from the Renaissance to Classicism, who carved out unusual careers in very different social settings. Born into a noble Italian family, Sofonisba Anguissola established an international career in the 16th century, although some of her paintings were later wrongly attributed to Titian. Judith Leyster, a self-made Baroque artist from the Netherlands, was accepted into a painters' guild at the age of just 23 and although unmarried ran her own workshop. After her death, her paintings were sold for high prices as Frans Hals "originals". If her distinctive star-shaped monogram had not been eventually discovered, she might have been forgotten forever. In her twenties, Swiss-Austrian artist Angelica Kaufmann was already emerging as one of Europe's most prominent female painters. She became something of a trailblazer with her pictures at the end of the 18th century. After the French Revolution, Marie-Guillemine Benoist painted Portrait of Madeleine, which soon went on display at the Louvre. How did these women painters manage to gain "visibility" in times when women were forbidden to paint nudes or study with men in artists' workshops?

Four remarkable European female artists from the Renaissance to Classicism carved out unusual careers in very different social settings, demonstrating a visionary spirit that was far ahead of their time.

Arts & Culture

Film by Dagmar Wittmers

Length 52'

Production Telekult Film- und Medienproduktion for SWR/ARTE

Original title Geniale Frauen – Malerinnen von der Renaissance bis zum Klassizismus / Peintres géniales et méconnues – De la Renaissance au classicisme

Year 2024



PETRA KELLY –
ACT NOW!

PETRA KELLY – ACT NOW!

Petra Kelly was one of the most influential political figures of the 20th century. In 1980, she co-founded the German Green Party, the world's first green party to rise to prominence. She fought relentlessly for radical social change, disarmament and a society at one with nature. For Kelly, environment, peace and human rights issues were one. At the age of 44, she was murdered by her long-time friend and political companion. Raised by her mother and grandmother, she grew up in 1960s America and campaigned for Robert Kennedy's election in the months before his assassination. Petra Kelly was convinced that a single person could change the world. Influenced by the American civil rights movement and Martin Luther King's concept of "civil disobedience", she campaigned to protect the environment and ban uranium mining, demonstrating solidarity with the peace movements in both the East and West. Today, her spiritual legacy is continued by many young climate activists. The issues that concerned her are more topical today than ever before. Close friends and companions talk about Kelly's personal and political life for the first time. With previously unseen international film footage, the film paints a picture of a sensitive, unwavering woman who let no one stand in her way.

Petra Kelly was one of the most influential political personalities of the 20th century, a figurehead of the peace movement and co-founder of the first green party to find success. Her life was one of achievements, its end a tragedy.

Feature Documentary / Human Interest
Film by Doris Metz
Length 104' / 90'
Co-production Bildersturm Filmproduktion
with RBB/ARTE and BR, with the support
of Film- und Medienstiftung NRW, Film-
Fernsehfonds Bayern, Deutscher Filmförder-
fonds, Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg
Original title Petra Kelly – ACT NOW! /
Petra Kelly – Une vie pour l'écologie et la paix
Year 2024

THE VANISHED CIVILISATION OF HONDURAS

In eastern Honduras on the Caribbean coast, a once highly developed civilisation is said to have existed. The people who once lived there were neighbours of the legendary Aztecs and Mayas. However, the arrival of Christopher Columbus' ships in the Bay of Trujillo in 1502 precipitated their rapid and cruel decline. The people and everything that had once characterised their culture were wiped out. They died from imported diseases, were enslaved or murdered – even the name of this civilisation is no longer known today. An international team led by renowned archaeologist Markus Reindel sets off to the Caribbean to retell a long-forgotten story with the help of local people. Some spectacular discoveries are made.

History / Science

Film by Jo Jörg Siegler

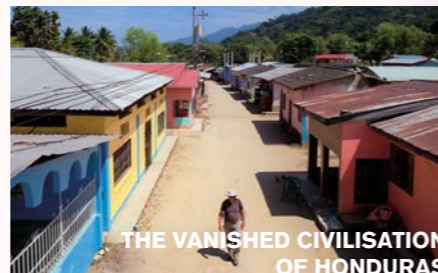
Length 52'

Production TELEKULT Film- und Medienproduktion for SR / ARTE

Original title Die verschwundene Welt von Honduras – Entdeckung einer unbekanntes Zivilisation / Honduras – Vestiges d'une civilisation oubliée

Year 2023

An international team of archaeologists makes some spectacular discoveries. In eastern Honduras, on the Caribbean coast, they uncover a long-forgotten, highly developed civilisation.



THE VANISHED CIVILISATION
OF HONDURAS

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NEW DOCS

Dasselstrasse 75-77

50674 Cologne, Germany

Phone +49 221-168 197 43

sales@newdocs.de