

SUMMER RELEASES 2026



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DIGITAL ALIENS

EXCLUDED IN A CONNECTED WORLD

52' (ENG), 90' (GER, available for AT and CH only) | 2025/2026
Hoferichter & Jacobs, MDR, arte

Digital systems are reshaping our society, but more and more people are at risk of being left behind and becoming invisible.

Millions of people struggle with digital interfaces, while automated processes shape public administrations, labour markets and social welfare systems. At the same time, these systems often lack transparency, without the possibility of appeal, and without human interaction. Algorithms evaluate, filter and decide. They reproduce existing forms of discrimination, exacerbate them, or create new ones. Experts such as legal scholar Sandra Wachter, AI researcher Abeba Birhane and political scientist Geraldine de Bastion analyse the power dynamics of the digitalised world. In Brussels the focus is on the limits of political control; in Silicon Valley entrepreneur Sebastian Thrun offers insights into new technological visions. In France the film reconstructs an algorithm scandal at the social security agency; in Germany, Ireland and Estonia it seeks out alternative models: education, solidarity and digital self-empowerment. Can a fair digital society for all really exist?







UNDER PRESSURE

TRUMP'S FRACTURED AMERICA

52' (ENG) | 2026 | Tob Film, Radio Bremen, arte

Just a two-and-a-half-hour drive apart – and yet two different worlds: Washington, D.C. and Piedmont, West Virginia.

While President Trump 2.0 fuels fear and unease in the liberal capital, Appalachia's "Coal Country" clings to hopes of a long-promised economic revival. Over the course of a year, the film observes how politics takes shape in everyday life: as a threat, as a promise, and as disappointment. A portrait emerges of a nation in a state of emergency. Closely following people in their communities, this documentary captures their lived realities and experiences. Experts on history, democracy studies and the Christian conservative movement provide context and offer a glimpse of what is yet to come.





LANDMINES

THE RETURN OF A BANNED WEAPON

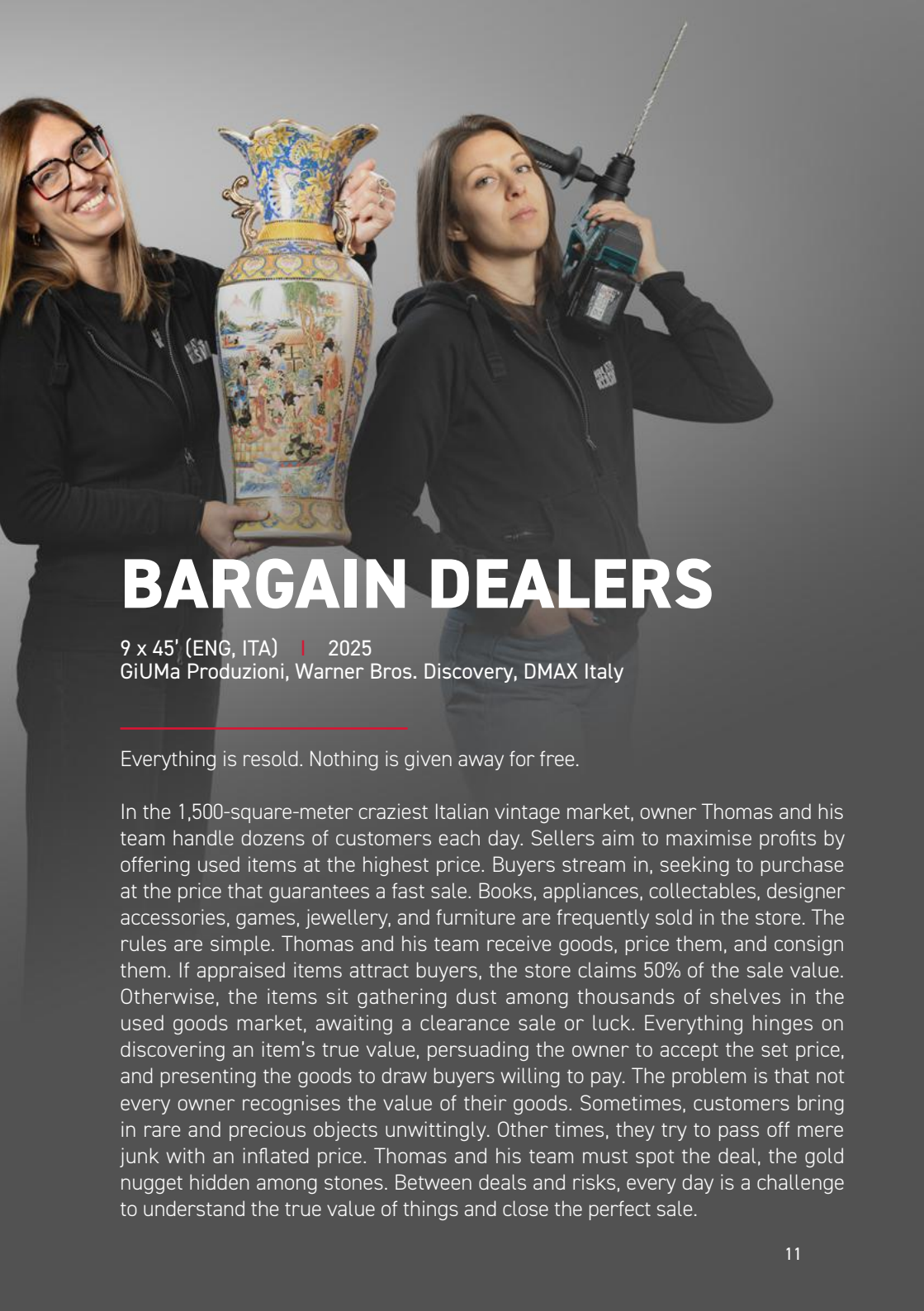
30' (ENG, GER) | 2026 | NZZ, SRF

Russia's war in Ukraine has reshaped Europe's security mindset and triggered a dramatic policy shift in Finland: the reconsideration of anti-personnel landmines.

The Finnish armed forces view these weapons as a "cost-effective tool" for national defense and a pragmatic means of deterrence. For Zoran Ješić, however, landmines represent something entirely different. He lost his leg to a mine during the Bosnian War, and his experience reflects the enduring human cost of these weapons. Even decades after conflicts end, they continue to kill and render entire regions uninhabitable. The film explores the tension between military logic, political decision-making, and humanitarian principles.







BARGAIN DEALERS

9 x 45' (ENG, ITA) | 2025

GiUMa Produzioni, Warner Bros. Discovery, DMAX Italy

Everything is resold. Nothing is given away for free.

In the 1,500-square-meter craziest Italian vintage market, owner Thomas and his team handle dozens of customers each day. Sellers aim to maximise profits by offering used items at the highest price. Buyers stream in, seeking to purchase at the price that guarantees a fast sale. Books, appliances, collectables, designer accessories, games, jewellery, and furniture are frequently sold in the store. The rules are simple. Thomas and his team receive goods, price them, and consign them. If appraised items attract buyers, the store claims 50% of the sale value. Otherwise, the items sit gathering dust among thousands of shelves in the used goods market, awaiting a clearance sale or luck. Everything hinges on discovering an item's true value, persuading the owner to accept the set price, and presenting the goods to draw buyers willing to pay. The problem is that not every owner recognises the value of their goods. Sometimes, customers bring in rare and precious objects unwittingly. Other times, they try to pass off mere junk with an inflated price. Thomas and his team must spot the deal, the gold nugget hidden among stones. Between deals and risks, every day is a challenge to understand the true value of things and close the perfect sale.

HISTORY





AUSCHWITZ- BIRKENAU

THE FORGOTTEN REVOLT

52' (ENG), 90' (GER) | 2026

Digital Images, Telefactory, WTSMixedMedia, ZDF, arte

On 7 October 1944, a revolt broke out in front of Crematorium IV at the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp.

Several dozen prisoners attacked the SS officers with improvised weapons and stones, while others attempted to set the crematoria on fire with homemade grenades. The men involved belonged to the Sonderkommando, a special group of prisoners, mostly young, physically strong Jewish men, that were forced to assist in the operation of the gas chambers and crematoria, placing them at the very heart of the death factory and as witnesses to these crimes. Later, they were condemned to death themselves. The revolt on 7 October 1944 is the only armed uprising that ever took place at Auschwitz.

4K

THE APPLE-STORY

SELLING THE REVOLUTION

52' (ENG, GER) | 2026 | Spiegel TV, SWR

Fifty years after Apple was founded, its vision has transformed everything – how we communicate, work, create, and think.

Apple didn't just build devices; it rewired human behavior itself. Our film tells this story through the people who lived it: companions like Andy Hertzfeld, Andy Cunningham, Bob Belleville, and German design pioneer Hartmut Esslinger – alongside digital natives who've never known a world without touchscreens, and acclaimed journalists who have defined our understanding of tech's last decade. From a suburban startup to global domination, from hippie idealists to a trillion-dollar empire. We explore both sides of this digital revolution: the democratization of creativity and connection, but also surveillance capitalism, exploited workers, and a generation of children growing up addicted to their screens. Apple set out to fight Big Brother, promising freedom against IBM's corporate machines. Did the revolutionary become the very monster it once sought to destroy?





ANCIENT POMPEII

THE SECRETS OF VILLA OPLONTIS

2 × 45' (ENG), 90' (ENG, GER) | 2026
Go Button Media, Autentic, ZDF, arte,
Curiosity Stream, Super Channel

Villa Oplontis near Pompeii was one of the most luxurious villas in the entire Roman Empire.

The Villa is said to have belonged to the notorious Sabina Poppaea, who came from one of the richest families in Pompeii and was considered the most beautiful woman of her time. In order to marry Sabina Poppaea, Emperor Nero not only had his first wife murdered, but also his mother. The magnificently furnished rooms of the villa have only been partially excavated until now, and unique treasures have been found there. Now another excavation has begun to uncover the luxurious reception rooms. The film accompanies the excavations and attempts to unravel the secrets of the villa and its legendary owner.





4K

THE ARCHIPELAGO

2 × 52' (ENG, FRA, GER) | Delivery: October 2026
Boréales, France TV

You'd think life in the tropics would be the same everywhere. Think again.

Life in the tropics has developed in many forms, and everywhere it has found a way to flourish: a young volcano isolated in the middle of the Indian Ocean (Mascarene Island), an archipelago made up of ancient volcanoes that are collapsing into the sea (Polynesia), a piece of sunken continent that has risen from the waters (New Caledonia), an island born of the collision of plates in the earth's crust (Guadeloupe) and a very old continental shelf (Guyana). The geological history of each of these environments has given rise to unique and very different forms of life, shaped by the trials and tribulations of their host land. How have animals and plants evolved to adapt to these ecosystems? What strategies have they developed? What alliances have they formed? How do they manage to seduce each other, educate their young, and conquer territories? And how do they live with humans? In each of these ecosystems, a fabulous story takes us to the heart of life and up close to exceptional animals and plants.





4K

INDIA

MONSOON KINGDOM

2 × 52' (ENG, GER) | Delivery: August 2026
Terra Mater Studios, Dandy Lion Films, ServusTV

Spectacular scenery. Breath-taking diversity. Dramatic change.

India is one of the most biodiverse nations on our planet. Guarded by an impenetrable mountain range, the elements combine to create an awe-inspiring realm of intense beauty and mystery, filled with charismatic animals. Towering mountains, bone dry deserts, lush plains and tangled jungles may seem worlds apart but, as our stunning two-part series reveals, India's unique geography means all life here is deeply connected. We combine jaw-dropping cinematography and animal behaviour with a powerful narrative to deliver a compelling, immersive mini-series. At the heart of our story lies India's most defining feature, the mighty Himalayas. These mountains, home to snow leopards, brown bears and Tibetan foxes, both isolate the country and control its weather. Pushed up millions of years ago, their extraordinary influence connects all life here.

Episodes: 1. Fire | 2. Water





4K

WILD BOREAL

52' (ENG, GER) | Delivery: September 2026
Terra Mater Studios, Story Surge Films,
WNET Group, PBS, CPB, ServusTV

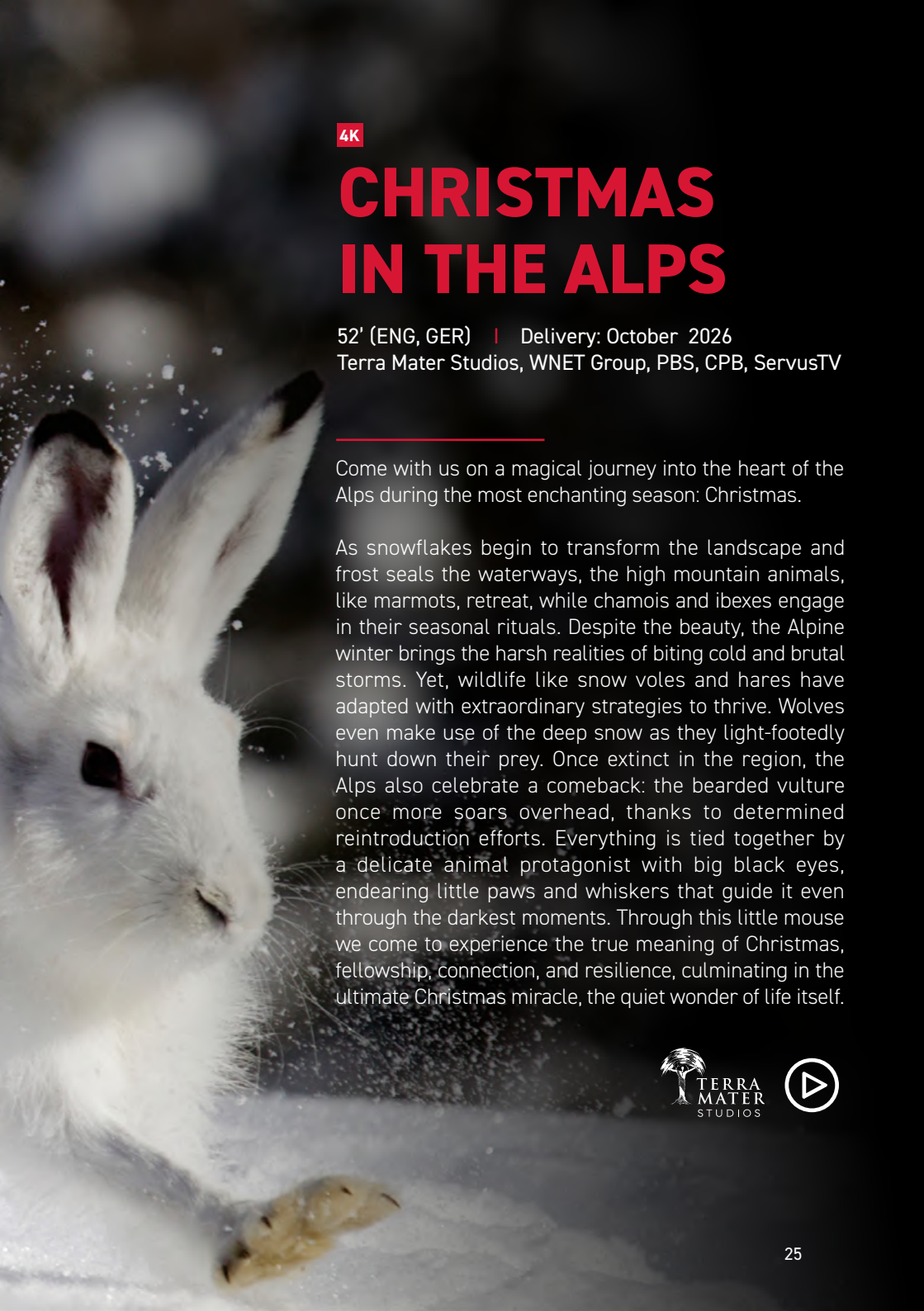
The Boreal Forest is the largest land ecosystem on Earth, a living bridge stretching across the northern hemisphere, and one of the few places where apex predators still reign.

Guided by the life of a young female wolverine, the film reveals a hidden world where survival demands not just strength, but intelligence, resilience, and fierce adaptability. Through her sharp senses and restless path, we encounter the full cast of boreal creatures: brown bears shaking off winter's grip, wolves weaving through the mist, moose calves finding their legs in sunlit clearings, and capercaillies clashing in ancient mating dances. Every creature, from the mighty bear to the smallest owl, is part of a vast, breathing tapestry, each dependent on the forest's fragile balance. WILD BOREAL is not simply the story of one animal. It is a rare glimpse into a living world where ancient forces continue to shape the lives of those who call it home. In the heart of one of Earth's last true wildernesses, survival belongs not to the strongest, but to the most adaptable — and life endures, not because it is easy, but because it must.







A close-up, low-angle shot of a white mountain hare in a snowy environment. The hare's long ears are prominent, and its body is covered in white fur. Snowflakes are falling around it, creating a magical winter atmosphere. The background is dark and out of focus.

4K

CHRISTMAS IN THE ALPS

52' (ENG, GER) | Delivery: October 2026
Terra Mater Studios, WNET Group, PBS, CPB, ServusTV

Come with us on a magical journey into the heart of the Alps during the most enchanting season: Christmas.

As snowflakes begin to transform the landscape and frost seals the waterways, the high mountain animals, like marmots, retreat, while chamois and ibexes engage in their seasonal rituals. Despite the beauty, the Alpine winter brings the harsh realities of biting cold and brutal storms. Yet, wildlife like snow voles and hares have adapted with extraordinary strategies to thrive. Wolves even make use of the deep snow as they light-footedly hunt down their prey. Once extinct in the region, the Alps also celebrate a comeback: the bearded vulture once more soars overhead, thanks to determined reintroduction efforts. Everything is tied together by a delicate animal protagonist with big black eyes, endearing little paws and whiskers that guide it even through the darkest moments. Through this little mouse we come to experience the true meaning of Christmas, fellowship, connection, and resilience, culminating in the ultimate Christmas miracle, the quiet wonder of life itself.



NATURE . WILDLIFE

4K

MALLORCA

THE WILD SIDE

52' (ENG, GER) | 2026

Doclights/NDR Naturfilm, Terra Mater Studios, ServusTV, NDR

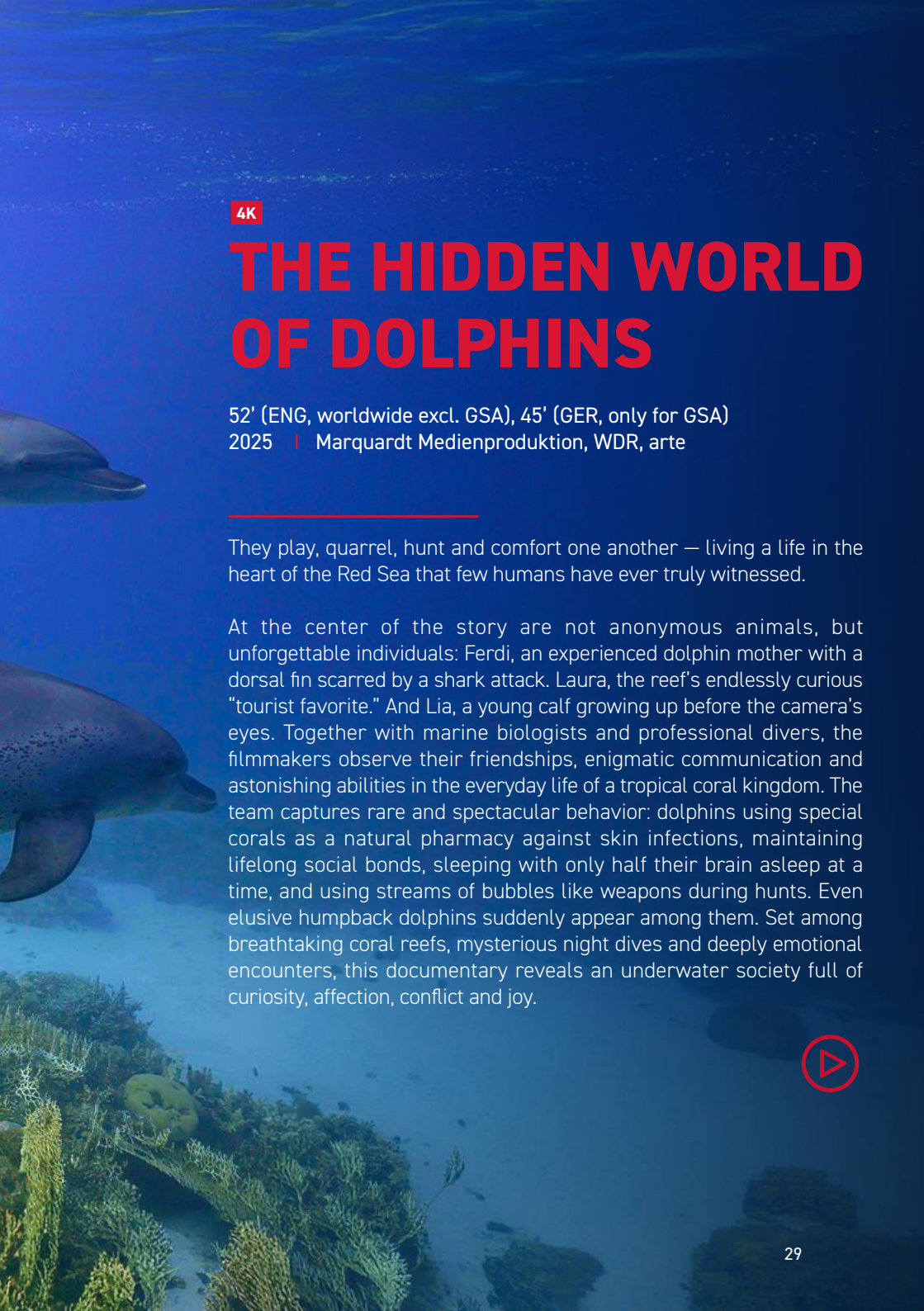
Beyond the beaches, spectacular natural phenomena await discovery.

From the breathtaking Tramuntana mountain range, and ancient dry stone walls to hidden limestone caves and powerful springs, nature dominates the island. Wetlands and salt flats host rich birdlife, while dedicated conservation efforts are restoring species such as the nursehound and the monk vulture, showcasing Mallorca as a living sanctuary of natural and cultural heritage.







A full-page background image showing an underwater scene. In the upper left, a dolphin's head and dorsal fin are visible. In the lower left, a large, detailed coral reef structure extends from the bottom. The water is a deep blue with some light rays filtering through.

4K

THE HIDDEN WORLD OF DOLPHINS

52' (ENG, worldwide excl. GSA), 45' (GER, only for GSA)
2025 | Marquardt Medienproduktion, WDR, arte

They play, quarrel, hunt and comfort one another — living a life in the heart of the Red Sea that few humans have ever truly witnessed.

At the center of the story are not anonymous animals, but unforgettable individuals: Ferdi, an experienced dolphin mother with a dorsal fin scarred by a shark attack. Laura, the reef's endlessly curious "tourist favorite." And Lia, a young calf growing up before the camera's eyes. Together with marine biologists and professional divers, the filmmakers observe their friendships, enigmatic communication and astonishing abilities in the everyday life of a tropical coral kingdom. The team captures rare and spectacular behavior: dolphins using special corals as a natural pharmacy against skin infections, maintaining lifelong social bonds, sleeping with only half their brain asleep at a time, and using streams of bubbles like weapons during hunts. Even elusive humpback dolphins suddenly appear among them. Set among breathtaking coral reefs, mysterious night dives and deeply emotional encounters, this documentary reveals an underwater society full of curiosity, affection, conflict and joy.



4K

SURINAME

THE GREEN HEART OF SOUTH AMERICA

2 × 52' (ENG, GER) | 2026 | Brandmedia Film, ZDF, arte

Suriname is one of the greenest countries in the world.

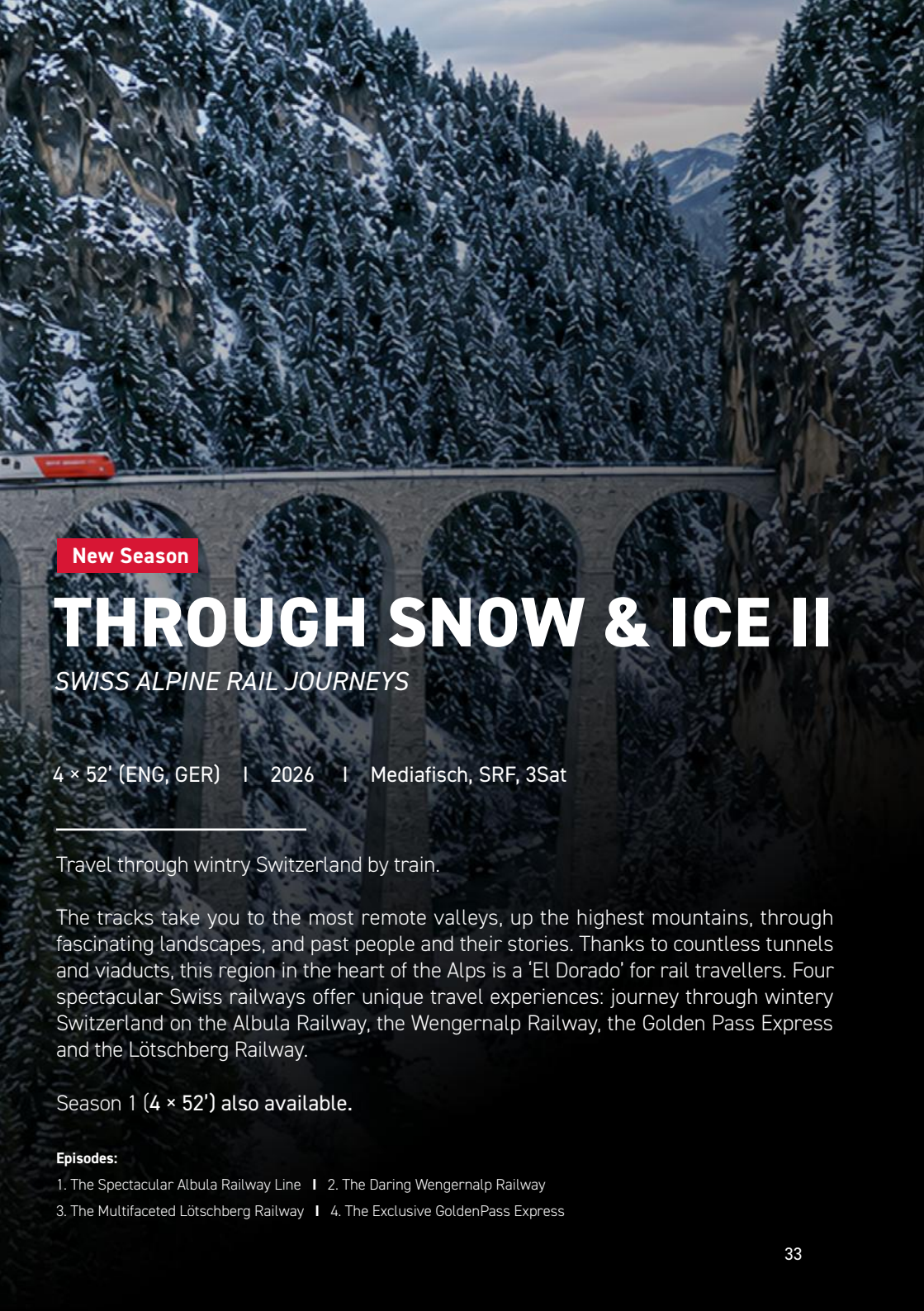
Suriname's rainforest and coastline are teeming with colourful wildlife. Pink river dolphins, giant otters, snakes, squirrel monkeys, iguanas and sloths inhabit this little-known jungle nation with its dynamic 400-kilometre-long mudflat coastline on the Atlantic Ocean, which is constantly changing. One of the world's largest reservoirs, the Brokopondo, was created in the 1960s. An entire forest was flooded and submerged here. The people were resettled and now work in gold mining areas, as well as in the deforestation of the rainforest. As a result, some animal species are under threat. Many environmental and natural scientists are attempting to restore and preserve the ecological balance. Suriname has not yet been 'discovered' by nature and wildlife enthusiasts. This two-part documentary is a colourful tour of the jungle, rivers and coastline, presented in a visually stunning style and featuring unique nature footage.

Episodes: 1. Along the Wild Coast | 2. Rivers & Forest









New Season

THROUGH SNOW & ICE II

SWISS ALPINE RAIL JOURNEYS

4 × 52' (ENG, GER) | 2026 | Mediafisch, SRF, 3Sat

Travel through wintry Switzerland by train.

The tracks take you to the most remote valleys, up the highest mountains, through fascinating landscapes, and past people and their stories. Thanks to countless tunnels and viaducts, this region in the heart of the Alps is a 'El Dorado' for rail travellers. Four spectacular Swiss railways offer unique travel experiences: journey through wintry Switzerland on the Albula Railway, the Wengernalp Railway, the Golden Pass Express and the Lötschberg Railway.

Season 1 (4 × 52') also available.

Episodes:

1. The Spectacular Albula Railway Line
2. The Daring Wengernalp Railway
3. The Multifaceted Lötschberg Railway
4. The Exclusive GoldenPass Express

4K

MILESTONES OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM

6 × 52' (ENG, GER) | Full delivery by Q3 2026
Go Button Media, Autentic, Super Channel

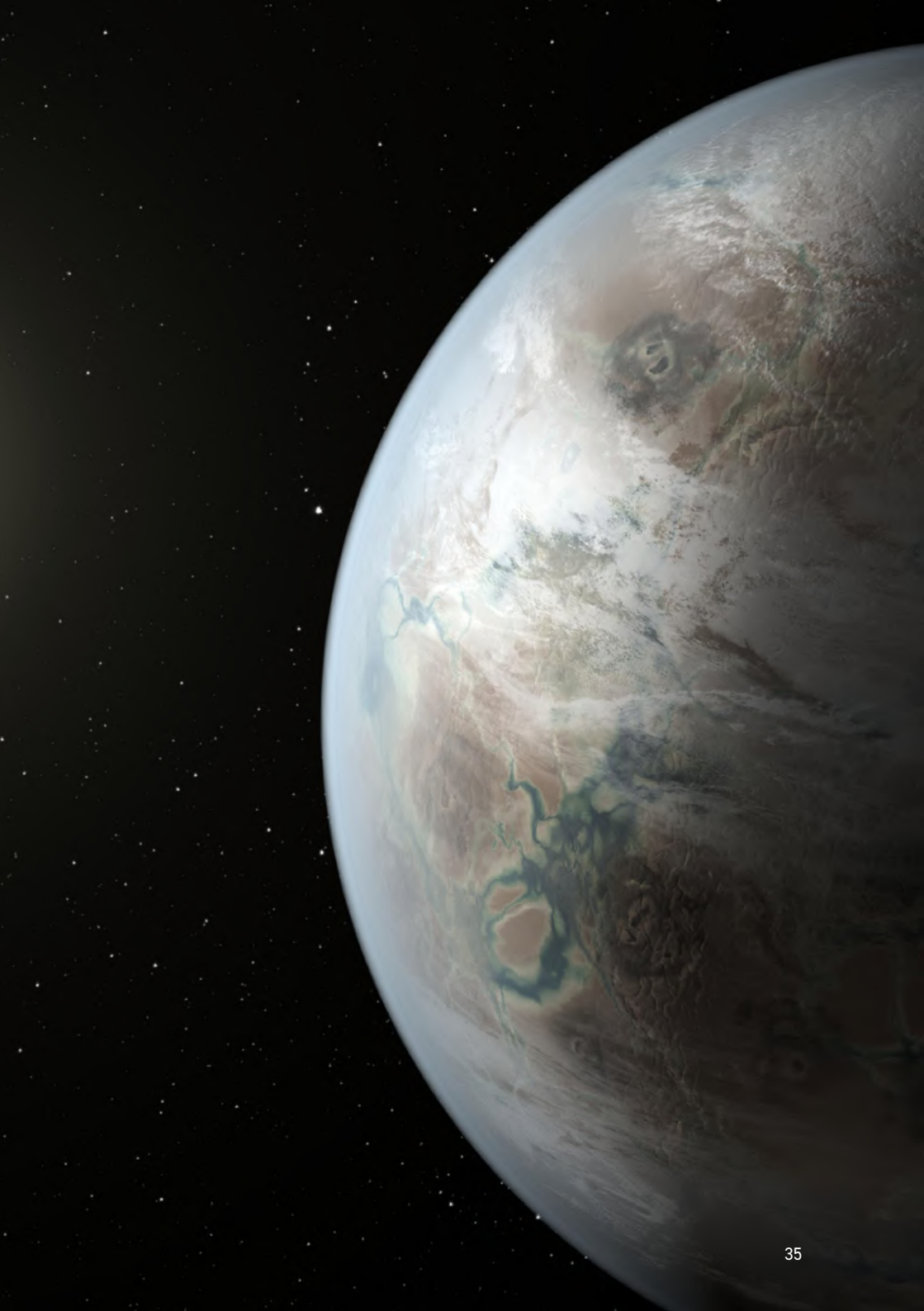
The solar system we know may seem eternal. Yet long before our Sun and planets began their elegant dance, billions of years of chaos and wreckage reigned supreme.

From planets, asteroids, and moons forged from stardust, to volcanoes unleashing fiery destruction on Mars, and a cataclysmic collision that turned early Earth molten and gave birth to our Moon, this series explores the defining milestones of our Solar System. Through breathtaking visuals and scientific discoveries, the film reveals how chaos became structure and how destruction became the driving force behind creation. Each milestone uncovers the powerful forces and dramatic events that shaped the planets, moons, and asteroids we see today. And as the Solar System continues to evolve, one question remains: what fate awaits our Sun and its ever-orbiting system?

Episodes:

1. How It Begins
2. The Great Divide: The Inner vs. Outer Planets
3. The Moon – Earth's Silent Partner
4. A Tale of Two Worlds
5. The Era of Bombardment
6. How it Ends





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Founded in 2008, Munich-based Autentic is a joint venture between Patrick Hörl and Jan Mojto's Beta Film. Autentic focuses on high-quality documentaries and factual series for the global market. The company covers the entire value chain of the factual genre, from development, production, co-financing and traditional distribution to operation of its own channels and VOD services.

Autentic Distribution is the sales division of Autentic and one of the leading German global factual distributors. Our wide-ranged distribution catalogue offers the best non-fiction productions from independent producers and established media agencies from around the world. With a hands-on, agile and transparent approach, we work closely with producers and filmmakers, delivering customized marketing and distribution strategies for each title, extending the life cycle of productions in a sustainable way. We help producers to finance their projects through partner search and co-financing, even in the early stages of development.

Autentic Studios is the production division of Autentic. Since its launch, the company has earned an excellent reputation for international series productions and high-quality documentaries. We conceptualize, develop, produce and coproduce innovative, exciting and award-winning content for major TV channels, non-linear platforms and other renowned clients worldwide.

Autentic Channels brings high-quality factual content to audiences across FAST, Pay TV, and YouTube, both in the DACH region and internationally. With long-standing expertise in the channel business and a diverse portfolio of documentary brands, Autentic Channels curates and operates linear and digital channels, ensuring strong reach and editorial excellence across platforms. Designed for curious minds, the channels offer documentaries that inform, entertain, and inspire.



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screening room!