

NEW
DOCS
SPRING

Have a look at our
new line-up!

2021

DROUGHT IN EUROPE

2020 was the warmest year ever recorded in Europe. The fourth heatwave in succession caused soil to dry out several metres deep in many regions. This is a phenomenon we are only otherwise familiar with in deserts. Scientists confirm that Europe is experiencing a drought. And that it will have drastic consequences for agriculture, forests, the climate and our life in general. This film shows ways the drought can be tackled on a political and social level. Instead of EU land subsidies, scientists and NGOs are calling for an agricultural policy that focuses on sustainability. Even in Brussels, a rethink is taking place, albeit slowly. We introduce EU-wide scientific, agricultural and forestry projects as well as independent initiatives in Germany, France, Spain and Romania that aim to combat drought.

Current Affairs

Length 52' HD

Film by Jens Niehuss

Co-Production TVNTV with ZDF/ARTE

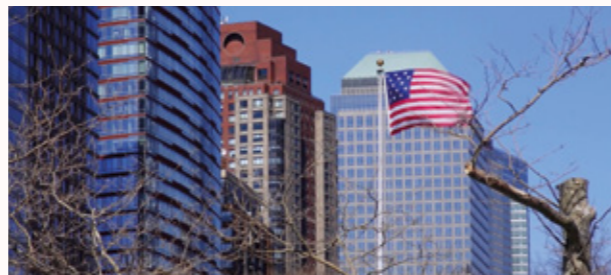
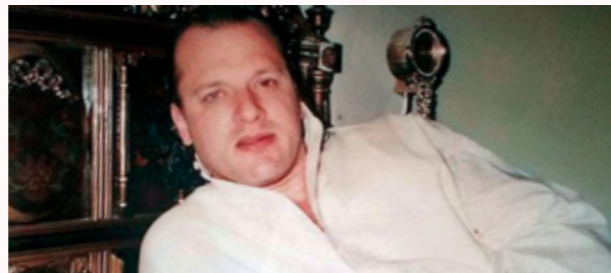
Original Title Dürre in Europa

IN PRODUCTION

Delivery June 2021

In the last four years, large parts of Europe have experienced a drought that has had drastic consequences for forests and agriculture. Which measures could counteract the drought?





THE BUSINESS WITH TERRORISM – OUR INTELLIGENCE SERVICES AND THE JIHAD

The film aims to find out who is behind Islamist terrorists, the allegedly single perpetrators or autonomous cells that attack targets all over the world. The terrorist attacks can be traced back to Paris, Brussels, Madrid, London and an organisation less well known than IS or Al Qaeda: It calls itself Lashkar-e-Taiba, or Army of the Righteous, and was founded by and is closely linked with the Pakistani intelligence service ISI. Research shows that the masterminds behind numerous attacks work for the Pakistani intelligence service, a partner service of German, French and US intelligence services. In other words, intelligence services in the West train the people who are behind the attacks. They give money to the ISI to infiltrate terrorist groups and monitor terrorists. But in reality, the money goes to the Army of the Righteous and other groups. This means they bring terrorism to Europe. And when fear of new attacks grows, the Europeans give Pakistan even more money. We regard Pakistan as an ally in the war on terror when in fact the state is the main sponsor and supporter of numerous terrorist organisations. Are our intelligence services responsible for making terrorism possible in the first place? Where do we draw the line when it comes to cooperating with partner services? An investigation uncovers for the first time the perfidious business with terrorism.

Current Affairs

Film by Daniel Harrich

Length 59' HD

Co-Production diwafilm with SWR/ARTE

Original Title Das Geschäft mit dem Terror – Unsere Geheimdienste und der Dschihad / Face au terrorisme – Le renseignement et le djihâd

Year 2020

An investigative documentary that exposes the links between Western intelligence services and Pakistan's ISI in the war on Islamist terrorism. A perfidious business with terrorism is revealed.

THE BUSINESS WITH TERRORISM – OUR INTELLIGENCE SERVICES AND THE JIHAD

SUPERPOWERS IN TRADE WARS THE US-CHINA CONFLICT AND EUROPE

Joe Biden is inheriting a troubled US-China relationship. It's quite possible he will be unable to turn back the clocks set by Donald Trump. Is this the new Cold War – fought this time with the weapons of tariffs and counter-tariffs? The US-China trade conflict is an unprecedented economic battle between two superpowers. It goes back to the trade policy credo of US President Donald Trump: "America first!", which led to the US imposing 25% tariffs on numerous Chinese imports in 2018. China retaliated with counter-tariffs. Eight-hundred billion dollars' worth of trade is affected. The trade war is also becoming a crucial test for Europe. Germany is being drawn more and more into the Americans' line of fire with threats of punitive tariffs being imposed on German car exports to the US. To avert this, the EU is allowing genetically modified soybeans to be imported into the EU – to the anger of the French agricultural sector and European consumer protection groups. European companies with subsidiaries in China also face pressure with exports to the US stagnating as a result of the punitive tariffs. There is no end in sight for the trade war, and even the World Trade Organisation (WTO) is unlikely to change this.

Is this the new Cold War – this time fought with the weapons of tariffs and counter-tariffs? The US-China trade conflict is an unprecedented economic battle between two superpowers. There is no end in sight.

Current Affairs

Film by Jens Niehuss

Length 52' HD

Co-Production TVNTV with ZDF/ARTE

Original Title Supermächte im

Handelskrieg – Der USA-China Konflikt

und Europa / La guerre commerciale

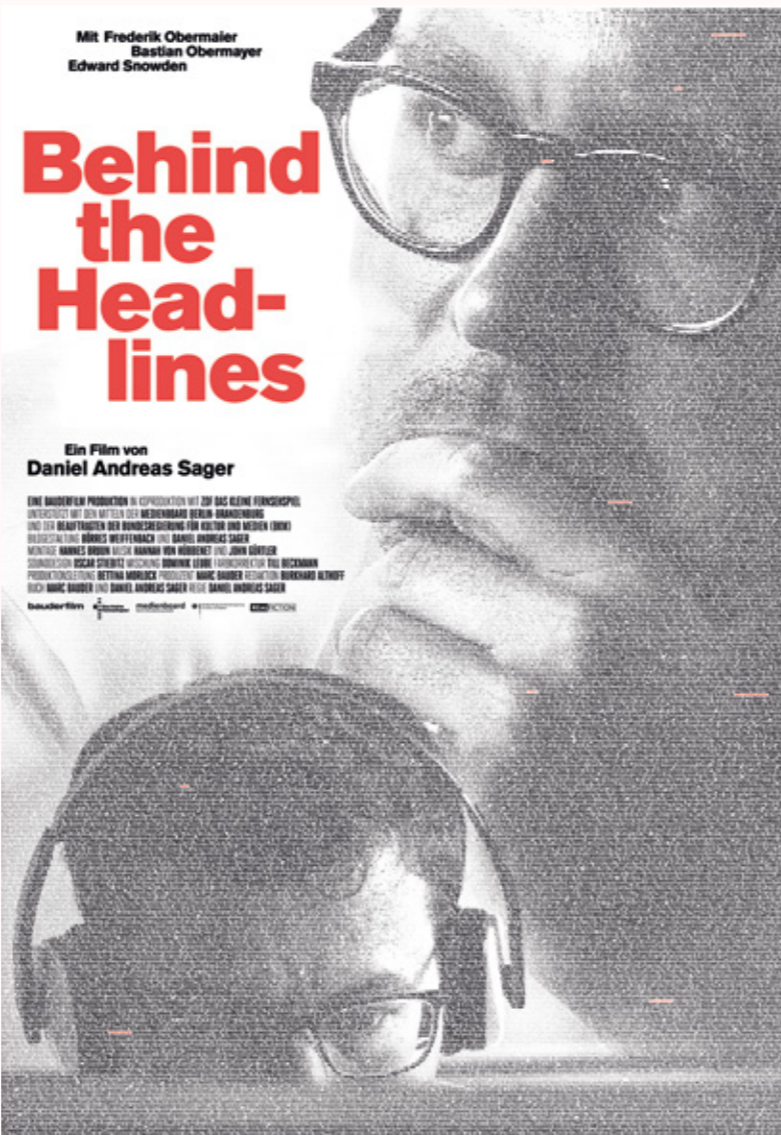
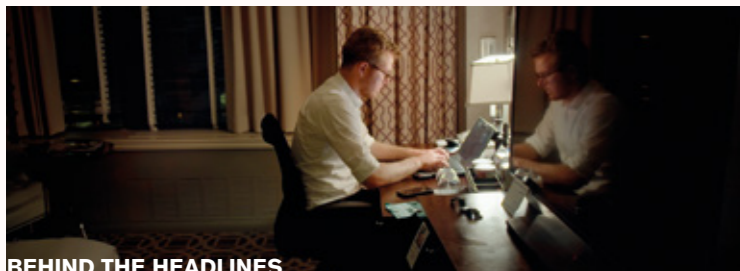
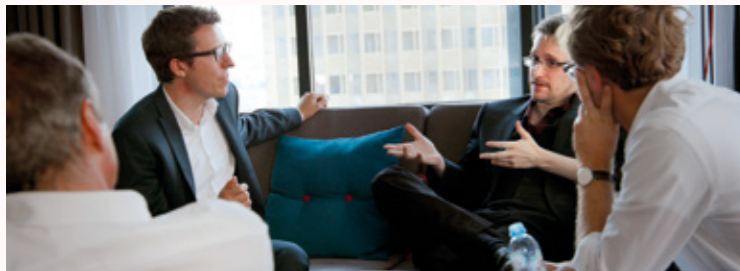
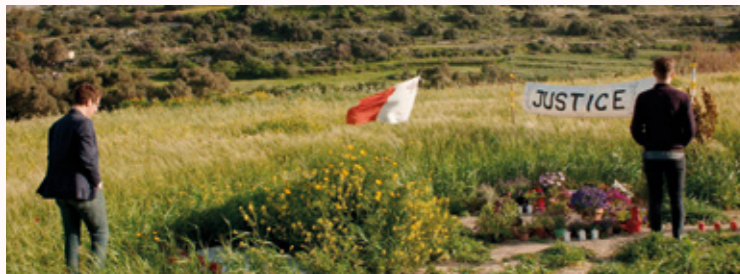
des superpuissances – Les USA, la Chine

et l'Europe

Year 2020



SUPERPOWERS IN TRADE WARS
THE US-CHINA CONFLICT AND EUROPE



Mit Frederik Obermaier
Bastian Obermayer
Edward Snowden

Behind the Head- lines

Ein Film von
Daniel Andreas Sager

EINE BAUDERFILM PRODUKTION IN KOOPERATION MIT ZDF DAS GLEICHE FERNSEHSPIL
UNTERSÜCHT MIT DEN MITTEILERN DER MEDIENBOARDE BERLIN BRANDENBURG
UND DER BEAUFTRAGTEN DER BUNDESREGIERUNG FÜR KULTUR UND MEDIEN (BKM)
UNTERSÜCHT VON DANIEL ANDREAS SAGER
MONTAGE: HANNAES BRUNN, LUISA HANNAY VON WÜRDENETZ UND JOHN GÜNTHER
SCHAUSPIELER: OSCAR SPREITZ, MICHAEL BOMMEL, LORIAN FÄHRIG, CHRISTOPH TILL, BERNHARD
PRODUKTIONSGESAMT: BETTING WORKSPACE PRODUCTIONS BAUDERFILM VERLEIHUNG: BUNDESBOARDE MEDIEN
REGIE: DANIEL ANDREAS SAGER
BAUDERFILM | ZDF | MEDIENBOARDE BERLIN BRANDENBURG | BUNDESBOARDE MEDIEN

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

The part they played in exposing the Panama Papers brought the investigative editorial department at Süddeutsche Zeitung international fame and won its journalists the Pulitzer Prize. Two years later, they faced new challenges: the political murder of Maltese journalist Daphne Caruana Galicia and a mysterious arms dealer linked to Iran's nuclear missile programme. But when the secret „Ibiza“ video heavily incriminating Austrian vice-chancellor Heinz-Christian Strache was leaked to them in the spring of 2019, a truly dramatic story unfolded. For the first time ever, Germany's biggest daily newspaper offers us an insight into the otherwise top-secret methods of its world-famous investigative department. We find out firsthand about the serious practical, ethical and legal decisions the journalists have to make. Is the material authentic? Or are they being instrumentalised in a political power struggle? How can they protect their informants? The day the results of their investigations are due to be published approaches, and the tension rises. Each word comes under careful scrutiny because the story has the explosive power to destroy political careers or even bring down a government.

The Ibiza affair made international headlines in 2019 and plunged the Austrian government into a crisis. The journalists involved in the exposure offer us an intimate insight into their highly sensitive work.

Current Affairs / Feature Documentary
Length 88' / 52' HD
Film by Daniel Andreas Sager
Co-Production bauderfilm Produktion with ZDF / Das Kleine Fernsehspiel, with the support of Medienboard Berlin Brandenburg and Beauftragte der Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien (BKM)
Original Title Hinter den Schlagzeilen
Year 2021
Festivals and awards CPH:DOX, Denmark 2021 / Hot Docs, Canada 2021 / Millennium Docs Against Gravity Film Festival, Poland 2021

THE EL MASRI CASE

In 2004, while on a bus trip close to the Macedonian border, German citizen Khaled El Masri disappeared. He was kidnapped by the CIA and taken to a secret prison near Kabul. Five months later, he was released in a forest in Albania. El Masri was an innocent man. His case was the main reason why the CIA's worldwide "rendition programme" came to light. Its agents were forcibly taking suspected terrorists to secret locations and torturing them in order to extract confessions and obtain information. It then became clear that ever since the attacks on September 11, moral categories within the US intelligence services had shifted and that the extent of violence used during the CIA operations was out of control. With the support of human rights lawyers in Europe and the United States, El Masri spent the years after his abduction trying to restore his moral and legal integrity and to obtain a formal apology – so far in vain. In September 2020, he made a statement in the extradition procedure against Julian Assange, regarding the question how Wikileaks contributed to revealing US war crimes in Afghanistan. In this political thriller, we tell the story of a man who fell victim to a government intervention and was caught up in geopolitical power interests that eventually destroyed his and his family's life.

In 2004, Khaled El Masri was illegally abducted by the CIA. His case brought the CIA's worldwide so called "rendition programme" to light. We tell his story for the first time.

Current Affairs / Feature Documentary

Film by Stefan Eberlein

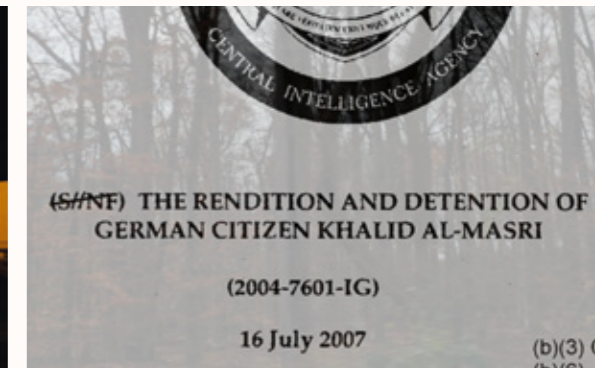
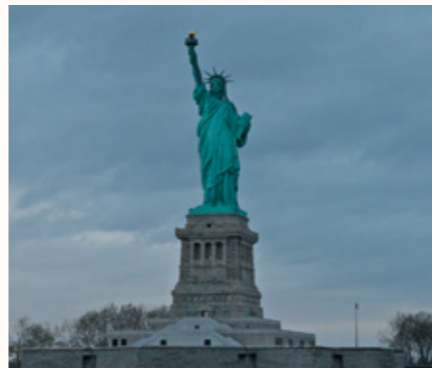
Length 80' / 52' HD

Co-Production Leykauf Film with ZDF/ARTE and ORF, with the support of FFF Bayern and MFG Baden-Württemberg

Original Title Der Fall Khaled el Masri

IN PRODUCTION

Delivery June 2021



THE EL MASRI CASE



THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE

The "Children's Crusade" is one of the big myths of the Middle Ages. In the year 1212, thousands of children in Central Europe set off for Jerusalem. Their aim was to "liberate the Holy City from the Saracens", without weapons, "merely with the power of their faith". The undertaking ended in chaos, and those who did not starve to death or die of exhaustion while crossing the Alps were sold to slave ships on arrival in the Mediterranean or died of fever and disease. Very few returned to their home country, let alone arrive in Jerusalem. But what is fact and what is fiction? What really happened in the spring of 1212? There is no longer any doubt about the historical authenticity of this unprecedented children's crusade, but the reasons for it and the circumstances have been the subject of lively debate for many years. With elaborate re-enactments, computer animations and interviews with eminent historians and scientists, this two-part documentary reconstructs the events of that time and tries to find answers to some of the unresolved questions. Did children really venture on this suicide mission alone? How did it come about? Who organised the march? And what role did the church play?

It is historically unprecedented: In 1212, thousands of children in Central Europe joined a crusade. What religious fervour drove them to undertake a journey which for many ended in death? An historical investigation.

History

Films by Martin Papirowski

Length 2x52' HD

Co-Production Filmproduktion Stein with WDR/ARTE

Original Title Der Kreuzzug der Kinder

(1) *Märchen oder historische Wahrheit?*

(2) *Die Kinderpropheten und der Papst /*

La croisade des enfants

(1) *Mythe ou réalité ?*

(2) *Les enfants-prophètes et le Pape /*

The Children's Crusade

(1) *Fairy Tale or Historical Fact?*

(2) *The Child Prophets and the Pope*

Year 2020

DESIGN IS NEVER INNOCENT

The problems facing our planet, such as environmental degradation, climate change, dwindling resources and global inequality, are nothing new to us, and yet we continue to pursue our wasteful lifestyles. Is design responsible for these problems if it encourages mass consumption with ever new products and trends? How can design help put an end to the destructive exploitation of our planet? This film showcases designers who experiment with unusual materials, such as seaweed and fungi, study energy-saving production methods in interdisciplinary teams and ask critical questions about the responsibility designers have for their products and production methods. A return to critical approaches to design in the 20th century shows how design theorist and educator Viktor Papanek, who was an advocate of politically responsible design, is experiencing a revival and inspiring many contemporary designers. Julia Lohmann builds installations and objects from seaweed. Marjan van Aubel wants to achieve a "solar democracy" with equipment and buildings that generate their own power. And in their "Superflux" laboratory, British designer and artist duo Anab Jain and Jon Ardern speculate about our possible future, when climate change will make Earth barely habitable.

Arts & Culture
Film by Reinhild Dettmer-Finke
Length 52' HD
Co-Production Kobalt Documentary with ZDF/ARTE and SRF
Original Title Design ist niemals unschuldig / Le pouvoir du design
Year 2020



DESIGN IS NEVER INNOCENT

Design has become a driver of hyper-consumerism. But design also offers numerous ways to solve the problems of the world. We introduce some promising design projects for the future.



IN THE WORLD OF COLOUR AND SHAPE – MAIJA ISOLA

The Finnish design company Marimekko is famous throughout the world for its original prints and colours. Maija Isola was one of Marimekko's first designers and she spent 38 years working for the company. During this time, she designed over 500 prints for Marimekko. Her fabric designs revolutionised Finnish homes in the 1950s and 60s. Art took the form of textiles and became easily accessible. Since the 1960s, once Isola's fabrics had consolidated their place in Finnish society, they also took over public spaces. And their success was not confined to Finland, they conquered the entire world, from New York to Tokyo. The film looks for the secret behind the success of Maija Isola's fabrics. Maija's art, both her paintings and her fabrics, was often inspired by nature in all its forms. We also ask: Who was Maija Isola? Where did she find her inspiration during her decades-long career? Events that shaped her life will be presented through archive materials, new documentary footage and her personal legacy: paintings, original designs, photos and slides. Her way of experiencing things is reflected in new fictive footage, animation and film clips that describe her inner world, and cut-out animations illustrate how her various fabric designs are created.

Arts & Culture / Feature Documentary

Length 90'/52'/28' HD

Film by Leena Kilpeläinen

Co-Production Greenlit Productions with YLE, SVT and NDR/ARTE, with the support of the Finnish Film Foundation, AVEK and StoryHill

Original Title Värien ja muotojen maailmassa – Maija Isola

IN PRODUCTION

Delivery August 2021

Her fabric designs are still popular all over the world. Finnish artist Maija Isola worked as designer for the Finnish design company Marimekko for 38 years. We ask who she was and what inspired her.

UNKNOWN KARELIA

Forests and over sixty thousand lakes – that's Karelia, a region in north-eastern Europe. Part of it belongs to Finland, a larger part, known as the Republic of Karelia, belongs to Russia. Seven percent of the inhabitants still identify as Karelians and therefore belong to one of the Finno-Ugric peoples of Europe. The vast majority are Russian, and the official and commonly spoken language is Russian. Many Karelians are concerned about the survival of their culture and language and fight to keep it alive. Forester Wiglijev would like nothing more than for his son to appreciate Karelia's countryside and rural village life, because Karelia is struggling with a massive rural exodus. Young people, in particular, are moving away – to settle in Petersburg or nearby Finland. Numerous villages are deserted and are falling into disrepair. Nadezhda and Igor Kalmykov have set themselves the task of preserving the original buildings in their village of Kinerma. Igor is restoring the 250-year-old wooden houses himself. The Karelian language is also dying out. Natalia Antonova is one of few people who speak Karelian as their mother tongue and is co-founder of an organisation that runs one of a handful of purely Karelian-speaking kindergartens in the Republic.

Karelia is a region that is part Finnish, part Russian. Only seven percent of its inhabitants consider themselves Karelians and therefore belong to one of the Finno-Ugric peoples of Europe.

Human Interest

Film by Katrin Molnár, Martin Striegel

Length 43' HD

Co-Production kornkonzept with
ZDF/ARTE

Original Title Unbekanntes Karelien /
La Carélie, cette inconnue

Year 2020





MUAY THAI – STRONG WOMEN, TOUGH FISTS

Muay Thai is also known as the martial art of warriors and kings and is considered one of the oldest, most traditionally rich sports in the world. It is especially popular in Thailand where prime-time TV broadcasts and widespread sports betting turn the most successful fighters into stars and gods of Thai society. Although active fighting is still a male preserve and women are not allowed to appear in the country's big stadiums, the walls of this male stronghold are beginning to crumble. More and more young girls and women are training in gyms throughout the country and aspire to professional careers in the ring. We explore the special relationship Thai people have to their national sport, we watch young boxing enthusiasts pursue their dream, and we provide some insights into the world of Thai youth. We meet transsexual boxing legend Nong Tum, who claims her smile is "sweet as honey, her punch like the kick of an elephant", and fights for recognition and equal rights for women and transsexuals in boxing. Because Thai boxing is a sport for everyone.

Human Interest

Film by Martin Schacht

Length 43' HD

Co-Production kornkonzept with ZDF/ARTE

Original Title Starke Frauen, harte Fäuste – Thai-Boxen für alle / Thaïlande – toutes sur le ring

Year 2020

Human Interest



MUAY THAI –
STRONG WOMEN, TOUGH FISTS



The popular national sport of Muay Thai is still a male preserve in Thailand, but more and more young girls and women are aspiring to a professional career in the ring and calling for social change.

INNER WARS

Since the pro-Russian separatist uprisings began in eastern Ukraine in 2014, hundreds of women have joined the armed struggle. Only a few have made it to the front. Female soldiers are often relegated to administrative posts and portrayed by the media as oddities, who are more concerned with whether they will have enough time for a manicure. But even if the female soldiers at the front naturally don't give up their femininity, they want to play an important role and fight for their country just like their male colleagues. Filmmaker Masha Kondakova went to war with three of these women. Lera, a patriot and rebel, quits her job as a journalist and joins the army. When the army packs her off to a training camp, she promptly deserts and goes straight back to the front. The young doctor Ira returns from the war injured. She fights quite different battles in Kiev, where she has to find a new place for herself in society as a disabled war veteran. Elena volunteered in 2014. She lives far away from her children and tries to balance her private and professional life. We meet three intrepid women who fight on several fronts simultaneously: against the separatists and against patriarchal society.

Hundreds of Ukrainian women have joined the armed conflict against the Russian separatists. Only a few are allowed to go to the front. Three female soldiers report on their fight against the separatists and patriarchal society.

Society / Feature Documentary

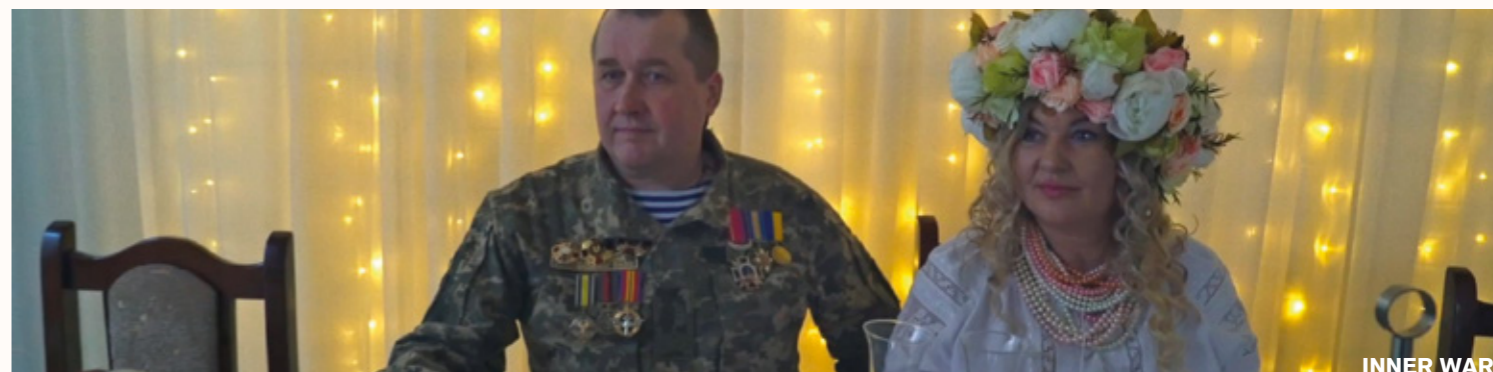
Film by Masha Kondakova

Length 68' / 52' HD

Co-Production Insight Media and Hirvi,
with the support of the Ukrainian State
Film Agency

Original Title Inner Wars

Year 2021



INNER WARS

MULTITASKING – HOW MUCH CAN WE DO SIMULTANEOUSLY?

Multitasking is a challenge and a myth at the same time. The multitude of tasks that have to be carried out in an increasingly complex working world and constant real-time communication are a challenge to the human brain and its limited attention capacity. What has science found out about this subject and how can we make our work and living environments brain-friendly? From their different perspectives, all scientists reach more or less the same conclusion: that humans are capable of multitasking only to a limited extent. Trying to perform multiple tasks simultaneously is detrimental – also on a long-term basis – to our brain, our performance capacity and our health. Various studies carried out in very different sectors show that economic capacities are also wasted by multitasking and up to a quarter of turnover is lost. The film exposes the myth about effective multitasking and, supported by scientific research, examines its feasibility in the real world to find ways of coping better with the complex tasks we face in our private and professional lives.

Science

Film by Katrin Kramer and Marion Schmidt

Length 52' HD

Co-Production telekult Film- und Medienproduktion with SR/ARTE

Original Title Multitasking – Wieviel geht gleichzeitig?

Year 2021

Can the human brain really handle several tasks at once?
The film exposes the myth about effective multitasking and takes a scientific look at its feasibility in the real world.



THE MYSTERIOUS ILLNESS – LIVING WITH ME/CFS

ME/CFS – myalgic encephalomyelitis or chronic fatigue syndrome – is a severe neuroimmunological condition that often leads to a high level of physical disability. Between 17 and 24 million people throughout the world suffer from ME/CFS. Women are affected more often than men. Despite its prevalence, neither the general public nor doctors know much about ME/CFS, even though the WHO included the condition in its international list of neurological disorders in 1969. Research is still very much in the early stages and there are neither drugs nor therapies to treat the disease. Sufferers find themselves left on their own and are usually stigmatised as depressed or mentally ill. The new Sars-CoV-2 virus makes the condition especially significant. Some Covid-19 patients suffer from long-term effects of the virus weeks or even months after becoming infected – with similar symptoms to those of ME/CFS. We follow patients and their relatives as well as internationally renowned scientists and discuss the latest findings in research. They all bring home the gravity and severity of the condition and dispel the myths that for so many years have stood in the way of scientific progress.

Millions of people around the world suffer from the little-known ME/CFS. The pandemic has turned scientists' attention to the condition – because its symptoms are similar to the long-term symptoms suffered by Covid-19 patients.

Science

Film by Daniela Schmidt-Langels

Length 52' HD

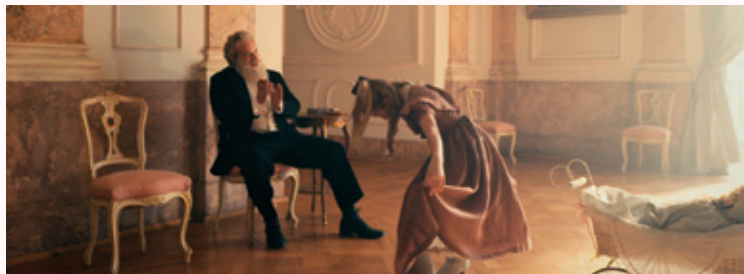
Co-Production Kobalt Documentary with
NDR/ARTE

Original Title Die rätselhafte Krankheit –
Leben mit ME/CFS / Le syndrome de
fatigue chronique – L'EM/SFC, une maladie
trop peu (re)connue

Year 2021



THE MYSTERIOUS ILLNESS –
LIVING WITH ME/CFS



JOHANNES BRAHMS – THE SOLITARY GENIUS

When Johannes Brahms was born in Hamburg in 1833, no one could have known that he would one day be a child prodigy who would leave a lasting mark on music history. In the opinion of international music critics, the grandiose symphonic power of his music, the richness of his themes and the concentrated form of his symphonies are on a par with Beethoven's greatest works. And yet Brahms suffered from melancholy throughout his life and is thus often regarded as a solitary, tragic genius. What influenced and inspired him? Who was it that triggered such complex emotions, which he then expressed in his musical masterpieces? The women in his life certainly sparked his creativity. In particular his friendship – or, better said, his deep, unfulfilled love – for the famous but much older pianist Clara Schumann would accompany him throughout his lifetime. Although Brahms ended up putting his art before his love life, one can feel his anguished devotion to Clara in his music – music that still today inspires writers, filmmakers and musicians the world over. The docudrama takes us back to the nineteenth century to immerse us in the life and career of the highly talented composer and combines dramatic re-enactments with documentary sequences, painting a vivid picture of Brahms's musical pursuits and private life.

The highly talented composer Johannes Brahms was a close friend of Clara and Robert Schumann. His work is often put on a par with Beethoven's. This docudrama paints a vivid picture of his musical pursuits and private life.

Docudrama / Music

Length 90' 4K

Film by Annette Baumeister

Co-Production Story House Productions and JUNIFILM with NDR/ARTE, with the support of Nordmedia

Original Title Johannes Brahms – Die Pranke des Löwen / Johannes Brahms – Le vouloir artistique

Year 2021

MR. GREENFIELD

Maximilian Grünfeld spoke Yiddish, lived in Czechoslovakia, lost his family to Nazi concentration camps, and had no business experience. Today, 92-year-old bon vivant-about-town Martin Greenfield lives in Brooklyn, speaks English, hand-tailors suits for US presidents, and runs a bespoke clothing empire with high society clients and friends. Mr. Greenfield is the story of how one man became the other, against all odds, and how he now grapples with his own legacy. A story about what it means to remain human, no matter how high or low you fly, and how to find a sense of hope in even the most adverse situations.

Martin Greenfield survived the Holocaust to become one of America's most celebrated tailors. Now, at 92, his legacy is at stake.

Human Interest

Film by Rick Minnich

Length 52'/30' HD

Co-Production IN ONE MEDIA and Our Man in Berlin with MDR, with the support of Kulturstiftung Sachsen, Sächsische Medienanstalt and Staatskanzlei Thüringen

Original Title Der Schneider der Präsidenten - Die lange Reise des Maximilian Grünfeld

Year 2021



NEW DOCS