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# NEW DOCS AUTUMN 2021

Have a look at our  
new line-up!

# THE TREASURE OF THE PHARAOHS – EBERS PAPYRUS

The Ebers Papyrus is one of the oldest medical manuals in the world. The 3,500-year-old document was discovered by Egyptologist Georg Ebers in Luxor in the late 19th century and contains over 800 formulas, descriptions of diseases and educational texts, making it an invaluable find. For the first time ever, we learn how Egyptian healers viewed human life and health almost four thousand years ago. Ebers brought the manual back to Saxony with him in the most spectacular manner. The film looks at the history of this famous scroll, the Western world's obsession with the Orient in the 19th century and the often illegal quest for ancient trophies in the land of the Pharaohs.

## **History / Science**

**Film by** Ulli Wendelmann, Denis Kliewer

**Length** 90'/52' HD

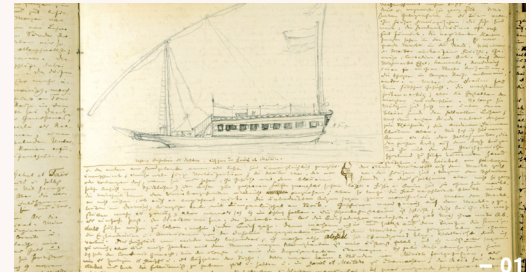
**Production** Schulz & Wendelmann Film  
for MDR/ARTE

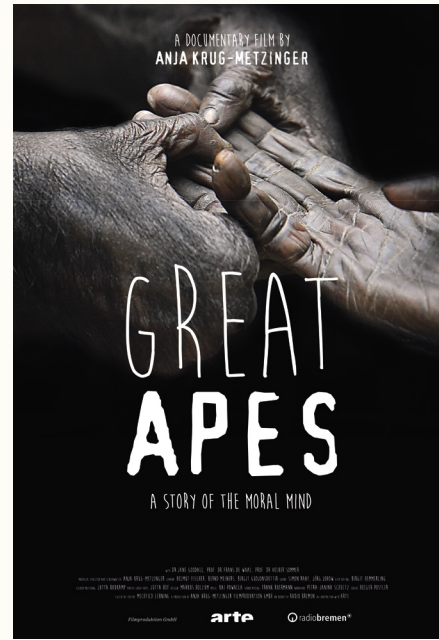
**Original title** Papyrus Ebers - Treasure  
of the Pharaohs

## **IN PRODUCTION**

Delivery 2022

The Ebers Papyrus, the world's oldest medical manual, takes us back to the late 19th century, when the Western world was obsessed with finding oriental treasures.





# GREAT APES – A STORY OF THE MORAL MIND

Studies have shown that chimpanzees are capable of compassion, cooperation, fairness, and reciprocity. They make up after fighting, comfort each other, and care for one another. But they also have many more traits that resemble human behaviours: chimpanzees can, for example, wage wars lasting several years, as demonstrated by unique film footage. And they even have customs and traditions that vary from one community to the next. In one of West Africa's last great wilderness areas – the mountain jungles of Nigeria – researchers have discovered mysterious piles of stones left by chimpanzees near trees or in tree hollows. We once thought only Homo sapiens collected stones in this way. Does this mean that there are early forms of religion among apes as well? Just how intelligent are our closest relatives, and are morality and culture perhaps not exclusively human achievements after all? In this journey into the origins of the moral mind, well-known authorities such as Jane Goodall, Frans de Waal and Volker Sommer introduce us to a fascinating realm of scientific and philosophical exploration as they ask: Where does the human start and the animal end?

## Science

**Film by** Anja Krug-Metzinger

**Length** 58' HD

**Production** Anja Krug-Metzinger

Filmproduktion für Radio Bremen/ARTE

**Year** 2021



The social behaviour of chimpanzees and bonobos is similar to that of humans in many ways. By studying them, behavioural scientists can learn much about the origins of human morality and culture.



# THE NORTH DRIFT

A German beer bottle, washed ashore on one of Norway's remotest islands on the Lofoten archipelago in the Arctic Ocean. How did it get here? Did it really come from Germany? Or did a thirsty tourist down the beer and dispose of the bottle in the sea? Passionate about Norway's unique scenery, film-maker Steffen Krones is keen to get to the bottom of the matter. Are rivers in Central Europe connected to the Arctic Sea? Can waste really travel so far? His personal curiosity turns into a scientific research project. Together with engineers and well-known scientists, Steffen wants to trace the journey of plastic waste from his home city of Dresden. They build GPS buoys which they launch on the river Elbe. Steffen's friend Kris follows the experiment from Norway. Will the buoys really wash ashore somewhere in the Arctic? Will GPS data confirm suspicions that there are links between German rivers and the Arctic Circle? The film takes us on a scientific adventure down the river Elbe across the North Sea to Norway and shows us that we are part of a cycle in which every one of us has the power to make changes.

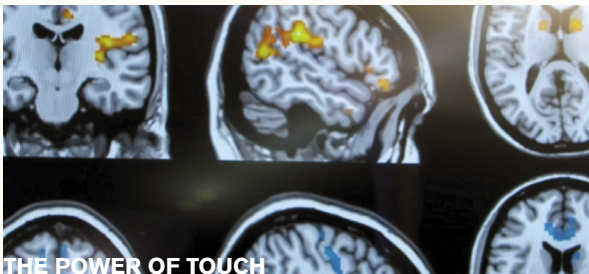
Our oceans are drowning in plastic waste that often arrives there via European rivers. To find out more, Steffen Krones builds a GPS buoy to follow the plastic waste's journey to Lofoten.

**Feature Documentary / Environment**  
**Film by** Steffen Krones  
**Length** 92'/52' HD  
**Production** ravir film  
**Original title** The North Drift  
**Year** 2021



THE NORTH DRIFT





THE POWER OF TOUCH



# THE POWER OF TOUCH

Physical contact plays a vital role in our lives. It is a new-born baby's first experience of the world and conveys a feeling of security and belonging. It affects how we perceive stress and pain, how well our immune system works, whom we trust. Strong emotions such as love or compassion are more easily communicated through physical contact than through words, facial expressions or gestures. In times of social distancing, research into human touch has become increasingly relevant. Researchers are examining how the human touch affects our physical and psychological health and what the consequences are when there is a lack of physical contact. In addition to our sense of touch, humans have a highly specialised system that is exclusively receptive to gentle sensory stimuli. Why does it feel different to be touched by someone we are close to and by a stranger? What goes on in our brain – and what role does the brain itself play? A feeling that is so intuitive, so natural to us is actually the result of complex interactions between nerve fibres, spinal cord and brain that still raise many questions for researchers. Smartphones and the internet allow us to connect to family and friends today, but they are no substitution for physical closeness.

In times of social distancing, research into physical contact is gaining relevance. How does human touch affect our physical and psychological health, and what happens when there is a lack of physical contact?

## Science

**Film by** Dorothee Kaden

**Length** 52' HD

**Production** HR/ARTE

**Original title** Die Macht der sanften  
Berührung / Le pouvoir des caresses –  
Le toucher, un contact vital

**Year** 2020



# THE TRIBE OF GODS

Tory Island is one of the most remote and isolated islands in the northwest of Ireland, about ten kilometers away from the mainland and accessible only by ferry or helicopter. Due to lack of infrastructure and opportunities, the islanders nearly had to abandon their home 30 years ago. Patsy Dan Rodgers, the so-called King of Tory, is the heart and soul of the small island community and he cherishes its age-old traditions and culture. His dream has always been to secure the future of the island, attract jobs, tourism and investment, and to stop young people from leaving. But the islanders face another challenge when they find out that the ferry, their only connection with the mainland, is to be replaced by a smaller, less powerful boat. Will families have to move back to the mainland? Island manager Marjorie, Patsy and the whole community launch a campaign to secure support measures to help the island community survive. Patsy, who is suffering from cancer, believes that if they succeed, he can die with a sense of fulfillment. It's at times like this that his burden feels too heavy to bear. Will the islanders manage to save their ferry service, prevent families from leaving the island and preserve the island's unique way of life?

Tory Island is a beautiful, remote island in the northwest of Ireland. The community's sense of solidarity is put to the test when it finds out the island's only ferry service to the mainland is under threat.

**Feature Documentary / Human Interest**

**Film by** Loïc Jourdain

**Length** 92'/59'/52' HD

**Co-production** Dearcán Media, Lugh Films and Tita Productions with BBC Gaeilge, TG4 and France Télévision, with the support of Northern Ireland Screen, Tébé, Tébé, Région Bretagne and CNC

**Original title** The Tribe of Gods

**Year** 2021

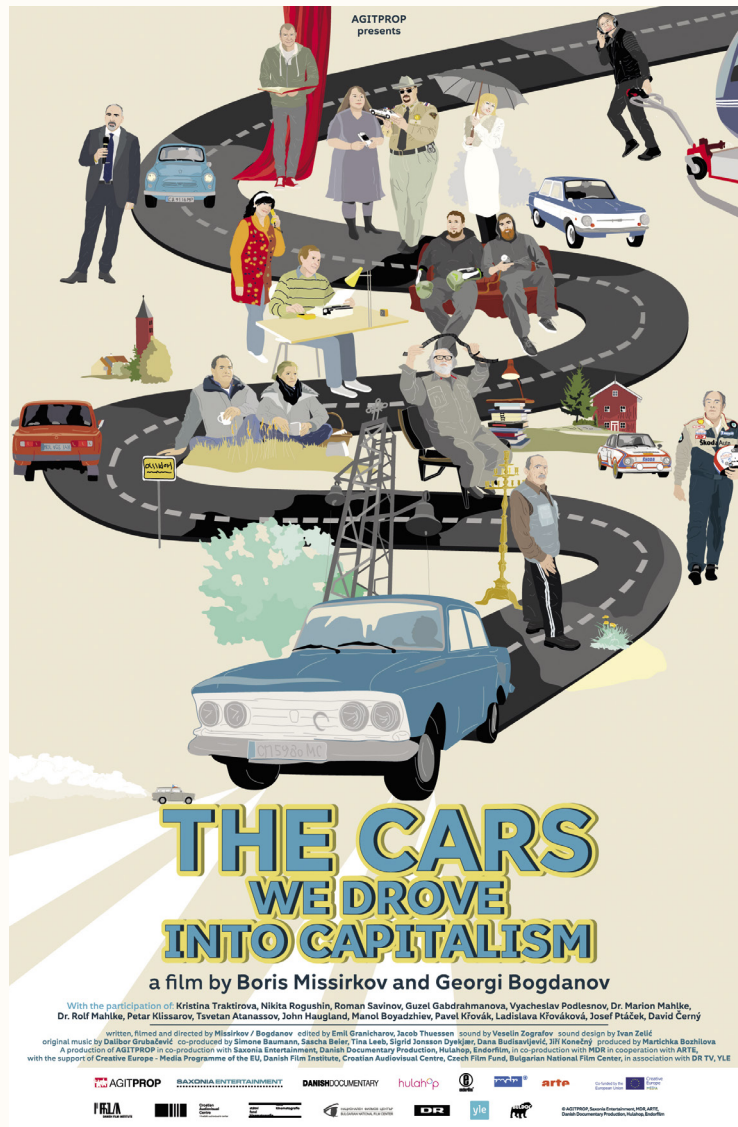
**Festivals and awards (selection)** Galway Film Fleadh, Ireland 2020 / FIPADOC, France 2021 / New York Movie Award, USA 2021 / Royal Television Society Award, UK, 2021 / Celtic Media Festival, Scotland 2021 / Docs Ireland, Ireland 2021







THE CARS WE DROVE INTO CAPITALISM



## THE CARS WE DROVE INTO CAPITALISM

During the Cold War, almost every family in the Eastern Bloc treasured and impeccably maintained the car they had waited so long for. This film looks at the fascinating history of socialist automobiles based on select accounts which portray the events and hardships of the time with a touch of humour. The automobile was also seen as a means to an end against the imperialist class enemy. For most communist countries, the car was an instrument of propaganda, used to symbolise technological progress and the equality, if not the superiority of their system. Even Western families were known to drive a Lada, Wartburg, Moskvitch, Trabant, Skoda or Zaz. We meet a young woman who was inspired by pin-up models, a couple who drove to freedom in West Germany but had to abandon their beloved car on the last leg of their journey, a former racing champion and automobile fanatic who turned his old banger into a luxury vehicle, and many more. A cinematic journey that focuses attention on its heroes – both man and machine.

**Feature Documentary / Human Interest**

**Film by** Boris Missirkov, Georgi Bogdanov

**Length** 93' / 52' HD

**Co-production** AGITPROP, Saxonia Entertainment, Danish Documentary Production, Hulahoop and Endorfilm with MDR/ARTE, in association with DR and YLE, with the support of Creative Europe MEDIA, Danish Film Institute, Croatian Audiovisual Centre, Czech Film Fund, Bulgarian National Film Center

**Original title** The Cars We Drove Into Capitalism (93') / Autos im Sozialismus: Freiheit auf vier Rädern / L'automobile sous le socialisme : La liberté à quatre roues (52')

**Year** 2021

**Festivals** DOK Leipzig, Germany 2021

Fond memories, true love and bizarre anecdotes combined with unique archive footage make this film a fascinating study of socialist car culture past and present.



# BLUE/RED/DEPORT

Talib Shah Hossaini, a 37-year-old Afghan film-maker and asylum-seeker, lives in Moria on the Greek island of Lesbos. Moria was the biggest refugee camp in Europe until it burnt to the ground in autumn 2020. One year into his life in the camp, Talib Shah finds himself on the verge of losing hope. Instead of giving up, however, he decides to transform his suffering into art and makes a film called PICNIC – an insider's look at the lives of thousands of refugees stuck in Moria, a place sometimes described as a humanitarian disaster. Film-maker Lina Lužytė follows the daily life of Talib Shah and shows him as he makes his film. Members of Talib Shah's family appear in the film alongside other amateur refugee actors. The making-of scenes act as a magnifying glass to the reality of the asylum seekers. The highlight of the documentary is its premiere in Moria: Talib can finally show his work and speak from the heart of many of his fellow refugees. The film explores such topics as dreams versus reality, art as a means of survival, current immigration policies in Europe, and it invites us to become better acquainted with the people who will soon be our neighbours.

**Feature Documentary / Human Interest**

**Film by** Lina Lužytė

**Length** 90'/52' HD

**Co-production** Gemini Film & Library with Schneegans Productions, with the support of German Federal Film Board FFA, Film- und Medienstiftung NRW, MFG Filmförderung Baden-Württemberg

**Original title** Blue / Red / Deport –

Picknick in Moria

**Year** 2021

Afghan film-maker Talib Shah lives in the refugee camp Moria in Greece. On the verge of losing hope, he turns his suffering into art and makes a film that gives voice to the plight of thousands of refugees.



Set in Moria, the biggest refugee camp in Europe that has burnt down, this documentary tells a story of an Afghan filmmaker, who explores his complex reality via making a fictional film.



BLUE / RED / DEPORT





# THE SEAWEED FARMERS OF NUSA PENIDA

Indonesia is the second largest producer of seaweed in the world. But farming is becoming increasingly difficult thanks to climate change and other human influences. Many traditional family businesses fear for their livelihoods. Nevertheless, the seaweed farming sector has experienced something of a revival since the start of the Covid pandemic. With fewer tourists visiting the country, islanders are rediscovering the miracle plant. In 2019, 66-year-old Wayan Luga invested in a third car for his chauffeur service on Nusa Penida but had to sell again because of the lack of tourists. He has been forced to farm algae – like he used to before the pandemic. 54-year-old Nyomon Chandra, on the other hand, has been a seaweed farmer all his life, just like his father. He's never done anything else, and if he has his way, he never will. But nature is an important factor. Increasing marine pollution and rising water temperatures are making his work increasingly difficult. The Covid pandemic, however, has had an unexpectedly positive outcome – algae continues to grow irrespective of tourist arrivals and viruses, and as a result, traditional farming is experiencing a mini revival.

Indonesia is the second largest seaweed producer in the world. But pollution and climate change are making life difficult for family businesses. Since the start of the pandemic, however, seaweed farming has experienced an unexpected revival.

**Human Interest**

**Film by** Andreas Korn

**Length** 43'

**Production** kornkonzept for ZDF/ARTE

**Original title** Die Seegrassfarmer

von Nusa Penida / Indonésie –

Les cultivateurs de la mer

**Year** 2021



# WE ARE ALL DETROIT – WHAT STAYS AND WHAT DISAPPEARS

These two very different cities – Detroit in the US Rust Belt and Bochum in Germany's former industrial Ruhr region – have something very important in common: they were both significantly shaped by the automobile industry. The beginning and end of Bochum's automotive industry can also be traced to Detroit. Since the end of the industrial age, people on both sides of the Atlantic have been searching for a new identity. This film introduces us to those affected by the developments and to the players – planners, scientists and politicians – who have been actively involved in the cities' transformation, all of them announcing promises and visions of a future that is more than uncertain. Despite their differences, the people of Bochum and Detroit are connected by their desire for a dignified and happy life, and this cinematic exploration of the two cities becomes a journey into the hearts of their people.

Since the end of the industrial age, Detroit in the US and Bochum in Germany are cities that have undergone fundamental changes. People on both sides of the Atlantic are in search of a new identity.

**Feature Documentary / Human Interest**

**Film by** Michael Loeken, Ulrike Franke

**Length** 118'/90' HD

**Co-production** Filmproduktion Loekenfranke with WDR, with the support of Film- und Medienstiftung NRW, Federal Commissioner for Culture and Media BKM, German Federal Film Fund DFFF

**Original title** We Are All Detroit – Vom Bleiben und Verschwinden

**Year** 2021



WE ARE ALL DETROIT –  
WHAT STAYS AND WHAT DISAPPEARS





# THE FUTURE OF TRAVEL

At the latest since the pandemic brought the tourist industry to a standstill, one thing is for sure: too much travel is bad for the environment. Tourism transforms entire regions, profoundly impacts communities and often brings benefits for only a very few. But our desire to travel remains unbroken. Do travellers have to decide between the two extremes: exotic destinations – and high carbon footprints – or holidays at home? Given the climate emergency, can we fly without feeling guilty? How environmentally damaging are cruises? And what does it mean to have a sustainable holiday? The documentary examines an industry that had got ahead of itself even before it was hit by the pandemic. We hear from mayors, tourism managers, a climate expert, internet activist and a sociologist. The film travels to the European tourist hotspots of Barcelona, Venice and Dubrovnik. The tiny island of Palau in the Pacific Ocean demonstrates how sustainable travel can be sensibly organised and a Paris start-up develops a concept for virtual travel experiences.

Deciding between exotic destinations and holidays at home – Will we ever be able to fly again without feeling guilty? We examine the tourism business today and ask how it envisages the future.

**Current Affairs**

**Film by** Antje Christ

**Length** 52' HD

**Production** Christ Media for ZDF / ARTE

**Original title** Fernweh und Flugscham –  
Wie werden wir in Zukunft reisen?

**Year** 2022



# THE DEAL

From the meagre earnings of young women forced into prostitution to the billions laundered through real estate deals: this film follows the machinations of the "Nigerian brotherhoods" as it spreads ever further through Europe. Thanks to exclusive access to wire-tapped conversations and statements from key witnesses, the film exposes the global network that specialises in drug smuggling, human trafficking and forced prostitution. It focuses on four main protagonists. Dedicated public prosecutor Lina has made it her life mission to campaign on behalf of the victims. Wire-tapping, surveillance and raids are just some of the methods she uses in her every-day work. Police officer Nils tells us about his toughest case and the film documents what he finds out about the lives of the young women in Nigeria and about juju practices. Victory is a former victim who is fighting hard to lead a normal life. Princess is a social worker who rescued Victory – and many other women – from the streets. We watch her go about her work and follow her to Nigeria. In her home country, we learn about her own story, how she was forced into prostitution and how she managed to escape.

A fact-finding film about investigators, victims and members of the Nigerian mafia in Europe. Thanks to exclusive access to secretly recorded conversations and witness statements, the film exposes the structure of this growing network.

## Current Affairs

**Film by** Chiara Sambuchi

**Length** 90'/52' HD

**Production** DOCDAYS Productions with  
SWR/ARTE

**Original title** The Deal

**Year** 2022





# FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Faces and voices: these are the first impressions we get of a person. In less than half of a second, we decide whom we trust, who we like, how intelligent we think a person is. And all this is based on the astonishing processing power of our brains. We learn to read facial expressions as babies. We then spend the rest of our lives trying to interpret emotions and see behind people's faces. Voices are perhaps even more important. Speed, syntax, inflection, phonetics – all of these things give us information about what a person is feeling. But we aren't the only experts who can decipher human emotions – artificial intelligence technology is also learning to read faces and voices. A photo or a spoken sentence is usually enough to obtain information about identity, health, emotions and even personality. And the internet is full of faces and voices. It is a huge database that is growing constantly. Based on the sound of our voices, artificial intelligence can now detect whether we suffer from Parkinson's, depression or even Covid-19. What does our brain understand, what can artificial intelligence achieve, and what are the mechanisms behind it? International experts offer us an insight into the latest scientific findings.

Friend or foe? In a fraction of a second, our brain forms an opinion about a person based on facial expressions and voices. But artificial intelligence can also interpret human emotions with increasing accuracy.

## Science

**Length** 52' HD

**Film by** Dorothee Kaden

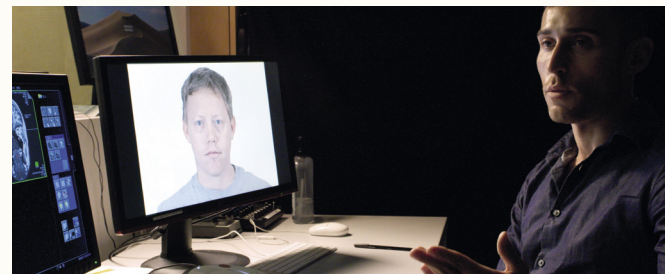
**Production** HR/ARTE

**Original title** Die Magie von Gesicht und Stimme / Le visage et la voix – Ils en disent long

## IN PRODUCTION

Delivery January 2022

Open for Co-production and pre-sales





# THE GREEN SPACE

Cambodia has 1.3 million hectares of primeval rainforest, the largest, unfragmented forest in continental South East Asia. Since 2001, Cambodia has lost 24% of its tree cover – a much higher percentage than larger forested countries like Brazil or Indonesia. It is home to over 59 red-listed species. The last wild tiger disappeared in 2007. The Wildlife Alliance, founded and led by Suzanna Gauntlett, has made it its mission to protect the native forests. Suzanna deploys 180 rangers at 10 ranger stations who help her enforce the law to stop poaching, illegal logging and land grabbing. Ouch Leng and Marcus Hardtke are fellow nature activists, but they have a different strategy. They campaign against the corruption networks in which politicians, the Vietnamese timber industry and Chinese investors are involved.

## **Current Affairs**

**Film by** Ingo Bellacoola and Stefan Röttger

**Length** 70'/52' 4K

**Production** Bellacoola Filmproduction

**Original title** The Green Space

## **IN PRODUCTION**

**Delivery** January 2022

**Open for co-production and pre-sales**

The film follows three activists who dedicate their lives to preserving the Cambodian primeval rainforest which is threatened by corruption, illegal logging, poaching and land grabbing.



THE GREEN SPACE



