



CATALOGUE

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NATURE & WILDLIFE





ONE-OFFS

THE SAND EATING SHARK

4K HDR - 52'



2021

SAINT THOMAS PRODUCTIONS production for FRANCE TELEVISIONS,
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNELS WILD, SVT & USHUAIA TV

A lemon shark called Manoela grows up in the waters of Fernando do Noronha off the coast of Brazil. Her extraordinary senses allow her to detect scents, sounds and even the tiny electric fields of her prey. In particular, she specializes in a hunting technique that has only ever been observed in this spot: hunting sardines in the waves. When we look closer behind the breakers, we discover unsuspected alliances and unusual behaviours.

Discovered accidentally while shooting for another film, the lemon shark population of Fernando do Noronha island required us to film over a three-year period in order to draw the portrait of this emblematic young female shark. The crew relied on the latest high-definition technology, high speed and aerial imagery as well as rebreather diving equipment in order to reveal a range of new shark behaviours. Despite the paradisaical appearance of the Brazilian island, the teams had to cope with storms and powerful waves as well as juggle the constrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic in order to follow this individual's destiny through the seasons.



CEPHALOPODS, CONQUEST OF THE SEAS

4K HDR - 52'

2020



A SAINT THOMAS PRODUCTIONS production for ARTE GEIE,
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNELS WILD, SVT & USHUAIA TV

Cephalopods, an invertebrate group, includes squid, octopuses, and cuttlefish. Unlike most marine species, their populations are booming. Through various examples, from the abyss to the tropical shallows, the film shows that the group is highly efficient at adapting to changes in their environment, enabling them to overcome the disturbances that have contributed to the depletion of other species. Although they only live for one to two years, they produce many eggs, with relatively low mortality rates, allowing them to adapt rapidly to environmental changes. In addition, as humans catch cephalopods' predators, they create a gap in the food chain for this adaptable species to fill.

Shot over three years across the globe using deep-sea submersibles and specialized underwater filming equipment, this film presents an intimate portrait of cephalopods. Through stunning cinematography, it reveals unexpected or spectacular behavior of little-known species in remote locations. In particular, the use of an array of macro lenses enables the viewer to plunge into the personal lives of small species and the larvae of large ones... and discover their unique physiology.

Honorable Mention
Jackson Wild 2020

Best Picture
Audience Award
Festival International des Pertuis et Iles du Monde 2020



SHETLAND'S OTTERS THE TALE OF A DRAATSI FAMILY

4K HDR - 52'

2019



The stunningly wild and remote Shetland Islands are home to the highest density of otters in Europe. But despite their numbers, otters are extremely shy and are rarely seen. The film is narrated by Shetland native, Brydon Thomason. He has been watching otters on the islands for the last thirty years and knows these endearing animals' ways.

Otters are a species living on the edge. The otter mother alone is responsible for raising her cubs – teaching them to dive, hunt and fish and gradually leading them to independence. When the cubs are a year old and have finished their education, the mother stays close to her daughters but will chase her male cubs away, forcing them to start a new life on their own. This is the story of one family and their bid for survival in the harsh conditions of Scotland's most northerly isles.

Best Film Story
Mezinarodni Filmovy Festival

Best Scenario
Festival International des Pertuis et Iles du Monde 2020



GREY SEAL, A JOURNEY OF SURVIVAL

4K HDR - 52'

2017



A SAINT THOMAS PRODUCTIONS production for FRANCE TELEVISIONS,
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, SVT & TV5 QUEBEC CANADA

Directed by: Bertrand LOYER

In the icy waters of the North Atlantic lives an animal that has adapted to major changes in its environment. Grey seals are adept at hunting fast, elusive prey and are one of Europe's largest predators. But as fish stocks decline and they suffer attacks from fearsome predators and legal culls, their world is changing... along with their behavior. Recent improvements in annual surveys and animal tagging have revealed precious information about where grey seals go when they leave the coast and how they spend their lives. Their name traditionally conjures up images of adorable pups and clownish behavior but forced to explore new environments and target different prey, this film uncovers another side to these creatures.

Context: Filmed over two and half years in 16 different locations around Great Britain and the Baltic Sea, this film required total dedication from both land-based and underwater crews. During the grey seal breeding season, a solitary cameraman survived for weeks, on his own, in an abandoned shepherd's hut on the uninhabited island of Faray existing on canned and dehydrated food and the occasional crab claw! Filming in the strong Atlantic tides also proved to be challenging – dragging a team of divers underwater despite their inflated jackets and hauling away an expensive camera and underwater housing that washed up on a deserted beach six months later!

Toulon Film Festival
Gold Anchor



MARINE MAMMALS CHAMPIONS OF THE DEEP

4K HDR - 52'

2017



A SAINT THOMAS PRODUCTIONS production for ARTE France,
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNELS WILD, SVT & USHUAIA TV

Directed by: Bertrand LOYER

Deep beneath the ocean exists an incredibly hostile world - an icy world plunged in eternal darkness where the pressure is phenomenal. This world is the abyssal realm - the largest habitat on our planet. Yet some marine mammals that breathe air and nurse their young, like us, spend a large part of their days in this shadowy world. Scientists are now discovering that the depths reached by these ocean dwelling giants are far greater than they had ever imagined.

Using tags attached to the animals, cameras in the deep ocean trenches and 3D scanning images, this film follows and illustrates a modern scientific revolution. Constructed as a dramatic progression towards the deep sea trenches – from the shallowest to the deepest – it shows animals that are extremely rare and highlights the remarkable physiological adaptations that allow them to dive so deep.



BEACH JACKALS

4K HDR - 45'

2016



A SAINT THOMAS PRODUCTIONS production for FRANCE TELEVISIONS,
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNELS WILD, SVT & USHUAIA TV

Directed by: Bertrand LOYER

Threatened by the guns of Southern Africa's farmers, some black-backed jackals have found a new shelter in a restricted and arid area: Namibia's Skeleton Coast. Here, they adapt to a new lifestyle. They are learning to catch new coastal prey, and how to collaborate to catch bigger ones such as the fur seals. This requires cooperative hunting - a behavior rarely seen amongst these canids - and therefore social and communication skills. Some jackals succeed, other become scavengers... or die.

Context: By following a few remarkable individuals over a period of 4 years, the team has crafted an intimate portrait of an emerging behavior in a rapidly evolving environment.



CHICKEN PLANET

4K & HD - 51'

2016



A SAINT THOMAS PRODUCTIONS production for FRANCE TELEVISIONS
& USHUAIA TV

Directed by: Benoit DEMARLE

The story of chickens is the story of an animal that has conquered the planet, traveled the five continents and laid eggs at all latitudes. Starting in the forests of South-East Asia, the original Bankiva rooster, *Gallus gallus*, has travelled around the world. Trusty travel companions, chickens have followed us humans on all our journeys and discoveries.

Today there are over 52 billion on earth, seven times more than human beings, and many more than any other species of wild birds.

Why was this feathered friend chosen by man to become a central pillar of our agriculture? How did this darkly plumed forest species become so diverse in colour, form and behaviour? What is the everyday life of the hens and roosters that surround us?

Battery-farmed in dark hangars, raised outdoors in the countryside of the South of France, in Thai combat training centers, in survivalists' bunkers, on Hawaii's beaches or New York's roofs, chickens can live many different lives.

Entering the chickens' world takes us on a world tour to encounter the funniest, craziest and most lovable animals. We will try to better understand the ups and downs of their private life, their behaviour, their relationships with other fowl and of course with men.



RIVER JAWS

4K HDR - 52'

2015



A SAINT THOMAS PRODUCTIONS production for ARTE GEIE,
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNELS WILD, SVT & USHUAIA TV

Directed by: Bertrand LOYER

Originally from the rivers of Eastern Europe, catfish have colonized almost all European lakes, canals and rivers since 1950. By the time they are adults, these giants have no competition and sit at the top of the aquatic food chain. Shads, pikes and ducks, all are prey to this rapacious fish. The catfish adapts quickly and has even learnt to beach itself on purpose in order to catch pigeons! It has become Europe's largest freshwater fish, even longer and heavier than the fishermen who have aided its conquest.

Having established their reign of terror over half a century, should this invader be declared harmful? To answer that question, this film documents the objective work of biologist Frederic Santoul who has been trying to solve a riddle: in all the rivers where it has been introduced, why has the catfish not eliminated any other fish species? With the help of free divers, he will follow the suspect's wrongdoings from the Danube Delta to the heart of the Tarn region in France and reveal striking behaviors such as the congregation of hundreds of catfish that represents the largest aquatic biomass in the world.

Three years were needed to complete this film which employs state of the art digital technology (ultra slow motion cameras, high-sensitivity underwater cameras and photo-realistic CGI) to depict this animal, which has become both a social menace and the object of fantasies.

International Water Sea Oceans Film Festival of Hluboka nad Vltavou, Czech Republic
Best Documentary



GIANT SEA SERPENT, MEET THE MYTH

4K HDR - 52'



2015

A SAINT THOMAS PRODUCTIONS production for ARTE, USHUAIA TV, SVT, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNELS WILD, TERRA MATER & TV5 QUEBEC CANADA

Directed by: Bertrand LOYER

The Giant Oarfish, the largest bony fish in the world, was known only by rare examples that died by stranding, as well as one sole fossil. Its extraordinary dimensions, as long as 15 meters, and shape in the form of a silver ribbon, inspired the myth of the sea serpent.

For the past two years, scientific buoys, immersed at a depth of two thousand meters in the Mediterranean, off the French Riviera, have attracted countless species of pelagic fish ; among them, the Giant Oarfish drifting vertically, alone or by pairs. With the help of the world expert in Giant Oarfish and logistic collaboration of enthusiasts, a scientific expedition reveals the biology of this enigmatic ambassador of the abyss.

Entirely shot in Ultra High Definition, the film raises the veil on its paradoxical habits: why do all the adults self-mutilate and rid themselves of two-thirds of their bodies without being affected? How do they meet in the immensity of the ocean? Why does this fish not have any known predators?

International Underwater Film Festival of Marseille
Gold Palm

Menigoute Film Festival,
The Poitou Charente Awards for best cinematography, innovation and originality

Albert Wildlife Film Festival
The Best Scientific Film Award

Festival International du Film maritime, d'Exploration et d'Environnement Toulon
Ancre d'Argent



SWIMMING WITH LEGENDS

4K HDR 70' - HD 104' & 2 x 52'

2014



A SAINT THOMAS PRODUCTIONS production for FRANCE TELEVISIONS, RTBF, TV5 QUEBEC CANADA & SERVUS TV

Directed by: Bertrand LOYER

The largest creatures on Earth live underwater. Their sheer size has always triggered our imagination. In murky waters or inaccessible places, we ignored their true nature and created legends.

Today, scientists try to understand them, to go beyond the myths. But stranded or fished creatures offer a poor glimpse into their world. So how can we decipher their underwater secrets without altering their behaviour?

Meet Fred Buyle, a record-breaking freediver who has dedicated his life to this non-intrusive quest. For science, he travels the world to tag or photo-identify large marine creatures that have populated his imaginary world since he was a child.



LIONESS IN EXILE

HD - 52'

2012



A SAINT THOMAS PRODUCTIONS / MAVELA MEDIA coproduction for
FRANCE TELEVISIONS & PLANETE+

Directed by Kim WOLHUTER, Benoît DEMARLE & Bertrand LOYER

Soon after we meet Manyari, Queen of her pride, she does something both unusual and bold. She leaves the sanctuary of the clan with her young cubs and takes them on a dangerous odyssey. She makes a bid to escape because two young bloods are sniffing around, and if they take over the pride, they will kill her cubs. Out in the wilderness, away from the protection of the pride male and without her sister to help her hunt, Manyari is forced to take huge risks. Badly injured, she so nearly pays the ultimate price. The cubs are starving, and wander back dangerously close to the young bloods. As Manyari fights for her cubs survival, her every move is shadowed by the marauding nomads. They know she's out there and they want her back. Yet the exiled Queen: hunter, killer, sister, lover but above all selfless mother, continues to take dangerous risks – to give her cubs a few more precious months of life..

Context: Born and raised in South Africa, Kim WOLHUTER has been a filmmaker, director and naturalist for 25 years. Installed in a tented camp in Zimbabwe's Malilangwe Reserve, he has unique access to this beautiful area and lives surrounded by lions and other African wildlife. Over the years he has made several acclaimed wildlife films amongst which "Beauty and the Beast", "Hyenas at War", "Impala- Basic Instincts", "Stalking Leopards". It is well known that lions will kill young cubs when they take over a pride, so that the lionesses will mate with them sooner. What is unusual about this story is that Kim was able to follow one lioness in a bid to escape and save her young cubs. He followed her for several months and was able to document the changing of the guard in this small lion kingdom. Watch this unique and universal tale, which recalls the fate of famous monarchies and the determination of exiled queens.



FUR SEALS, THE DARK SIDE

52'

2007



A SAINT THOMAS PRODUCTIONS production for ANIMAL PLANET EUROPE, ARTE, TÉLÉQUÉBEC & VIASAT

Directed by: François DE RIBEROLLES

Fur seals. We all know these circus animals which can juggle, jump, dance or applaud to the great joy of the audience. With large, tender eyes and a soft fur, they have been trained to entertain and amuse. This was our common vision, up to now now... Far from amusement parks, in the big frozen ocean surrounding Antarctica, the fur seal presents a very different face from that of the playful creature.

This one-hour special unveils the dark side of this mysterious predator. Half way between a tale and an investigation, this film follows the destiny of a young male fur seal who has taken refuge on a remote volcanic island of the Southern Seas. An animal that kills more than it apparently needs to survive. No palm trees, no trainer or turquoise pools are to be seen here. Instead, he lives in a hostile world where the rules of survival are mastered through a strict learning process. All through the seal's coming of age, the self-taught animal moves through different stages that will in turn enable him to produce offspring: after a birth on land, the seal leaves for the high seas, endures storms, and above all, learns. He learns to hunt, to fight, to become an opportunistic predator but also to share the dusky dolphins' experience or to escape the killer whale's jaws.

Context: This film has involved very dedicated film crews in extreme situations: it was shot over a six year period in the remote Prince Edward Islands, in the utterly difficult open ocean of the so-called Roaring Forties and offshore Patagonia. It delivers both a comprehensive biography of a popular animal and a very modern approach to natural history. This film associates an unusual soundtrack with Rap songs to more classical blue chip behavior, most of which has never been seen before.

Japan Wildlife Film Festival - Japan
Underwater merit award

34th International Underwater film festival - Antibes Juan les Pins, France
"Planete Thalassa Award"



A MAN AMONG ORCAS

HD - 52'

2006



A SAINT THOMAS PRODUCTIONS production for ANIMAL PLANET
& FRANCE TELEVISIONS

Directed by: Jean-François BARTHOD

In the remote volcanic archipelago of the Crozet islands, meet David REICHERT, a cameraman who has an extraordinary talent to locate, approach and tame some of the wildest beasts on Earth. Enduring raging winds and icy waters with minimal protection, he enters the intimacy of elephant seals and orcas using clever ethological analyses and gets them used to his presence. Then comes the extraordinary: meet a man who communicates with penguins with body language, calms young seals and turns them into live pillows, lies underwater with eight ton orcas or mature male seals...

Context: David REICHERT is a young American wildlife filmmaker who has dedicated his life to his passion. Specialized in marine subjects, at ease in rough seas and icy waters, David has an incredible resistance to extreme environments and a real talent for dealing with complex wildlife situations. To achieve this unique film, he spent four months in an isolated bay on an island 2000 miles away from the nearest continent with Jean-François BARTHOD, another talented filmmaker and director with a solid experience as a DOP of feature films. The result is a very unusual wildlife documentary entirely shot on S16mm film.

- Filmar, International See and Environment Film Festival, Hendaye, France

City of Hendaye's Award

- San Francisco Ocean Film Festival, USA

Wildlife Award

- Underwater film festival - St. Petersburg, Russia

Grand Award and Best Photography Award

- International Film Festival - Dompierre-sur-Besbre, France

Best Documentary

- 33rd festival of underwater image in Antibes - Juan les Pins, France

Palme de Bronze

- Nature Festival - Namur, Belgium

Gold tape of the Audience, city of Namur's award

- International Marine and Exploration Film Festival - Toulon, France

Silver Anchor

- Jules Verne Festival - Paris, France

Nature Award and Young Public's Award

- The Japan Wildlife Film Festival, Japan

Best Ocean Cinematography Award



SPERM WHALES, DEALING WITH THE UNEXPECTED



52'

2006

A SAINT THOMAS PRODUCTIONS production for DISCOVERY, CANAL+, NDR & ORF

Directed by: Bertrand LOYER

Around the Crozet Islands, here is the incredible odyssey of a family of Sperm Whales facing rapid changes in their environment. From the stormy surface to the eternal darkness of the abyss, several generations of these deep-sea divers encounter men and their "toys": harpoons of yesterday, and fishing lines of today. Once victim of whale hunting, now accused of stealing fish, a sperm whale shares its private life with us. And what an immersion! We discover in turn its mysterious sonar, its competitors like orcas, and also the strange world of its neighbours - the deep-sea monsters. Amongst them, a revelation: the biggest squid ever filmed in its natural environment, almost 15 feet long. Come and discover the depths of the Crozet abyss...

Context: This true tale of survival is shot in a rarely seen and utterly hostile corner of the Earth, the offshore waters of the Crozet islands. It took more than seven years to gain the trust of local authorities and fishermen to film this incredible concentration of giants of the open ocean. Thanks to international scientific collaboration, the production team managed to deploy Remote Operated Vehicles in the abyss and design cameras adapted to the extreme filming conditions of the Southern seas.

Filmar, International See and Environment Film Festival, Hendaye, France

Best Award

International Wildlife Film Festival - Missoula, Montana, USA

Merit Award for Underwater Photography

International Underwater Film Festival - Antibes Juan les Pins, France

Wildlife Film Award

7th Art and Science Festival - Noirmoutier, France

Emerald Wave award of the Young Jury



FACE TO FACE WITH THE POLAR BEAR



52'

2005

A SAINT THOMAS PRODUCTIONS production for ANIMAL PLANET, CANAL+, ZDF & TSR

Directed by: Jérôme BOUVIER

In a remote fjord in Spitzberg, filmmaker Jerome BOUVIER spent a year following the incredible destiny of a polar bear family in a rapidly changing environment. The result is a universal and dramatic tale of survival. Casting brother and sister twin cubs, this tale focuses on their education and reveals their individual characters: while the young male imitates mother's seal hunting techniques, his sister plays or rests. After the weaning period, the animals need to fend for themselves and adapt what they've learnt to the ever-warmer summers.

While the female tries in vain to hunt walrus, her brother successfully hunts for seals resting on drifting icebergs. Reducing her diet to easy-to-catch eider eggs and kelp, the she-bear can't sustain the energy requirements of her immense body. Growing thinner as rapidly as the glaciers, she fasts and finally meets a fatal end. Fortunately, her skilled brother reaches sexual maturity and migrates North to adapt to the changing conditions.

Context: To film this intimate portrait of white giants, filmmaker Jerome BOUVIER has circled around Spitzberg for a year with skidoos, buggies or sailing boats. He endured continuous blinding daylight in these viciously cold areas, with temperatures as low as minus 55 degrees Celsius and winds up to 30 miles per hour. The polar bear is the largest land carnivore and has the reputation of being the only animal that actively hunts humans. Polar bears are the most likely species to kill humans for food, as they assume anything they encounter is potential prey. Nevertheless, not much choice is given to the filmmaker: Jerome BOUVIER and his guides had to venture into the intimacy of these starving giants, relying only on sounds and visual displays to scare off the ever-inquisitive beasts.

International Wildlife Film Festival - Missoula, Montana, USA

Merit Award for Script and Photography

Bird and Wildlife Film Festival - Abbeville, France

Nature Award and Public Award



PENGUIN BAYWATCH, SUB-ANTARTIC ISLANDS



52'

2004

A SAINT THOMAS PRODUCTIONS production for FRANCE TELEVISIONS
& NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Directed by: Luc JACQUET

In the summer, space becomes dear on the beaches of the sub-Antartic islands. There, penguins and sea elephants live jumbled up together, caught in the throes of breeding and bringing up the little ones.

Such overpopulation leads to tensions between species and individuals. The crowds of penguins and sea-elephants attract many scavenging birds as well as dangerous predators like giant fulmars, the vultures of those icy climes, and orcs full of hunting tricks and tactics. More agile, the otaries, and the wandering albatrosses, those indefatigable gliders, seem to escape the chaotic throng. Like the other animals, however, they are dependent on the ocean, their only source of food in these deserted regions.

When winter comes, this cohabitation ends. Their breeding duties finished, the different animals return to the waters they are used to wander in.

International Ornithological Film Festival - Menigoute, France

Crédit Agricole Award



WILDLIFE FILMMAKERS MISHAPS AND DANGERS

52'

2004



A SAINT THOMAS PRODUCTIONS production for CANAL+

Directed by: Guillaume POYET

Wildlife films spy for us into the natural world and bring to the comfort of our armchairs beautiful, moving and breathtaking footage. Behind their cameras, filmmakers face mishaps, experience fears, apprehensions but also big laughs. There is a world of patience, unpredictability and danger. To find out about these intense moments, let's turn the cameras on them.

Following gorillas in the forests of Rwanda, filming cheetahs chasing their prey or putting inquisitive gorillas at ease by letting them satisfy their curiosity requires great art. If filming in the wild can be a risky business in places like the African Savannah, crews also encounter hilarious situations: they must sometimes submit to the animals' appetite for social contact. Ingenuity, compromises and acrobatic skills are often needed to capture on film several second sequences.

The result is a funny and entertaining film which takes us behind the scenes and shows us what filmmakers must go through to bring us images of the natural world.

SHARKS, SCAVENGERS OF THE SEA

52'

2003



A SAINT THOMAS PRODUCTIONS production for CANAL+

Directed by: Cyril BARBENCON and Bertrand LOYER

Before being an earthly paradise with enchanting colours, the lagoon of New-Caledonia is above all a paradise for sharks. Usually considered as fierce predators, sharks really are opportunistic scavengers. Scavengers that are not too picky when it comes to their menu: feathers, fins or fur, anything will do. Amongst the most striking scenes which punctuate this documentary filmed for four years in New Caledonia, is the never-seen-before sequence of the planet's greatest animal, a weakened blue whale, attacked and cleaned up by hordes of sharks from the surface down to the abyss. Even more impressive: can you imagine jackfish attacking alive turtles in shallow seas at full speed, even faster than shark themselves? More jaw dropping footage in this unique film all shot in one exotic place, from the warm tropical lagoon down to the abyss.

Japan Wildlife Film Festival - Japan
Best Underwater Film



LEOPARD SEALS, LORD OF THE ICE



52'

2002

A SAINT THOMAS PRODUCTIONS production for CANAL+
& NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Directed by: Jérôme BOUVIER & Jean-François BARTHOD

Who are these ferocious predators of the Antarctic continent that kill each year thousands of penguins and leave some injured birds behind to the scavengers of the ice? To find out, come and follow Göran Ehlme, an experienced underwater cinematographer and expert of the cold seas, in his quest to uncover the fascinating behavior of the secretive... Leopard Seals. Amidst the pristine but freezing waters surrounding the white continent, the audience will be given a unique insight into the mysterious daily lives of Leopard Seals and discover some never-before-filmed behaviors of these highly intelligent predators. «Killer seals» will reveal how Leopard Seals hunt penguins underwater or on land, charging unwary trespassers on the ice, be they penguin or human! Thanks to Göran Ehlme's close and emotional relationship with Leopard Seals, the public will be astonished to discover that each animal has – like human beings – its own distinctive character and moods. Göran is one of the rare divers in the world who dares to defy the deadly jaws of this predator in order to gain its trust and solve the mystery of its natural but puzzling aggressive temper.

Jules Verne film festival - Paris, France
Special Jury Award

Valvert European film Festival - Brussels, Belgium
Best Cinematography



THE ADOPTED DOLPHIN

52'

2002



A SAINT THOMAS PRODUCTIONS production for CANAL+

Directed by: Bertrand LOYER

The dolphin is still full of surprises. Group assistance, an unknown side of this charismatic animal's behavior, is the central theme of this documentary presented as a scientific tale. Unveiling a wide range of behaviors in oceans around the globe, this initiatory voyage depicts the dolphin's altruistic world as we follow the misadventures of one of them in search of a host group. May it be while hunting fish stranded in shallow waters in South Carolina, playing with a venomous snake in the Rangiroa lagoon, defending the group against a tiger shark attack in the Marquesas islands, parading in the crystal-clear pacific waters or surfing on waves from the bows of tankers in Texas, everything relies on the group: the dolphin needs to be surrounded by its peers to feed, defend himself, communicate and breed.



THE TICK AND THE BIRD

52'

2002



A SAINT THOMAS PRODUCTIONS production for FRANCE TELEVISIONS,
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNELS INTERNATIONAL

Directed by: Luc JACQUET

Once upon a time, there was a flea who lived buried deep in the feathers of a Laysan Albatross. Together, they travelled across the tormented oceans of the Pacific Ocean landing only on very rare occasions. Until one day... the albatross chooses to land on Midway an island 3000km off any land coast, to mate and start a family. Taking advantage of the physical closeness of this bird couple, the flea seizes the opportunity to explore the feathers of the female, from where she will witness the hatching of an egg. Then, the flea quickly prefers to jump onto the soft duvet of the young bird, not yet able to fly. In the nest, the young albatross discovers all the dangers which surround him, such as the penguins who come and steal food left by his parents. This provides an excellent opportunity for the flea, who decides to discover new feathers - the first of many to come. The flea will, from here on, share the same life style of the petrels, royal penguins, both adult and juvenile. In its little air bubble, the flea is protected from the pressure of the water whenever its hosts go for a dip in order to hunt for krill or anchovies. To keep a safe guard over its territory, the flea will confront ticks and other lice who will have, like itself, colonised the fur of their hosts.

This documentary, based on scientific research and fact, unites harmoniously the natural habits of these birds, which has been filmed during four months in Hawaii, and digital images of the flea created through computer graphics.

European Film Festival - Valvert, Belgium

Best Script Cristal Eagle Award

International Ornithological Film Festival - Menigoute, France

Best Commentary Award



SCAVENGERS OF SAVANNAH



52'

2000

A SAINT THOMAS PRODUCTIONS production for CANAL+

Directed by: Pascal PLISSON

As soon as a wildebeest dies, lions feed on its carcass for a week or more. Soon after, other scavengers will come for their share: vultures, marabou storks, and hyenas will all come to feed. Over a period of five months, using the latest techniques of macro and aerial photography, this film will follow the life and death of wildebeest, to reveal the world of the scavengers on the plains of Tanzania and Kenya.

This extraordinary film features the largest wildebeest migration of the XXst century: a drought following an extreme El nino pushed all the beasts toward the green plains of Kenya. Some very unique material has been gathered during this epic shoot, like the unforgettable footage of hippos removing wildebeest carcasses from the Mara river's oxbows or several young zebras caught in the dangerous river flow.

International Wildlife Film Festival - Missoula, Montana USA
Best Documentary Finalist

6th Sichuan TV Festival - China
Jury Special Award



PENGUIN BAYWATCH ANTARTICA



52'

2000

A SAINT THOMAS PRODUCTIONS production for ARTE & ZDF

Directed by: Cyril BARBANCON

Meet Chinstrap, Macaroni, Adelie, Gentoo, King and... Queen. Spend a year with them in the icy waters or on the volcanic islands of the vast Southern Ocean. Do not fall from the cliff when you leave in the morning and always be certain to catch the right wave on your return home before sunset. Watch out your "friends" who are always ready to push you off the iceberg. On rocky outcrops, always keep your distances with your neighbour, at least 2 feet. Meet your partner this evening, as it is your turn to take care of your fat feathered kids for the next 15 days. Most important of all: if you want to see your family again, avoid all welcoming committees of Fur Seals and departure festivities of Leopard Seals. How does it feel to be a penguin?

International Wildlife Festival- Missoula, USA

Finalist Award and Merit Award for Educational Value

Japan Wildlife Film Festival- Japan

Finalist



KILLER WHALES, UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL



52'

2000

A SAINT THOMAS PRODUCTIONS production for BBC, DISCOVERY, CANAL+ & NHK

Directed by: Bertrand LOYER

During four years of shooting in the icy waters that surround the volcanic archipelago of the Crozet Islands, we have followed the trial and tribulations of Delphine, a young female adolescent killer whale. Living and growing within her family group she gradually learns how to find her bearings, how to hunt king penguins or Minke whales and how to get stranded in order to catch sea elephants. For the first time divers have dared to swim next to these great predators and have brought back an amazing collection of unique shots. Come and join us in the world of the Crozet Islands and their undisputed masters...

To date, this film is the only one-hour pure blue chip featuring killer whale in a unique environment. It has no equivalent and will not have until a dedicated filming crew is willing to spend such a long time in a hostile environment... diving in icy cold waters while killer whale eating a minke whale, spending a full year in a remote hut waiting for the animal to visit the shores, or risking ones' life to dive among preys while killer whale are hunting.

World Underwater Film Festival - Antibes, France
Gold Palm Award and French President Special Award

Jules Verne Festival - Paris, France
Best Director Award



SERIES

LIFE ON FIRE

HD - 4 x 52' Wildlife + 2 x 52' Science + 45' Making of
2009 - 2012



A SAINT THOMAS PRODUCTIONS production for ARTE, SVT, TELE QUEBEC, UK CHANNEL

Narrated by Jeremy IRONS

Directed by: Bertrand LOYER & François DE RIBEROLLES

Volcanoes are one of the most spectacular and powerful forces on our planet. They create new land, change landscapes and destroy civilisations, but more than two billion years ago they also breathed life into our world.

From the ocean abyss to snow-covered summits, this ambitious series paints a detailed picture of the struggles and amazing intimacy required to survive around volcanoes.

Spectacular scenery provides the backdrop for the extraordinary animals and plants that have learned to juggle with fire. Fragile and engaging, these creatures teach us lessons in survival in a world as fascinating as it is dangerous.

NATURAL HISTORY

ASH RUNNERS

On the volcanic island of New Britain, a handful of animals have learned to live with the sporadic anger of the Earth. When ash from an eruption invades their habitat, the choice seems simple: stay and adapt, or leave.

- Wildscreen Film Festival, Bristol
Panda Award for the Best Sound

- 33rd International Wildlife Film Festival, Missoula, Montana USA
Merit Award for Cinematography

- Wild Talk Africa Film Festival, Cape Town - South Africa
Award for the Best Sound in a Natural History film

- Nature Film Festival, Namur
Grand Prix for Best Film

- World of Knowledge International Film Festival, St Petersburg
Best Cinematography Award



PIONEERS OF THE DEEP

In the vast emptiness of the Pacific Ocean, tectonic movements construct or destroy islands. In the Tongan archipelago, two little-known animals have learnt to cope with these ephemeral lands: the sooty tern, a seabird that never dares wet its wings for fear of drowning and the Alvin shrimp, a blind crustacean that nonetheless manages to find its way around the abyss. When an underwater volcano becomes an island, the fates of these two living paradoxes are linked.

- International Wildlife Film Festival, Albert
Silver Palm
- International Underwater Film Festival, Marseille
Silver Palm
- Albert's International Wildlife Film Festival, Albert
Special Jury Award
Award for Best Scenario
- Finalist at Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival
For Best Writing, Science, Sound, Music

THE SURPRISE SALMON

In Alaska, the fresh water that feeds the rivers is snowmelt from North America's highest mountains and most active volcanoes. Time and again, they erupt and poison the rivers. Scientists have only just begun to piece together what might have happened nearly 2,000 years ago, when one race of salmon faced the death of their natal river and were forced back to the open ocean - on an extraordinary adventure...

- Blue Ocean Festival, San Francisco
Marine Animal Behavior
- International Underwater Film Festival, Marseille
Gold Palm
- International Wildlife Film Festival, Albert
Special Award for Best Screenplay
Special Award for Best Sound

PHOENIX TEMPLE

Nicaragua, in the middle of Central America, is home to Masaya; a huge volcano that has been active for over 30,000 years. During its long life it has caused some of the largest eruptions in history. The surrounding landscape has been created from lava, ash and gas while at the centre lies a desolate, empty land. Each time the Masaya volcano destroys everything around it, life returns, re-emerging from the ash at its feet.

- Gran Paradiso International Nature Film Festival, Cogne
Gran Paradiso National Park Award
- Wildscreen Film Festival, Bristol
Finalist Best Original Music Score
Finalist Earth Science
- International Wildlife Film Festival, Albert
Grand Prix
Special Award for Best Picture
- International Festival l'Oiseau et la Nature, Abbeville
Wildlife Prize



SCIENCE

ICELANDIC VOLCANOES, WHO IS NEXT?

A year ago, the eruption of the Eyjafjallajokull volcano in Iceland provoked a vast economic chaos by paralysing one of the world's major air traffic networks for several days. Through spectacular aerial footage, the film tries to understand which volcano could wake up next and what the consequences of a major eruption are likely to be. The world has come to realize that a colossal power sleeps beneath Iceland but Icelanders have learned to live amongst their volcanoes for centuries.

- Wildlife Film Festival, Jackson Hole
Finalist Earth Science
- Wildscreen Film Festival, Bristol
Finalist Earth Science

VOLCANO DOCTORS

Whether the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Colombia, Chile, Italy or Iceland, each of these countries is home to active volcanoes that are a threat to the populations settled at their feet. To avoid disasters, volcanologists are asked to anticipate and warn, they are asked to be prophets and to know how to analyze the volcanoes' slightest tremors. Around the world, these volcano doctors use their tools and knowledge to try and protect those who live in the path of the Earth's fire.



BE A PREDATOR

2 x 52'

2006



A SAINT THOMAS PRODUCTIONS production for PLANETE

Directed by: Julien NAAR and Frédéric BERNADICOU

Imagine you are swimming under Antarctic ice or diving the Marianna abyss. Imagine you can suddenly see in the depths of the sea, hear ultra-sounds, decode radar waves and detect electric fields.

1,2,3... you are a killer whale or else a dolphin, a bear or a leopard seal!

Using the latest technologies of image treatment and stock footage from Saint Thomas Productions' extensive film library, this wildlife series presents an insider's view of the predators' life and senses. Both spectacular and entertaining, the series gives a modern outlook on nature and its most spectacular ambassadors: predators.

Each episode depicts a predator and its hunting techniques in its natural habitat. Following the principles of a food chain, the programmes jump from one animal to the next, from hunter to prey.



POLES

Mirages are shaping over the immaculate ice shelf. Close up shot of a bear inhaling the frozen air. From the bear's point of view, we understand that... he is smelling a seal. This odour is that of a young ringed seal hidden under a thin layer of snow. A few steps and paw swipes to clear the animal and uncover a young ringed seal snack. Under the ice shelf, protected from bears by several meters of frozen ice, belugas - the white whales - are hunting halibut. In their tridimensional environment, individuals can communicate the good hunting spots while kilometres apart. The chattering of these ghost hunters is continuous. At the South Pole, leopard seals hunt in silence. But they are nonetheless excellent tacticians. Their hunt is based on their excellent sight, experience and a perfect knowledge of their prey's calendar. When do the parent penguins go off to feed at sea, when do they return, when are the young going to take their first bath and where exactly will they get into the water? The answers to these questions are all part of the leopard seal's hunting culture. We follow his adventures under the surface of ice-covered bays. When his hunting season comes to an end at fall, the Northern spring wakes the polar bear which goes off to hunt. Our year in the lives of Pole predators comes to a close.

OCEANS

Sharks or Dolphins, two predators, two morphological responses to the same environmental constraints. Which one is the better adapted to survive? An underwater camera passes swiftly over a coralline sandbank then stops on a black and image of a razor fish lurking in wait. Several bottlenose dolphins forage in this location. The mothers use echolocation to spot razor fish and teach their young how to master this sophisticated sense that we don't know. Other bottlenose dolphins have developed yet another spectacular application of this sense: they hunt grey mullets in the muddy mangrove waters and strand them on the banks. Other dolphin species use this natural sonar in different ways: some descend in group in the abyss to locate anchovy shoals. They force them up to a lesser depth where they will get stuck by the natural frontier of the water surface. But how is it possible to hunt in the darkness of the abyss without this super-sense? Seals have found an answer to this question, thanks to their vibrissae. These whiskers can detect the movements of prey in total darkness. But what can really be seen with these whiskers and how do they use them? That is what a young sea lioness in Patagonia and a grey seal in Scotland learn... before they suddenly end up in the jaws of a super-predator, a killer whale. How can they resist? To rule over the oceans, this animal an array of senses, a hunting culture transmitted from one generation to the next and an adaptability to changing environmental conditions.



CONFLICTS OF NATURE

4 x 52'

1999



A SAINT THOMAS PRODUCTIONS production for FRANCE TELEVISIONS

International Insect Films Festival - Narbonne, France
Best Award

International Insect Films Festival - Narbonne, France
Young Jury Best Award

European Nature Film Festival Valvert - Brussels, Belgium
Best European Film

Cinema & Nature Encounters Festival - Dompierre, France
Special Mention

International Wildlife Film Festival - Missoula, Montana, USA
Merit Award For Macrophotography

International Nature and Environment Film Festival - Le Mont Dore-Sancy, France
Grand Award of the City of Mont Dore for Best Film

Filmobidos: Medical and Scientific International Film Festival - Obidos, Portugal
Golden Serpent: 1st Award in the Scientific Films Category

International Nature & Environment Film Festival - Le Mont Dore-Sancy, France
Grand Award for Best Film

CONFLICTS IN A POND

Directed by : Bertrand LOYER

This is the unusual story of a little-known insect: the water beetle. Having spent the winter beneath the ice, the water beetle which can walk, swim, and fly, stirs with the first signs of spring. Its habitat: a small pond. Its neighbors: dragonflies, frogs and newts. Its daily life: survival. Between two skirmishes, it gives birth to some twenty larvae of varying kinds... only the most voracious will make it to adulthood before the pond dries out.



CONFLICTS IN A RIVER

Directed by: Pascal PLISSON

At the foot of Uganda's roaring Murchison falls live two eternal enemies: the Nile monitor lizard and Nile crocodile. Despite the crocodile's reign of terror within the river, the stealthy lizard is master of the banks where it steals and devours their vulnerable eggs. The first days of the young Nile crocodile are a series of nightmares : if it survives the lizard's attacks, it must avoid the swooping attacks of perch and eagles. Once adult, it becomes the undisputed master of the river and seeks to devour its erstwhile enemies one by one.

CONFLICTS IN THE JUNGLE

Directed by: Pascal BLEUZEN

In the Amazon jungle of French Guyana, a young jaguar is preparing to become master of the forest. His reign over the territory, however, is contested by creatures fiercer than he. These six-legged beasts are none other than the fearsome warrior ants. Over several days we will follow the nomadic pursuits of this ant colony who will eventually cross paths with the young jaguar in his life-learning adventures. These ants uproot their home every single day, travelling by night in groups one-million strong. With an instinct for solidarity, they work as a cohesive group. Despite their unity, we will witness the subtle struggle for power between the Queen and a pretender. Little by little, we begin to understand these peculiar ants who, like the jaguar, do not go unnoticed by the other inhabitants of the forest.

CONFLICTS AROUND A TREE

Directed by: Bertrand LOYER

The plains of the Masai Mara in Kenya, a dominant male, twenty submissive females, two warring brothers, a tree of forbidden fruit, a snake: this is the olive baboon version of Genesis. Effortlessly combining scientific rigor, objectivity and humor, this documentary spends eight months around a "dormitory-tree" in the intimacy of a troop of baboons caught up in hierarchical conflicts. They have to put up with anything: floods, rivalries, alliances, parasites, and even cheetah attacks. Only a unified troop could possibly overcome these ordeals...



ANIMALS LIKE US

12 x 52'

2004/2006



A SAINT THOMAS PRODUCTIONS production for CANAL+, FRANCE TELEVISIONS & NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

How similar are animals to humans? At first glance, we don't have much in common with reptiles, birds or even mammals. Religion, culture and society have always forced us to view ourselves as completely separate from the animal kingdom. But in fact, recent research has shown us that we share a good deal of the same behaviour. It turns out animals sometimes get high, they fight wars, they learn about adult life through playing games, they develop cultural practices which are transmitted from one generation to the next. We are still unable to truly understand the minds of animals but every day we learn more about their emotions and desires.

International Wildlife Film Festival - Missoula, Montana, USA

Finalist

Merit award for presentation of a controversial issue

Wildscreen- Bristol, UK

Finalist

Vendee Nature Film Festival - La Rochelle, France

Silver Award

Menigoute Wildlife Film Festival - Menigoute, France

Education Award

International Festival of Insect Films - Narbonne, France

Special Award

European Film Festival, Valvert - Belgium

Best Commentary Cristal Eagle Award

Bird and Wildlife Film Festival - Abbeville, France

Best Scenario and Best Special Effects Award

5th Fifale Festival - Rabat, Morocco

Bronze Crane Award

Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival, USA

Finalist



SEASON 1

ANIMAL ADOPTION

Directed by: Jacqueline FARMER

Altruism, an act that bestows a benefit on the recipient while conferring a cost to the actor is one of the central paradoxes of evolution. And yet, amongst lions, rats, termites, ants, dolphins, and several primate species, altruism may go as far as adoption. Knowing that, how could natural selection have eliminated altruism? In the case of social insects, parent substitution was a flaw in Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection: the biologist noticed that non-reproductive insects who adopted and helped young ones, brought a large portion of genetic baggage from their parents. Darwin had to broaden his theory to the family group. For mammals, including men, what advantage is there in the act of adoption? Why a lioness would adopt an antelope? The controversy at the heart of this documentary continues to be debated in today's scientific world; in the years following the adoption, does the adopted individual contribute to the foster parents' survival and vice versa? At the far end of the scale, should adoption be encouraged for a species' survival, for example among humans, mole rat societies and Polist wasps where certain reproductive individuals sacrifice their fertility? While raising these different questions with revelatory wildlife sequences, this documentary will study each case separately because each adoption behavior has evolved independently forming its own pattern, its own benefit and even... its own disadvantages.

ANIMAL LANGUAGE

Directed by: Keebe KENNEDY

An Indonesian legend claims that monkeys can speak but they prefer to stay quiet. Do animals have languages that we don't understand? Is it just a question of getting the right dictionary or is language the one thing that separates humans from the rest of the animal kingdom? Birds sing, lions roar and chimpanzees chatter but do these noises mean anything? This one-hour documentary takes viewers into the wild to listen to nature's noisemakers and meet some of the scientists who spend their days trying to have conversations with animals. From parrots to killer whales we find out who is saying what to whom and explore whether there is such a thing as animal language. This documentary closes the series by challenging the last bastion of our "humanity". The barriers are collapsing. Language is not Man's domain alone.



ANIMAL MEDICINE

Directed by: Jacqueline FARMER

Recent research and field observation have shown that some animals may feed on prey or plants which are not part of their regular diet or which bring about unusual reactions: polar bears consume kelp, elephants lick salt, caterpillars feed on poisonous plants, and some chimpanzees eat abrasive leaves to cure worms and diarrhea. Social animals such as Red Capucin monkeys have even learned, through imitation or through contact with humans, to add charcoal to their diet in order to neutralize the poison contained in the fruit they relish eating. Through comprehensive examples, this film questions pre-conceived ideas relating to animal consciousness, notions of health and assistance, as well as the transmission of medical knowledge from one generation to the next.

ANIMAL POLITICS

Directed by: Guillaume POYET

At the beginning of 2001 the primatologist Franz de Waal published his work on a group of chimpanzees at Arnhem Zoo in Holland. He has brought to light the presence of rites that are so subtle and so elaborate that they show a real "political" organisation thus starting a debate which has stirred up the scientific world. With the battle for dominance among rats and oryxes, the communist societies of ants, the coalitions between baboons, the abduction of offspring among rhesus monkeys and the adoptions, rivalries and manipulations among chimpanzees, we realise that the more sociable and psychophysiologicaly evolved a species is, the more their network of influence approaches that of humans and includes a symbolic dimension necessitated by social relations.



ANIMAL HOMOSEXUALITY

Directed by: Bertrand LOYER, Jessica MENENDEZ and Stéphane ALEXANDRESCO

A covert revolution has been taking place in nature, and has gone unnoticed. For a good reason: morality. But strong facts won a battle over reluctant minds: according to recent scientific research, serious publications reveal that more than 450 different kinds of animals engage in homosexual activity. This documentary (which has since become a cult film in the scientific and gay communities) has taken this research, and combined it with never-before-seen film footage, to produce this compelling and groundbreaking documentary. It explores the various ways homosexuality is expressed in the animal kingdom through courtship, affection, sex, pair bonding and parenting. Backed by scientists, shot in countless wild locations from the Californian abyss to the Japanese Alps, it re-examines and revises the fundamental paradigms of nature.

ANIMAL WEB

Directed by: Nicolas GABRIEL

Insect societies have always fascinated us by the perfection of their organisation. But without their ability to secrete a substance (wax, glue...) insects would never have been induced to become organized. The first groupings were enabled by constructive secretions such as silk, a magical fibre that builds, unites, and speaks. Among all the different animal secretions, silk is a formidable medium of information which encourages social interactions. For some species, this extraordinary substance serves as means of both communication, transportation, as well as protection, nourishment, and reproduction. With silk as the foundation, the social life of insects and spiders is organized around these web-networks. Everywhere in nature, spun threads cross, interweave, and separate, creating many intersections where spinner insects and spiders can meet and feel each other's vibrations. It's the beginning of a form of communication that can be transformed into a confrontation, a sexual encounter, or another form of interaction. The techniques of macro-cinematography, endoscopy, and electronic microscopy brings you into the tiny and intimate universe of social insects and spiders to discover the secrets of the silk spinners.



ANIMAL BUSINESS

Directed by: Nicolas GABRIEL

"Give me this, I will give you that". This universal definition of trade finds an equivalent in nature in a phenomenon call "mutualism". Shaped by evolution, it describes all long or short term exchanges and cooperation between animals in order to survive. It turns the traditional host-parasite relationship in a beneficial alliance for both partners. To describe mutualism, this fascinating and well-documented episode travels from the cold ocean depths to the heat of summer corn fields where unexpected couples have formed: manta rays and remoras, sea cucumbers and shrimps or else butterflies and ants got married for better or for worst.

ANIMAL TOOL USE

Directed by: Guillaume POYET

Recent discoveries have shown that hundreds of animal species use tools. Herons in the West Indies, for instance, throw seeds at the surface of a pond to attract its preys; sea otters use flat stones to break open urchin shells or earshells; tailor ants make nests out of leaves, which are woven together by threads secreted by the species' larvae. Likewise, some crabs use sea anemones to reppel octopuses and chimpanzees throw rocks or branches they have broken to shake fruit off trees. Until recently, it was believed that human tool-use was different from animal tool-use where the tool is neither transmitted nor accumulated. Several long-term studies on animal populations have proven quite the contrary: Japanese macaques have been using, for two generations, the same water puddles to clean up their food. Last but not least, crows in New Caledonia are even able to manufacture hooks out of the leaves a pandanus tree! Supported by these observations, this comprehensive documentary will be structured around three central questions: how does the tool-using animal transform the world and, by extension, others animals? Ultimately, how does the tool transform the animal's behaviour?



SEASON 2

ANIMAL CULTURE

Directed by: Emma BAUS

In the 1950s, rhesus macaques from the island of Koshima in Japan started to wash the sweet potatoes researchers gave them to eat. This observation could have remained anecdotal if the Japanese primatologists had not given this innovation the name of: "pre-culture". Culture, always considered as a distinctive feature of the human race was being put into question. The study of the most evolved primates, our cousins the chimpanzees and bonobos, has since then enabled us to give a more precise definition of animal culture: habits acquired through a learning process leading to distinct traditions in different animal communities. Progressively other species have joined the "culture club": elephants, dolphins, killer whales and even ravens... Through precise examples and never before seen footage, this documentary fuels the old debate of "nature versus culture" and sheds new light on the paradoxical question: "Is culture natural?".

ANIMAL EMOTIONS

Directed by: Keebe KENNEDY

For many years, scientists thought that animals were incapable of having emotions; they were merely living robots - biological machines ruled simply by urges, instincts and hormones. Since then, the attitude towards animals has changed but feelings and emotions have always been so difficult to study that for many years scientists didn't even try to decipher them. But now, thanks to recent advances in neuroscience, we have the means to understand what is happening inside animal brains. We have discovered that, like us, they feel emotions such as fear, anger, sadness and love. And they need these emotions in order to survive. From primary to more complex emotions, this documentary explores the internal lives of a whole range of species in the animal kingdom.



ANIMAL PLAY

Directed by: Keebe KENNEDY

As children we learn more about life through playing games than we do in any other way. It is the ability to play that enables us to develop into well co-ordinated, adaptable, highly social individuals. But we are not alone, animals play also. For many years this animal play was thought to be somehow "different" to human play, but this is proving not to be the case. Why do animals indulge in play, what are the functions of these energy draining and often dangerous activities? This interdisciplinary programme will explore the reasons that play is so important to development: by describing social, locomotor and object play behavior in animal as diverse as reptiles, birds and mammals, it will find out the benefits it does provide. Finally it will look at the shocking evidence of what happens to young animals who are prevented from playing. In a startling parallel to humans, animal deprived of play, develop into dysfunctional adults, and even serial killers.

THE BEAST WITHIN US - THE NATURE OF MOTHERS

Directed by: Emma BAUS and Jacqueline FARMER

Maternal instinct is a universal phenomenon, responsible in many ways for the incredible success of human beings as a species. But contrary to the myth, maternal love is neither automatic nor guaranteed. Natural selection means many pressures influence a mother's attitude and the choices she makes when confronted with the arrival of a new baby. Today, as in the past, women must make some hard value judgements as they approach motherhood. What will the child "cost" her? What will he bring her? What kind of support can she expect from those around her? In this original and provocative film, primatologist and best selling author Sarah Blaffer Hrdy shares her vision of motherhood and its crucial role in human evolution. Shot on three continents, featuring animal behaviour, a hunter-gatherer people and Sarah's own life experience, the film questions our myths of maternal love.





SCIENCE & KNOWLEDGE







ONE-OFFS

SPACE SMASH

4K HDR - 52'



A SAINT THOMAS PRODUCTIONS production for ARTE

The nightmare described in “Gravity” is in fact reality: fragments of missiles or satellites in orbit around the Earth pose a constant threat to our space installations. What can we do to clean up our space mess? Throughout the world, engineers have been coming up with more and more inventive schemes to clear the space trash and put their inventions to the test. Star wars will not happen... but the war on waste has been declared.



THE DISASTER DIARIES

4K & HD - 90'
YEARLY SHOW



A SAINT THOMAS PRODUCTIONS production for RMC DECOUVERTE

Directed by: Sacha BOLLET, Jacqueline FARMER, Bertrand LOYER

Cyclones, volcanoes, earthquakes, flooding...each year our planet is rocked by natural disasters. And every year is different. Who knows where the next catastrophe will strike? Tropical storms, droughts and forest fires seem to be increasing in strength and global warming only intensifies the climatic and geological chaos. Each year, the Disaster Diaries crews are on standby, ready to head into the most hostile and dangerous situations to bring back ultra-high definition footage of the latest natural disasters. This is not a collection of low-quality phone footage but a new kind of natural disaster programme where quality images are our priority. A team of scientists and experts are on hand to make sense of these devastating events and shed light on the associated death tolls and financial damage.



MASDAR, EXPLORING OUR FUTURE

HD - 52'

2012



A SAINT THOMAS PRODUCTIONS production for
FRANCE TELEVISIONS & USHUAIA TV

Directed by: Sacha BOLLET and Benoit DEMARLE

Masdar is an ambitious project, a technological and human challenge. Built in heart of the desert, it will be the world's first zero-carbon city.

Masdar will exclusively be fueled by renewable energies. It will be home to 50,000 inhabitants who will have access to water and sustainable energies while producing no waste. The city's construction process must also be green and limit greenhouse gas emissions.

Masdar is very thought provoking. Especially since the project was designed by Abu Dhabi, one of the world's most polluting countries which has built its fortune on black gold. Masdar is a massive international project but is above all an experiment confronting a utopia to technical and human realities.

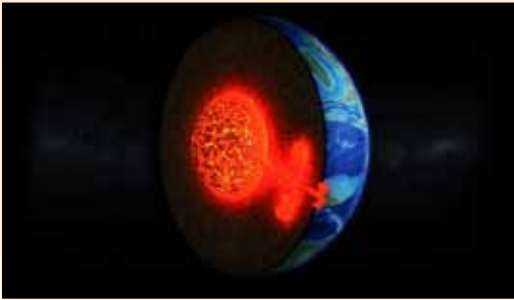
This will be a crucial step towards the future, when we will all have to learn to live without oil.



A VOLCANO ODYSSEY

HD - 84' & 52'

2012



A SAINT THOMAS PRODUCTIONS / ENTRE CHIENS ET LOUP Coproduction for ARTE & UKTV

Directed by: François DE RIBEROLLES

Follow the story of 65 millions years of evolution around a volcanic hotspot in the Indian Ocean.

Discover how a lava gush flooded an area as large as France, partially caused the demise of dinosaurs but also helped the emergence of mammals and new life forms. These geological regions known as large igneous provinces (LIPs) can appear anywhere and cause massive havoc for life. They have been identified near Iceland, but also the USA or Germany where they emerged as recently as 10,000 years ago and poisoned the atmosphere. Still active, what do these deadly volcanoes have in store for us next?

Valvert Film Festival
Grand Prix

Abbeville Film Festival
Grand Prix



ICELANDIC VOLCANOES WHO IS NEXT?



HD - 52'

2011

A SAINT THOMAS PRODUCTIONS production for ARTE

Narrated by Jeremy IRONS

Directed by: Bertrand LOYER & François DE RIBEROLLES

A year ago, the eruption of the Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland provoked a vast economic chaos by paralysing one of the world's major air traffic networks for several days. Through spectacular aerial footage, the film tries to understand which volcano could wake up next and what the consequences of a major eruption are likely to be. The world has come to realize that a colossal power sleeps beneath Iceland but Icelanders have learned to live amongst their volcanoes for centuries.

- Wildlife Film Festival, Jackson Hole

Finalist Earth Science

- Wildscreen Film Festival, Bristol

Finalist Earth Science



VOLCANO DOCTORS

HD - 52'

2010



A SAINT THOMAS PRODUCTIONS production for ARTE

Narrated by Jeremy IRONS

Directed by: Bertrand LOYER & François DE RIBEROLLES

Whether the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Colombia, Chile, Italy or Iceland, each of these countries is home to active volcanoes that are a threat to the populations settled at their feet. To avoid disasters, volcanologists are asked to anticipate and warn, they are asked to be prophets and to know how to analyze the volcanoes' slightest tremors. Around the world, these volcano doctors use their tools and knowledge to try and protect those who live in the path of the Earth's fire.





SERIES

A NEW PREHISTORY

4K HDR - 3 x 52'

2016



A SAINT THOMAS PRODUCTIONS production for ARTE, USHUAIA TV, RARE MEDIA,
DISCOVERY EMEA, UKTV & NHK

Directed by Emma BAUS and Bertrand LOYER

The world of paleontology is currently experiencing a golden age: more fossil species have been unearthed in the past decade than in the last two hundred years when this science first emerged. Thanks to new technologies combining genetics, ethology, geology and even particle physics, paleontologists can now recreate the missing branches of the tree of life. Assumptions have been shattered and all the rules are changing. Now, paleontologists can finally answer three vital questions:

- Where do insects come from?
- Where do birds come from?
- Where do mammals come from?

This series, based on ultra-realistic 3D computer graphics, and supported by the world's leading international scientists will bring these forgotten creatures to the screen.

WHAT KILLED THE GIANT INSECTS?

Today, insects are no longer giant except in our nightmares... But 320 million years ago, dragonflies measuring up to a meter (Meganeura) or centipedes the size of a human (Arthropleura) dominated the land and air. Over the course of time, these fascinating giants became smaller and smaller... before disappearing altogether. But who was responsible for their extinction? Scientists long believed that the decrease in oxygen after the Carboniferous period explained their disappearance. But this theory was put into question in 2009 when large fossils of Meganeuras that survived the oxygen depletion were discovered in the South of France... In 2012 others animals were suspected as being the source of the giant insects' downfall. An American study points to prehistoric birds who were fierce predators and could have exercised pressure on insects and contributed to reducing their size... At the same time, a small Pterosaur was discovered in Germany, proving that these flying reptiles could also be aerial acrobats specialized in insect hunting. By combining state of the art scientific experiment, reconstitutions using CGI and interviews with paleontologists, stones will speak and explain why giant insects became extinct. Here is the true story of the conquest of the air.

THE MYSTERY OF THE FEATHERED DRAGONS

What animals are the birds' ancestors? And when did the first feathers and flight appear? The debate has risen again in the last 15 years with the discovery of numerous species of feathered dinosaurs in almost perfect condition in the Liaoning region of China. By mixing footage of fossils on archaeological digs to ultra-realistic reconstructions using computer graphics, X-rays of modern birds and interviews of paleontologists, "The Riddle of the Feathered Dragons" invites viewers to immerse themselves in an exciting contemporary science adventure. During this paleontological investigation, each new fossil brings a new piece to the riddle of the transition between dinosaur and bird and also raises new questions. How did dinosaurs first begin to fly? Did they run from the ground to take off? Or did they jump from the trees to glide and pounce on their prey? Recent discoveries have brought answers: in 2009 of Anchiornis Huxleyi, the missing link between birds and dinosaurs. And more recently in 2014, new excavations in Siberia of an herbivorous dinosaur named Kulinda Dromeus reveal that dinosaurs may all have been sporting feathers from the very beginning of their existence.

- Internation Film Festival PARISCIENCE, Paris
Innovation Prize Award

THE DAWN OF MAMMALS

Paleontologists have long believed that mammals won the battle of evolution almost by default from lack of opposition after the extinction of the dinosaurs. But discoveries made in China since the turn of the 21st century prove that our ancestors had prepared their weapons well before then. But how far back do the mammals' key advantages go? For 10 years, the debate has raged between geneticists and paleontologists. Until the end of the twentieth century, our only knowledge of primitive mammals was based on isolated teeth or jaw fragments, but the Jurassic site of Liaoning has finally given access to complete and remarkably preserved fossils: Eomaia scansoria (2002), the ancestor of placental mammals, Repenomamus giganticus (2005) a mammal the size of a dog, as well as a type of gliding squirrel (Volaticotherium antiquus - 2006) and a mammal similar to the beaver (Castorocauda - 2006). The use of innovative technologies such as 3D scanners enable us to track the origin of our evolutionary assets: gestation, hair, teeth and hearing. Yet, despite these discoveries, a controversy still agitated the scientific community who were unable to agree on a family tree for our ancestors of the Mesozoic era! Two opposing teams displayed their disagreements through articles published in the scientific journal, Nature. The key question - when did placental mammals separate from marsupials? - remained unanswered. Until the discovery of "Juramaia sinensis", Jurassic mother of China, which finally put an end to the long-running dispute between geneticists and paleontologists. This fossil extends our family tree back another 35 million years: an ancestor that lived nearly 160 million years ago....



HURRICANE, THE ANATOMY

4K & HD 3D - 3 x 52'

2014



A SAINT THOMAS PRODUCTIONS / CLIMAX FILMS / TS PRODUCTIONS / KIZMAR FILMS
coproduction for ARTE, DISCOVERY, ORF, UKTV & SVT

Directed by John JACKSON and Andy BYATT

Hurricanes are the strongest storms on earth.

Many begin as harmless breezes from Northern Africa; inoffensive winds that gradually move westwards over the tropical Atlantic Ocean, gathering energy from the warm seawater, building in strength and gradually forming the unmistakable spiral of extreme winds and thunderstorms that characterize hurricanes.

Shot entirely in 3D, this three-part series has been produced over a three-year period, with crews standing in the path of hurricane landfalls, such as Sandy and Isaac, to witness the devastation wreaked by one of the most powerful forces on earth.

PREDICTING THE UNPREDICTABLE

Episode one explores the search for Hurricane scientists “holy grail” seeking to understand the dangerous increases in storm power called rapid intensification. As the story develops we explore what hurricanes are, how they are formed and how the specialists try to predict whether the next storm will blow over or blow the roof off. Featuring interviews with some of the world’s leading hurricane experts, this episode looks at the latest theories and the most advanced technologies that are being used to hone the forecasts. While a fearless team of Hurricane Hunter pilots flies into the eye of each approaching storm, their data is supplemented by information from satellites, drones and even fish!

SHAPING THE WILDERNESS

While humans try to predict the future, the natural world has evolved over millions of years to deal with the strongest storms on earth as and when they arrive. Some run; others hide. This episode looks at varying strategies used by plants and animals that live in the hurricane zone and how they cope with the annual onslaught. From robust crocodiles, to fragile flamingos and delicate tropical shrimp; many species have found ingenious ways of dealing with the threat of hurricanes. The film reveals that hurricanes can by turn be both beneficial and harmful to individuals but, ultimately, at the level of populations, the deadly power of these storms provides new opportunities for life.



For millennia, hurricanes have threatened the Eastern USA, the Caribbean and parts of Latin America. But changes to global climate have serious consequences for the future: rising sea-levels mean that storm surge from hurricanes will impact ever further inland. Specialists believe that hurricanes will become less frequent but increasingly powerful. Nobody knows when a major Category 5 hurricane will strike next, so the desire to live ever closer to the beach puts more and more people on a collision course with the greatest storm on earth. With coastal habitats and natural defences such as coral reefs, irretrievably damaged, the future appears bleak. Insight and interviews from leading experts such as Nobel Prize-winning climatologist, Jean-Pascal Van Ypersele, help the film explore whether we are prepared for the super storm of the 22nd Century.

Docscient Festival, Rome
Scientific Jury Grand Prize

Director biographies

Andy Byatt is a series producer and director whose fascination with the natural world enabled an award-winning film career, including 20 years working for the BBC Natural History Unit. Specialising in the underwater realm, he was a key player in the BBC's landmarks "The Blue Planet" and "Planet Earth". He left the BBC in 2007 to take his young family sailing across the Caribbean, on a two-year voyage so that they could discover the magic of the ocean for themselves. Since 2009 Andy has been specialising in 3D feature and television production through his company Amberjack Films.

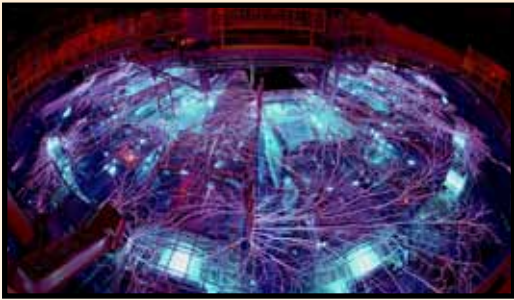
John Jackson is a Director DOP who studied at Brooks Institute in Santa Barbara before working in LA with the renowned Jacques Yves Cousteau or "Captain Planet" as he was then known. He stayed with Captain Cousteau, working on the Calypso and his other boats for more than 12 years as a full time DOP/Director. He then naturally moved on to work with Discovery, the BBC and National Geographic; making many prize winning scientific, history and extreme adventure documentary films. He is presently co-directing with Andy Byatt the 3 x 52 minute series on Hurricanes for 3D Net and Arte.



BUILDING GREEN

HD - 4 x 52'

2009 - 2010



A SAINT THOMAS PRODUCTIONS production for ARTE, DISCOVERY PLANET GREEN

Fire, water air and earth.

Mankind is currently defying all 4 basic elements to engineer big, useful, ambitious and environmentally friendly projects that will shape our future on Planet Earth and even plant the seeds for the colonization of other planets. Indeed, this series defies imagination with visually explicit footage and revolutionary filming techniques. After identifying humanity's current needs, all the expensive projects it portrays are the result of years of research and development and are currently in construction for at least several extra years. Thanks to CGI and stunning cinematography, dramatic but humoristic storytelling, each episode turns hardscience into engaging and easily understandable TV programming.

MASDAR CITY

Enter Masdar, which will be the world's first "carbon-neutral" city - a self-sustaining, energy-independent metropolis built in the oil-rich emirate of Abu Dhabi.

Can the vision of a zero-waste, zero carbon-village change the way the rest of the world's cities are built? An international team of engineers will try to find out... but they are facing a deadline that needs to see the entire city finished... in two years!

EARTH POWER

The earth's core is boiling with energy. Big and clean: one of the most promising alternative energy for the future is geothermal energy. Engineering teams are developing the technological know-how to sink wells 16 000 feet into dangerously high temperatures and pressures. We follow their bold expeditions deep into the earth's heart and their quest for clean energy. Anytime, anywhere.

POWER TOWER

In downtown Guangzhou China, one of the "greenest" structures on earth is rising – a nearly 1,000 foot tall skyscraper with built-in wind-turbines, aerodynamic structure and a photo-voltaic façade... the first building that will actually generate more power than it uses!

SUN ON EARTH

Nuclear fusion a clean, safe and unlimited source of energy. But unfortunately, it is incredibly difficult to master. And there's more than one way of going about it. While the construction of ITER, the international super Tokamak, is about to start in Southern France, international teams of scientists around the world are working flat out to solve physics and engineering problems. Putting their rivalries aside, all these scientists share their knowledge of plasma, the fourth state of matter after its gaseous phase. Only when the secrets of plasma are mastered will the gates to fusion open.







FACTUAL ENTERTAINMENT



FIREFIGHTERS IN THE HEART OF DANGER

4K & HD - 6 x 52'

2017



A SAINT THOMAS PRODUCTIONS production for RMC DECOUVERTE

Directed by Sacha BOLLET, Benoit DEMARLE and Jacques BEDEL

Every year, more than 60,000 wildfires rage across Europe devastating three million acres of land. In the last 30 years, despite increasing resources, the area of burnt land has doubled. Large forest fires, once the exception, are becoming the norm.

In France, more than 300 square kilometers, or 30,000 hectares, burn every year. Spain is the worst hit, with an average 157,000 hectares per year turning to ashes. A quarter of these fires are lit deliberately with the intention of causing damage.

But what causes these fires? Are they intentional or accidental? A special research unit investigates using some of the same forensic tools and techniques as CSI.





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