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MY EVERYDAY PANIC
Planète en danger

How and to what extent Egypt & other developing countries have been affected by Climate changes, since it was transformed to be fact as the population of the weak areas in north of Egyptian Delta are suffering by the rapid raising of Mediterranean sea level, a farmers lost their agricultural land and fishermen were forced to stop sailing in addition to those who are planning for illegal immigration which makes global fear!

UPCOMING JUNE 2021
LOOKING FOR INTERNATIONAL PRESALES

XIANJU, THE WAY OF BALANCE
Xianju, la voie de l’équilibre

200 miles south of Shanghai lies the Xianju National Park. It is a pocket of great plant and animal biodiversity that also holds a treasure of ancestral culture and artisanal and agricultural traditions. It shows a now rare image of China. How can it be protected and developed without disfiguring it? Some strategies are emerging with the help of international partners. Accompanied of a slackline champion and a Tai Chi master, we travel to the “middle country” in search of an essential balance whose success hangs by a thread...

UPCOMING MAY 2020
LOOKING FOR INTERNATIONAL PRESALES
At the dawn of time, their hoof prints mingle with those of Humans. Step after step, century after century, the great bovine family has accompanied humankind. As essential partners on our greatest territorial conquests, they continue to change the world at our side even today.

In the beginning, 18 million years ago, there lived a tiny, shy, forest-dwelling horned mammal. All alone, through the laws of evolution, this small antelope becomes the ancestor of the Aurochs, now extinct, which turned humans from the status of hunter-gatherers to that of breeders. Then the ox, yak, buffalo and zebu followed. These descendants are now pivotal elements in many cultures across the world. And against a background of species disappearing from the Earth, they are becoming the biggest land mammals. From their wild forms to the multiple domestic breeds they produced, via the selective hand of humans, the bovines have thus gone side by side with our civilizations throughout our History. This series takes us along their trail.

**EPISODES AND DESTINATIONS**

The Buffalo and the conquest of the wetlands
Bali- Thailand-Inda-Brazil-Egypt

The Ox and the conquest of the plains
Turkey -Portugal-France-Spain

The Zebu and the conquest of the desert
India-Brazil-Switzerland-Ethiopia

The Yak and the conquest of the summits
Tibet-China-India-Switzerland-Bhutan

**UPCOMING JUNE 2020**

LOOKING FOR INTERNATIONAL PRESALES
WORLDWIDE WINE CIVILIZATIONS - SEASON 1
Des vignes et des Hommes - saison 1

The fruit of a long history, of a natural environment and of the labors of those for whom it is a passion, each vineyard tells the tale of a unique civilization.

Worldwide Wine Civilizations is an exceptional documentary series devoted to exploring winemaking regions around the globe. In addition to delving into a region’s wine production, each episode will also explore local history, its architecture, art, science, techniques, and a host of other subjects.

Worldwide Wine Civilizations will feature breathtaking 4k aerial cinematography of the world’s most picturesque winemaking regions. With each episode the spectator will be plunged into the heart of a winemaking civilization in Europe, South America, North America, Asia, and Polynesia. This series will take viewers on a voyage through time and space, seeking out and discovering past and present civilizations, exploring their grandiose natural environments and their complex and multifaceted cultures.

The secret of the three valleys (Chile)
A vineyard to vie with nature (New Zealand)
Vineyard at the desert’s door (Australia)
Lavaux, the fortress vines (Switzerland)
The king of vines, the wine of kings (Hungary)
A journey to the origins of the vine (Georgia)
The Rhine valley (Germany)
A vine in the middle of the pacific (Polynesia)
Koshu, the wine of the rains (Japan)
The vines of the great continent (South Africa)

Bordeaux, a vineyard over time (France)
A Revolution in the vines (China)
The wine of the great lakes (Canada)
The conquerors of the Douro valley (Portugal)
Prosecco, another story of Venice (Italy)
Vines of the Western Conquest (USA)
The Vines of Santorini, Legacy of Antiquity (Greece)
The hidden treasures of Champagne (France)
Lanzarote, the wine of the volcanoes (Spain)
An oasis at the foot of the Andes (Argentina)

Selected at FOOD FILM FEST in Italy
Awarded at the Scientific Film Festival of La Réunion, in the category “Science Plus”

Length: 10x26’
Director: Thibault Férié, Pierre Goetschel, Héré Jouon, Benoit Laborde, Eric Michaud
Producer: Grand Angle Productions
CoProducers: ARTE, Viewcom
Copyright: 2016 - 2017
Language version available: French & English

NEW

Ultra HD programs
In Europe, the number of smokers has fallen dramatically - unfortunate for the tobacco industry. That’s why it is trying to still being allowed to advertise for its products using massive lobbying to convince politicians. While advertisements for tobacco products are prohibited in most of Europe, the industry is still allowed to advertise in Germany. As it wants to polish up its image in order to seduce potential customers with supposedly healthier alternatives to smoking, they are most happy to do so.

But are these products really risk-free? They are aimed primarily at young people: successfully. Shortly before Christmas the Marlboro producer Altria announced to take part with 35% in the e-cigarette company Juul, which efficiently managed to reach young people on social media in the USA to get them started with e-cigarettes.

In the newly-industrialized countries, on the other hand, tobacco companies are continuing as before. Minors are particularly affected. In Indonesia, four-year-olds are already smoking, and in Malawi children work on chemical-infested plantations.

The film reveals how the tobacco industry wants to continue to secure its profits despite the headwind - and who pays the price.

Destinations: Canada, USA, Indonesia, Malawi, France, Germany

UPCOMING JUNE 2020
LOOKING FOR INTERNATIONAL PRESALES
The energy transition holds the promise of a more prosperous and peaceful world, finally free of oil, pollution and shortages. But this official thesis proves to be a myth: by breaking free of fossil fuels, we are setting ourselves up for a new dependence on rare metals. Severe ecological, economic for the supply of these strategic resources have already begun. And if the “green world” that awaits us turned out to be a new nightmare?

Destinations: China, USA, Norway, Congo, Chile, Germany, France, Switzerland, Bolivia
With the Americans becoming the world’s largest oil producers, much to the displeasure of their Saudi allies, world order is turned upside down.
Through an incredible poker game played between the producer countries of the black gold, a new world is being drawn, a prelude to the post-oil era.

RESUME
At the end of 2013, the price of a barrel of oil starts to fall; within two years it will lose 70% of its value.
This shock downturn in oil could be just one more manifestation in the story of oil prices, but it reveals an incredible scenario.
By becoming the planet’s largest producer of the black gold because of their shale oil, the United States overturned the world order in oil that has prevailed since the Second World War.
In a major strategic change, the Americans are no longer dependent on oil from their Saudi allies, who came under suspicion following the September 11 attacks of 2001. To counter this power grab, Saudi Arabia has engaged in a game of poker. Produce more oil to drive the price of a barrel as low as possible and bring off a triple coup: ruin the American shale oil industry and weaken its worst enemies, Russia and Iran. A highly risky strategy, but this scenario is full of surprising twists. A gripping game of poker between states with winners and losers, all watched by those who speculate and set the market: the traders.
Meanwhile, the oil companies are laying off workers and delaying future exploration for longer and longer.
Is this poker game the herald of the post-oil world?
INVESTIGATION & SPORT
Resilience: the great adventure of a man determined to transform his private and professional obstacles into life force.
Thanks to his determination combined with a true ethics, Ryad Merhy makes his life an exemplary work.
Undefeated during sixteen professional fights, he then set out to conquer international titles.
The titles follow one another... And it is there that for the first time in his career he loses a fight.
For fifty-two minutes, the documentary will testify to the rise of a high-level sportsman.
He will also introduce us to the man behind the boxer.
A humble and resilient man, who was able to resist the obstacles of life, both private and professional.
Although boxing is the vector of this film, it is only an excuse to tell about surpassing oneself.
Ryad Merhy, world champion.
FOOD INDUSTRY
FARM-RAISED FISH, DO THEY MISS THE SEA?

Les Poissons d’Élevage regrettent-ils la mer ?

Whether in tartare, sushi or grilled, the amount of fish consumed in the world has never been so important. For the first time in history, we are consuming more farm-raised fish than wild fish. By 2025, will all our fish be grown and fed with algae or insects? What is really found in fish farm ponds? How are these fish raised and at what price? To find answers, we will travel to the Basque country, Greece, to China and the Netherlands for a trip to the heart of 21st century aquaculture.

UPCOMING OCTOBER 2020
LOOKING FOR INTERNATIONAL PRESALES

SHELLFISH, FROM THE SEA TO OUR PLATES

Fruits de mer, de la mer à l’assiette

In France, the annual shellfish consumption is nearly 10 kilos per person. But behind this growing trend, we know relatively little about the origins of these products: how are they caught, raised and packaged, or what’s happening between the ocean and our table? We set out to meet the fishermen and fish farmers who are constantly surpassing themselves to meet the growing demand.

Destinations: France, Ireland, Scotland, Thailand

KING COFFEE

Le café broit-il du noir ?

Oh that little expresso in the morning… whether at the corner café, at home or with colleagues at the office, who doesn’t follow the daily ritual? On a global scale, coffee is the most consumed drink after water. In value it is the world’s biggest agricultural product. And things are not likely to change, because consumption of coffee is on the rise, driven by new ways of consuming it. Over the last ten years the “regional” trend has become evident with the boom in coffee shops where baristas serve coffee as if it were wine. Behind their glistening neo-retro percolaters they talk of body, power, fruit, bitterness… It looks as if the “quick brew” is becoming “grand cru”.

UPCOMING OCTOBER 2020
LOOKING FOR INTERNATIONAL PRESALES
As the world economy collapses on every continent, there remains one sector that is not experiencing any crisis... and surprising as it may seem... we are talking about caviar! The world’s leading producers have set up there and are grabbing huge shares of the market thanks to their farm-raised fishes. From their labs where the tiny eggs are assembled to the 5-star hotels of Abu Dhabi, from the kitchens of the greatest Parisian chefs to the highly exclusive caviar-tasting clubs, our cameras shoot, for the first time, the people who have turned caviar into a real business... and also into a way of life. A trip into an astonishing world... where luxury and gastronomy are but one...

There was a yoghurt was white and natural. A time when there was only one yoghurt... That time has gone with the arrival of mass consumption and the overriding need for originality The list is too long to mention them all: bifudus, farm, Greek, Bulgarian, brewed, fruit, soya, organic, flavoured yoghurts, etc. An investigation into the dessert business where brands compete to outdo each other in imagination in order to get a bigger slice of the cake.

So what are the hidden elements that go into yogurt? Fermented milk, certainly, but also a lot more. Artificial flavors and colorants, milk powder, starch... all ingredients that are found in most of these little pots... with labels that are often a mystery... Is yogurt really good for health? Are there any differences between brands? We investigate the biggest market in the French food industry.

As the world economy collapses on every continent, there remains one sector that is not experiencing any crisis... and surprising as it may seem... we are talking about caviar! The world’s leading producers have set up there and are grabbing huge shares of the market thanks to their farm-raised fishes. From their labs where the tiny eggs are assembled to the 5-star hotels of Abu Dhabi, from the kitchens of the greatest Parisian chefs to the highly exclusive caviar-tasting clubs, our cameras shoot, for the first time, the people who have turned caviar into a real business... and also into a way of life. A trip into an astonishing world... where luxury and gastronomy are but one...
FOIE GRAS, INQUIRY AND STAKES OF A LUXURY PRODUCT
Foie gras, enquête sur un produit d’exception

Faced with pressure from anti foie-gras activists and the increasing number of regulations prohibiting force-feeding both in Europe and the United States, are we about to witness the disappearance of one of the most refined symbols of the French culinary art? An investigation into the tangled web of stakes hiding behind this luxury dish that we thought we knew everything about.
SCIENCE & KNOWLEDGE
Through the story of the most ancient text of Japanese medicine, The Ishinpo, and the celebrated Hippocratic Corpus, embodied respectively by the Chinese doctor, Qi Bai, and the Greek, Hippocrates, we embark on a formidable medical and scientific quest conducted by the renowned Oxford academic, Professor Denis Nobel. We reveal the astonishing history of the creation and the preservation of these documents, analyze their content and examine their resonance in the modern world.

An exceptional quest that travels back in time, leading us to the discovery of the origins of medicine and, by using biomedical science, establishing the links between Asian and Western medicines for the first time. And this in an age when people are questioning the relevance of modern medical practices.
From the very beginning, Measuring Time, has fascinated humans: knowing it, understanding it, mastering it to the point of making its ultra-precise measurement the technological foundation of our hyper-connected society, a digitalized just-in-time society.

In this age old quest, what are the defining episodes in history that allowed humans to gain the hope we could become the “masters of time”? What methods have we devised that enabled us measure it with ever more accuracy, but also to standardize and synchronize it, to establish the same uniform time for all? How did this Time Factory give birth to our modern world and how is it likely to shake up our future?

UPCOMING DECEMBER 2020
LOOKING FOR INTERNATIONAL PRESALES

THE TIME FACTORY
La Fabrique du temps

WHO WROTE THE BIBLE?
Qui a écrit la Bible?

Revelations about one of the greatest mysteries in History.
When was the Bible written? Who wrote it? Under what circumstances? For what purpose? These questions have long remained unanswered, but with the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947, the thorough study of the texts, advances in science, and recent archaeological discoveries, one of history’s greatest mysteries is gradually being unrevealed. In this exciting archaeological and scientific investigation, we are going to meet the most eminent specialists in the Bible to try to answer this fundamental question: who wrote the Holy Book?

UPCOMING DECEMBER 2020
LOOKING FOR INTERNATIONAL PRESALES
THE BEST MEDICINE - THE GREAT POWER OF BREATH
The best medicine - L’incroyable pouvoir du souffle

The Chinese call it Chi, the Indians, Prana, the Hawaiians, Mana. Our breath is our vital force. It drives the first and last acts of our lives. It is both the most accessible and the most under-estimated of remedies.

Our breath is the great orchestral conductor of our bodies. It brings harmony or chaos when confronted with certain pathologies.

Through experiment and the daily experience of six “breath doctors”, who explain the impact of breath on health, performance enhancement and the opening up to spirituality, we discover the incredible power of breath.

UPCOMING DECEMBER 2020
LOOKING FOR INTERNATIONAL PRESALES

BACK TO THE MOON
Apollo 11, à la conquête de la Lune

16 July 1969. A rocket, carrying Apollo 11, sits on the launch pad at Cape Canaveral awaiting a historic and insane mission… to walk on the surface of the Moon for the first time… to open a new chapter in human history.

Hour by hour, we relive the crucial moments of those 8 days, 3 hours, 18 minutes and 35 seconds, the incredible echo the mission sent around the world and the growing awareness of a Humankind awakening for the first time to its fragility in the immensity of the cosmos…

An extraordinary journey, a veritable return to the Moon, which, in recent years, has once again become the target of space agencies due to the success of the International Space Station.
From the very beginnings of Man’s first missions into space to our days via the preparation of astronaut Thomas Pesquet and his international crew, and the state of scientific knowledge in 2016…

In November 2016, French astronaut, Thomas Pesquet, American Peggy Whitson and Russian Oleg Novitsky will blast off for a six-month stay on the International Space Station. Between now and then, they will undergo intensive psychological, physical and scientific training.

This first film about Soyuz Mission MS-03 will follow our heroes through their long preparation, demonstrating how Thomas Pesquet, as all his predecessors, in particular Russians and Americans, embodies all that has been learned from the space adventure that has been building for more than fifty years. Through the life of this outstanding young astronaut, and the many experts who accompany him on this experience, we revisit the way in which the training of astronauts has progressed with the increasing number of manned flights and how they have gradually adapted to the evolution of knowledge.

To travel this road to the stars in company with Thomas Pesquet, his team and all those who have gone before him, is a wonderful opportunity to assess the state of knowledge gathered over fifty years of space science.

Hurtling at 28,000 km/h around the Earth aboard the ISS, Frenchman Thomas Pesquet, American Peggy Whitson and Russian Oleg Novitsky carry out experiments in association with laboratories all around the world on various solutions for preparing extended missions such as the one whose destination is Mars.

And the results are promising… with the adaptation of human physiology to microgravity, waste recycling in order to survive independently, the development of new materials, more efficient means of propulsion and robotics, Science demonstrates that the prospect of a mission to Mars, of life elsewhere for Humankind, is in process of becoming a reality…

Thanks to these missions and the work of scientists around the world, the brakes preventing us from flying for beyond a year at more than 400km from our atmosphere (the altitude of the ISS) will be removed with 20 years. Mars is now in the sights of the space agencies. And the red planet is in the minds of astronauts all over the world…
BACTERIAL WORLD - MICROBES THAT RULE OUR WORLD

Le monde bactérie - des microbes qui nous gouvernent

They are on the ocean surface and in the abyss, in soil and plants, not to mention the intestines of insects and large mammals, including humans. They are bacteria, and they are present in every corner of our planet.

Are we aware that among the billions of bacteria that exist on earth, less than 1% of them are pathogenic?

Recent discoveries reveal that bacteria are not only linked to the very origins of life on earth, but that they have become indispensable to the continuation of life. Researchers today say that bacteria are partly responsible for the process of evolution, a point of view that encourages us to take a closer look at Darwin’s theory.

Breathing, eating and digesting. Growing. Keeping protected. Re-producing. In all of these essential functions humans and earth’s other organisms live in close symbiosis with bacteria. A Bacterial World will delve into this vast subject and explore a new vision of interdependence with bacteria.

Expert participants:
Margaret McFall-Ngai, University of Wisconsin, USA
Patrick Forterre, Pasteur Institute, Paris, France
Takema Fukatsu, AIST, Japan
Marc André Sélosse, National Museum of Natural History, Paris, France
Jeffrey Gordon, University of Washington, St. Louis, USA
Bernard Ollivier, University of Marseille (IRD), France
Seth Bordenstein, Vanderbilt University, USA
Sylvain Charlat, CNRS, France
Nicole Dubilier, Max Planck Institute in Bremen, Germany
Gérard Eberl, Pasteur Institute, Paris, France
Kevin Theis, University of Michigan State, USA

THE NIGHT OF THE FULL MOON

La nuit de la pleine lune

The moon is familiar; she watches over us. The Moon is our only natural satellite. Appearing in our skies some 4.5 million years ago following a collision between the Earth and a nomad planet, she chose to remain in our orbit. She influences life much more than we imagine and was probably the reason why life first appeared on Earth.

She raises the oceans, serves as a biological clock for the reproduction of certain species and is the driving force for animal migrations. As long as 4 million years ago she caused a 500-meter-high tide of lava. From India to Australia, from the bay of the Mont Saint Michel to Papuasia, or in the sacred pits of the Mayas in Mexico, we have a date wherever the Moon shows her face.
MOSQUITOES ON THE RISE
Dans l’œil du moustique

In Brazil, in Africa, in Southeast Asia and in the south of Europe, this film will follow the path of 4 mosquitoes, each of which is capable of transmitting viruses and dangerous parasites to humans. These mosquitoes are the carriers of dengue fever, malaria, and other infectious diseases. They take advantage of environmental changes, often caused by human activity, as well as a multitude of means of transportation, which help them to spread to new territories and threaten newfound populations. They are highly resistant to the protection strategies continually being developed by researchers. But scientists continue their field research, inventing new arms in the battle, each more surprising than the next.

Facing the serious health risks they present us, humans have engaged in a fierce battle against the mosquitoes on the rise.

Won a price in the category “communication on collective interests” at the Festival de La Baule

MONT BLANC, EXPLORATION BY ROPE
Mont Blanc, exploration en cordée

Mont Blanc, an internationally famous natural monument, excites the fascination of both passionate devotees of the mountains and laymen alike. It’s an exceptional object of research that both Humans and Science have been eager to decrypt for ages. In order to discover this unique “being”, a multidiscipline, scientific roped expedition has been assembled under the leadership of an Alpine guide. Five days of progress and climbing to fully understand this massif and its most famous personality: Mont Blanc.
THE PLACEBO EFFECT
L’effet placebo

The placebo effect has long enjoyed a notorious reputation. To attribute a cure to the placebo effect, was to consider, with a touch of contempt, that the illness was the product of the mental state of a hypochondriac. If he invented his illness, he could invent his cure. Now, in contradiction to these theories, scientific studies carried out over recent decades show that the placebo effect can result in physiological changes that are both observable and quantifiable. By means of a rigorous investigation this film aims to shed fresh light on a powerful phenomenon that is associated with every medical act, in order to lift the veil on part of its mystery and begin to explore our formidable power for self-healing.

THE LYME DISEASE, A SILENT EPIDEMIC
Maladie de Lyme, l’épidémie silencieuse

Lyme disease is a bacterial infection transmitted by ticks and it is spreading throughout the world at an alarming rate. Facial paralysis, painful joints, meningitis… For sufferers it’s a living hell. Faced with this disease the medical profession is at a loss, impotent even: unreliable testing, uncertain therapeutic protocols, a scientific community that is divided… Taking no sides, this documentary explores the hidden side of this affair…
ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORY

27
SOS VESSEL IN DISTRESS!

SOS équipage en détresse !

SOS is the ultimate cry for help of a crew in distress… Royal ships, supposedly unsinkable vessels, abandoned crews, ecological disasters, unexplained disappearances, abysses and remains require additional decoding…

Using the latest technologies, and with the assistance of the finest archaeologists, historians and naval engineers, this documentary series retraces, minute by minute, the exact circumstances of these disasters.

The chain of events leading to the wreck is decoded at a breathtaking pace. Time is relentless and suspense awaits at every turn.

UNDERWATER MYSTERIES

U-171: German u-boat torpedoed off the Brittany coast (Groix, France) during the Second World War.

The Vendémiaire: French submarine at the beginning of the 20th century. The sinking is related to a maneuvering error in Brest harbor (France).

AFFAIRS OF STATE

Bugaled Breizh: French trawler that mysteriously sank off the Lizard Rock (international waters, southern UK) in 2004.

The Afrique: a ship that sailed from Bordeaux overloaded with supplies for the colonies. It sank off the Ile de Ré (France) in 1920.

ABANDONED AT SEA

The Raft of the Medusa: French ship sent to supply the colonies in Senegal. It left the port of Rochefort and was wrecked on the Arguin bank in Senegal. Géricault will turn the shipwreck into a famous painting (Louvre).

Costa Concordia: the accidental wrecking of the Costa Concordia, an Italian cruise liner, in 2012 near the island of Giglio, off the coast of Tuscany (Italy).

LEGENDARY SHIPWRECKS

Titanic: British ship that sank on her maiden voyage in 1912 off the coasts of Newfoundland (USA).

The Pourquoi Pas: French boat built in Saint Malo having belonged to Captain Charcot. It sank during its second expedition to Antarctica.

UNDERWATER GRAVEYARDS

The Joola: Senegalese ferry working between Dakar and the Casamance. Overloaded, it sank during service in 2002 (over 2,000 victims).

The Niobe in 1940: a French ore freighter sunk by the Germans in 1940 (nearly 1,000 victims).

SECRETS OF THE KING

Lune: Louis XIV’s supply ship that capsized off Toulon (France). Nearly 800 perished at sea.

Vasa: Swedish ship that sank on its maiden voyage just one mile off the coast. Today there is a museum in Stockholm dedicated to the ship.

DISASTERS IN TROUBLE WATERS

The Erika: On 12 December 1999, the Erika, chartered by the Total oil company, breaks up south of Penmarc’h. The giant 550’ tanker is carrying 37,000 tonnes of heavy crude.

Amoco Cadiz: American oil tanker that ran aground on the Brittany coast (France) during a voyage from the Persian Gulf to Europe in 1978.

CAUGHT IN THE STORM

Lamoricière: Steamship of the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique (aka: the French Line), entering service in February 1921 on the North African routes out of Marseille. It is wrecked in 1942 off the coast of the Balearic Islands after being caught in a storm. There are 301 dead and 93 survivors.

The Semillante: On February 15 1855, an imperial frigate of the first line, La Semillante, is lost with all hands on an islet in the Lavezzi archipelago to the south of Corsica with nearly 700 souls on board. Not a single passenger survives on that fateful day, which remains forever etched in the Corsican collective memory.
ARKEO - SEASON 2

Who are the builders of Stonehenge? What is the secret behind Choquequirao? Who lived in the lost city of “cuidad perdida”? Peter Eeckhout is back on the road to meet with other archeologists from around the world to reveal their recent findings in this second season or Arkeo.

1 - Chachapoyas, living with the dead (Peru)
2 - The first shamans of South Africa
3 - The builders of Stonehenge (England)
4 - The sacred geography of the Incas (Peru)
5 - The lost city of the Tairona people (Colombia)
6 - Crete, the myth of the labyrinth (Greece)
7 - Teotihuacan: the birth of a metropolis (Mexico)
8 - Greenland: a Viking epic (Greenland)
9 - The unknown people of the Amazon Rainforest (Amazonia)
10 - The forgotten history of the Swahili people (Tanzania)

ARKEO - SEASON 1

How did the Rapa Nui people disappear? Is South Africa the cradle of Humankind? What is the secret behind the Nazca Lines? Around the world, archeologists are trying to shed light on the great enigmas of history. One of them, Peter Eeckhout, travels to meet his colleagues, unpacks their research, and reveals their latest findings...

1 - Persepolis, the Persian paradise (Iran)
2 - Great Zimbabwe, Rediscovering the Past (Zimbabwe)
3 - Yakoutia, a Siberian mystery (Siberia)
4 - The Great Book of the Aboriginals (Australia)
5 - Lake Titicaca, the sea of the Tiwanaku (Peru)
6 - Fragrances of Antiquity (Italy)
7 - The legend of Lalibela (Ethiopia)
8 - The origins of Angkor (Cambodia)
9 - Hegra: in the footsteps of the Nabataeans (Saudi Arabia)
10 - Mayan astrology: an instrument of political power (Guatemala)
11 - Pachacamac: the « Lourdes » of the pre-Columbian era (Peru)
12 - Ichijôdani: a return to the source (Japan)
13 - Troy, close to the myth (Turkey)
14 - Easter Island, the big taboo (Chili)
15 - Orkney Islands: A neolithic pilgrimage (Scotland)
16 - Twilight of the Mochicas (Peru)
17 - El Agar: A forgotten civilization (Spain)
18 - The first Americans (Brazil)
19 - Nero’s folly (Italy)
20 - The secret of the lines of Nazca (Peru)
MARITIME MYSTERIES, CASE CLOSED
Mystères maritimes, affaires classées

Major maritime disasters of the century, vessels that disappear mysteriously, suspicious fires… so many cases of naval and maritime enigmas that were considered closed. And yet, recent underwater archaeological discoveries, in combination with the emergence of new archives, are re-opening the investigations and bringing some dark secrets of the abyss back to the surface. And this collection takes us down the trail of these maritime mysteries. In the light of these discoveries, history is gradually being rewritten. Each film follows the trail of some new, exciting inquiry… to finally reveal the secrets and the mysteries! From the waters of the Mediterranean to the Pacific Ocean, from the depths of the Atlantic to the seabed of the Caribbean memories of human drama resurface in this passionate inquiry by our investigators of the sea.

1- LOST BETWEEN SKY AND SEA
The Ghost of the White Bird - The Prince who vanished

2- MARTYRED SHIPS
The Lancastria - The Meknes

3- STARRED SHIPS
The Empress of Ireland - The SS Eastland

4- LOST WITHOUT TRACE
Ravenel: the silence of St Pierre - The Monique

5- SUSPICIOUS FIRES
The last voyage of Albert Londres - The Normandy
EASTER ISLAND: THE TRUTH REVEALED
L’île de Pâques, l’heure des vérités

This is a tiny island, lost in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. But it stirs up passions: the Easter Island. Because it owns one of the most precious treasures of humanity: the famous stone statues called moai. Who was this Rapa Nui people who created such a masterpiece? Where did these men and women come from? How did they disappear? From Easter Island to the Marquesas Islands, from Brussels to Los Angeles, three world-renowned archaeologists have investigated for more than twenty years. And what they discovered tells a whole different story ...

AND THERE WAS MUSIC
Et la musique fut

Music is everywhere: in bars, churches, shops, ritual ceremonies, in the headphones of our smartphones, in both public places and private places ...
It adopts an infinite number of different forms, as varied as the forms of the living world. Everything around us happens as if music had proliferated over time, transforming itself through a series of mutations.
How to explain this universality and diversity? Would it be possible to go back to a source? To an origin? Let’s try to jump back in time, to the sources of music.
To answer these questions, we will go in search of archaeological traces, trying to reconstruct what the music of our ancestors could have been. We will start with the oldest known instrument: a bone flute whose age is now estimated at more than 40,000 years old! We will then explore other traces of music in prehistory: archaeological remains that we interpret today as instruments, engravings and paintings, and all that we can deduce from the Cro-Magnon’s relationship to music.
Through the story of this journey, through image and sound, this film will seek to show how music, ultimately, is inseparable from our humanity.

UPCOMING JUIN 2020
IN THE EYES OF THE PHARAOHS
Dans les yeux des Pharaons

For archaeologists, the word “eden” is what best describes Egypt. The Egyptian sands are an ongoing source of new scientific discoveries such as the seventh wonder of the world, the mythical Lighthouse of Alexandria, destroyed by an earthquake in the fourteenth century. Today, visualizing this unique work of art is a difficult challenge. In Thebes, a team of archaeologists sheds light on the famous Ramesses II, the greatest of pharaohs, and his Ramesseum, also called the “palace of a million years”. We will discover the world’s first ever library! Comprising 22 rooms spread underground over three levels, the tomb of lector priest Pediamenopet is an incredible place. The walls are entirely covered with ancient funerary hieroglyphic inscriptions.

ALBI’S MAPPA MUNDI – THE WORLD OF YESTERDAY
La Mappa Mundi d’Albi, le monde d’hier

In an ancient town in the southwest of France lies a “treasure”: Albi’s Mappa Mundi. Dating from the 8th century and included in a manuscript, this map is the oldest known representation of the world as a whole. How was it made? Why is its shape so particular? What exactly does it describe? What was its purpose? To answer these questions, historians, paleographers and scientists conduct a minute investigation and, step by step, the Mappa Mundi reveals its secrets.
THE MOON BENEATH THE SEA

On a plongé sur la Lune

“The Moon beneath the Sea” plunges the viewer into the heart of an exceptional 3D adventure on the wreck of La Lune, the Sun King’s warship. Two international experts in underwater archaeology, Michel L’Hour and Paul-Henry Nargeolet - the man with 30 dives on the Titanic - guide us to the depths of the Mediterranean to discover a unique wreck that is laden with history. The 3D techniques used for the film immerse us in the heart of a unique exploration operation that foreshadows underwater archaeological research of the future.

Length: 53’
Directors: Denis Lagrange
Herlé Jouon
Pascal Guérin

Producers:
Grand Angle Productions
Dassault Systèmes
Aloha Prod
Ethic Prod

Co-Producer: ARTE
Copyright: 2014
Language version available: French & English

THE SUN KING’S SECRET SHIPWRECK

L’épave cachée du Roi Soleil

Louis XIV’s ship La Lune was wrecked off Toulon in November 1664. The ship was returning from an expedition to the Barbary Coast with nearly one thousand people on board, simple seamen or nobles of the highest rank. In an instant all was lost, men and their belongings, the cargo and the ship. Under pressure from the Sun King and his entourage, who planned to conceal the disaster, La Lune was quickly forgotten. Discovered by an Ifremer submarine in 1993, the wreck lies in 90 metres of water. In a state of magnificent preservation, like some underwater Pompeii, she will, starting in 2012, be the subject of an exceptional archeological investigation, bringing together history and robotics, the expertise of archeologists and the passion for the deep. Michel L’Hour, whose renown in the domain of underwater archeology needs no introduction, invites us on an exceptional dive. He goes down, as if in a live broadcast, to the wreck of La Lune / The Moon, the flagship of Louis XIV. A wreck that he considers to be unique in the world…

Length: 55’
Directors: Adrienne Ciuffo
Scott Stevenson

Producer: Grand Angle Productions
Dassault Systèmes
Aloha Prod
Ethic Prod

Co-Producer: ARTE
Copyright: 2013
Language version available: French & English

Jury Prize winner of the 12th Amiens Archeological film Festival
Screenplay Prize winner of the 7th FILMAR of Hendaye

English version with subtitles available:
Arabic, German, Korean, Japanese, Chinese, Russian, Castilian,
Hebrew, Italian & Portugese-Brazilian
OBJECTIVE MOON
Opération Lune

Louis XIV’s ship La Lune was wrecked off Toulon in November 1664. The ship was returning from an expedition to the Barbary Coast with nearly one thousand people on board, simple seamen or nobles of the highest rank. In an instant all was lost, men and their belongings, the cargo and the ship. Under pressure from the Sun King and his entourage, who planned to conceal the disaster, La Lune was quickly forgotten. Discovered by an Ifremer submarine in 1993, the wreck lies in 90 metres of water. In a state of magnificent preservation, like some underwater Pompei, she will, starting in 2012, be the subject of an exceptional archaeological investigation, bringing together history and robotics, the expertise of archeologists and the passion for the deep. Michel L’Hour, whose renown in the domain of underwater archeology needs no introduction, invites us on an exceptional dive. Within a “real life format” of 90 minutes, he goes down, as if in a live broadcast, to the wreck of La Lune / The Moon, the flagship of Louis XIV. A wreck that he considers to be unique in the world…

Jury Prize winner of the 12th Amiens Archeological film Festival
Screenplay Prize winner of the 7th FILMAR of Hendaye
In 1986, South Africa organized an illicit rugby tour against the All Blacks. What they didn’t expect is that it would precipitate the fall of the apartheid regime.

In this documentary, we will relive each day the anguish of this unknown rugby tour. But above all, through interviews with many international rugby personalities (Andy Dalton, Chester Williams, Johnny Wilkinson, François Pienaar, Bernard Lapasset, Serge Blanco ...), we will discover how this sport, via its federations, has often had ambiguous associations with apartheid, from a tolerance linked to financial interests to a real desire to change things, especially following the Cavaliers’ tour. Eventually becoming a powerful diplomatic weapon in the hands of Nelson Mandela, determined to reconcile an entire nation through the use of this discipline that was once a symbol of white supremacy.

THE ULTIMATE BATTLE
L’ultime combat

LOUIS BLERIOT, THE IMPOSSIBLE CROSSING
Louis Blériot, l’impossible traversée

Combining human adventure and historic achievement, “Blériot, the impossible crossing” traces the history of this incredible challenge: the first flight across the English Channel in 1909. 110 years later, a team of Blériot XI enthusiasts will try the crazy gamble to fly their fully authentic reproduction of the aircraft across the channel, propelled, for the first time, by its original engine. This adventure will highlight the real significance of the event that marked the beginnings of world aviation.

UPCOMING JANUARY 2021
LOOKING FOR INTERNATIONAL PRESALES

UPCOMING OCTOBER 2020
LOOKING FOR INTERNATIONAL PRESALES
History One-off

**THE REAL STORY OF THE RAFT OF THE MEDUSA**

La véritable histoire du Radeau de la Méduse

The Machine… that was the name given to the raft of the Medusa by those whose sorry task was to build and launch it at the height of the storm. 148 sailors and one woman, willingly or not, were heaped aboard this makeshift craft. 7 were to survive. Many people know Gericault’s magnificent and frightening painting. But who knows the real story that lies behind this world-famous painting? Using a double investigation - one contemporary carried out by a passionate historian and one from the past carried out by Gericault for the creation of his work - The Machine invites the viewer on a voyage to rediscover piece by piece this astonishing page in our colonial and maritime history. The Raft of the Medusa is not only a painting. On the eve of its 200th anniversary, it’s time to shed the full light upon it...

**CALEDONIAN WAR**

Marie remembers… As a young Caledonian woman of twenty, her life is turned upside down when American troops arrive in New Caledonia on March 12 1942. Nothing will ever be the same again. She falls in love with Arthur, a young US Air Force pilot. They live out their idyllic love against a background of war, a major, bloody war: the War in the Pacific. Recruited as a nurse into the Red Cross, she spends the war on a base behind the lines that receives the wounded from the front. She also lives through the changes on the Caledonian archipelago, where the clash of cultures between the tiny French colony at the far end of the world and the American way of life of the 40s is experienced as a leap into the future. Marie tells this story, her story...
SOCIAL ISSUES & HUMAN INTEREST
Located on the coast of Adélie Land, the Cap Prud’homme science base is like a little world outside our world that houses a few dozen people during the austral summer. Scientists, logisticians, mechanics, a cook and doctor form a small society whose common project is to advance science. Vincent is a glaciologist, he has been part of this community for ten years. This documentary will follow him in his activities and try to identify the strengths, beauty and fragility of the commitment of these men who live at the end of the world.

They are singers, musicians, choreographers and directors. They are between twenty and thirty years old. They have been chosen for their excellence and start their residency at the Academy of the Paris Opera. Culture and music are their trump cards and their strength. They embody both diversity and living together, but also a new generation of committed artists. They talk Mozart, Puccini, Verdi… via Skype and their cell phones. They are the world and the talents of tomorrow. Along with them, throughout an entire season, we discover the mysterious world of the Opera and make it accessible to all. We keep pace with their apprenticeship, their art, their doubts and hopes until they take their first steps on the stages of the Bastille or the Garnier Opera houses. This film is their story.
Social Issues / Human Interest

**FOUR SEASONS WITH DIOR**

*Quatre saisons chez Dior*

2017 is a historic year for Christian Dior. Known for its uniquely French haute couture heritage, the famous fashion house is celebrating its 70th anniversary. One of the year's highlights is the appointment of Maria Grazia Chiuri, former artistic director of Valentino, as Dior's first-ever female creative director in its history. She is presenting her debut couture collection in Paris. Along with this eagerly awaited event in the fashion world, this exceptional year will breed many other exciting events, including the brand's magnificent setting in Tokyo.

We will spend a year behind the scenes of this great fashion house, experiencing these events alongside seamstresses, apprentices, milliners... All those who contribute to make Dior a temple of excellence.

**TRACKING ZIKA**

*Sur le fil du Zika*

Zika: this rather cute little name is that of a forest in Uganda where the virus of the same name was first identified in 1947. Since 2013, Zika, until then virtually forgotten at the far end of the world, has suddenly been in the glare of the spotlights. The overseas territories, and in particular the islands, which have a fundamental role to play, host us for a journey into the heart of this difficult combat.

Selected at *SCINEMA International Science Film Festival in the United States*

**INSIDE IS**

*Au sein de Daesh*

Jürgen is the only Western reporter to have entered Islamic State territory and come out alive. His book on the trip is a best seller, still most of his footage is un-released until now. In Paris, where IS killed 130 people, Jürgen recounts his experience to Hamza Yusuf, a leading Muslim expert and harsh critic of IS, representative of all major scholars and the huge majority of Muslims.
Since its last congress on May 28 last, FIFA has emerged as a totally corrupt organization. Rigged elections, World Cup competitions bought, bribes, arrests... the news of recent months has brought world football’s leading body to the ground.

Sepp Blatter, FIFA president for over 17 years was even forced to resign. Unprecedented in the history of football.

At a moment when the organization is rocked almost every day by a host of intrigues and scandals, this documentary reveals how a small, non-profit association founded in 1904 was able to transform itself over the years into a sprawling financial empire.

From Paris, to Washington, Rio de Janeiro, Yaoundé, Zurich and London, the investigation reveals the hidden face of the institution of world football: a corrupt multinational, which over the years has turned over billions of dollars.

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In Asia and in the Middle East, in the privacy of families that can act with impunity, over fifteen million housekeepers are victims of slavery: exploited at will, abused, and sometimes raped, these invisible women are the sacrificed workers of the global economy. States, institutions, middlemen... no one is interested in change, despite a smouldering spirit of revolt.

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BODY LANGUAGE

Ce corps qui parle

On March 11 2011, three of the four reactors at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant exploded. A nuclear disaster that has « officially » caused the death of two people so far ; two workers at the nuclear plant who died after cases of devastating leukemia. But four years after the disaster, the truth surfaces little by little...

The first patients, mostly children, have developed thyroid cysts. Hundreds of thousands of people would have been infected...

And its consequences are not only dramatic for Japan. Radioactive particles have crossed borders, transported by air and water. On the west coast of the United States, some fish caught in the Pacific also bear traces of contamination. In Europe, concern focuses on products imported from Japan. In France and Switzerland, numerous tests are frequently conducted to ensure that radioactive food does not enter the market.

Who are these sick children? What is the real extent of the contamination - for humans and the environment? Why does the Japanese government refuse transparency? Who are these citizens, journalists, or doctors from Japan, the US and Europe who are fighting for the truth to be known? An investigation into a nuclear scandal...

FUKUSHIMA

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FIGHTING IS FROM THE SEA

En mer contre Daesh

On November 18, 2015, five days after the attacks in Paris, the President of the Republic ordered the carrier Charles de Gaulle to sail with her 2000-strong crew.

The French nuclear carrier does not set out alone to the coasts of Syria: a veritable fleet sails with her to ensure her protection. Warships specializing in anti-aircraft combat, a submarine detector ship as well as a fuel supply vessel... no less than a half a dozen ships make up the escort. And that’s not all: further ahead, concealed in the deep, a nuclear attack submarine is leading the way.

Exceptionally, the military authorities allowed us to film the daily lives of the crews of the nation’s navy over a period of several months. We will discover how the war against terrorism is being waged from the sea.
WILDLIFE
THE RETURN OF THE CAMELIDS
Le retour des camélidés

From China to South America, in passing through the Sahara, caravan routes have been taken over by mechanized transport. Now camelids, camels, dromedaries and llamas, must be reconverted, to continue bringing life to the most arid regions of the world. They must support the millions of people who live there, and thus avoid a fatal exodus towards the outskirts of megacities. Going beyond the outdated image that often accompanies them, we visit 14 countries to explore these camelids - with or without humps; to meet the men and women, farmers, entrepreneurs and researchers, who innovate and mobilize to create new industries, and thus allow the camelid family, symbol of adaptation, resistance and economy, to play a major role in the modern world. The camelid revolution is advancing!

1 - The Princes with 2 humps
Le Prince à deux bosses

They’re camels, they have 2 humps, and they can resist just about anything: arid deserts, extreme cold, extreme heat, salt water. For 1,500 years, they enjoyed their heyday on the Silk Road, from the orient to the occident. Some have even remained wild, even in the cruelest desert of the world. Scientists study their mysterious humps. Along with camel milk, they are the foundation of a new dairy industry. Their very fine hair competes with cashmere and wool, but they are also the guardians of the great nomadic tradition of the steppes. Travel along the Silk Road, Mongolia, China, Kazakhstan... as well as in Canada to discover these Princes with Two Humps!

2 - The Superdromedaries of the desert
Les superdromadaires du désert

Dromedaries have a hump. For 4,000 years they allowed nomadic tribes to live in a very hostile environment. They are the ships of the desert. Saddle animals, pack animals, the dromedary provides man with its meat, milk, skin ... Today, with the disappearance of caravans, and the settling of peoples, they integrate into the modern world! The production of their milk has become intensive, and cheese is even made from it! The dromedary competes with the horse, with thoroughbreds racing on camel racetracks. It is the object of a high-tech reproduction, but its’ almost mythical rapport with man remains. Travel to Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, the Arab Emirates, India... and Switzerland, to discover the Superdromedaries of the Desert.

3 - The Gods of the Andes
Les dieux des Andes

Historically, small camelids, humpless camels, have always served as valuable aids to the Andean populations. The llama and its domestic and wild cousins, the alpaca, vicuna and guanaco, provide wool and meat, and transport caravans on the Incan trails. Mechanization, urbanization, and hunting have provoked their decline. Today, they are reclaiming their space, more and more. Thanks to the fiber of their fur, the alpacas and vicunas are conquering the world, and help communities to live. The alpacas have come back to the land of their ancestors! Wild guanacos, once more under protection, have become the “lords of the land” again. And for the Andeans, llamas, are still sacred and irreplaceable. Travel the Americas, Peru, Chile, Canada... and France to discover the Gods of the Andes!

Silver Trophy in the category “Sustainable Agriculture & forestry” of Deauville Green Awards 2017
**WESTERN DOWN UNDER**

*Western aux antipodes*

It's one of the most dangerous jobs that exist. In northern Australia, at the commands of helicopters, planes, buggies and bikes, men and women put their lives on the line to gather up herds. They maneuver in river beds and around trees, pursuing wild bulls who have never seen humans... They call it "mustering". It's dangerous, spectacular - and a crash or a fatal goring is always a risk. At the heart of the Australian bush, almost 200 miles from the nearest town, we follow life at Warrawagine Station during this intense period. Three generations of the Mills family and their young employees reign over a property the size of a small State. During five months, their daily lives are filled with danger, adrenaline, isolation and sometimes apprehension. From gathering animals, to transporting them in enormous trucks, they are forced to cross rivers, working the paddock, live in the camp while others wait worried at the ranch, and travelling endlessly to gather supplies... Everything here is an adventure...

**IN THE LAND OF THE TURTLES**

*L'île aux tortues*

Bora Bora is the pearl of the Pacific... the most beautiful of lagoons... the most beautiful white sand beaches... the most beautiful hotels in French Polynesia. However, behind the picture postcard images lurks the biggest traffic in turtle meat in the South Pacific. Teva agreed to take us aboard his potimararaa fast, powerful boat that can handle any sea and shake off any pursuer. Teva is a fisherman on Bora, but when fish are rare, he won’t hesitate to poach turtles. Every week some 80 to 100 turtles are killed in Polynesia to end up on the plates of rich Tahitian worthies. A veritable organised network as André Frémont, deputy procurator, has realised: "I used to believe that it was an occasional hunt during festival periods. But last week we discovered 700 kilos on Bora. It's not one turtle now and then: it's a huge and very lucrative hunt."Michel Arakino eats turtle meat but doesn’t deal in it. Owner of an atoll in the east of the Tuamotus, he's an impressive man tattooed to his fingertips. Honu the turtle is "in his genes, his flesh... it’s not an animal for tourists, it is closely linked to the Polynesian nation, to the customs and uses of this people." For Michel "all the regulations imposed by Paris are hot air.customs and uses of this people."

**WHEN SHARKS ATTACK**

*Quand les requins attaquent*

Are those giant predators of the oceans and heroes of horror films man-eating sharks back off our coastlines? Maybe they are... Because Jaws has struck again in South Africa: a surfer was eaten by a Great White on “Second Beach”, one of the most dangerous beaches in the world. Sharks are attacking ever more frequently... and creating more and more victims... and it’s the Great White that heads the list of the most dangerous species in the world: 404 attacks... ahead of the Tiger Shark: 157... and the Bull Shark: 121. In fact, it was the latter that was responsible for the death of Mathieu Schiller on Reunion in October. The findings of researchers are worrying because the number of attacks has more than doubled in thirty years. The finger of suspicion is pointing at human activity... and in particular at shark feeding, a tourist attraction that is often indispensable to the local economy.
Every year, Rob Torelli, famed spear fisherman from Melbourne, Australia, prepares for the opening of the abalone fishing season. In October the pressure mounts. He has to confront an obstacle of considerable size: the great white shark. Sabine is getting ready to join him, to share this unique and perilous moment. A few months later and a mere few cables lengths away, a fascinating spectacle is played out in secret below the water. Dozens, then hundreds and finally thousands of crabs gather together to assure their mutation. Sabine takes up a new challenge: make the rendezvous for this magical and exceptional event…
Wildlife

IN THE EYE OF THE CROCODILE
Dans les yeux des crocodiles

In Madagascar, the tiny village of Ambalavuntaka lives in fear of killer crocodiles. For eight years, one or more creatures have been circling this tiny peninsula, isolated in the middle of the Pangalanes canal in the East of the country and each day they bring terror. In the last few years, five people have been eaten. As the canal is the only source of water, it’s impossible to lead a normal life… washing up, bathing or simply crossing the canal - all these simple, everyday acts have become a bold and risky adventure. They have stopped counting the number of cattle and poultry that have disappeared, victims of these fearsome predators. Too poor to buy a gun, the villagers are unable to defend themselves. But even if they did have a rifle, they would still be helpless against these monsters that have to be approached by water and hit in the eye to be sure to kill them. It’s a skill that only a few accomplished hunters possess. Responding to the call of such a terrible curse on this tiny village lost in the distant bush, a renowned young Madagascan hunter and a French crocodile expert join forces to try to rid this village of the plight the curse has brought upon it.

WHEN THE MERMAIDS ARE SINGING
Le dernier chant des sirènes

Inoffensive and difficult to observe, dugongs are mysterious creatures. Although often described as unsightly, a number of myths and legends are attached to them, earning them the name of Sirenian. Little known to humans, the mermaid of the sea is now an endangered species. However, contact with fishermen and Torres Straits Islanders has helped us to understand their ancestral practices and the reasons why they continue ritual hunting. With some gripping contributions from scientists, this documentary is a beautiful story that turns the myth into reality.

ALEXANDRA COUSTEAU FACES THE SHARKS
Les ailerons du lagon

Polynesia, in search of sharks… Alexandra Cousteau takes us to a dream destination. In this paradise on Earth more than anywhere else, urgent action is needed to save sharks, as they are crucial links in the marine ecosystem. With Alexandra our ambition is to measure the scale of the damage done but also put the spotlight on the people who are taking action and to look at solutions for the future.
NATURE & ENVIRONMENT
MONTSERRAT, THE POMPEII OF THE CARIBBEAN
Montserrat, la Pompéi des caraïbes

Volcanic eruptions can cause massive damage, as has been seen on the Caribbean island of Montserrat, which was devastated in 1995. The history of this island and the people who live here is very unique and representative of what can cause a such a terrible natural disaster. We travel here to meet the few inhabitants who continue to live here but also the scientists who have made the island a giant laboratory.

200 miles south of Shanghai lies the Xianju National Park. It is a pocket of great plant and animal biodiversity that also holds a treasure of ancestral culture and artisanal and agricultural traditions. It shows a now rare image of China. How can it be protected and developed without disfiguring it? Some strategies are emerging with the help of international partners. Accompanied of a slackline champion and a Tai Chi master, we travel to the “middle country” in search of an essential balance whose success hangs by a thread...

UPCOMING OCTOBER 2020
LOOKING FOR INTERNATIONAL PRESALES
One moment in the sky, the next on the earth, this series casts an original eye over some destinations chosen for their beauty, their authenticity and their richness. Using both aerial passages and stops on the ground, this “aero-movie” reveals unique landscapes that are sometimes inaccessible in order to bring you up close to the people that live there.

Destinations:
Barcelona (Spain), Inland Saint-Tropez (France), Los Angeles (United States), Mexico, Naples (Italy), Andalusia (Spain), Stockholm (Sweden), New Caledonia, Alpes Maritimes (France), Ria of Etel (France) Senegal, Quebec (Canada), West of Scotland, Puglia (Italy), Gulf of Morbihan (France), Ile de Groix (France)
**110’ NATURE**

They are territories unique in the world, natural jewels preserved, where people are at one with stunning landscapes. These destinations make up a collection of “geographical jewels”. This collection of 110’ films shares the intimacy of some rare or secret activities. It reveals the unknown faces of these territories while celebrating the breathtaking beauty of nature by casting a fresh look on the world...

**English version available:**

- The Basque Country, the new wave
- Vanuatu, paradise in danger
- Mysterious Islands
- The Seine Estuary
- The lovers of the Bay of Arcachon
- Antilles, the Nature of the islands
- Brittany, the promise of the islands
- Polynesia, in their heart

**Only French version available:**

- Cotentin, the power of the sea
- The Hermione Adventure
- Keepers of our Lighthouses
NATURE’S INVADERS
Une nature envahissante

The damage caused by invasive species in New Caledonia is now reaching dramatic proportions: deer, ants and cats are wreaking havoc with its biodiversity. Even when tiny, like the little fire ant, they are able not only to destroy specimens that are unique in the world but also bring turmoil to human lives. Scientists even believe that these clandestine varieties are responsible for the sixth extinction crisis.

VANUATU, LABORATORY OF CLIMATE CHANGE
Vanuatu, laboratoire des changements climatiques

Winds of over 300 kmh. On March 13 2015, Cyclone Pam ripped through Vanuatu with devastating power. This distant archipelago in the South Pacific is in the minds of the entire world. However, for Science, Vanuatu is the focal point of our concerns. Earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, coastal erosion, global warming, this Eden made of coral and ash is a veritable laboratory of environmental upheaval and natural disaster. At the heart of the storm are four men: a journalist from Vanuatu, a volcanologist, an explorer and a humanitarian worker trying to understand, raise awareness and rebuild this paradise that, more than anywhere else, is the victim of the forces of nature.

GREEN PARIS
Paris se met au vert

A big vegetable garden at the foot of the Eiffel tower, a nature zone where once there were train tracks, a primary forest and a savannah in Vincennes and in Boulogne’s woods architecture and plants blend perfectly. Paris reveals its surprising green areas. This path of discovery is full of surprises.

Who would have thought it possible to grow lettuce on rooftops in Paris’s chic neighborhoods? Yet this is one of the harvests from the garden of a prestige hotel next to the Eiffel Tower.

This garden is highly domesticated, unlike the wild environment created on the former train line circling Paris with its wild fig trees and small wildlife.

This biodiversity is a treasure. Natural environments have also been developed to the East, in the Vincennes Woods, for example this primary forest born after a great storm hit. And there is this wild savannah, which was been planted by the Vincenne Zoological Park’s landscape design staff.

Our adventure comes to an end in the Boulogne Woods, in the Jardin d’acclimatation. Here wildlife marries perfectly with the new Foundation Louis Vuitton, designed by the architect Franck Gehry. The blend of plant life with the museum’s glass facades is spectacular.

LENGTH: 53’
DIRECTOR: Pierre Belet
PRODUCER: Grand Angle Productions & Archipel Production
COPRODUCERS: France Télévisions
COPYRIGHT: 2015
LANGUAGE VERSION AVAILABLE: French & English

LENGTH: 46’
DIRECTOR: Nathalie Laville & Jacques Plaisant
PRODUCER: Tournez S’il Vous Plait
COPRODUCERS: France Télévisions
COPYRIGHT: 2015
LANGUAGE VERSION AVAILABLE: French & English

LENGTH: 51’
DIRECTOR: Jenny Briffa
PRODUCER: Grand Angle Productions
COPRODUCERS: Canal+ Caledonia
COPYRIGHT: 2015
LANGUAGE VERSION AVAILABLE: French & English
TALES FROM THE END OF THE WORLD

Antarctica. The glaciers and the mystery of this far-away and unknown land have always given cause to dream. And yet, Antarctica is not hospitable to people. Antarctica is beyond human norm. Its winds are super powerful, its temperatures the lowest in the world, its glaciers are fearsome. With my film crew I sailed aboard the Admiral Viel, a Chilean Navy icebreaker, for an exceptional voyage to the white continent. We had the good fortune and the dazzling experience of encountering the wild life, of sharing the lives of the sailors and scientists living in the most total isolation, surrounded by Nature at its most sublime. To see and to understand the exciting work these men and women accomplish every day in the protection of nature is to receive a simple, yet wonderful lesson in humanity.

THE AUSTRAL ROAD

Along the narrow strip between the Andean Cordillera and the Pacific Ocean, Chilean Patagonia is one of the last virgin territories on the planet. A territory of extremes, composed of vast spaces, volcanoes, fjords, wind and rain. Its official title is “The Austral Road”, but Chileans also call it “Route Seven”, the Chilean “National 7”. This road, which was built in the 70s, crosses Chilean Patagonia from North to South and covers nearly 1,000km. A source of progress for the inhabitants, this road has, paradoxically, weakened the regions it runs though and renders the future of Patagonian Chile uncertain. The proliferation of fish farming, the projects to construct a series of hydroelectric dams and climate change bring the looming threat of unpredictable consequences. A visit to the heart of one of the last virgin territories on the planet where the power of nature contrasts with the fragility of the ecology.
The relationship between man and bees dates back to the age of basic gathering, which is still practiced in certain remote valleys of the world. Our story unfolds over five continents, with nighttime gathering, moving of the hives to mountain pastures and in science laboratories where numerous experiments are being conducted on the black bee. It’s a story of love, sometimes dangerous, between bees and humans. The latter are the gatherers, the keepers, poets, historians, ethnologists or biologists. Along with the bee they are the heroes of each film. They all help us to discover the many splendors of a fragile world, teach us to preserve nature’s capacity for renewal and to respect the cultural practices of human beings.
ON THE WING - SEASON 2
Les avions du bout du monde

Our heroes are physicians, emergency doctors, farmers and, above all, pilots. They carry on their professions in one of these territories at the ends of the earth. We discover these regions that are so difficult to access, that only the airplane can reveal, through the daily work of those whose are living an adventure, in close proximity to nature.

UPCOMING DESTINATIONS 2020:
- Flight over the glaciers (Alaska)
- Flying madmen from the Amazon (Colombia)
- Amazon Taxi (Surinam)
- The pilot of the atolls (Polynesia)

MARK PALM, THE SAMARITAN IN THE SKY (PAPUA/NEW GUINEA)
Mark Palm, le samaritain des airs (Papouasie/Nouvelle-Guinée)
For 9 years, Mark Palm has been helping residents of the Sepik River villages, one of the most remote areas of Papua New Guinea, free of charge. Snake bites, crocodile attacks, malaria crisis’s, difficult childbirths, the life of this 44-year-old Californian is a succession of adventures. Onboard his seaplane plane, he transports the wounded, brings medicine, and organizes vaccination campaigns for the 200 000 Papuans who live along the river, often in difficult conditions.

THE FLYING MAASAI (KENYA)
Le Massai volant (Kenya)
At the helm of his small single-engine aircraft, Ian Lemaiyan, a Kenyan biologist and bush pilot, flies over the savannah to protect the rhinos. From reserve to reserve, the Maasai pilot introduces us to a series of unique wildlife preservation programs. Seen from the sky, Kenya's open spaces appear now as they were once known to those who once came here on safari.

THE BUSH PILOT (AUSTRALIA)
Le pilote du Bush (Australie)
Clark Butson founded an airline in the heart of Australia’s arid desert. Its goal: to unite the isolated communities of the province of Pilbara, in the west of the country. Here, the airplane is the only link with the rest of the world. And Clark has a lot to do to on his missions. Rescues, student transportation, supplies, rotations between mines, visiting aboriginal communities. Clark also helps farmers during “mustering,” a massive operation to gather their thousands of cattle scattered over hundreds of kilometers in the bush.
Our heroes are physicians, emergency doctors, farmers and, above all, pilots. They carry on their professions in one of these territories at the ends of the earth. We discover these regions that are so difficult to access, that only the airplane can reveal, through the daily work of those whose are living an adventure, in close proximity to nature.

TAXI IN THE AIR (MADAGASCAR)

Le taxi-brousse des airs (Madagascar)
François-Xavier Mayer, known as “Fifou”, never tires of flying over the fantastic landscapes of his native land, Madagascar. Like his father and grandfather before him, he uses his plane as his main means of transportation. In this island as big as France, it sometimes takes several days to travel from one city to another by car. Yet, Fifou is super active and moves about all the time. Whether supplying his hotel, studying the migration of whales, or carrying humanitarian aid, he counts on his faithful flying companion, a yellow bush plane that everyone in Madagascar knows by the name: “India Papa”. A “taxi in the air” which provides many services, and can even, sometimes, save lives.

THE OMNIBUS OF THE AIR (QUEBEC)

L’omnibus des airs (Québec)
On the wing will again surprise you. After Bolivia, Vanuatu and New Zealand, we set out to meet Sebastien, a former airline pilot. This time we head for Canada and its vast expanses. Aboard his Jet Stream 32 and a seaplane, he introduces us to the magnificent, deserted and isolated landscapes of Northern Quebec. Fasten your seatbelts for imminent take-off!

THE FLYING FARMER OF THE PACIFIC (NEW ZEALAND)

Le fermier volant du Pacifique (Nouvelle Zélande)
Deep in the New Zealand Alps, Guy and Fiona Redfern are the flying farmers at the end of the world. Plane and helicopter are essential in raising the 5,000 sheep, 2,000 cows and dozens of horses on this farm, the most isolated in the country. In addition to being a tool for their work, their plane is also a means of escaping their isolation to meet friends and perform some aerial stunts.
THE PILOT OF HOPE (BOLIVIA)
Le pilote de l'espoir (Bolivie)
Ivo Daniel Velasquez is an anonymous hero. At the controls of his plane - sometimes a tiny Cessna, sometimes a twin-engine Piper - he defies the quite extraordinary flying conditions of Bolivia to come to the assistance of the most remote communities in the country. Whenever, Ivo lands his plane on the most unlikely airstrips, from the Andes and the Altiplano to Amazonia, for these communities he represents a vital link with the rest of the world.

DOCTOR MARK TO THE RESCUE (VANUATU)
SOS Docteur Mark ! (Vanutau)
Lying to the north of the Vanuatu archipelago in the South Pacific, the Banks Islands are literally cut off from the world. Whenever there’s a medical emergency, the 9,000 inhabitants of the Banks have only Doctor Mark Turnbull and his orange cuckoo to rely on. The sole doctor for hundreds of miles around, he is the only one who can land on the unlikely and dangerous airstrips of these tiny volcanic islands. Some days, despite changeable weather conditions, he may visit four or five different islands to look at teeth, deliver mothers or even operate on people under general anesthetic on the bare ground of the tropical forest.
WORK BOATS & WONDER SHIPS
Entre cargos et bateaux de luxe

Treat yourself to an unforgettable voyage in the four corners of the globe, come wind or waves, plowing the heavenly-blue seas. As a highly privileged passenger, climb aboard some unique vessels, as mysterious as they are majestic, and ready to reveal their secrets. Stride the bridge of the QE2, that mythical cruise ship, and then that of the incredible Maltese Falcon, the sailboat with the futuristic lines. Discover your reserved cabin aboard the most luxurious yachts on the planet and wallow in the limitless luxury of these jewels of modernity. Plunge back into history and rub shoulders with kings deep in the Savarona, a floating gem transformed over the years by successive owners.

Share the daily lives of some exceptional crews and meet the men who brave the icy, sublime waters of Canada. Join them on their awesome mission aboard the Waban Aki, a Canadian Coast Guard Hovercraft responsible for clearing ice from the St Lawrence River. Or step aboard the Abeille Bourbon and shiver side-by-side with its crewmembers as they confront the fickle moods of the Brittan coast. Or yet again, on the Blue Marlin in Korea as it transports its gigantic oil platforms. High excitement, glistening powerful treasures, these giants of the seas along with their gigantic platforms invite you to discover the most mysterious surface of the globe. One thing is sure: your feet won’t touch the ground…

TITANS OF THE OCEANS
Titan des Océans

DREAM CRUISES
Croisières de rêves

EXCEPTIONAL BOATS
Géants des mers

SPLENDOURS OF THE SEA
Splendeurs des mers

DREAM BOATS, SEA MONSTERS
Bateaux de rêve, monstres des mers
Islands of the Pacific Ocean one-off

**TONGA, A KINGDOM AT THE CROSSROADS**

Lost in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, midway between New Caledonia and French Polynesia, a string of islands stretches out over nearly 500 km: Tonga. Kings and queens have succeeded one another ever since antiquity in this country that has overcome many a challenge: avoiding colonization, preserving its language and its traditions and introducing a constitutional monarchy as early as the 19th century. We discover a remarkable people, with a younger generation, living in the age of the Internet, torn between respect for its customs and the desire for elsewhere.

**THE LOVERS OF THE LAGOON**

For all those who love the tropical seas, the New Caledonia lagoon is Nirvana. For the largest lagoon on the planet is also the most beautiful. A UNESCO world heritage listed site, the Caledonian lagoon owes its dazzling health to an extremely low pressure of human presence. That's because the vast territory of Caledonia (the main island is 400 km long) has only 250,000 inhabitants. As a result the lagoon offers huge, totally virgin spaces. A veritable inland sea, the blue Caledonian jewel case contains a host of habitats and ecosystems: islets, sand bars, sunken reefs, mangroves, etc…. oases of marine life that teem with species and provide a fabulous larder for the inhabitants of the archipelago. Aided by magnificent aerial and sub-marine images, the film presents the portrait of six “Lovers of the Lagoon”: an adventurer in his den in the north of the island, a biologist specializing in the universe of coral, a woman doctor, defender of the Melanesian culture, a kite-surfer from Numea and a young nature warden from Lifou, in the Loyalty Islands. They have all been enchanted by the stunning beauty of the lagoon. They have all made it their daily lives and their finest reason for living.

**HEART OF THE ISLANDS**

Journey to the heart of the Pacific Ocean, as the collection “Heart of the Islands” immerses you in the discovery of these unique islands of French Polynesia. Come and meet the people, the key figures of these unusual islands, still unknown to tourism and strong in their traditions. Committed to the preservation of their heritage, their culture, but also their ecosystem, the islanders you will share the singularity of their identity and their history amidst breathtaking scenery. Whether in the Marquesas, Tuamotu, Gambier, Austral, or Society Islands, all the archipelagos of French Polynesia welcome you for a unique adventure in 10 stops.

Hiva Oa - Makatea - Maupiti - Mo’orea - Nuku Hiva
Raiatea - Rapa - Rikitea - Rurutu - Takaroa
UNDERGROUND WONDERS OF FRANCE
Les merveilles de la France souterraine

There’s another world just a few meters under the ground: a world of rocks carved by time and the humidity of the deep. France is one of the world’s leading countries in underground tourism. The land that bred Jules Verne and his “Journey to the Center of the Earth” possesses hundreds of caves, caverns and other sinkholes, all open to the public. Miracles of nature, whose renown goes far beyond the borders of France. This film is an introduction to the owners of these treasures “six feet under” and it shows how they manage these unusual businesses. Using original technical means, we delve into the bowels of the earth to follow the work of those devotees who work day after day in these strange and staggering worlds.

THE SUMMIT OF ULTIMATE CHALLENGE
Le sommet de tous les extrêmes

The massif of Mont-Blanc, the roof of Europe: a fascinating terrain, but raw, where every action performed by those who are drawn there is a brush with the limit. Whether they are crystal hunters, wingsuiters, scientists or glaciologists, exercising their activities demands the highest vigilance, the control of every movement. These extraordinary and fascinating characters guide us over the changing features of this untamed mineral world where the wildest of challenges are faced every day.
Every morning in France, millions of people settle into a comfortable office routine, meanwhile there are others who climb hundreds of meters off the ground for a living. They are artisans, builders and window cleaners. Ten thousand workers suspended in the air like acrobats. They are called “rope access technicians” and their life “hangs by a thread”. A rope that is only a few inches in circumference allows them to climb the highest buildings and still connects them to life on the ground. In the void, danger is omnipresent; any careless mistake can be fatal. Join us as we climb up to meet these workers of the extreme.

Filmed from the sky, “Faces of the Coast” is an original journey that transports us to the coasts of France. It follows an incredibly diverse route, where we reveal some hidden corners never filmed before. The strength of this collection is the subtle interplay between flying above people and maintaining a bond with them. The flow of the images, the delicate light on the sumptuous settings where we all dream of being one day, together with singular encounters, lend an incredible charm to this France... generous and appealing.

Episodes: The Channel, Brittany, The Atlantic and The Mediterranean
**IN THE SKIES OF POLYNESIA**

**Dans le ciel de Polynésie**

In another life they were fighter pilots, mechanics with Boeing or military instructors. Today they have realized their dream: to set up in Polynesia and fly over one of the most beautiful regions in the world. Stéphane and Vincent are acers of the air… they teach stunt flying to visiting tourists and the inhabitants of the islands. And when they are not playing daredevils with their students, they put their skills to the service of another clientele… the one that lives on the tiny private islands… islands at the end of the world, accessible only by plane. For these isolated populations, a plane service is essential… but the landing strips on these islands look more like pocket-handkerchiefs… you need skill and the ability to retain a cool head. O’Neil has plenty of both. He is one of the team of Air Archipel pilots who can land anywhere on Polynesian territory. His mission is to save lives by carrying out “évasans” [évacuations aériennes sanitaires] or emergency air rescue operations.

**TAHITI, A MOUNTAIN IN THE SEA**

**Tahiti, une montagne dans la mer**

Worthy descendants of the first explorers of these islands at the end of the world, they are firefighters, woodcutters, nature guides and hunters with the bow. They make up a veritable family within the GPI… the Group Polyvalent d’Intervention [Multitask Intervention Group]. They are experts in extreme environments and the passion for nature and the mountain runs through their very core. Exploring canyons, descending the highest waterfalls in Polynesia… saving lives… going where others dare not go… that is their daily round.

**POLYNESIA BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH**

**Polynésie entre Ciel et Terre**

These landscapes which are in turn magical, unusual and majestic each recount in their own way “the Pacific dream”. This diversity of forms and landscapes goes hand in hand with that of the people and communities who populate them and who have fashioned them since time immemorial. From archipelago to archipelago and from island to island, this is also a place where ethnic and cultural particularities, traditions and unique situations are waiting to be discovered.
A jewel of nature - more expensive than diamonds! Unknown to the general public, the pink pearl of the Caribbean is the rarest pearl in the world. Negotiated at astronomic prices (up to 400,000 dollars for a single pearl), conch pearls sometimes make the fishermen who find them very rich…and the very rich clients who buy them - very happy. But today the quench conch is a victim of over-fishing and the pink pearls of the Caribbean also risk to disappear… unless, a biologist in Fort Piece, Florida wins an impossible bet: to graft conches, and like oyster pearls - make from the pink pearl, a simple cultured pearl.

USA THE DEEP SOUTH
USA plein sud

From the State of Georgia to the Gulf of Mexico, across Alabama and then down the Mississippi to its mouth, "USA, the Deep South" is a journey of encounter with those who love the Deep South. Elgin Wells combines his two passions: music and stunt flying. Pilot, musician, poet, he is one of the few in America to present nighttime aerial displays. At Natchez, on the banks of the Mississippi, Pat Martin and Gay Guercio open the doors to Stanton Hall and Longwood, two magnificent mansions in the heart of the old cotton plantations. On Avery Island, the descendants of Edmund McIlhenny produce Tabasco, a simple recipe based on Mexican spices that has remained unchanged for 150 years. In the Atchafalaya Basin, an extraordinary nature reserve that is a paradise for birds, crawfish and alligators, And to finish, as Hurricane Isaac approaches, a most unlikely encounter with Chris and Steve, crab fishermen in the swamps on the shores of the Gulf of Mexico.

THE PASSAGE
La traversée des mondes

The Yucatan. A tiny corner of the world bathed by the oceans. A land of crystal clear waters and dense jungle linked by hitherto unexplored subterranean networks. The cradle of the Mayan civilization and the point of impact of the Chicxulub meteorite, which is said to be the cause of the disappearance of the dinosaurs. To explore this land so steeped in history and discover its secrets: one man. The body of an athlete. An intense, hybrid character, with powers of adaptation beyond the norm: Guillaume Nery. Five times world champion for constant weight free diving. Astride the frontier of environments, half-man, half-fish, moving with equal delight over land or under the sea, he is constantly pushing the boundaries of his physical capacity to further his desire for exploration and, in the water, his quest for a unique form of beauty. It is in this surreal environment that Guillaume will attempt a rare performance with the promise of previously unseen images: a free dive into the heart of a legendary cenote.

Highly Commended Diploma of the Jury of the 11th Matsalu Nature Film Festival 2013
Winner of the Best Cinematography Award and the Special Mention of the Public at the Pafťachov Festival 2013 in Czech Republic
Winner of the Special Mention of the Jury at the European Underwater and Environment Film Festival of Strasbourg 2013
Winner of the Special Mention of the Jury at the Festival of Antibes 2012
Winner of the Special Mention of the Jury and the Public Choice Award at the Toulon Film Festival 2012
Winner of the Special Mention of the Jury at the Marseille underwater Film Festival 2012
Special Mention of the Jury and Public Choice Award at the Toulon Film Festival 2012
In this age of Google Earth our aim with this documentary “Maps of the Great Explorers” is to retell the exciting story of the representation of the world. The objects of fantasy and fear, but also of conquest and power, the “new worlds” have haunted men’s imaginations. The representation of the world has developed. To represent the new limits of a region, a country, a continent, or a sea was to control and sometimes even to possess it exclusively. The representation of the world, therefore, became one of the stakes for power and influence. The Republic of Venice, Portugal and Spain were at the forefront of these conquests. Such advances were impossible without instrumentation, the means of transport and position-finding techniques. However, the essential link was provided by men with mythic destinies. From Christopher Columbus to James Cook, they set out in search of these unknown lands and their exceptional resources. Out of a sense of mission, pure vocation, these famous discoverers tirelessly travelled the globe, its seas and its territories in the quest for knowledge, fame and fortune.

EXPLORERS
Les explorateurs

The “Explorers” series shows how Europe plotted the maps of America and the Pacific between the 15th and 18th centuries. From these three prolific centuries of exploration, five illustrious characters stand out, standard bearers of some of the greatest voyages in the history of humanity. Five explorers for five films, each lasting 13 minutes:

- Amerigo Vespucci from Genoa, who gave his name to the “New World”.
- Magellan from Portugal, who, in the fury of the high seas, discovered the passage around this new continent and unlocked the door to a new ocean.
- Bougainville from France, who made France’s first round-the-world trip in the footsteps of Magellan.
- La Pérouse, who needs no introduction, was sent by King Louis XVI in response to the English domination of the seas.
- James Cook from England, the most illustrious navigator-explorer of all time, who accomplished three trips to the Pacific in search of the Austral continent!
Discover funny, poignant, touching stories... stories about human beings, stories about animals. To entertain and move are the objectives of this series of 5 x 26' programmes that follows veterinarians, animals and their owners in the field, where stories, packed with life and passion, are born and played out. An immersion into the everyday lives of vets through reports that reveal those life and death moments as they unfold in clinics and vets’ offices, those unavoidable crossroads where veterinarians, animals and owners all come together.

Length: 5x26'
Director: Jean-Marie Barrère
Producers: Triangle 7
Grand Angle Productions
Co-producer: France Télévisions
RTBF Belgium
Copyright: 2010
Language version available: French

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Doctor Bertrand is worried: his patient is suffocating. He calls his colleague, the duty surgeon, Doctor Brasseur. Interns and nurses stand ready. This is an emergency. Bao, a two year-old Golden Retriever, has swallowed a golf ball. In the next room, Godzilla, Mrs Fontaine’s iguana, is refusing to eat. Welcome to the veterinarian ER in Manages near Brussels. 6 doctors, 3 specialized veterinary assistants, several interns. Operating and examination rooms, a test laboratory, an X-ray room and a medical imagery system, human presence 24/7… You laugh, you cry, what you don’t do is get bored!

Length: 52'
Director: Jean-Marie Barrère
Producers: Triangle 7
Grand Angle Productions
Co-producer: France Télévisions
RTBF Belgium
Copyright: 2010
Language version available: French & English

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- Chief? There’s a call for you… It’s Mme Lemarrec… She wants to know if you can drop in? One of her 80 rats is sick. And two others are breaking out in sores. - Tell her I’ll call back. I can’t now… I’m busy with M. Lavigne. His iguana hasn’t eaten for two weeks… So M. Lavigne is depressed! Did you like Vet ER episode 1? Did you laugh or cry as you followed the adventures of Antoine, the young intern with the 12-man team at the Brasseur Clinic? Were you enthralled as you followed the surgeons on call 24/24 to treat and save animals? Were you amazed as you discovered one astonishing animal after another? Then you will love episode 2. Because they are back! And this time, even though the animals are still the stars, their owners reveal a little more of themselves. Passionate, funny, crazy, chatterboxes… By turns moving and unexpected, the owners put on their show before the eyes of the sometimes flabbergasted vets. And during all this time, the animals just sit around!

Length: 52'
Director: Jean-Marie Barrère
Producers: Triangle 7
Grand Angle Productions
Co-producer: France Télévisions
RTBF Belgium
Copyright: 2010
Language version available: French
LIFESTYLE
MASSAGE, AGE OLD TRADITION, WORLDWIDE PHENOMENON

Age-old tradition, worldwide fashion, massages are a bubble of wellbeing where one can seclude oneself, where time no longer seems quite as important. They represent an ever growing need that is symptomatic of the whirlwind of our society. Global economic crisis, new technologies that are more and more intrusive in our daily lives, stress generated by pervading pessimism, contribute to push millions of people towards massage. From all the continents, they come to northern Thailand to receive training from blind people, the new stars of this discipline, sought-after for their unique touch due to their blindness. In Paris, in the area of La Défense, the opposite extreme of the “zenitude”, the new tendency is for companies to “offer” their employees massages, investment at a lower cost for a guaranteed competitiveness. In Montreal, Canada, children are given lessons at school on how to massage each other and parents learn how to practice infant massaging… the discovery of wellbeing in the cradle! Some practitioners use the “Tapping solution” or the EFT invented in the US and now practiced on all continents to efficiently release trauma and relieve many symptoms. Massage, a fascinating tradition and yet incredibly modern, becomes available all over the world.

MY BAG, MY LIFE AND MY NEXT BAG

In 15 years it has become the must-have accessory. There’s not a women’s store, or a showcase in a ready-to-wear designer’s where you cannot see a… handbag. Why spend 1,000, 1,500 or 2,000 Euros on a bag? Some women are prepared for anything in order to obtain the object of their fantasies. And some designers are achieving incredible success with their line of handbags… like Jérôme Dreyfuss… the star of the genre… His bags are extremely expensive, but they sell like hot cakes. Conversely, in New York, the world’s handbag capital, young designers struggle to exist alongside the major luxury brands. The handbag is now creating a second revolution among men, attracting more and more devotees, but there’s no question of a loss of virility… Handbags: a look into the world of fashion half-way between irrational passion and ultra-profitable business.

BENEATH THE LINGERIE

100, 400, 500, 1000 dollars for a complete outfit and sometimes a lot more... women the world over no longer hesitate at spending a small fortune on bras and panties. Lingerie is one of the rare sectors that is not suffering from the crisis. They’re innovating with new textiles, shapes are changing and trends are increasingly naughty. What is even more surprising is that one can now tell the condition and behaviour of a society by taking a closer look at its market in panties and suspender belts. In the Emirates, women make up for their austere outer clothing… by wearing ultra-daring underwear. In France they insist on the highest quality of lace and other materials. In the United States practicality takes precedence over aesthetics and in Russia lingerie is the ultimate trump card in seduction. How did lingerie become the mirror of a society and does it reveal the evolution of women on different continents? An investigation beneath the lingerie...
THE SPA BOOM
Le business des spas

Massage with chocolate or spices, anti-stress cure, balneotherapy, grape seed modeling… the well-being and Spa market is booming. For the millions who now frequent these establishments, whether in France, or Bali or New York, the quest is the same: take care of yourself, give yourself a magical break, a few moments of happiness. Considered an extravagance only a few years ago, the Spa is now an obvious choice. To make a go of it you have to invest, innovate and know how to make that difference. Hotels get a makeover, new qualifications are created and the result is that clients, of all ages, fight to get in. With growth of 30% per annum, designer Spas may soon attract as many devotees in our stressful, bustling cities as the Roman baths did in Antiquity.

THE NEW LUXURY TRADES
Les nouveaux métiers de luxe

1210… that’s the number of billionaires in the world in 2011… and that number is rising every day… in order to assist them in their excesses, some people have invented new trades to fulfill their expectations… Such as creating tailor-made perfume for $60,000… or running agencies specialized in personal assistants, 24/7.
FILLERS & AERIAL VIEW
One moment in the sky, the next on the earth, this series casts an original eye over some destinations chosen for their beauty, their authenticity and their richness. Using both aerial passages and stops on the ground, this “aero-movie” reveals unique landscapes that are sometimes inaccessible in order to bring you up close to the people that live there.

Destinations:
Barcelona (Spain), Inland Saint-Tropez (France), Los Angeles (United States), Mexico, Naples (Italy), Andalusia (Spain), Stockholm (Sweden), New Caledonia, Alpes Maritimes (France), Ria of Etel (France) Senegal, Quebec (Canada), West of Scotland, Puglia (Italy), Gulf of Morbihan (France), Ile de Groix (France)
In autumn, Iceland changes its colours: after weeks of permanent quasi-daylight the vegetation bursts out everywhere. Carpeted with moss and lichens, the lava flow on the flanks of the capricious volcanoes turns to fluorescent green. The same applies to the white of the glaciers and the deep blue of the fjords in the northwest. Seen from the sky, the panorama is breath-taking... and not only over the volcanic lands of the Landmannalaugar in the centre of the island with its seemingly unreal colours. Even though Iceland is a world apart, it is not apart from the world: for six months during the 18th century, the eruption of the Laki volcano brought about such changes in the skies of Europe that it prompted the fall of the King of France. From north to south, from east to west, at every stage of our journey we travel an island peopled by whale fishermen, courageous coastguards, atypical ecological activists and Russian tourists who think they are James Bond. Set in the middle of the North Atlantic, Iceland is more than an island, it's a geological anomaly. For those who prefer nature to be raw and beautiful, the island is a formidable playground where the magma broods beneath the glaciers, where the land is gaining over the ocean or where hot water springs heat buildings, baths and swimming pools...

Filmed in HD, the “Coasts of the United States from the Sky” is a panoramic journey along a coastline that it is both one of the wildest in the world and one of the most sought after. To approach America from the sky, along its coasts, is a new way of discovering the extreme variety of marine landscapes of the United States. 20,000 kilometers of beaches, steep coastlines or swamps, from desert areas to the most urbanized of spaces. Few countries in the world can boast of such shores: the cliffs and sequoia forests of North California answer the long beaches of Florida, the Bayous and swamps of Louisiana contrast with the wild coasts of Maine. And the cities? Here we find the most amazing megalopolises of the planet: Los Angeles and New York. And there are many others too, such as San Francisco, New Orleans, not to mention Miami, San Diego, Seattle and Boston, strung along the American coastline. Great cities that buzz, seduce, revitalize. And the myths? Among the not-to-be-missed locations in the culture and history of the United States are, of course, Key West, right at the tip of the United States, the highly esteemed islands of Nantucket or Martha’s Vineyard on the East Coast and, more popular, the seaside resort of Daytona and its world-famous motor racing circuit. And what can you say about Malibu, Venice or Manhattan Beaches, the most famous in Los Angeles, California?
**THE FRENCH COAST FROM THE SKY - 11x13’**

**Les côtes françaises vues du ciel**

Immediate boarding for a breath-taking spectacle on the frontier between the immensity of the seas and oceans and the continent.

France: the world’s number one tourist destination. The rich medley of her landscapes enhanced by a centuries-old heritage, her coastline draped in the gold of her beaches, the sheer drop of her cliffs and her carpet of forests are evidence enough. Her shores are studded with casinos, luxurious hotels and sumptuous villas, sprouting from the sands in the Roaring Twenties. Her land of legends is bejewelled with mediaeval fortresses, ancestral castles and stunning architecture.

The people of the French coasts, half-human, half-marine, hungry for wide horizons. Convoy of trawlers converging on the ports of dry land. Navigators and explorers whose names are forever engraved in the great History of France.


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**THE FRENCH COAST FROM THE SKY - 26x9’**

**Les côtes françaises vues du ciel**

To tour France by following her coastline -and in the air, too- is the guarantee of a wonderful voyage in three dimensions and between three worlds: the sea, the countryside and the city. Naturally, we fly above the 3,427 kilometres of coast. However, each film will have the same structure to satisfy the spirit of a “collection”. 26 city ports have been selected as staging posts along the journey. So, in addition to the sea and the countryside we will have cities. All these are ingredients that will add pace to the editing and diversity to our encounters. We set out on the discovery of a France not only rich in the forms of her coastline, but also in her territories bordering the sea and her city ports, often the focal points of a History that has marked the surrounding areas.

**Destinations:**
Aber Wrac’h, Dunkerque, Dieppe, Honfleur, Saint Vaast la Hougue, Granville, Saint Malo, Saint Brieuc, Brest, Concarneau, La Trinité sur Mer, Le Croisic, Les sables d’Olonne, Rochefort, Bordeaux, Bayonne, Vendres, Sète, Marseille, Toulon, Porquerolles, Saint-Tropez, Nice, Monaco, Calvi, Ajaccio.
THE YIN & THE YANG OF TAIWAN
Le Yin et le Yang de Taiwan

Taiwan lies between the China Sea and the Pacific to the east of the Strait of Formosa. A secret island, with many, paradoxical facets. From Taipei, its capital and largest city in Taiwan, we fly towards the Strait of Formosa. 180 kilometres of sea and wind separate the People’s Republic of China from the island of Taiwan. In the middle of the Strait lies an archipelago: the Penghu Islands, more commonly known in Europe as the Pescadores Islands, a reminder that these islands were conquered by the armed vessels of the Spanish and Portuguese. For ages, these islands have been the stakes in violent territorial disputes. Pacified, the Pescadores are opening up to the world. Within this new context, the Pescadores are not without some trump cards: in this part of Asia, coasts as wild as these, are a rarity. Over there, on the main island, Taipei, the sprawling city, and the huge buzzing ports along the coasts. Here, the Pescadores, the desert islands. Obviously, from the air, the contrast is striking: it’s the Yin and the Yang of Taiwan.

FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN TO SOUTH AFRICA, SEEN FROM THE SKY
De la Méditerranée à l’Afrique du sud, vues du ciel

It’s the most beautiful, the bluest, the hottest, the most desired and sometimes the most disputed. A synonym for conquest and exchange, the Mediterranean is laden with history and hopes. Seen from the sky its coastlines relate the epic adventures of a world gone by, the contradictions of a world on the march. Archaeological remains, island refuges for populations in transit, sublime cities, unspoiled natural spaces, the Mediterranean Sea is multiple and unique. Another destination on the edge of the Persian Gulf in Abu Dhabi where the Arab Emirate is constantly expanding and modernising. What other country in the world has changed so much these last thirty years? In the far south of the African continent another country continues to change: South Africa, with two oceans as its borders, the Atlantic and the Indian. From the Cape of Good Hope to the Namibian border, from Cape Town to the famous “garden route”, we soar above a magical country of magnificent and grandiose landscapes, of some of the most varied shores in the world. Morocco, Tunisia, Balearics, Malta, Italy, Mount Athos, Corfu & the Cyclades, Balkans, Abu Dhabi, South Africa.

PARADISE ISLANDS FROM THE SKY
Les îles paradisiaques vues du ciel

Travel to the heart of the South Pacific to discover French Polynesia, which spreads its 118 islands over a maritime territory of 4.5 million km² - the surface area of Europe. Seen from the sky in sweeping movements and through images of exceptional beauty, you can admire the incredible diversity of shapes, patterns and shades of the lagoons, atolls, forests and mountains. After a first stopover in magical Polynesia, we invite you to discover a bird’s eye view of La Réunion, New Caledonia and the Antilles. This new series tells us the story not only of seas and lands but also of people in their environment. A rich and unexpected discovery, a voyage of exploration to exceptional landscapes as seen from the sky by the birds.
All over the world’s seas, crews work and live on incredible floating units. Work boats, ocean liners, all sorts of crafts and yachts often have very special architecture, operation procedures, characteristics and roles... “Exceptional Boats” allows you to climb aboard these different ships and experience unique trips and surprising cruises by exploring them from top to bottom. Through the portrait of a captain, a crew member, an architect or a simple passenger, discover these ships which each tell us the story of a different maritime heritage, a different history of the sea and its relationship with Man.

6x13’ Luxurious Boats :
Queen Mary II - Maltese Falcon - Royal Clipper - Mirabella V - Aly-sia - Savarona

6x13’ Working Boats :
Blue Marlin - Hovercraft - Geo Challenger - Pharos - Skagerrak Abeille Bourbon
An on-going collection

AROUND THE SEA

Length:
32x 27’ to 40’
97x 16’ to 26’
76x 6’ to 15’

Directors:
Several

Producers:
Via Découvertes
Grand Angle Productions
Pacifico Island Productions

Coproducer:
France Télévisions
THALASSA
FAUT PAS REVER

Pacific Ocean, Caribbean, French coastline, Polar Ocean or African coast, “Around the Sea” is a discovery of the world through the sea. Enjoy the trip as we sail and learn everything about the aquatic life of our Blue Planet, through the eyes of the inhabitants, who live and work around these unusual places. A paradise for some and ecological suffering for others…
LIST of ‘HD’ EPISODES
An on-going collection
Sorted by length
2012 - 2019

• The Treasure of the Conch - 36' FRANCE
• Estonia, the mystery of a wreck - 35' SWEDEN
• Blue paradise - 34' FRENCH POLYNESIA
• The Silver Dragon - 33' CHINA
• The Huts of Bird Island - 32' FRANCE
• The Ice-Mad on the St. Lawrence - 32' CANADA
• Life on the Seine - 31' FRANCE
• My Atoll in Polynesia - 31' FRENCH POLYNESIA
• The Monster of the Panaglanes - 30' MADAGASCAR
• Makoko: The Black Venice - 30' NIGERIA
• Sierra Leone: Paradise in Hell - 30' SIERRA LEONE
• Shark Paradise - 29' FRENCH POLYNESIA
• Whale Love - 29' FRENCH POLYNESIA
• The Life of the Reef - 29' FRENCH POLYNESIA
• Costa Rica, a land for sale - 29' COSTA RICA
• La Isla de la Natividad - 29' MEXICO
• The Last Voyage of Auguste Poupin - 28' FRANCE
• The Sandman (Canada: profitable oil sands) - 28' CANADA
• High Tide for France - 28' FRANCE
• Dynamit Fishing in Kalayan - 28' PHILIPPINES
• Plunder in Siam - 28' CAMBODIA
• La Monique, a Cambodian scar - 27' NEW CALEDONIA
• Coaches and Swimmers - 27' SOUTH AFRICA
• Man and the Turtle - 27' FRENCH POLYNESIA
• Precious fins - 27' POLYNESIA
• At the sea school - 27' FRANCE
• Livingston, Garifunas Experience - 27' GUATEMALA
• Colorado, stealing the river - 27' USA
• Dauphinville - 27' HAWAII
• West coast trail - 27' USA
• Summit Meetings - 27' KENYA
• Fish Resources - 27' POLYNESIA
• Wrecks, sunken history - 26' FRENCH POLYNESIA
• Caledonian Curiosities - 26' NEW CALEDONIA
• Long live the pearl - 26' FRENCH POLYNESIA
• From island to island - 26' FRANCE
• The Peninsula of treasures - 26' FRENCH POLYNESIA
• Pelagia, our neighbours the whales - 26' FRANCE
• DCP, a buoy at sea - 26' POLYNESIA
• Marine birds, the light to danger - 26' FRENCH POLYNESIA
• Ciguatera, when fish turn poison - 26' NEW CALEDONIA
• Rescue our turtles - 26' NEW CALEDONIA
• Tipta, the life of a channel - 26' TAHITI
• Anchored to Loyalty - 26' NEW CALEDONIA
• Blue Electricity - 26' FRENCH POLYNESIA
• Hakahetou, the Marquesas village - 26' POLYNESIA
• The Blue Medicine - 26' POLYNESIA
• The Gardian Angels of the Pebble - 26' NEW CALEDONIA
• Hotels Go Green - 26' POLYNESIA
• Tales of the end of the World - 26' ANTARCTICA
• Empress of Ireland - 26' CANADA
• Jason - People Under the Sea - 26' MEXICO
• Boat People - 26' AUSTRALIA
• Lord Howe Island - 26' PACIFIC OCEAN
• The Sand Thieves - 26' CAPE VERDE
• Wild Pacific Salmon Revival - 26' PACIFIC OCEAN
• The Cowboys of the Bush - 25' AUSTRALIA
• Iraq, The shadows of war - 25' IRAQ
• Ravenel: the silent voices of St Pierre - 25' ST PIERRE & MIQUELON
• The Land of the Mermaids - 25' AUSTRALIA
• The Belém - 25' FRANCE
• Men of the cliffs - 25' PORTUGAL
• Swimming with bears - 25' CANADA
• A trip to Argentina for Quebec’s oceanographers - 25' CANADA
• Navigate to innovate - 25' CANADA
• The gold of the St. Lawrence - 25' CANADA
• Pierre Béland: Farewell to the whales - 25' CANADA
• A ship to be proud of - 25' CANADA
• The SS Eastland - 24' FRANCE
• The Normandy - 24' USA
• The Meknes - 24' ENGLAND - FRANCE
• The King’s Banquet - 24' AUSTRALIA
• Vahinés, from myth to reality - 24' POLYNESIA
• The Blackbeard’s Last Voyage - 24' USA
• The Forced Labourers of the Lagoon - 24' NIGERIA
• Fort-Dauphin, Black in white - 24' FRANCE
• Hawaïki Nui Va’a - 24' POLYNESIA
• The last journey of the Amoco Cadiz - 23' FRANCE
• The Ghosts of the White Bird - 23' FRANCE - USA
• The Last Men Of Paaling - 23' PHILIPPINES
• Scotland, a journey through the canal - 23' SCOTLAND
• My vacation with the Nudists - 23' FRANCE
• Crabs Galore - 23' AUSTRALIA
• The mysteries of the elver - 22' FRANCE
• The Wings of the Delta - 22' SPAIN
• The road - 21' HIMALAYA - INDIA
• Cirque Terre - 21' ITALY
• USA, the deep South by the water- 20' USA
• José Ignacio, the Latino St Tropez - 20' URUGUAY
• Harragas - 20' ALGERIE
• The Emperor of Terre Adelie - 20' FRANCE & ANTARCTICA
• The die hards of Beauduc - 19' FRANCE
• Alesund’s Slinningsbalet: the tallest bonfire in the WORLD - 19' SCANDINAVIA
• The Prince Who Vanished - 19' EUROPE
• The Lure of an Island - 19' ITALY
• What's in the water - 19' FRANCE
• Costa Rica, The Green Judge - 19' COSTA RICA
• Tales and Legends of Mount Aso - 19' JAPAN
• The Search for Atlantis - 19' MOROCCO - FRANCE
• Albania, The Battle for Paradise - 19' ALBANIA
• North Pole, Land of Asylum - 19' NORWAY
• The tidal bore - 19' FRANCE
• The Buchens - 18' HIMALAYA - INDIA
• The Little Napolitan Theater - 18' FRANCE
• Race Against the Tide - 18' FRANCE
• The Oyster Farmer who Blew Wall Street Apart - 18' USA
• The Miraculous Bee of the Lundas - 18' ZAMBIA
• The nut case race - 18' REUNION ISLAND
• The Bartherotte family - 17' FRANCE
• The Lazarcastra - 17' FRANCE
• Rescuers in Paradise - 17' POLYNESIA
• The Lerris Islands, an enchanted break - 17' FRANCE
• In the Land of the Turtles - 17' FRENCH POLYNESIA
• Hold your breath - 17' MAYOTTE ISLAND
• Cambodia Coastline for sale? - 17' CAMBODIA
• Dodo, the Dear Departed - 17' MAURITIUS
• Minoan, the Palaikastro Wave - 17' CRETE
• Tau’ Batu - 17' PHILIPPINES
• Hydra, no noise, no rush - 17' GREECE
• Milos, the kindly volcano - 17' GREECE
• Panos Theodorpoulos, tailor to the popes - 16' GREECE
• Lofoten Islands: for the love of cod - 16' SCANDINAVIA
• The White Cape - 16' SOUTH AFRICA
• In the Amazon’s Wild West - 16' BRAZIL
• Kite Crazy - 16' FRANCE
• Sea Rex, when the 3D reinvents reality - 16' FRANCE
• The Last Flight of a Spitfire - 16' FRANCE
• The Sum of the Orient - 16' INDIA
• The last flight of Saint Exupéry - 16' FRANCE
• Sylt, the Saint Tropez of the North Sea - 16' NORTH SEA
• Papy Tavi - 16' POLYNESIA
• Friluftslovi : the nordic secret to happiness - 15' SCANDINAVIA
• Aces over the Lagoon - 15' POLYNESIA
• Portrait of Vancouver - 15' CANADA
• The Knights of Seta - 15' FRANCE
• The Coelacanth - 13' USA - FRANCE - SWEDEN
• Island Emergency Service - 15' FRENCH POLYNESIA
• The Real Porquerolles - 15' FRANCE
• The Radijs, people of river and forest - 15' INDIA
• Shelia and her Apes - 15' ZAMBIA
• Sharks, the evolution - 15' USA
• In the steps of Whales - 15' EGYPT - USA
• SS John Barry - 15' SULTANATE OF OMAN
• The Mutineers of Libertalia - 15' MADAGASCAR
• HMS Britannic - 15' GREECE
LIST of ‘HD’ EPISODES

An on-going collection
Sorted by length
2012 - 2019

• HMS Victoria – 15’ LEBANON
• Mombasa – 15’ KENYA
• A Week in Balloons – 14’ IRELAND
• The Lizarazu, Brothers of the Shore – 14’ BASQUE COUNTRY
• In the pursuit of the Yeti - 14’ BHUTAN
• Yann Kersale: an Enlightened Artist – 14’ FRANCE
• Yacht People – 14’ MONACO
• A Slice of Cliff – 14’ FRANCE
• Return to Quemenes – 14’ FRANCE
• René and his canoe men – 14’ POLYNESIA
• Makatea, the sacrificed Island – 14’ POLYNESIA
• Treasure Hunter, a Portrayal of Luc Heymans – 14’ PHILIPPINES
• The Wreck of the Saint Géran: The legend of Paul and Virginie - 14’ MAURITIUS
• HMS Hermes – 14’ SRI LANKA
• The Buzzard’s Treasure – 14’ REUNION
• The Treasure of the Prince de Conti - 14’ FRANCE
• The Wasini’s Women - 14’ KENYA
• The Love Crusade - 13’ IRELAND
• Cape town, at the water’s edge - 13’ SOUTH AFRICA
• An eye on the Pebble - 13’ NEW CALEDONIA
• Sapeurs - 13’ CAMEROON
• Riding with the Timber Truckers - 13’ CAMEROON
• Goodbye Giglio - 13’ ITALY
• Operation Pelican - 13’ CORSICA
• Signal in Distress - 13’ FRANCE
• The Islands of the Gironde - 13’ FRANCE
• Traveller’s Log in Portugal - 3x13’ PORTUGAL
• Traveller’s Log - 9x13’ REUNION, GUYANE & ST. PIERRE ET MIQUELON
• Cape Horn - 13’ CHILE
• Baia - 13’ ITALY
• Plastic Art - 13’ INDIA
• Meera, Kavita, Shanti... and the other - 13’ INDIA
• Kawa Ijen - 13’ INDONESIA
• Merapi - 13’ INDONESIA
• Final signal - 12’ FRANCE
• Crackpots on the dike - 12’ FRANCE
• Camping Up North - 12’ FRANCE
• The Boat Lift - 12’ FRANCE
• The Last Line of Fishermen - 12’ BASQUE COUNTRY
• The valley of bricks - 12’ NEPAL
• Where have all the vahinas gone? - 12’ POLYNESIA
• Gawura - 12’ AUSTRALIA
• Rommel’s Treasure - 12’ CORSICA
• Southbend, Capital of Oyster - 12’ USA
• The Skeletons of Quemenes - 12’ FRANCE
• Hunting the Gouzou - 11’ REUNION ISLAND
• Cannes, the Festival Seen From the Sea - 11’ FRANCE
• The Sails of St. Tropez - 11’ FRANCE
• A Thorny Dish - 11’ FRANCE
• Message in a bottle - 11’ ENGLAND
• The Indies Company - 11’ FRANCE
• Yelle - 11’ FRANCE
• Trashvortex - 11’ PACIFIC OCEAN
• The Hermione: the great voyage - 10’ FRANCE ★
• In Flanders, around Dunkirk - 10’ PACIFIC OCEAN
• Trucks to go - 9’ POLYNESIA
• 20,000 Leagues over the Sea - 9’ FRANCE
• All my Life, I have had a Dream... - 9’ INDIA
• The Peladao, Football and Beauty - 7’ BRAZIL
• Current Accounts for the River Banks - 7’ BRAZIL
• Holiday on Moorea - 6’ POLYNESIA
• The Khoc Saat Salt Mine - 6’ LAOS
THE TREASURE OF THE CONCH
Le Trésor du Lambi
In the warm waters of the Caribbean, a superb shellfish is carving out a singular destiny for itself. Harvested since the dawn of time for its delicious flesh, the conch is now exciting the envy of others. For within the folds of its elastic flesh, the mollusk sometime conceals a pearl that can turn the heads of connoisseurs: fishermen, great jewelers and extremely wealthy clients. Exclusively a product of the wild, the conch pearl can fetch exorbitant sums, up to 200,000 dollars apiece! A price justified by its extreme rarity. On average only one conch in 10,000 produces a pearl and only one in 100,000 conceals a pearl of “gem” quality that will go to embellish some stunning piece of jewelry. Of a flaming pink color, unique in nature, conch pearls were long the preserve of crowned heads before falling into oblivion. Rediscovered in the 90s by an American adventuress, the pink pearls are to cultured pearls what a blue diamond is to an average diamond: a miracle of nature! From Japan to Honduras, from France to the Dominican Republic, “The Treasure of the Conch” delves into a highly confidential world and paints the original portrait of an infinitely desirable gem…

BLUE PARADISE
Paradis bleu
Polynesia is one of the most beautiful diving destinations in the world. Nearly 800 underwater species live together in this part of the Pacific. It’s a wealth that attracts lovers of lagoons and the deep blue from all over the world, ready to break the bank to enjoy a dip in this blue paradise! Diving with dolphins, underwater fishing and also aqua-safaris and meetings with marine film makers… Our enthusiasts tell their stories.

ESTONIA, THE MYSTERY OF A SHIPWRECK
Les mystères de l'Estonia
Accident or crime? The worst maritime catastrophe since the Second World War occurred fourteen years ago, and even today the nature of this drama is shrouded in mystery. Hurried instructions, hushed up responsibilities, arbitrary refusals to recover neither the bodies nor the wreckage by the Swedish authorities and troubling revelations have all opened the door on all sorts of crazy hypotheses. The result: a new official enquiry which reaffirms the accident theory, a theory which no one believes, least of all the families of the victims who cannot forget that the wreckage took place in the most troubling period after the Cold War… This documentary is an enquiry which will untie the knots of rumour, track down the truth, and investigate why nobody has, until now, been found responsible for the deaths of 852 people.

THE SILVER DRAGON
Rendez-vous avec le dragon
This is one of nature’s most unusual features: an inland wave far from the sea or the ocean. A wave that comes up the river against the current. A wave that the inhabitants of Qiantang have both feared and admired for 2,000 years. The Silver Dragon – or Chinese tidal bore – is not a wave that is easily tamed or understood. The phenomenon arises from the meeting of the incoming tide and the river’s outgoing current. The wave invades the estuary and comes up the river, filling it with a swirling wave. It has long brought destruction. With terrible power, the wave breaks dams and spreads turbid salt water into the fields. Famines have been frequent. The very votive population has begged its forgiveness, offered sacrifices, or shot arrows in its direction. Adopting transient aesthetic shapes, the tidal bore curls, tacks, accelerates, rolls, and defies all predictions. It thunders like a storm, jumps out when least expected, and draws the admiration of scientists. Today, dams and gigantic walls attempt to contain its undiminished power, and a festival honouring the spirits of the sea illustrates the renewed peace with the phenomenon.

THE HUTS OF BIRD ISLAND
L’île aux oiseaux
The ‘Ile des oiseaux’, Bird Island, is a tiny patch of earth in the middle of the Arcachon basin, accessible only at high tide. A world where land and sea intermingle, a natural, fragile territory with some fifty huts set in its centre that have been occupied by generations of the same families during the summer or for a weekend. In this closed world, snug from the external gaze, they live a life of Robinson Crusoe, without water or electricity, with the sensation of existing outside time. However, these huts, for the most part handed down by the ancestors of the present occupants, are affected by the law covering the seashore. Today the historic occupants are no longer owners, but subject to a permit of temporary occupation. The lease runs out in a few months and the occupants may have to hand over the keys to their little corner of paradise. A wrench. So they decided to act. For 8 months we set up our camera in the centre of this community, right at the heart of the life of the island and the occupants’ struggle.
THE ICE-MAD ON THE SAINT-LAWRENCE
Les Givrés du Saint-Laurent
The St Lawrence River is one of the most dangerous maritime routes to navigate on the planet. During the winter months, the Canadian Coast Guard icebreaker plows endlessly up and down between the Atlantic and Montreal to clear a passage for cargo ships. For three months we followed the daily lives of the crews of the Amundsen, one of Canada’s biggest icebreakers. The task of its crew is to free cargo ships trapped in the ice. However, the St Lawrence is not just a vital artery for the economy of Quebec, it also provides a formidable, open freedom for those who live along its banks. So our crew ventured onto the ice field together with some of those who are wild about the river. Rémi and his friends are experts at white fishing, an ancestral Amerindian technique consisting of tracking the fish under the ice. Every winter they set up a large, temporary village on the ice in the Saguenay fjord. Joannie steers between the drifting floes with the help of her ice canoe. Each adventure onto the river is an opportunity for her and her friends to measure themselves against the elements. We present a veritable epic ice adventure. A winter in Quebec with the ice-mad fans of the St Lawrence.

LIFE ON THE SEINE
Ma vie en Seine
Who really knows the Seine? This river is full of surprises. From Paris to the coast, enthusiasts lead an astonishing life on the Seine. Between the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame, the river’s most famous character is an electrician named Vincent. Sailing his little yellow speedboat across the city throughout the year, he repairs all riverboats and floating restaurants, or even assists boaters experiencing power failures. The Seine is a restless river, which only runs more smoothly as one travels away from Paris. Near Mantes-la-Jolie, Gilles and his family have been living for twenty years on a wild island called the Lorionne, 300 meters long, 30 meters wide. Leading a life of castaways on the island, they managed to connect electricity, find water and restore an abandoned house.

The Seine also has its own star: the only female cargo captain in France. Catherine has spent 13 years sailing the seas of the world, but now her life takes her back and forth between the port of Rouen and Caudebec-en-Caux, where she sails cargos of up to 200 meters long.

MY ATOLL IN POLYNESIA
Mon atoll en Polynésie
In French Polynesia, in the heart of the Pacific, far from the mountains of Tahiti, lies an archipelago that barely rises above the ocean: these are the Tuamotu islands, the land of atolls. Amongst these islands, the Arutua atoll is an exceptional place where land space seems of secondary importance. Circular in form, 29km across, the atoll is composed of 57 groups of islets surrounding an immense and extraordinary lagoon with waters so rich and so pure that fish and pearl oysters thrive there: a huge bounty for the 800 inhabitants of Arutua, pioneers in the farming and production of some of the most beautiful pearls in the world.

THE MONSTER OF THE PANGALANES
Le monstre de Pangalanes
In a tiny village along the banks of the Pangalanese Canal, life is peaceful. The men put food on the table thanks to the wealth of fish in this fresh water haven. The women busy themselves with household tasks and laundring at the edge of the canal and the children like to relax after school by jumping off the tiny mooring pontoon that serves as their diving board. An idyllic life in an earthly paradise. However, today is a day of mourning for this family living at the entrance to the village in a hut of woven bamboo. One of their sons has been taken by the “monster”, as they call it here. It’s a crocodile. This is the fifty-seventh attack this year and it’s far from being the last because here, every year, more than one hundred and twenty people are carried off by the “voay” (crocodile in Madagascan). But this time, Veloma, the village wise man, has decide to take things in hand and confront the animal force with force.

MAKOKO: THE BLACK VENICE
Makoko, la Venise noire
With its wooden houses on piles, channels with hundreds of pirogues reaching each part of the village and going from house to house, and tree-trunks by the thousand floating nearby, Makoko is an incredible village on piles. 60,000 people are thought to live in this suburb of Lagos. Fishermen mostly, coming from Ganvié (another pile-dwelling village, in Benin) or from the inland villages of Nigeria. The inhabitants work on Lagos harbour, run little shops, sell water and gas, or work for the wood traders. From the sky, it looks like a huge village crossed by hundreds of channels. Houses are sometimes isolated, sometimes reached by wooden foot bridges. The ones belonging to big families, or those lucky enough to have an income, are on two floors. All are made of wood and covered with bamboo, standing on piles driven deep into the mud of the lagoon. You can only get around the village by boat.
SIERRA LEONE: PARADISE IN HELL
Sierra Leone, un paradis en enfer
Bocuse and Cosmos are not from Lakka. They came here in the 1980s to earn a living in the tourist industry. They worked at Club Med, among others. The Club closed in 1992 because of the war. Lakka fell prey to rebels. There was no more trade. The two men fished to survive. At the end of the war, Bocuse and Cosmos decided to make the most of the knowledge they had built up at Club Med and set up a straw-hut bar on the beach. It was a roaring success thanks to the presence of 17,000 Blue Berets based in Freetown, about 20 km away. They became influential people in the village and even financed the campaign of the future mayor of Lakka. Today they also sponsor the local football team.

SHARK PARADISE
Le paradis des requins
In French Polynesia, Moorea, sister island to Tahiti, is paradise for lemon sharks. Experienced diver, Nicolas Buray, knows them well from several years of observation. The stocks of pelagic sharks and rays in the oceans are under threat. Ever since April 28 2006, French Polynesia, the size of Europe, has been the world’s most vast expanse of shark protection. Fishing for sharks and all forms of their commercialisation are now banned. Nicolas Buray takes us to “Shark Paradise” to discover a natural world preserved. On Moorea we discover the world of lemon sharks; on Rangiuira that of hammerhead sharks and leopard rays; on Tikehau we dive with manta rays and on Fakarava we confront the famous wall of grey sharks. The aim of his association is to gather all the information available on the entire shark and ray species of Polynesia. A process that is of great interest to scientists, and to spectators.

THE LIFE OF THE REEF
La vie du récif
Coral is the basic animal of the coral atoll: without coral there’s no atoll; without an atoll there’s no coral, etc., etc. With global warming, coral has become weaker all over the world, has turned white and, on certain barrier reefs, has even died. And yet coral is essential to the survival of atolls. The coral barrier forms a natural protection against assaults from the sea, cyclones, storms and erosion. It is also a vast underwater forest where thousands of species find shelter. An aquatic fairyland that delights divers worldwide. Within the calm waters there’s no shortage of endemic species, from here and from nowhere else. To protect the coral is also to protect the wild life that lives there. And, poetry aside, coral is also the larder for all those living along the shore, who are able fish there. When damaged, coral can also cause short-term harm such as ciguatera, more commonly known as “the scratch” because of the itching that it causes. When attacked, coral scars over, producing algae that is ingested by fish, which then pass on “the scratch” to the whole population, leading to a ban on fish consumption, which in turn is a disaster for the islanders!

COSTA RICA, A LAND FOR SALE
Costa Rica, une terre a vendre
Between the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea, the smallest country in Central America is now the planet’s champion in biodiversity. However, for several years, the success of ecotourism has been driving Costa Rica into runaway urbanisation. Today the country is for sale, regardless of biodiversity. That is why the State has created the Environmental Tribunal. A battle has been engaged. The green judges have declared war on illegal property developers.
**FRANCE**

**HIGH TIDE FOR FRANCE**

La mer monte

Rising sea levels looks like being of a problem than expected. Scientists now talk about a rise of about one metre by 2100. This rising of the waters will wreak havoc on the French coast. Will we give up land to the sea or not? Will houses, islands and villages have to be abandoned? What will happen to the waterfront havens of Languedoc Roussillon, or Brittany’s Isle of Sein, whose average altitude is only 1 metre? What will happen to Picardy’s Cayeux sur Mer, a town that is already below sea level? Its inhabitants and politicians are wondering how to anticipate the future. For the researchers, it’s already time to think ahead and prepare. It will not be possible to protect everything whatever the cost…”

**PHILIPPINES**

**DYNAMIT FISHING IN KALAYAN**

Pêche à la dynamite au Kalayan

One of the challenges facing sustainable fishing in the Philippines and islets of the island of Palawan is the prevalence of Dynamite fishing. Fishers create an improvised bomb out of a rum or Coke bottle and ammonium sulfate. The sound wave created by the explosion stuns the fish, which float to the surface, but it also destroys corals and seagrass meadows that can take years to recover from a single blast.
PLUNDER IN SIAM
Pillage Siamois
In the scenic Gulf of Siam, off the Cambodian coast, we find tiny Koh Sdach, “King’s Island”. Following the Khmer Rouge’s genocide, 600 families came here to live on its shores, fishing to survive. For the past few years, they have suffered dramatically due to the plundering of their waters by immense trawlers under the Thai flag that overfish the archipelago in violation of Cambodian law. However, certain governments seem to be profiting from the situation.

LA MONIQUE, A CALEDONIAN SCAR
La Monique, une blessure calédonienne
In 1953 the Monique disappears with all hands between Maré and Nouméa. There were 126 people aboard this tramp steamer that served the Loyauté islands. The event remains the most horrific maritime tragedy and also one of the major mysteries of New Caledonia. Because the Monique disappeared without trace in a very restricted area. Rumours abound about the tragedy and, even today, the theory of a shipwreck is often rejected. The tragedy of the Monique still leaves a deep scar on the people of Caledonia.

COACHES AND SWIMMERS
Maitres et nageurs
Aphelile has been able to swim since the age of 12. He lives some dozen miles from the centre of Cape Town near the Monwabisi beach that adjoins the last remaining “sharks” of Khayelitsha, the most deprived shanty towns in the giant agglomeration. This is where Aphelile lives. He is one of the rare breed of top-level, Black South African swimmers. An exception in a community that is barely familiar with the sea. In Cape Town, Monwabisi is the beach for the Black population. It’s a dangerous beach where every year the currents and the waves cause a string of drownings. A beach made all the more dangerous because most of those who go there cannot swim. For several years now, a swimming club at Monwabisi has been trying to knock the old ideas on the head: no, drowning is not a matter of fate; yes, Blacks can also learn to swim. This is Aphelile’s mission.

MAN AND THE TURTLE
L’homme et la tortue
Kalami Taputu and his family are the only inhabitants of Mopelia, an isolated atoll in the Polynesian Windward Islands. They live exclusively from the sale of copra. For years Kalami has watched impotently as fishermen from Bora Bora or Maupiti come to poach turtles. On Moorea, Doctor Cecile Gaspar, a vet, runs a clinic set up in the Intercontinental Hotel that treats turtles sent to it from all over Polynesia -more than 160 turtles in 6 years. The Te Mana Ote Moana association, which she founded in 2004, conducts a major educational and tourist programme. In the field, one of the association’s biologists, Mathieu Petit, has developed an underwater census system: the Manta Tow. However, the most efficient way is to entrust the protection of their turtles to the inhabitants of the various islands of Polynesia. Since 2006, the island of Tikehau has exercised that choice. With financial assistance from the Ministry of the Environment, the island’s people have hired a turtle warden. His name is William Harrys and he’s 50. His job is to ensure the well being of the turtles that come to lay their eggs on the island.

PRECIOUS FINS
Les précieux ailerons
In Polynesia, as everywhere else in the world, the sharks are dying out! Since the end of the 50s the shark population has been reduced by 90%. A principal cause of this is “Shark Feeding”… a practice that entails cutting the fins off of live sharks and tossing the sharks back into the sea… in this way, 100 million sharks die every year, 3 per second. The Polynesian government has decided to react and protect the sharks. They have banned the practice of “Shark Feeding “over their entire territory. “Shark Feeding” is a means of attracting sharks with meat or fish… and the tourist Scuba divers, crowded around the diveleader, take their photos, a fleeting memory of an exceptional confrontation. But does Shark Feeding change the behaviour of sharks? Does it make them more aggressive?
AT THE SEA SCHOOL
L’école de la mer
When you’ve lived in Brittany since you were a kid and you don’t like school, there is an obvious way out: the sea. Anthony is 19. He is the son of a farmer but he has no intention of getting stuck in the fields. He wants to take off and become a fisherman. He has enrolled in the maritime high school at Paimpol and is trying to get his professional diploma in fishing. He knows nothing of the sea and has everything to discover. Vincent is 20. He is looking for a summer job and dreams of becoming a lifeguard. He has to prepare for the examinations in swimming and lifesaving skills that he hopes will get him a job on the beach. Cécile and Cottin are just 17. They have decided to become sailors in the Navy. As the college doesn’t provide what they are looking for and they want a job right away, they are at the Ecole des Mousses in Brest. All of them are about to experience their first voyage at sea. But are they really cut out for that?

LIVINGSTON, GARIFUNAS EXPERIENCE
Livingston, l’expérience Garifunas
It was a Rasta by the name of Koukoul who introduced me to the extraordinary and little-known story of his people: the Garifunas. They were the only blacks to have landed without shackles in the Americas. They should have been descendants of slaves, but for a few of them history played a curious trick. Two boats from Africa were shipwrecked in the Caribbean near St. Vincent, an island which had not yet been settled. They took refuge there as free men and mixed with the inhabitants, the Carib Indians. A few years later, they landed in Central America, in Guatemala, and founded Livingston where they still live today. That is the city Koukoul goes back to for a few weeks each year after spending the rest of his time on a factory ship in Alaska. In the midst of his Garifuna community, he celebrates their successful fight for freedom with singing and dancing.

COLORADO, STEALING THE RIVER
Colorado, les voleurs de fleuve
The Colorado is the third longest river in the world. It rises in the United States and ends up 2000 kilometers south in the Cortez sea. To develop cities like Las Vegas and irrigate enormous swathes of agricultural land in the middle of the desert, the Americans built some ten dams on the Colorado. As a result only 9% of its waters reach Mexico. The Colorado delta is dying, along with its fish, mammals and plants. And its human population too. Today the delta has been reduced to 5% of its size, and all around has become desert, as far as the eye can see. A spectacular ecological disaster.

DAUPHINVILLE
Hawaï: le rêve de Dauphinville
Dauphinville. That’s the name of a community of 250 people who live along the same coast of a Hawaiian island. They have a common background. One day they gave up everything to come and live with the dolphins. A sedentary population of between one and two thousand long-nosed dolphins lives around the island. Over twenty years humans and wild dolphins have developed games they play together. The ethnic Hawaiians, descended from Polynesians consider this an affront, because in their culture dolphins are seen as deities and it is forbidden to approach them. Some militants also object to these daily swims.

WEST COAST TRAIL
Le sentier de l’extrême
Vancouver Island and its extreme coastal path. More challenging than Kilimanjaro and Mont-Blanc, it’s a mythic adventure for Anglo-Saxon walkers. To be completely alone for 6, 7 or 8 days with less than 20 kilos on your back, crossing rivers in a carriage suspended above the void, climbing wooden ladders of 200 steps, carefully moving forward on a sliding carpet of seaweed at low tide and walking, walking, with the constant possibility of meeting a bear or even a puma face to face! Such is the scenery. The creation of this trail marks an important point in the maritime history of Canada.

SUMMIT MEETINGS
Rencontres au sommet
Kilimanjaro, with its eternal snows and fragile glacier, is the dream for those seeking adventure through sensation and pushing their personal limits. Although the climb is not difficult technically, it is still a considerable feat to reach the summit. For five days you must deal with the cold, the wind and all the effects of altitude. On average, only a half of those that make the attempt succeed in reaching the top. To accompany them, hundreds of guides and bearers make climb after climb. These brave men, who risk altitude sickness like all climbers, are the admiration of those around them. “Summit Meetings” tells the story of climbing Kilimanjaro from the differing perspectives of a team of 35 Tanzanians hired to guide and carry the baggage of a group of 10 French people who have come to make their dream come true: gaze over Africa from a height of 5,895 metres and be one of the last few to witness what remains of the African glacier.
People and Places: Around the Sea

26' NEW CALEDONIA

WRECKS, SUNKEN HISTORY
Les épaves, l'histoire engloutie
There are few wrecks in Polynesia, but each of them has a story to tell... which we shall discover with three intertwined portraits: we go to meet Dominique, the artist who starts his sketches ten meters underwater; the Papeete naval brigade in full rescue exercise at a depth of 40 meters; and Robert Veccella, the passionate archeologist who takes us on a trip of discovery to one of the most beautiful of Polynesian wrecks on a site on Raiatea.stage for a real battle between economic necessity and respect for the environment.

CALEDONIAN CURiosITIES
Curiosités Calédoniennes
New Caledonia is a veritable sanctuary of biodiversity. Created from the movements of the Earth’s crust, it has retained a fauna, flora and a mineral world that are unique. With the Cook pine or the nautilus, these living fossils, it brings to mind those famous “curiosity cabinets” in Europe of the 17th century. These embryo museums, shrouded in mystery, exhibited rare objects representing the three realms of the living world alongside man-made creations. On the Grande Terre, nature has taken some special shapes and colors and one of the most remarkable man-made objects might be the gigantic mining operation going on there. Certain parts of the New Caledonian lagoon are listed as World Heritage. The inhabitants, aware they are the guardians of a veritable treasure, are backing the conservation movement. Let’s push open the door on this cabinet of living curiosities, the stage for a real battle between economic necessity and respect for the environment.

26' FRENCH POLYNESIA

LONG LIVE THE PEARL
Pour que dure la perle
Pearl production is the second largest economic resource in French Polynesia. This is an indication of the considerable scale of the efforts that must be put into preserving this activity both on the ecological and social level. Who are the people now working to this end and what are they doing? Let’s go and meet them on Tuamotu, Ranguiroa, the Gambier Islands, on Rikitea and Tahiti, in the Taravao district. We shall understand the formidable challenges they are taking up so that future generations can continue to live from this activity: the Pearl of Tahiti.

26' FRANCE

FROM ISLAND TO ISLAND
D’île en île
Who has never dreamed of going far away, for just a while, or for ever? For a change of air, a change of life... Or simply to live out some new adventure. Brittany and its islands have never been short of bold adventurers setting off to seek treasure, excitement or just to try a human experience. Patrick Saigot and his family settled on the Ile de Groix some 10 years ago. There they led a quiet, simple life till the day when the mussel farmer decided to up anchor and leave for the other side of the planet along with his wife, Faustine, and their three children. Destination: Madagascar with a new challenge to be faced. Patrick was going to open the first oyster farm on the island. Madagascar is one of the poorest places in the world. Patrick gave himself two years to pull off his gamble, two years to adapt the techniques of oyster farming, pass on his knowledge and offer a future to a village cut off from the rest of the world. We followed the family from Groix to Madagascar... An adventure far off the beaten track, an adventure from island to island.

FISH RESOURCES
Les ressources halieutiques
They take us on their boats to describe the many methods of fishing practised in Polynesia: lagoon, which means in the lagoons or on the underwater shelf to a depth of 100 metres, with resources linked to the bottom (known as “benthic”), or deep-sea, that is, off shore, with pelagic resources (that operate in mid water). The latter accounts for 300 direct jobs on 60 vessels and an annual turnover of 1 to 2 billion for 6,000 of the 8,500 tonnes that are fished.
THE PENINSULA OF TREASURES
La Presqu’île aux trésors
Tautira, the “peninsula” coast of Tahiti. A delicate operation is underway. It’s the delivery of fish spawn to the Tahiti Fish Aquaculture fish farm. Infinite precautions must be taken during the road journey from the Vairao Technical Fish Farm Centre to the floating cages of the farm. The swarm of spawn pours into the pure waters of the lagoon. They will take a year to reach a weight of one kilo. Getting to this point has not been easy. It took seven years to master the life cycle of this fish, the Platax Orbicularis (known here as the Parha Peue). The territory is conducting an extremely dynamic policy in the area of fish farming, banking on its future potential. In 2011, for the first time in history, people ate as much caught fish as farmed fish. At the farm, Thomas shows us the main stages in farming the Platax. We also meet his friend Tea, who presents a small aquaponics unit. This technique, dating back thousands of years, allows the simultaneous farming of fish and plants in a natural and almost self-sufficient ecosystem. The project is being closely monitored in relation to the future of fish farming and research is being devoted to it. Another small beast has been successfully farmed on the peninsula for some forty years now: the shrimp. Benjamin gives us a tour and shares his passion for fish farming with us. There are rewards, but also constraints in the production of shrimp. Gérard Cluzet, a biologist at IFREMER, is one of the shrimp pioneers in Polynésie. To him and his fellow team members we owe the protocol for shrimp reproduction and farming. The peninsula possesses two treasures here in matters of fish farming and they need to be protected. The growing needs of humanity, the pressure of over-fishing and the dwindling of fish stocks mean that this activity will certainly become indispensable.

PELAGOS, OUR NEIGHBOURS THE WALES
Pelagos, nos voisines les baleines
Only a few miles off the French Riviera, unexpectedly, one can see whales, sperm whales, common bottlenose dolphins... Their presence is more and more frequent, especially in the summer. To such an extent that a protection area has been created: the Pelagos Sanctuary. Thousands of marine mammals rise to the surface and meet men’s path in the very busy Mediterranean Sea. While some are fascinated by their presence and seek an encounter, others try to protect them at all costs. So how to get along? And what’s most important, how to share the territory with those strange neighbours coming from the depths?

DCP, A BUOY AT SEA
DCP, une bouée à la mer
It was in the 1980s that the DCP buoyage program for attracting concentrations of fish was introduced to Polynesia. Although at first sceptical, the fishermen very soon realised that there was indeed a concentration of tuna around these buoys. Along with Tetua, a young fisherwoman from the peninsula, Manui, head of the DCP program for the Marine Resource Department and Marc Tacquet, head of IFREMER, we set out to discover these bizarre buoys that have changed the existence of the coastal fishermen of Fenua.

MARINE BIRDS, THE LIGHT OF DANGER
Les oiseaux marins, la lumière de tous les dangers
French Polynesia is one of the richest tropical regions for marine birds. Although none of these species is really threatened today, the Tahitian petrel, a nesting marine bird, must now face the unsuspected danger from the growing urbanisation of the towns.

CIGUATERA, WHEN FISHS TURN POISONOUS
Ciguatera, quand les poissons deviennent toxiques
A group of scientists travels to Taomotu to check for the presence of Gambierdiscus Toxicus. This microscopic alga is the cause of Ciguatera, a food poisoning syndrome that is well known in the Pacific. The Taumotu Archipelago is one of the main suppliers of fish eaten on Tahiti and for some time now the number of Ciguatera type cases of poisoning has appeared to be increasing. Extremely concerned for the quality of their wares and anxious over the security of the supply chain, the fishermen sounded the alarm in Papeete. They reported the problem to the Louis Malardé Institute, a world leader in research into marine toxins. Our scientists scour the lagoon, take samples of alga and of fish for analysis. They also gather evidence from locals on their knowledge of the phenomenon and their means of curing it.
FRENCH POLYNESIA

Tiputa, la vie d’une passe

A channel is a corridor, a thoroughfare, a passage between the ocean and the lagoons. A channel is much more than a simple geographical detail: it is first and foremost the concentration and the transmission of life. In the Tuamotu archipelago, one hour’s flight from Tahiti, Rangiroa enjoys the luxury of being the second largest atoll in the world. Nearly 1,450 square kilometres of shades of blue, bordered by two main islands. Two villages that face each other and, in the middle, the famous Tiputa channel around which the whole life of Rangiroa is organised. This channel is essential to the life of the lagoon, but it governs the animal life under the water just as much as it does that of the people on its shores.

NEW CALEDONIA

Amarrés aux loyautés

New Caledonia is a land that is booming, notably thanks to the nickel extracted from the Grande Terre. Constantly growing, Nouméa will have a population of 135,000 by 2020. Modern, urban and enjoying economic expansion, the city is attracting the majority of people from the Loyalty Islands. The exodus from Ouvéa, Lifou and Maré is so great that there are now more Loyalty islanders on Grande Terre. Some, conscious of the wealth of their natural heritage and deeply attached to their cultural customs, have decided to reverse the trend and remain to work on their islands.

BLUE ELECTRICITY

Electricité bleue / Au fil de l’eau

Lost in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, the island of Fatu Hiva lies in the Marquesas archipelago. There’s no airport so the only means of reaching the island is by a four-hour, often rough, sea crossing. On this patch of earth, the 250 inhabitants of the village of Omoa have learned to manage by themselves, going so far as to experiment with hydroelectricity more than twenty years ago. Today, the river that runs through the village provides 100% of their energy requirements. From Fatu Hiva to Tahiti, the islands of French Polynesia are moving to energy independence thanks to hydroelectricity.
HAKAHETAU, A MARQUESAS VILLAGE

Hakahetau, un village marquisien

Or, the role the sea plays in the everyday life of the Hakahetau valley on the island of Ua Pou, in the Marquesas. Martin Tahiatohiupoko is a deep sea line fisherman; Adrien Hokauopokou, known as Ataï, trains on his competition canoe every day, but is always sure to trail a fishing line behind him; Leon Kaiha, known as Mui, and Angélo Fai, sharpen their underwater guns. The village women get ready for the acrobatic harvest of shellfish from the rocks for the forthcoming night of the full moon, shellfish the whole village will enjoy on Sunday after Mass. The tamers of wild horses prepare for the mountain capture. They later tame the horses in the sea because it’s easier. And finally, Peo Makario finishes building the mango wood canoe commissioned by fisherman Martin Tahiatohiupoko. The whole village has been in rhythm with the ocean since the dawn of time and the children of Hakahetau are not going to prove the contrary.

THE BLUE MEDICINE

La médecine bleue

At the dawn of the 21st century medicine is facing a doomsday scenario: bacteria and viruses have developed resistance and current medicines are no longer effective enough. So we must now create or find new molecules in order to produce the medicines of the future. For researchers and the pharmaceutical industry, the sea represents a major hope. Unknown, barely explored, the therapeutic potential of marine species is doubtless considerable. In New Caledonia the lagoon, listed as a world heritage site by Unesco in 2008, is a gigantic reservoir of biodiversity. The medicines of tomorrow may lie hidden in the depths of this Pacific archipelago. An archipelago with exceptional natural resources.

THE GARDIAN ANGELS OF THE PEBBLE

Les anges gardiens du caillou

Our exploration of the exceptional sites of New Caledonia begins in the sky, on board the South Province’s helicopter. At the helm, Martiel Dodasne. Martiel is a photographer who lost the use of his legs at the age of 16. So today it is with his eyes, his benevolent gaze and his sense of the image that he makes his living. Martiel is employed by South Province charged with the task of supervising the environment and photographing anything that might appear to him harmful to nature. So it is with him that we will fly over three remarkable sites of New Caledonia before landing there and lingering in order to discover them better. Everybody knows -without knowing it- the Heart of Voh. This heart of palétuvier mangrove trees deep in the swamps of New Caledonia was made famous by another aerial photographer, Yann Arthus-Bertrand. And then our final flight takes us to the south west of La Grande Terre, onto the Needle of Prony. However, there we have to take to the sea in company with geologist Fabrice Colin. He knows better than anyone this unique corner of the world, which is a piece of ultramafic rock thrust into the ocean.

HOTELS GO GREEN

Les hotels passent au vert

Ecology has become a valuable marketing tool and cannot be ignored when wooing the guests of luxury hotels. In fact, over recent years we have seen a veritable race between hotel managements. It’s all about who can introduce the most original and innovative measures in the field of sustainable development. At all costs you have to reassure your guests as to your “carbon footprint” credentials in paradise settings. Everything is designed to relieve the guests of any sense of guilt during their stay.
TALES OF THE END OF THE WORLD
Chroniques du bout du monde
Antarctica. The glaciers and the mystery of this far-away and unknown land have always given cause to dream. And yet, Antarctica is not hospitable to people. Antarctica is beyond human norm. Its winds are super-powerful, its temperatures the lowest in the world, its glaciers are fearsome. With my film crew I sailed aboard the Admiral Viel, a Chilean Navy icebreaker, for an exceptional voyage to the white continent. We had the good fortune and the dazzling experience of encountering the wild life, of sharing the lives of the sailors and scientists living in the most total isolation, surrounded by Nature at its most sublime. To see and to understand the exciting work these men and women accomplish every day in the protection of nature is to receive a simple, yet wonderful lesson in humanity. lie hidden in the depths of this Pacific archipelago. An archipelago with exceptional natural resources.

JASON - PEOPLE UNDER THE SEA
Jason - Statues sous la mer
Nobody had thought of it but he had the idea. Nobody would have dared to do it, but he did it. Jason Taylor is a young English artist. An artist who has spent a long time as a diving instructor. He has two loves: the beauty of underwater landscapes and creative sculpture. Why not combine the two, and put statues on the seabed? And why not create a huge underwater museum that you can visit in diving-suit or admire from the surface with a mask? That’s what Jason Taylor has done, first by himself on a small scale on Grenada Island, and then by directing a mammoth project in Cancun, on the Caribbean coast of Mexico. And as you might well imagine, concrete statues rapidly undergo some big changes underwater: they become covered with curious and fascinating plants, their expressions change, so that their faces are no longer recognizable. Fish come to play and crustaceans take refuge in this maze of artificial reefs. But having fish wandering around the museum is fine. One of the goals of the operation is to save the underwater environment in Cancun, Mexico. This film invites you to follow this first ever project of its kind from the first stages to the final apotheosis.

Winner of the PALME D’ARGENT at the Marseille underwater Film Festival 2012

BOAT PEOPLE
La solution indonésienne
Not anybody can get into Australia. The message is clear and the method is meant to be radical. Boat people heading for the island-continent will no longer set foot on Australian soil unless they are first recognized as refugees. That is the aim of Kevin Rudd’s government. To achieve this, a solution known as “Indonesian” has been put into place. The principle is simple: return all “boat people” heading for Australia to Indonesia. Once sent back, they are placed in detention centers while their demand for asylum in Australia is processed.

LORD HOWE ISLAND
Lord Howe Island
The remnant of a volcano, rising from the sea. Two mountains attaining a height of over 800 metres curving round a lagoon inhabited by tens of thousands of multicoloured fish, teeming among extremely rare corals that are intact and quite unique, since they are the furthest south in the Pacific Ocean. The tiny Lord Howe archipelago, off the coast of Australia, encapsulates the landscapes and marvels of the South Pacific in the space of 12 kilometres. Since its consecration by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site its 300 inhabitants face the thousands of constraints which go with that honour. Here the rules are even stricter than on the mainland. The goal of the Island Council is not only to preserve the natural habitat in all its glory, but also to try to get it back to its state before Man arrived in the 19th century. It will go to any lengths to achieve that. The latest extravaganza is the reintroduction of a giant insect that everyone thought was extinct. A vast programme is underway, which may seriously perturb the lives of the islanders…
CAPE VERDE

THE SAND THIEVES
Les voleuses de sable

With steep slopes, lush valleys and dream beaches, Cape Verde is a small corner of paradise lost in the middle of the Atlantic – a thin sliver of land left to the whims of the ocean. However, despite appearances, these rocky islands do not have many riches to offer their inhabitants. Most raw materials are imported - all except sand. This has become the only source of income for the women of the archipelago, who sell it on to the rapidly-growing building industry. Every day, there are hundreds of them literally scratching out a living, burrowing and sifting on the beaches. And when there is no sand left, they dig even further... out into the sea. The ecological consequences are devastating. On Santiago, the main island, this pillage continues on a daily basis. The beaches are disappearing and salt is moving inland, wiping out whole plantations. The government of Cape Verde has prohibited the removal of sand and defines it as a critical resource. Nevertheless, altertive solutions are hard to come by - and in a country with high unemployment, women have no other choice than to be sand thieves.

PACIFIC OCEAN

WILD PACIFIC SALMON REVIVAL
Saumon, le retour

150 years ago, the first pioneers reached the Pacific Northwest, discovering an inexhaustible ocean of fish, shellfish and molluscs. They got along with the great chief of the Squamish, Chief Seattle, and concluded a treaty to share the riches with them. The indigenous peoples of Puget Sound and the white pioneers worked together, much to the misfortune of the salmon. From the 1920's to the 1970's, the fishing fleet increased 100-fold, with canneries on all the docks. Millions of cans of salmon were shipped throughout the United States, by the train-load. Salmon were fished using simple nets, rotating seine nets, hook and line, and even on some rivers, a fish wheel – a water wheel with baskets to scoop up the salmon. It was carnage. But times have changed...

AUSTRALIA

THE COWBOYS OF THE BUSH
Les Cowboys du Bush

At the heart of the Australian bush, 300 km from the nearest town, three generations of the Mills family prevail on a ranch the size of a French department. During five months, they gather 30,000 cows and bulls that live in the wild. It’s called “mustering”: this is the most important moment of the season. It is also the most dangerous. To succeed, these cowboys use helicopters supported on the ground by motorcy-cles and buggies. The exercise is extremely dangerous: every year, two or three accidents have marred Australian breeders. The crash is never far away and maneuvers in riverbeds, among the trees, are all the more delicate because it is hot. In the air or on land, these women and men take great risks to build a herd and bring in a pen erected in the middle of nowhere. They sometimes encounter “scrubbers” an Australian term for wild bulls with huge horns that have never seen anyone. Goring can be fatal for buggies drivers or motorcycles and drivers then put their helicopter in impossible positions to make them toe the line. Here are their lives during this extreme period.

IRAQ

IRAQ, THE SHADOWS OF WAR
Irak, les ombres de la guerre

Constant wars, embargos and border tension have transformed Iraq’s sole opening to the sea into a living hell for the men and women who live in the region. A ghost port, a graveyard for hulks... Amidst the ruins, however, Basra is trying to revive its glorious past. For the first time since the American invasion of Iraq, a team of reporters has been to see what thirty years of war have done to the city, its estuary and its people.

ST PIERRE & MIQUELON

RAVENEL: THE SILENT VOICES OF ST PIERRE
Le Ravenel

On January 28 1962, at Saint Pierre-et-Miquelon, near the Ile aux Marins, the trawler “Le Ravenel” disappears with 15 seamen on board. Some fifty years have passed and the island is still profoundly marked by the tragedy. Not a trace. Not a single survivor. No certain explanation of the cause of the sinking. A mourning that is extremely painful for the families. All that remains are the questions, the doubts and the suppositions that arise with every fresh discovery or account. All that remains also are the suspicions regarding the inquiries, which many consider unfinished and rigged to conceal a truth that cannot be admitted. And, finally, all that remains is the burning passion of those who devote their time and their money to finding the wreck and obtaining some shred of truth.
MERMAIDS EXIST. WE'VE SEEN THEM. TO BE HONEST, THEY DON'T HAVE QUITE THE CHARM THAT THEY ARE ATTRIBUTED IN THE TALES OF SEAFARERS. WHAT CONFUSION THERE MUST HAVE BEEN IN THE MINDS OF THOSE LONG-HAUL SEAMEN BECAUSE YOUR IMAGINATION MUST BE RUNNING WILD TO CONFUSE A MERMAID WITH THE ANIMAL THAT INSPIRED ITS MYTH: THE DUGONG. A MARINE MAMMAL WITH GENEROUS CURVES, CERTAINLY, BUT WHICH CAN GROW TO FOUR METRES AND WEIGH UP TO NINE HUNDRED KILOGRAMS. NOBODY WILL HOLD IT AGAINST THE MYTH MAKERS. THE LEGEND OF THE MERMAIDS FEEDS OUR FANTASIES AND WILL SURVIVE FOR ALL TIME. HOWEVER, FOR THE DUGONG, THINGS ARE NOT SO SURE. TODAY THE DUGONG IS THE ANIMAL THAT IS MOST UNDER THREAT OF EXTINCTION. IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, POLLUTION, URBANISATION OF THE COASTS AND HUNTING HAVE VIRTUALLY DECIMATED THEM. ALTHOUGH CITES* HAS BANNED THE CAPTURE AND TRADE IN DUGONGS, IN MANY COUNTRIES IT HAS ALREADY DISAPPEARED COMPLETELY. IT IS IN THE PERSIAN GULF AND, MORE ESPECIALLY, IN AUSTRALIA, THAT YOU ARE MOST LIKELY TO FIND THEM. ON THE ISLAND CONTINENT, THE DUGONG IS SCRUPULOUSLY PROTECTED AND THE AUTHORITIES DON'T STINT ON RESOURCES. AT THE SAME TIME, ABORIGINALS AND THE NATIVES OF THE TORRES STRAIT STILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO HUNT THEM FOR FOOD. A CUSTOM THAT IS NON-NEGOTIABLE, BUT NOW REGULATED. *CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA, KNOWN BY ITS ACRONYM CITES, OR THE WASHINGTON CONVENTION.

THE BELEM
Le Bélem
The Belem? Everybody knows it. The ‘Trois mats’, last of the great commercial French sailing boats of the 19th century still navigating, is a remarkable witness to French maritime history. A merchant ship, a pleasure boat, and today a shipping school, its noble allure traverses the centuries, and its functions never cease to evolve. It is astonishing that there has been so little documented regarding daily life aboard the Belem; the way the crew live day by day, the intimate ties they have with their boat and the transmission of wisdom they are responsible for. For ten days we follow these sixteen men, as they sail the boat alone or guide apprentices from all around the world…

MEN OF THE CLIFFS
Au péril des falaises
At the extreme south west of Portugal, men risk their lives fishing by the cliffs. They jump into the turbulent waters searching for barnacles, or descend from the peaks using nothing but a cord attached to the rocks, looking for the best place to drop their line.

SWIMMING WITH BEARS
Il nage avec les ours
In this program, we meet an underwater filmmaker who specializes in cold water diving. Mario Cyr, the man who swims with bears or walruses, invites us inside his world of beauty and risks.

A TRIP TO ARGENTINA FOR QUEBEC’S OCEANOGRAPHERS
Cap sur l’Argentine pour les océanographes québécois
Let’s board Coriolis II for a scientific mission in the South Atlantic. Quebecers and Argentineans scan the San Jorge Gulf, where the exploitation of oil deposits is planned. This long expedition, will earn researchers from Université du Québec à Rimouski international recognition.
People and Places: Around the Sea

NAVIGATE TO INNOVATE
Quand naviguer rime avec innover
In this program, we board the powerful icebreaker l’UMIAK I in waters off the coast of Labrador, where drones are used to help navigate through ice.

THE GOLD OF THE ST. LAWRENCE
L’or du Saint-Laurent
We head to île Bicquette in the St. Lawrence estuary; a unique sanctuary where duck down worth its weight in gold is harvested by hand: eiderdown.

PIERRE BÉLAND: FAREWELL TO THE WHALES
Pierre Béland : l’adieu aux baleines
Pierre Béland and his belugas: an ultimate heartfelt cry to protect a threatened and emblematic species of the St. Lawrence River.

A SHIP TO BE PROUD OF
Un navire qui rend fier
This program takes us to an Italian shipyard to witness the birth of a future flagship for Quebec’s fleet of ferries.

THE SS EASTLAND
Le SS Eastland
Certain dramas throughout history become unjustifiably famous, to the detriment of other similar tragedies. We all remember the tragedy of the Titanic. But who knows that a few years later, an other equally terrible catastrophe will enter the annals of the great maritime disasters of the 20th century? The sinking of the S.S. Eastland is one human tragedy that time has wiped from memory, but which possess all the ingredients of a heart-rending and mysterious story…

THE NORMANDY
Le Normandie
When France declared war on Germany on September 3 1939, the Normandie had just docked in New York. Moored at pier 88, this majestic trans-Atlantic liner, flagship of the French luxury fleet, will remain safe from the conflict. Her fate takes a dramatic turn, however, in the winter of 1942. America has just entered the war and Roosevelt decides to requisition the Normandie to ferry troops to the European front. During preparation work a fire breaks out on board, causing the loss of the ship. On February 10 1942 the Normandie ends her career at the bottom of the Hudson River. Accident? Or sabotage? The docks of New York are the backdrop to this incredible maritime story. An intriguing investigation where we encounter the American naval secret services, saboteurs from the “Cagoule” (a right wing extremist organisation) and finally the New York Mafia and its infamous godfather, Lucky Luciano. In the end, the Normandie will have sailed a mere four years. Long enough to enter into legend.

THE MEKNES
Le Meknès
The French steamer, Meknès sails from Southampton on July 24 1940 with more than 1300 French seamen aboard. Around 10.30pm, when off Portland, she is intercepted by the German ship S-27, which opens fire with machine guns. The captain stops his ship and clearly signals his name and nationality. However, the only response he receives is a torpedo and the ship sinks within ten minutes.
THE KING’S BANQUET
Le festin du Roi

When she arrived in Melbourne, the biggest city on the south coast of Australia, to meet Rob Torelli, 7 times Australian free-diving spearfishing champion, Sabine Quindou never imagined the fear she would have to face. When not training, Rob fishes for abalones, a shellfish known in Europe under the name of ormeau. The two species fished in this part of the Indian Ocean, greenlip and blacklip, are worth their weight in gold on the markets of Asia. Rob, who readily admits he is “obsessed by the sea” wanted to pass on his passion to Sabine by initiating her into his profession. The problem: Rob dives in a setting that is sumptuous but dangerous, at the foot of the cliffs of Lady Julia Percy Island, a territory he shares with the biggest seal colony in the country and their natural predators, the sharks.

VAHINES, FROM MYTH TO REALITY
Vahiné, entre mythe et réalité

Vahines, from myth to reality… She is beautiful and exotic. For more than two centuries she has inspired artists, poets, travellers and filmmakers. She is half real, half mythical. She is a pure male fantasy, a slogan for paradise…. But does Vahiné really exist? In days gone by and today, who is she?

THE BLACKBEARD’S LAST VOYAGE
Le dernier voyage de Barbe Noire

After years of underwater search, the exploration company Intersal and the American Department of Archaeology have doubtless located the wreck of Blackbeard’s last ship. The Queen Anne’s Revenge was a war machine armed with forty cannons and she made famous the most notorious of pirates. As they raise her remains from the sea bed, the treasure hunters of North Carolina imagine that one day they will lay hands on the legendary treasure of Captain Edward Teach…

THE FORCED LABOURERS OF THE LAGOON
Les forçats de la lagune

In the middle of the night they dive and dive again into the murky waters of Lagos lagoon. Equipped only with simple buckets, most of the time naked, they scratch at the bottom ten feet below to scrape up the sand before the sun becomes unbearable. Slowly their pot-bellied ships are filled, one free dive after another, and then they hoist the sails and head back to the village. These forced labourers of the lagoon might be right out of deepest antiquity, with no other power than their muscles and the wind. Thousands of dives to provide the capital’s construction sites with its raw material. Harrowing work, but with a timeless beauty. At dawn, as the Nigerian capital is awakening, sailing boats with sumptuous patchwork sails glide softly to their home port. The men are exhausted. The images are resplendent. Then they must off-load the sand, basket by basket. The boats are built on the beach, the sails sewn in back yards out of rice sacks and the trucks gnaw at the mountains of sand erected by the men. And yet, the whole sand economy is run by women, in this violent country, which long ago granted them equality. Pauline is the owner of a boat, and of a crew. She runs her little business like an astute businesswoman. Without voyeurism, sharing the lives of the workers, Thalassa spent several days aboard these boats in the company of the sand divers. A report on one of the many faces of people at work and an incredible human adventure.

FORT DAUPHIN IN BLACK AND WHITE
Fort Dauphin, en noir et blanc

In Fort-Dauphin, everything has changed over the last few years. Before it was a sleepy little town in the south of Madagascar. No road to get there, no industry, often no electricity, just a tiny port lost in the middle of an immense and magnificent bay. The little town was something of an attraction for curious foreigners: it was like a little tropical paradise. Then one day big decision was taken. The Madagascan government signed a contract with Rio Tinto, a multinational specializing in mining operations. This company started to develop the world’s largest mine for Ilmenite, a mineral containing iron and titanium, which is mainly used in plastics and paint. It was a revolution! The biggest deep-water port in the Indian Ocean was built, with a total investment of around 850 million dollars. Obviously most of the inhabitants lives were turned upside down. The seemingly miraculous inflow of money has created a considerable economic boom, and hundreds of jobs. But as with all revolutions some people feel that they have suffered. They sold their land under pressure and now they have nothing. And in Madagascar land is often all you have to leave to your children after a lifetime of work.
People and Places: Around the Sea

**POLYNESIA**

### HAWAIKI NUI VA’A

**Hawaiki nui va’a**

This is the story of a handful of islands in the middle of the South Pacific. Men of God arrived here in pirogues more than 5,000 years ago. In memory to those times, the Polynesians have created a pirogue race linking together 4 islands in the Leeward Islands archipelago. 130 km to get to Bora Bora, three days’ racing, 2,500 oarsmen. This is the race of all superlatives, the hardest, the most dreaded, the finest. It is called the Hawaiki Nui Va’a. It is the world’s toughest marathon.

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### THE LAST JOURNEY OF THE AMOCO CADIZ

**Le dernier voyage de l’Amoco Cadiz**

In March 1978, in the middle of a storm, a giant oil tanker, adrift, runs aground on the reef outside a small harbor in Brittany. We relive the long hours of the salvage operation by talking to those who witnessed the event and to naval experts. The crew is safe, but the ship’s hull rips open to flood its black, liquid cargo over more than 200 km of coastline. Fauna and flora are polluted and fishermen can longer put to sea. This shipwreck is one of the worst ecological disasters of the 20th century. Despite the measures taken since this disaster, the threat of an oil slick still hovers today.

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### THE GHOST OF THE WHITE BIRD

**Les fantômes de l’oiseau blanc**

On May 8 1927, renowned pilot Nungesser and his navigator, Coli, take off aboard the White Bird, a bi-plane that is designed to take them across to the coasts of America. It’s a mighty challenge, but they intend to take advantage of the winds to cross the 3500 miles that separate them from New York. A few hours after take-off, witnesses spot them of the coast of Etretat and then nothing. What happened? Did they get lost? Did the White Bird crash into the sea? Did they succeed in reaching the shores of America? These are questions that haunt Bernard Decré, a devoted fan of sailing and flying. He tries to retrace the journey of the White Bird step by step, hoping to prove that the aviators, even though they disappeared, really did cross the Atlantic. From the coasts of Brittany to Washington, by way of Paris and the St Pierre and Miquelon archipelago, his exciting quest tells us more about this incredible attempt to cross the Atlantic.

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### THE LAST MEN OF PAALING

**Les derniers hommes de Paaling**

The Sulu Sea, known as Jolo, is one of those “black-listed” maritime areas. The advice is strict: don’t go there because of the instability… both political and climatic. It’s a hostile place that has driven the people who live there to engage in the craziest forms of fishing. The most spectacular amongst them is known as Paaling. It takes place in deep water and requires the participation of some fifty divers. Because of their agility and their docility children have long served the interests of such fishing, unique of its kind. Today it is considered to be one of the most dangerous in the world, although one that brings the highest returns to its practitioners, but at what cost? Drownings, diving accidents, environmental damage, what remains of this tradition today? Who are the last of the Paaling fishermen?

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### SCOTLAND, A JOURNEY THROUGH ITS CANAL

**Ecosse, au fil des lochs et des écluses**

Each year, in the heart of the Scottish Highlands, a nautical expedition takes place using sails and paddles. This extraordinary voyage passes through the Caledonian Canal, an immense 19th century construction connecting Scotland’s Atlantic west coast to its North Sea east coast.

Through the canal’s 29 locks and Scotland’s famous Lochs, including Loch Ness, Thalassa followed a French crew aboard their sailboat as they discovered this authentic and wild environment, which is also one of Europe’s least populated regions.

From Fort William, on the Atlantic coast, to Inverness, on the North Sea coast, through the Highland’s magnificent valleys, Thalassa plunges viewers into Scotland’s exceptionally wild and natural landscapes.
MY VACATION WITH THE NUDISTS
Mes vacances chez les naturistes
Prescribed by doctors a century ago as “treatment for microbes”, nudism has become, over time, a social phenomenon that has been built up as a way of life, even a philosophy. What we are now witnessing is the emergence of a new generation of fans of total tanning: more militant, more concerned with crossing the barriers that society imposes on them. Because, even if meeting a naturist today is commonplace, many taboos still surround the practice. We take advantage of the summer months, the season for such meetings, to assess the current state of naturism, not only in France, but also in Croatia, two countries considered the Meccas of naturism. Naturism for the beach or naturism for life? It's a personal choice.

CRABS GALORE
Crabes en stock
In 2004, Australian scientists made an astonishing discovery: in Melbourne Bay they found the biggest gathering of spider crabs in the world. Brought to public attention by Jacques Perrin's film Ocean, hundreds of thousands of these crustaceans migrate once a year to the same place at the same time. The reason is still unknown. Sabine sets out to learn more about this strange phenomenon. But the murky waters don't reveal their mysteries so easily.

EMPIRE OF IRELAND
Le Titanic du Saint Laurent
On May 29 1914, one of the most modern liners of its age is wrecked on the Saint Laurence River. The Empress of Ireland was making a shuttle run between Canada and Europe. There are more than 1,000 dead. Two years after the sinking of the Titanic and despite improved safety measures, the law of the series continues. Everyone knows the story of the Titanic, in contrast to that of the Empress of Ireland. A few years ago, a young historian, born on the banks of the Saint Laurence, decides to revive the forgotten story of the "Titanic of the Saint Laurence". However, his research to discover the exact circumstances of the tragedy runs up against a number of questions. There are still some shadowy areas surrounding the exact circumstances of the tragedy...

THE MYSTERIES OF THE ELVER
Les mystères de la civelle
It's a rare and highly-prized marine species, a tiny species with huge commercial value, a migratory fish capable of traveling thousands of kilometers across the Atlantic to reach the fresh waters of rivers: it's the elver, the baby eel. Once teeming along the waters of the Loire, the elver, prized for its rare taste, is now an endangered species.

THE WINGS OF THE DELTA
Les Ailes du Delta
With its dunes and its wetland areas, the Ebro Delta is a paradise for birds and a favourite haunt for ornithologists. In this protected area, we follow Rémi, a French ornithologist newly arrived in Barcelona. In every season there is an extraordinary diversity of species to be observed: flamingos, terns, ducks and herons that nest upon these lands or make them a stop-over on their long migration routes. With a team of bird-ringers from the Nature Reserve, he is taking part in a survey of an endangered species: Audouin’s Gull. The Ebro delta is also the granary of Spain. A vast, flat delta ideal for growing rice for over a century.

THE ROAD
La route
Crossing mountain passes of over 5,000 meters, the road leading to Manali in the Ladakh region in the extreme north of India, is one of the two highest roads in the world. Open three months a year, it becomes a hive of activity. 3000 to 4000 trucks use it every day. Behind the wheel of their truck, Tunduk and Gyalson will have to overcome the road’s many dangers to deliver their cargo of cement.

CINQUE TERRE
Vendanges vertigineuses
Riomaggiore, Manarola, Vernazza, Corniglia and Monterosso make up the Cinque Terre. The exceptional character of the landscape of this coastal, rural region of Liguria led UNESCO to class it as a World Heritage site in 1997. However, with the abandonment of farming activity putting this treasure in danger, the Cinque Terre National Park is trying to restore the terraced slopes and encourage responsible tourism.
People and Places: Around the Sea

USA, THE DEEP SOUTH BY WATER
USA, le Grand Sud au fil de l'eau
From the State of Georgia to the Gulf of Mexico, across Alabama and then down the Mississippi to its mouth, “USA, the Deep South” is a journey of encounter with those who love the Deep South. Elgin Wells combines his two passions: music and stunt flying. Pilot, musician, poet, he is one of the few in America to present nighttime aerial displays. At Natchez, on the banks of the Mississippi, Pat Martin and Gay Guercio open the doors to Stanton Hall and Longwood, two magnificent mansions in the heart of the old cotton plantations. In the Atchafalaya Basin, an extraordinary nature reserve that is a paradise for birds, crawfish and alligators, Roy Blanchard and Shane Doucet are fighting to preserve their identity as Acadians, descendants of the first immigrants, who still speak old French.

JOSE IGNACIO, THE LATINO ST TROPEZ
Jose Ignacio, le Saint Tropez latino
Every age has its fashions. For several years now a tiny South American village has become established as the new glamour destination. Just a few miles from the major seaside resort of Punta del Este, José Ignacio was until recently just a tiny fishing village battered by the winds. Today, international stars like Ralph Lauren, Shakira and Naomie Campbell have made this astonishing place their choice. Every New Year, the population of the village increases one hundred fold. The jet set arrives discretely to party and find a unique balance between luxury and authenticity. Who pointed the way to his tiny patch of land in the South Atlantic? Why have they chosen this place rather than another? How are the locals coping with being suddenly fashionable? Will José Ignacio put that mythic village of Saint Tropez in the shade?

HARRAGAS
Harragas, arrière plan
Frontignan, January 2009. In the biting cold of this bitter winter a film is being made. As if it was an emergency. Most of the sequences happen in the water, in a miserable little boat, into which are squeezed several young men and a young woman, all Algerian. That's in the script. It's the story of the Harragas, which means the ‘burners’. They choose to make their past go up in smoke by burning their papers. They prefer to risk everything rather than stay in their country. It's not easy shooting in these conditions, sitting on a barge for hours on end, bouncing up and down on the winter waves of the Mediterranean. The technicians are in an endless confrontation with the sea. It’s no super-production. The young actors seem intimidated by the situation. They stick together and don’t mix with the film crew. Some of them only speak Arabic and feel rather lost in the port of Frontignan.

THE EMPERORS OF TERRE ADELIE
Les Empereurs de la terre d'Adélie
This story begins with a childhood dream and a deep fascination with birds. As the years went by, the child clung on to his dream and became an ornithologist specialising in penguins. For almost 40 years he followed the path of these strange birds which inhabit the edge of the world. Research Director at the CNRS in Strasbourg, Member of the Academy of Sciences, Yvon le Maho has carried out several polar missions to the Antarctic. From his trips to the South Seas he has brought back magnificent images and much scientific data as well as a question that concerns us all: what kind of world will we leave to our children? Having over-specialised in adapting to their natural habitat, it is animals such as the penguin that are most at risk from the effects of global warming.

THE DIE HARDS OF BEAUDUC
Les irréductibles de Beauduc
On a beach in the French Camargue region, a community of die hards is fighting to maintain their space of liberty. The village of Beauduc is a hamlet of a few dozen cabins that stand apart and it’s existence is threatened.

THE TIDAL BORE
Mascaret
Around Saint-Pardon, on the shores of the Dordogne river, thousands of spectators come every year to watch the tidal bore phenomena when the full moon arrives. Dozens of surfers seize this unique opportunity to surf this huge wave, side by side, in a very atypical in-river dance.
THE PRINCE WHO VANISHED
Le prince disparu
While underwater archaeologist Luc Vanrell was working to elucidate the mystery of the death of St Exupéry, he came upon the trail of another strange affair. Near the Riou archipelago, within a few dozen metres of the wreck of the plane flown by the author of the Petit Prince, he chanced upon another wreck: that of a German plane... So, at the same spot under the sea, lie two planes from the Second World War: one German, the other French. Is there a link between St Exupéry’s crash and this German plane? Thanks to an incredible investigation and following the discovery of a skeleton on the Riou archipelago, Luc Vanrell swiftly solves this new enigma. A journey full of twists and turns between the Bay of Marseilles, Germany and California...

THE LURE OF AN ISLAND
La tentation de l’île
You don’t come to Filicudi by chance. This is the most distant, the wildest, and the oldest of the Aeolian Islands, born as a marine volcano, a million years ago. The landscape is harsh, rough, angular. Here, there are no big hotels and no special attractions. A few scattered clifftop houses, lost among the vegetation, in a wilderness of volcanic rock. This is not an island for everyone but it seems that once you have set foot on it you might not want to leave. For Marina, Monica, Giovanni and Francesco it’s a bit like the island of Peter Pan. One day they decided to leave everything behind to be closer to nature, fleeing the chaos of the city to get back to essential values. They chose Filicudi. Perhaps we all have a dream island waiting for us somewhere.

WHAT’S IN THE WATER
Histoire d’eau
In 2009, the simulations made by the Surfrider association on the quality of bathing water came like a cold shower: if nothing is done, by 2015, 10% of French beaches will be banned to bathers. And a quarter of them will see their water quality down-graded. You won’t suspect anything when you go to take a swim this summer, but coastal local authorities are developing a wealth of ingenuity to guarantee you safe bathing. And to keep their beaches open as long as possible during the season. The quality of the water is a big attractive argument. But do you know what the criteria are for such quality? What do we look for? Is a “Blue Flag” floating before your eyes any guarantee? And what are the threats hanging over our beaches? Today, the quality of bathing water has become high stakes for every community along the seashore.

COSTA RICA, THE GREEN JUDGE
Costa Rica, le juge vert
They call him “the green judge”. He’s the first President of the Environmental Court of Costa Rica. Snuggling between the Pacific and the Caribbean, the smallest country in Latin America is famous for being the planet’s champion of bio-diversity. However, the success of eco-tourism is pushing Costa Rica towards galloping urbanization.Today, the country is up for sale, to the detriment of its natural wealth. That is why the State has set up the Environmental Court. Battle is engaged... The “green judges” of Costa Rica have declared war on corruption and outlaw developers. Bertrand Edel and Nejma Berder accompanied the countrywide inspection by the incorruptible José Lino Chavez, President of the Environmental Court.

TALES AND LEGENDS OF MOUNT ASO
A l’ombre des volcans
Japan has more than 200 active volcanoes. In Kagoshima, in the south of Japan, 700,000 people live in the shadow of a potentially dangerous volcano. Not far away, on Mount Aso, thousands of tourists come to sniff the sulphurous odours at the rim of its crater. From lyrical farmers to committed researchers, Sarah Carpentier has met the people who live in cohabitation with their smouldering neighbours - half alert; half fascinated. A traveller’s log.
THE SEARCH FOR ATLANTIS
A la recherche de l’Atlantide
Atlantis is one of the most exciting myths in Western history. A myth that has been turning heads for more than 2000 years. Over long years who has not searched for a trace of this sunken city that only exists on a few pages in the works of Plato? So much so that it has been discovered everywhere, from the Atlantic to the Antarctic. Therefore nowhere. However, in 2001, Jacques Collina-Girard, a French prehistorian and geologist, put his finger on a high seabed off the straits of Gibraltar. And for the first time, the myth recorded by the Greek philosopher seemed to be confirmed.

ALBANIA: THE BATTLE FOR PARADISE
Foire d’empoigne
Albania has a treasure which is unique in Europe: a hundred kilometres of practically virgin coastline. It is superb, and everybody wants it. The problem is that the land was nationalized for 40 years and now no-one is quite sure who it belongs to. At the end of the communist era the state did not give the land back to its former owners, preferring to redistribute parts of it to the peasants. The result is a surreal real estate tangle which leaves no-one unscathed. A dream location has become the scene of personal conflicts, revolts and arbitrary demolitions while developers and the mafia try to get their hands on this treasure. 20 years after its passage from communism to capitalism, Albania is still paying the price.

NORTH POLE, LAND OF ASYLUM (2008)
Pôle nord, une terre d’asile
On the Norwegian islands of Svalbard, close to the North Pole, all nationalities are welcome and immigration is free. But this icy Noah’s Ark has very particular living conditions: winter is one long night lasting four months with temperatures approaching -50° C, there is neither maternity ward nor cemetery, and polar bears are a day-to-day threat forcing inhabitants to go armed with a weapon.

ALESUND’S SLINNINGSBALET: THE TALLEST BONFIRE IN THE WORLD
Le Slinningsbalet d’Alesund : le plus grand feu de joir du monde
Every June 24th, across Norway, the bonfires of Midsummer’s Eve mark the beginning of the summer season. This tradition is particularly important in the town of Alesund. Here, more than anywhere else, people understand fire’s destructive and regenerative role. The people of Alesund have a peculiar relationship with fire. They fear it as much as they respect and celebrate it!

THE BUCHENS
Les Buchens
In the Pin valley, one of the most remote areas of the Indian Himalayas, the Buchens offer one of the few entertainment available to local residents. At once actors, shamans and exorcists, they move from village to village to perform their art. A Buddhist tradition dating back to the 15th century, which Sonam, the Buchen leader, passes on to his son. The Buchens are also the guardians of an amazing and dramatic ritual called the Ceremony of the Stone.

THE LITTLE NAPOLITAN THEATRE
Le Petit Théâtre Napolitain
With washing hanging from windows, Vespa horns blaring in the air and the hustle and bustle of the street, welcome to Naples, an open air theatre which plays host to as many comedies as tragedies. Full of paradoxes, the city is melting pot of the best and the worst of human nature; beauty, ugliness, splendour, misery. It is as if the city is in constant flux, as if it hesitates between light and darkness. But it’s the Neapolitans who make Naples; without them, it wouldn’t be the same city. Playful, inventive and comedians at heart, they have learnt how to tame this metropolis and to simply take life as it comes. Despite all the problems, they seem to know the secret of living a happy life. It’s a secret that they keep as they take us for a tour of this most incredible and paradoxical of cities.
RACE AGAINST THE TIDE
La marée au galop
Once a year, four beaches in France turn into race courses while the tide turns. At noon, you would never imagine a horse race. Nor at 7 o’clock. However, between the two, a track is drawn out and a hundred horses take part in several races. The State Betting organisation sets up its stands and takes bets from thousands of spectators. The course officials judge the finish, they follow the race in cars to ensure that the trotters remain within the rules and, if necessary, they consult the video images recorded by the Horse Racing Federation. For several hours the beach is no longer a beach… At Lancieux we follow a race against time… and against tide...the world today…

THE OYSTER FARMER WHO BLEW WALL STREET APART
L’ostréiculteur, qui a fait exploser Wall Street
Like all rich New Yorkers, Mike Osinski one day buys himself a magnificent secondary home on Long Island, at Greenport on the Peconic Bay to be precise. He learns that the place is a famous centre of American oyster farming. Without really knowing how to go about it, he decides to farm a few oysters at the bottom of his garden and becomes an oyster farmer. And so his second life begins… because before that Mike was a big shot on Wall Street, directly implicated in the subprime crisis that is shaking the world today…

THE MIRACULOUS BEE OF THE LUNDAS
La miraculeuse abeille de lundas
We know about the big wild beasts of Africa… but Sarah Carpentier set out in search of the tiny beast… the Zambian wild bee, to be precise. After two days along tracks, she plunged into one of the largest tropical forests in the world and met the country’s traditional beekeepers. For two centuries the Lunda tribe has been setting hives in the trees, 50 feet above the ground and they produce honey that is incredibly pure. Today, this nectar is worth its weight in gold… the Lundas’ honey is purchased by an organic brand and marketed in Europe. A fresh perspective for one of the poorest tribes in Africa.

THE NUT CASE RACE
La course des fadas
They call it the Diagonal of Fools. The Grand Raid, which is held every year on Reunion, is one of the most testing races in the world. This year 2,700 runners will cover 170 kilometres of tracks that cross the landscapes of the island listed as a UNESCO world heritage site. During the race, however, it’s hard to admire the view. You have to commit yourself to take on the mud, the rain, the solitude and the lack of sleep. Those first home will take over 24 hours to reach the finish line; the stragglers will go more than 3 days without sleep. Once you start up a canyon or climb a mountain it’s difficult to turn back. Three competitors explain what motivated them to partake in such a challenge. They each have very personal reasons for wanting to push back their limits.
THE BARTHEROTTE FAMILY
La tribu Bartherotte
Benoît Bartherotte, a former director of a high fashion house, spent all his fortune in the construction of a dyke that was supposed to protect his land from high tides. For forty years, hundreds of thousands of trucks came to discharge rocks to stabilize the coastline.
Today, in front of the dyke of Pyla, the land on which he built a few dream huts has become a paradise on earth. His children are now taking over…

THE LANCASTRIA
Le naufrage du Lancastria
On June 15 1940 the steamer Lancastria leaves the English port of Plymouth bound for Saint-Nazaire. Its mission is to embark English and Polish troops. The Lancastria already has a considerable number on board when, around 2pm, the Germans launch an air attack. The Lancastria is hit by a salvo of bombs. The Lancastria lists, turns over and sinks in 24 minutes. Two sinkings, two martyred ships in the year 1940. Sixty years after the events and nearly three generations later, fresh investigations are opened and the mysteries subjected to the scrutiny of historians.

RESCUERS IN PARADISE
Les sauveteurs du paradis
Sam Roscol is an athletic 50 year-old and he’s Mr. Safety in Polynesia… 1.85m of energy, commitment and love of life. Sam Roscol is the head of the GPI, the Polynesian Emergency Service. With his team of volunteers, he is responsible for the safety of people on Polynesian territory in case of natural disasters. Their activity: rescue… anywhere, under any circumstances… cyclone, tsunami, accident on the mountain or at sea, plane crash… the range of their interventions is wide. But when he’s not on a mission, Sam and his team play at explorers. He’s already opened up some 180 canyons by making some tricky passages safe. We accompany Sam Roscol and his team during their training and we follow one of their dangerous missions step by step.

THE LERINS ISLANDS, AN ENCHANTED BREAK
Lerins, une parenthèse enchantée
Sainte-Marguerite and Saint-Honorat are two small islands off the Canne’s croisette. A genuine haven of peace with untouched wilderness, they have protected their singular identity and are one of few idyllic settings. Despite the frenzied crowd that disembarks every day in the summer, the Lérins Islands remain a unique paradise where time seems to have stopped. Follow this guided tour for an unusual stroll around these two islands where several worlds meet. Amusement, nature, culture and discovery are the main ingredients of this insular cocktail that is worth seeing!

THE FOULEES DU GOIS
Les foulées du Gois
Since the eighteenth century there has been a two and a half mile causeway connecting the island of Noirmoutiers to the mainland, emerging and disappearing with the tides. This unique site is known as the Passage du Gois. Since 1987, an equally unusual race has been held there. Once a year, a selection of thirty top class athletes race against each other, although it is really a race against the rising tide. Accompanying several key characters, we plunge into the ‘Foulées du Gois’, to see what goes on before and especially during the race. On land, at sea, and in the heart of the action. It’s a race strictly for enthusiasts where the best athletes on paper are rarely the winners and the most important person is not a runner but the starter. Like we said, this race is like no other.
FRENCH POLYNESIA

IN THE LAND OF TURTLES
Au pays des tortues

Around a hundred turtles are caught every week in French Polynesian to end up most often on the plates of rich Tahitian worthies! Turtle meat is still highly prized amongst the Polynesians: in Papeete they are ready to pay more than 250 Euros for a 5kg pack. Knowing that a turtle can often weigh more than 100 kilos, the profits for poachers are substantial. On average an adult turtle can fetch up to 20,000 Euros. Especially during the laying season between the months of August and January. And yet this animal is one of the species protected by the Washington Convention! So when the customs service gets involved sanctions are heavy. Moana had that painful experience. Arrested with two turtles poached off the coast of Tetiaroa, he was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment, his boat was seized and he was ordered to pay a fine of more than 10,000 Euros. Michel Arakino was the only one to extend a hand. Michel eats turtle meat but doesn’t deal in it. Tattooed to his fingertips, he is an impressive figure. “Honu, turtle in Polynesian, is in our genes, our flesh,” as he puts it.

MAYOTTE ISLAND

HOLD YOUR BREATH
Apnée en duo

In 2010, a couple of free divers made a film that touched more than ten million people on the Web. “Free Fall” rocketed them onto the international media stage. Julie Gautier, the champion, and Guillaume Mery, the quadruple world record holder, broke fresh ground in the practice of free diving. In their world the sporting and the aesthetic performance are intimately bound. We produced their portrait during a stay on the island of Mayotte, tracing Julie’s childhood footsteps.

CAMBODIA

CAMBODIA, COASTLINE FOR SALE?
Cambodge, une côte à vendre?

The 350 kilometers of Cambodian coastline seem almost insignificant compared to the immense coasts of neighbouring countries on the Gulf of Siam. However, for the past few years, its beaches and mangrove swamps have kindled strong desires. After years of obscurity, the coastline of the Khmer kingdom is for sale to the highest bidder...

MAURITIUS

THE DODO, THE DEAR DEPARTED
Dodo, le cher disparu

On the island of Mauritius, the dodo is printed on bank notes and its image is reproduced to infinity on Tee shirts and on the fronts of bars and hotels. The dodo is an emblematic creature for the island, but also for all the species wiped out by the actions of humans. So many symbols for a fat pigeon that became extinct three centuries ago! Everybody thinks they know it, but it turns out to be quite difficult to understand. What do we really know about it? What is left? Not a great deal. From the island of Mauritius, to the USA via the Netherlands, we set out to discover an animal that, in a curious way, fascinates us.

CRETE

MINOAN, THE PALAIKASTRO WAVE
Minoan, la vague de Palaikastro

Five years ago, a tsunami devastated South-East Asia. Its images left their mark on the world. What the world does not know is that the tsunami of 2004 was to unlock one of the greatest of archaeological mysteries: how to explain the rapid decline of the Minoans, that remarkable Bronze Age civilization which played a central role in the development of Western culture? For some years, archaeologist Alexander MacGil livray has studied in Minoan civilisation. A member of the British School in Athens, he is excavating the Palaikastro site, to the east of Crete. He was unable to explain some unusual sedimentary layers discovered on the site and on the beach. Until he too saw the terrible images of the tsunami at the end of 2004…
TAU’T BATU
Tau’t batu
They have been walking for hours through the jungle. They come from the high plateaus to the south of the island of Palawan in the Philippines, abandoning their houses on stilts and their fields to escape from the typhoons and torrential rains of the monsoon. They do this every year. They migrate to the mountains and seek the sanctuary of their cliffs, peppered with caves and rocky shelters. Together we reach the cave of Signapan. What do we know about them? They spend the five months of the monsoon season here and they feel at home. Their families have occupied the same caves for generations. There are only a few thousand Tau’t Batu left. The name means “people of the rocks”. The Manila government accords a strict protection to their homeland, hours on foot from the nearest village, on the edge of the jungle, at the edge of the world.

HYDRA, NO NOISE, NO RUSH
Hydra, sans bruit et sans fureur
A passing visitor to Hydra doesn’t notice it right away. But, very quickly, he senses that something is different: that something is missing and that it’s not at all unpleasant. And, sure enough, this island is special in Greece, unique… It’s one of the rare spots in the world where there are no motor vehicles. Not a car, not a motorbike, not a motor scooter! Nothing, apart from two tiny garbage trucks, an ambulance and two fire-cars, which practically never ever go out. It has to be said that this village of 2,500 and the rest of the island have never allowed the car in. The lanes here are narrow, and there are steps everywhere… And, most important, traffic has been banned since the island was listed in the 1960s as a result of the campaign led by actress and singer Melina Mercouri. Result: on Hydra, you walk… a lot. A portrait of these courageous and stubborn Hyrdiotes.

MILOS, THE KINDLY VOLCANO
Milos, les bienfaits du volcan
Milos is unique amongst the Greek islands. A tiny patch of earth of 160 km2 with extraordinary mineral wealth. Because Milos is a volcano, a sleeping volcano to be sure, but with just enough wreaths of smoke in its crater to remind the island’s 5,000 inhabitants of its presence. As one eruption followed another (the last dates back 80,000 years) it formed the rocks to provide a veritable treasure store that men have been exploiting for thousands of years. This volcanic activity has also created exceptional and bewitching landscapes and a large part of the islanders today live from this “fire from the earth”. And some others in a more unusual fashion.

PANOS THEODOROPOULOS, TAILOR TO THE POPES
Panos Theodoropoulos, tailleur des popes
Old wooden paneling, ageless tailor’s shears, cloth of brocaded gold neatly arranged in showcases… Going into Panos Théodoropoulos’ workshop is like entering a cocoon. You feel calm, protected, outside of time. His great-grandfather opened the shop, more than a century ago. It is the apple of Panos’ eye. He’s about forty and he is a tailor. His clients are the popes: orthodox priests from all over Greece. With his dozen seamstresses, he makes their albs, their chasubles and their shawls… uniquely made-to-measure. It’s a fine trade because the Greek church is not experiencing the crisis. And yet Panos is only one of two still practicing the art. His shop is in the heart of Monastiraki, the old quarter of Athens, with its small traditional restaurants and its flea market.

LOFOTEN ISLANDS: FOR THE LOVE OF COD
Aux Lofoten, la morue est reine
Nestled at the world’s end, in northern Norway, the Lofoten islands offer a surprising scenery. Peaking at over 1000 meters above sea level, the picturesque mountains are surrounded by turquoise waters. Situated above the Arctic Circle, the islands nevertheless enjoy mild temperatures thanks to the warm air brought in by the Gulf Stream, which protects the seven-island archipelago from extreme weather conditions. Thanks to this exceptional climate, life in Lofoten is surprisingly frantic in the middle of winter. Every year, between January and April, the world’s largest reserve of cod migrate to the tiny archipelago to spawn en masse. A miraculous fishing follows, feeding the region since the 10th century! Once dried, the fish is referred to as ‘salted cod’, before making its way to the Portuguese, Spanish and Italian markets.
THE SUN OF THE ORIENT: HUNTING THE TREASURE OF SIAM
Le soleil d’Orient, à la recherche du trésor de Siam
Sometime during the year 1681, a ship of the French Indies Company disappears in the middle of the Indian Ocean. This is not just any ship: it is the galleon of the Sun King, the largest vessel in the French fleet and the symbol of the power of the crown. In its holds it carried a treasure, which the King of Siam (now Thailand) wished to offer to the King of France as a mark of friendship because the two powers were on the point of signing a military alliance for the control of the famous Spice Route. The vessel’s disappearance is a mystery. It excites a good many questions… and a good many fantasies. And so, today, treasure hunters are determined to get their hands on the “Grail”.

THE LAST FLIGHT OF A SPITFIRE
Le dernier vol du Spitfire
Fabrice Corbin is a most unusual hunter of wrecks. With a shock squad, he got it into his head to refloat a Spitfire, buried in the mud of the Orne estuary since June ’44… The task turned out to be much more complicated than was thought. From setback to disaster, Fabrice takes us with him on an adventure that is full of surprises.

THE WHITE CAPE
Le Cap, la blanche
Lying nearly 10,000 kilometres from Amsterdam, Paris or London, Cape Town is without doubt the whitest and most European city in Africa. An enclave in the heart of the black continent. Just as it was in the sixteenth century when Dutch pioneers or French Huguenots were touched by the grace of the location and never left it. They created a jewel out of this extreme point of Africa, transplanting their architecture, their interiors, their customs, their spirit of enterprise. Three centuries later, with Apartheid abolished, the descendants of those Cape pioneers, whether of Dutch or British origin, perpetuate a way of life at the very end of the African continent that is quite apart. Nowhere else in Africa do they hunt to hounds or play cricket with such passion. Nowhere else in Africa do they produce so many cheeses and wines, on estates that are still called “La Provence” or “Le Bonheur”.

KITE CRAZY
Les Zinzins du zef
Last April the town of Berck sur Mer celebrated the 25th International Kite Festival, an event that over time has become the number one date for every amateur or professional of the sport. For more than a week, thousands of eyes were glued to the skies over the Opal Coast. Joel Goupil has spent his whole life working in the family wire-making factory near Orleans. He has been coming to Berck sur Mer for over 20 years and every year he produces a creation out of wire and cloth that is more extraordinary than the last. Nicole and Daniel run an insane risk: to fly through the air to fulfill the dream of Icarus. A thousand stars shine in the eyes of Daniel Clément from having studied the sky. He is the organiser and so the success of the event rests upon his shoulders, but on the weather too… the edge of the world.
People and Places: Around the Sea

16’

16’

BRAZIL

IN THE AMAZON’S WILD WEST
En plein far-west amazonien

Christophe Cousin begins his journey in the heart of the forest, at the iron mine of Carajás, in the heart of the Amazonian wild west. It is the largest iron mine in the world. A train trip and a few days later, he stops in Serra Pelada, where there are “cowboys” on every street corner. Obviously this is no longer the gold mine portrayed in Salgado’s photos in the 80’s, but it still retains a good measure of gold rush spirit. They keep digging and they keep looking... Chico does it in his kitchen. Underneath, he has a shaft 90 feet deep where he still nurtures his hopes of wealth. But times have changed. Now the giants of the mining industry are casting their shadow over his hole. Our route also crosses the region of Eldorado dos Carajás. Here, the forest gives way to ranches. We meet real ‘rancheros’, cattle ranchers with branding irons and jingling spurs. The train stops at Sao Luiz, in the state of Maranhão, which was colonized by the French. The town’s historic centre has remained almost intact, while at its port the iron reaches the sea.

16’

NORTH SEA

SYLT : THE SAINT TROPEZ OF THE NORTH SEA
L’ile de Sylt: le St Tropez de la Mer du Nord

The island of Sylt is part of Germany’s heritage. The Saint Tropez of the North Sea, tourists, the rich and famous and more ordinary people all head to this island “en masse”. In the tourist season, the island’s population swells from 20,000 inhabitants to one million. However, Sylt is no German Ibiza. There are no large buildings or disfigured landscapes. On the contrary, Sylt has managed to remain natural and wild, which no doubt explains why a square metre of land in Sylt is worth the same as on the Champs Elysees... Yet a shadow hangs over Sylt: the island’s days are numbered. This 30 km long by 400 m wide beach is disappearing little by little, pulled away by the sea. Each year, it is estimated that 1.50 m of the coastline disappears. Residents and summer visitors alike have learned to live with this ever-present threat.

16’

FRENCH POLYNESIA

PAPY TAVI
Papy Tavi

In Polynesia they have the vaa in their blood. The vaa is the traditional canoe… the vessel in which the ancestors of the Polynesians conquered many islands of the Pacific. Today it is the number 1 sport in Polynesia, practiced by more than 30,000 ardent enthusiasts. Among them, Papy Tavi. At 72 this rower is a warrior. He manages the Faa’a team, a club from the popular neighborhoods. He has trained hundreds of champions, who have gone on to become stars of canoeing. Among his latest recruits is the young Matéari, 18. In a few days, he will compete for the first time in a three-day canoe race out at sea, a superhuman effort over 126 km.

15’

SCANDINAVIA

FRILUFTSLIV : THE NORDIC SECRET TO HAPPINESS
Le Friluftsliv : le secret du bonheur nordique

In Norway, time spent in nature is considered a way of life, almost a philosophy. Norwegians call it “Friluftsliv”. Stine and Hege, two sisters in their thirties, are fond of it. Whenever they can, they spend time alone in nature, away from their families and the contingencies of urban life. This time, they are traveling to an isolated region of western Norway, looking for one of the most beautiful panoramas in the country.

15’

POLYNESIA

ACES OVER THE LAGOON
Les as du lagon

In another life they were fighter pilots or mechanics working for Boeing. Then, one day, they decided to make a long-held dream come true: move to Tahiti and fly over one of the most beautiful places in the world. Stéphane Chantre and Vincent Roux are aerial aces. They set up their flying school eight years ago. They teach aerial acrobatics to visiting tourists and the inhabitants of the island. They also provide air transport to the small, private islands that have no commercial flights. We fly with Vincent over Tahiti and Moorea as he performs stunts whose secrets are known only to him. Stéphane is coaching him for the next international aerial acrobatics championships. Initiation to flying, dropping parachutists, carrying passengers to the most unlikely of air strips, we discover Vincent’s hectic life spent between looping-the-loop and flighting over the Polynesian lagoons.
**Ville de rêve**

Vancouver has always been in the top 5 of the three most significant international studies that rank cities according to their quality of life. Is it because of its unique geography, the mountains and the ocean? Whatever: Vancouver is approved unanimously. One likes to live there, to work there or simply relax. However, the city has more than a lifestyle to offer. Vancouver is different from other North American cities. It dreams of being the greenest city in the world before 2015...

**Les chevaliers de la Tintaine**

A unique event takes place on the last Monday of August in Sète: The “St. Louis Tournament.” Thrust forward by rowers and armed with lances the local stars clash in the tradition of the chivalrous water jousts of the seventeenth century. For a day, ten thousand spectators line an arena set up on Sète’s Royal Canal. The atmosphere is electric. The St. Louis is much more than an annual celebration; it is the battlefield where the rivalry between several neighboring cities has been played out for centuries. Each city has its lord. One will be proclaimed king and become part of the legend.

**Coelacanthe - sortie des eaux**

The coelacanth is the most observed animal after the human being. And we continue to analyze it without cease. This famous fish possesses particularly primitive characteristics that permit the study of one of the key moments in the history of life: the emergence from the water. In other words, the moment when a vertebrate became a land animal around 350 million years ago. Over the last twenty years there have been an increasing number of discoveries. From France to the USA, via Belgium and Sweden, we dive into the very heart of a question that fascinates palaeontologists.

**Urgences dans les îles**

In French Polynesia the word has entered common parlance: to be “evasaner”. In other words to be evacuated for medical reasons. In a territory that is as big as Europe, distances mean that Emergency Medical teams must literally “fly” to the aid of the injured and the sick. A single medical system that is tending to grow at the expense of medical services on the islands. Fewer dispensaries on the remoter islands and a concentration of resources on the hospital complex in the capital, Papeete. When the nearest hospital is more than 1,500km away, it’s like flying out of Paris to aid a sick person in Bucharest! And to give birth, women sometimes have to start out for the maternity hospital a month before term. In every case, the plane is the only means of saving or delivering life.

**L'authentique Porquerolles**

The island of Porquerolles is the largest of the archipelago of islands off Hyères. Known as the ‘rare pearl’, it receives over a million visitors a year from all over Europe. The island is invaded in the summer and its activities are increasingly focussed on tourism. When winter comes, hotels, restaurants and shops close and the island is deserted. Yet a few diehards still like to live here normally and want to keep up their village life. Islanders at heart, they wanted to tell us why they are fighting to keep the grocery store, school and post office open all the year round. If you visit Porquerolles in winter, you will find out what it is really like.

**Les Radjis, peuple de la rivière et de la forêt**

On the border of India and Nepal, in the Terai, lies the land of the Rajis. Christophe Cousin, torch in hand, met his first Rajis in the middle of the night, the fishermen also gold prospectors and honey hunters.

**Sheila et ses singes**

This is the story of a heroine such as you read of in novels. An elderly English woman, who chose, 60 years ago, to set down her bags in a corner of the Zambian bush. Sheila has since swapped her Labrador for a 3-tonne pet and she laughs at our surprise! Sheila has been a racing driver, dairy farmer, nurse... but, above all, she has built the biggest Chimpanzee sanctuary in the world.
SHARKS, THE EVOLUTION
Réquins, l’évolution
Today, sharks are a species under threat of extinction. Around 100 million are killed every year. Humans are bringing about the death of one of the most extraordinary representatives of the animal kingdom. Sharks date back 455 million years. They have spanned the ages, survived the greatest of extinctions, constantly adapted to their environment. Some palaeontologists are passionate about this fascinating adventure...

IN THE STEPS OF WHALES
Dans les pas des baleines
Whales fascinate people. We know the reasons why. But they also fascinate palaeontologists. The reason: they are mammals. In other words, before they lived in the sea, their ancestors lived on the land. Scientists are trying to find evidence to understand this evolution. Research that leads, in particular, to Egypt and the United States, on the trail of their… feet.

SS JOHN BARRY
Le SS John Barry
Torpedoed in 1941 to the south of the Sultanate of Oman, the Liberty ship John Barry lies in 2,600 meters of water. In her holds is a treasure that remained a secret for over 35 years. After locating the wreck in the 90s, a handful of Americans, members of a submarine exploration company, decide to bring the precious cargo to the surface. But in depths like this, it’s a delicate operation. Engineers from Ifremer invent a giant grab remotely controlled from the surface to rip open the hull and bring out dozens of tons of silver coin.

THE MUTINEERS OF LIBERTALIA
Les mutins de Libertalia
They say that Libertalia, a republic of pirates, saw the day in the north of Madagascar at the end of the 17th century. This singular adventure is described in the encyclopaedia of piracy, published in 1724 under the name of Charles Johnson. “A General History of the Robberies and Murders of the most notorious Pyrates” describes the habits and customs of these much-feared men and women and gives more than a little detail on Libertalia. Captain Johnson recounts the adventures of Misson, a French pirate. After having roved the Caribbean, Misson ventures into the Indian Ocean in search of a permanent refuge, an Eldorado where he can put his ideas of brotherhood into practice. Archaeologists, divers, historians… they all have their ideas whether this story is true or not. From Madagascar to Paris, to Washington, we have hunted down the last remaining vestiges of this pirate Utopia, created a century before the Revolution.

HMS BRITANNIC, THE CURSE OF THE GREAT LINERS
Le HMS Britannic
This is the story of the Britannic, successor to the Titanic, launched in 1914. Almost immediately requisitioned she became a hospital ship at the outbreak of the First World War and fell victim to a huge explosion on the morning of November 21 1916 in the Straits of Kea in Greece. She sank in less than 55 minutes. But how could this twin of the Titanic have met with the same tragic end as her elder sister ship barely four years later? Is there a curse on these great liners?

HMS VICTORIA
Le HMS Victoria
For over a century the fishermen of the Libyan port of Tripoli have talked of the wreck of a mighty ship and claimed that the remains still lay at the bottom of the sea. You must always listen to legends... That is the motto of Christian Francis, a passionate diver who, several years ago, discovered the wreck of HMS Victoria, an admiral’s flagship of the British Mediterranean fleet, which sank on June 22 1893. A strange and unbelievable fact: the wreck is sticking up vertically 350 feet below the sea.

MOMBASA
Passeurs de Mombassa
When I set foot on the Mombasa ferry for the first time I imagined, as a naive outsider, “Ah, the biggest and busiest ferry in Africa! It’ll be all hustle and jostling promiscuity, with groping hands, raucous song, clandestine vendors, pickpockets!” But no. This is East Africa, the Africa of distance and reserve. Swahili country, from ‘sahil’ which means ‘coast’ in Arabic. Africa mixed with the Koran. Masai elegance and Muslim propriety.
A WEEK IN BALLOONS
Une semaine en ballons
It’s a tough mission for Joe Daly! A professor of marketing and a hot-air balloon pilot for 10 years, he volunteered to organize the 44th Irish hot-air balloon championships. It’s the oldest gathering of airships in the world. A true challenge! Irish weather is not reputed for favoring aerial sports. However, the important thing for Joe is to commemorate the 1100th anniversary of Waterford, the oldest city in Ireland, founded by the Vikings. And to offer the citizens of the County an unforgettable spectacle. Because of their friendship for Joe, twenty-eight pilots, from all background, answered the call, without knowing if they would even be able to take off.

LIZARAZU, BROTHERS OF THE SHORE
Lizarazu, les frères de la côte
One is famous. A soccer player with an impressive record now working in the media. The other grew up in his shadow, measuring himself against the greatest waves on the planet. Today, the two brothers meet in the Basque country and discover that history drove them apart, but the sea is now bringing them back together.

IN PURSUIT OF THE YETI
A la poursuite du Yeti
The yeti: a hairy primate, a bear or a legend? For the Bhutanese, he is very real. He’s said to have a strong odor and carries a sac on his back to kidnap his victims. He lives in the most secluded mountains and forests in the country and in the forgotten valleys of Merak and Saktand (which only recently became accessible to foreigners). Our investigation begins at the Thimphu library. After seeing a picture of the yeti’s face in an old book entitled « Mirror of science », we decide that it’s time to set up an expedition to find him, and so we set off to the East of the country. Guides, cooks, a string of caravans, horses and yaks; all were necessary in order to make our way across the rivers and mountains in pursuit of the country’s mythical creature. Brokpas and the regions inhabitants attempt to advise us on the best path to follow…

YANN KERSALE : AN ENLIGHTENED ARTIS
Yann Kersalé : un artiste éclairé
Yann Kersalé is an exceptional artist. A native of Douarnenez, the young Breton experiences his first emotional encounter with light as a young child. The event leads to a life made of art and light. Light is his medium, his paint, his clay. He uses it to sculpt forms and clothe some of the most emblematic buildings of our daily lives in their night-time attire. From the Quai Branly Museum to the Eiffel Tower by way of the Bastille Opera House, this prolific artist is all over not only France, but the whole world. He has been collaborating with Jean Nouvel for more than thirty years. An eccentric artist, for sure, but also an extremely talented and inventive one, Yann is an astonishing character.

YACHT PEOPLE
Yacht people
At the end of every summer, the finest yachts in the world make a date in Monaco for the biggest luxury yacht show in the world. Every year the world’s largest fortunes come to market: to sell, to buy or keep up with the latest innovations in yachting. But behind all the display of luxury and wealth lies a massive organisational effort that we decided to film. From the show’s director to the port officials who, within a few days, must fit some hundred yachts into a pocket-handkerchief sized space, we opened the tightly closed doors behind the scenes at the 21st Monaco Yacht Show.

A SLICE OF CLIFF
Une tranche de falaise
To the north of Le Havre, in the cliff at Octeville, blockhouses and shacks are inhabited all year round. You go down a little path leading to the sea. An amazing place where families, visitors and even a few dropout veterans, who maintain the cliff as part of a re-socialisation project, all rub shoulders. A microcosm, a tiny patch of land where they nourish and savour being different…

RETURN TO QUEMÈNES
Retour à Quemènes
Three years ago Thalassa brought you the beginning of an extraordinary adventure: David and Soizic, a young couple, were chosen by the Coastline Conservation Department to bring new life to a tiny, desert island in the Molène archipelago of Brittany. At that time our “apprentice islanders” had set themselves the goal of turning an abandoned farmhouse into a bed and breakfast establishment. Three years later we wanted to know what has happened to David and Soizic, did they rise to the challenge and did they survive on this tiny rock in the Iroise Sea?
People and Places: Around the Sea

Le naufrage du St. Geran

Off the coast of the little fishing village of Poudre d’Or on the island of Mauritius lies the wreck of a most unusual ship. The Saint Géran is certainly the most famous wreck in French literature because it inspired a novel that sold over 25 million copies: Paul et Virginie. In August 1744, as it approached its final destination, the island of Mauritius, the Saint Géran, a vessel of the French Indies Company is trapped upon the reefs and sinks, leaving more than 200 dead. Among the victims was a certain Virginie, whom Bernadin de Saint Pierre was to make his heroine. Everybody on Mauritius knows the story because the Saint Géran is a myth that has entered into local folklore. And yet many questions still remain. How much is fiction, how much reality? Did Virginie really exist? All these questions are addressed in the shape of an investigation that swings constantly between reality and the storybook world.

Le HMS Hermes

HMS Hermes was the world’s first aircraft carrier, designed and built for the Royal Navy at the beginning of the 20th century. In 1942, HMS Hermes was patrolling off the coasts of Sri Lanka and was caught up in the action in the Indian Ocean that saw Japanese forces confront the British and Australians. Under attack from 70 bombers, the aircraft carrier sinks beneath the waves. The British navy mourns the loss of 307 men. 590 military survive the attack. The loss of HMS Hermes remains one of the heaviest losses of the 20th century and of the Second World War. It was a strategic moment in the conflict that Winston Churchill described as the “most dangerous moment” of the war.
THE BUZZARD’S TREASURE

Le trésor de la Buse

On the island of Reunion, a tale goes down from generation to generation of a treasure hidden by a French pirate. They say that, before he was hanged in St Paul in 1730, Olivier Le Vasseur, known as the Buzzard, had left a parchment written in secret symbols—a sort of treasure map and the source of countless fantasies. The treasure hunters of Reunion have seized upon this strange manuscript and, in their own way, they contribute to the eternal nature of this legendary treasure.

THE LOVE CRUSADE

La croisade de l’amour

Lisdoonvarna, a small town set in the Irish countryside to the west of the island. 800 souls and a dozen pubs strung along a main street. Lisdoonvarna is a windswept spot along the main street. In the space of an evening, 40,000 people come through. Maybe more. This extremely popular festival is written in Irish history. It was in this spa town, the country’s only one, that tourism was born in 1716. They came from all over to treat their rheumatism… and to take a wife. After the harvest in September, the farmers come here to strike the deal, through the intermediary of a matchmaker. The tradition is carried on today thanks to Willie Daly, the last matchmaker on the island. He works from home, all year round, for local farmers, who are too shy to speak for themselves. And during the festival for merry-making tourists there are those who believe. Some even manage to find love. And others who come principally for a good time, for the ‘craic’, the atmosphere, which is a typically Irish mixture of good humor and lots of alcohol. We discover them all (the farmer looking for a wife, the tourists on the razzle, the couple who got together here and who return to celebrate their love) in this corner of Ireland that is close by the cliffs of Moher.

THE WASINI’S WOMEN

Les femmes de Wasini

Wasini, a coral island dropped into the great expanse of the ocean, near the border between Kenya and Tanzania. On top, a fisherman’s village. No port, no cars, no roads, not even a single bicycle. No electricity, or running water. Hardly any people either. Those who remain fish a little or show the rare tourists around the island. Many local men have left for the town far away, gone for the week, or the month. So, what is left in Wasini? Women and a treasure, their treasure: the coral garden.

THE TREASURE OF THE PRINCE CONTI

Le trésor du prince Conti

The Prince de Conti is making more waves from the bottom of the ocean than it ever did while sailing the seas of the world. Without a doubt this wreck excites more controversy than any other. In any case it is the most cursed as everyone who has gone near it has had his fingers burned. Because the Prince de Conti is not a wreck like any other. While sailing back from China and India, the ship, chartered by the Indies Company, sank with a cargo of gold and other precious objects. It has everything it needs for the Conti affair to fill the scandal pages of the press: arrests, prison, and intimidation. The story of the treasure of the Prince de Conti reads like a good mystery novel whose ending has yet to be written.

CAPE TOWN AT THE WATER’S EDGE

Le Cap, les pieds dans l’eau

Capetown is one of the most attractive cities in the world, a desirable destination not only for its geographical location at the very end of Africa, but also for its natural beauties. Among the most visited parts of the city, there’s a special place, a sort of architectural and commercial showcase: the “Waterfront”, a collection of shops, restaurants, hotels and boutiques right in the centre of the historic port. From here you can take a boat ride to Mandela’s former prison or go shopping as in any other mall in a developed country. Here they combine cultural tourism and leisure, five-star hotels and fast-food. Every year more than two million visitors jostle along the secure, policed docks that have, separated from the rest of the city and the segregated suburbs, become a sort of Champs-Elysées of South Africa. For dozens of maritime cities all over the world, the success of South Africa’s “Waterfront” is an example. They want to understand and copy the “Waterfront’s” recipe so they too can take fuller advantage of this business on the water’s edge, in the middle of a still-active fishing port.
**SIGNAL IN DISTRESS**

It’s the building they love to hate in Soulac-sur-mer. The building on the sea front called the Signal is the subject of much debate. First, its architect is not to everyone’s taste. And now the building and its resident find themselves in a very worrying situation. Erosion threatens. Every day the waves nibble away the dune at the foot of the building. Every day the residents wait to be protected. Confronted by the ocean and the critics, the Signal and its residents are feeling increasingly isolated.

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**GOODBYE GIGLIO**

On the Tuscan coast, a few metres from the harbour of the small island of Giglio, the Costa Concordia appears to have become part of the landscape. Precariously balanced on a reef since it ran aground on January 13, the wreckage still haunts the minds of the port’s inhabitants, who are gradually reclaiming their island. The regional nature reserve of Giglio lives at the islanders’ leisurely pace, only disturbed by summer’s tourists. However, since the sinking, Giglio has been making headlines around the world and the accident of the Costa Concordia could mark a turning point for the future of this haven of beauty. Anyway, one thing is certain: for the islanders, nothing will ever be the same.

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**OPERATION PELICAN**

Last summer in Corsica, firefighters responded to more than fifty fires. Everywhere, from north to south. Those fires were caused by lightning, by brush burning and often by arsonists. When the situation escalates and the firemen can no longer contain the flames, the “pelicans” join the dance. Piloted by former military pilots, the Canadair water-bombers fly in formation, bombarding the enemy, and detecting targets in areas difficult to access. At the controls of these amphibious aircraft, the men and women of the Civil Security Service have come to know the dangers of fire and tricks of the sea. A Thalassa team obtained special permission to spend a few days filming on board these incredible flying machines.

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**SAPEURS**

The ‘sape’ phenomenon was born during central Africa’s rush to independence. It was the Congo that first saw the appearance of men adopting Western fashions, but adding a highly personal touch, especially where colour is concerned. Today sape is a veritable life-style that has spread far beyond the frontiers of the Congo. In Cameroon we set out on the trail of these devotees, rich and poor, who are willing to make huge sacrifices to invest in clothes. They open their wardrobes and share their little sapeur secrets with us. Because you don’t just play at being a sapeur: you are born a sapeur. A good sapeur has to know how to “make the colours sing” and not neglect a single detail in order to be the best!!!

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**RIDING WITH THE TIMBER TRUCKERS**

500 miles on the dusty tracks and the tarmac of Cameroon. That’s what lies ahead of Jean-Daniel and his co-driver, Blanchard. 2 days of high-speed driving from the depths of the forest to the port of Douala, where they have to deliver the 30 tonnes of tropical hardwood stacked on their trailer. Day and night, hundreds of giant trucks like Jean-Daniel’s carry timber along the country’s tracks and roads. They are known as “grumiers”, or timber trucks. At the wheel of these heavy goods vehicles are top-notch drivers who go very fast, drivers able to extricate themselves from the worst possible mud holes during the rainy season. Drivers who are crafty, flirtatious and daredevil.

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**AN EYE ON THE PEBBLE**

Seen from the sky, New Caledonia offers sumptuous and varied landscapes. Mountains, a lagoon listed as a UNESCO world heritage site and luxurious vegetation such as we dream of on Robinson Crusoe’s island. New Caledonia also presents a subsoil that is rich in minerals. Its red earth contains chrome, iron, copper and, above all, King Nick… nickel. An economic manna for the island, but also a major ecological risk. All these fragile resources that make up the island’s attraction must be protected in order for them to continue. During our trip we go to meet the men and women who, through their actions, are trying to conserve Nature. We fly over the south of the island with Martial Dosdane. From his helicopter he takes photos and keeps a watch over the environment. We raise giant clams with the Yambé tribe in the north east of Grande Terre. Still in the east Josette will take us to discover the mangrove where she grew up. We leave the coast to go and plant trees with the inhabitants of Gohapin in the centre of Caledonia and finally we set out for the virgin territory of the Loyalty Islands, a dream location that is still preserved.
THE ISLANDS OF THE GIRONDE
Les îles de la Gironde
Scattered across the largest estuary in Europe, protected by tides and powerful sweeping currents, a dozen islands remain in their wild state, resisting all attempts to inhabit them. They are neither rocky, nor mountainous, nor spectacular, but they refuse to be domesticated. To live there you must be prepared to lose everything.

TRAVELLER’S LOG IN PORTUGAL
Carnet de route au Portugal
From the Porto estuary to the breaking rollers of Sagres, from the Aveiro lagoon to the wild archipelago of the Berlingas, the Thalassa team set out to encounter a seafaring people by travelling the Portuguese coastline from north to south. It’s a journey full of surprises in the quest for the soul of Portuguese fishermen. Their reputation needs no advertising; they prove it to us during this report.

TRAVELLER’S LOG
Carnet de voyage avec Sabine Quindou
Sabine, with all her energy and good humour, sets out to meet local fishermen, a warden of the ornithological park, Guyanese turtles and crocodiles or species of fish threatened with extinction in the lagoon of Reunion Island, and last but not least, Sabine visits the French people living in St Pierre et Miquelon, an island which is developing its ecotourism industry as well as its cod and queen crab fishing activities …

CAPE HORN
Cap Horn
The southern border between Chile and Argentina has always been an area of instability. The intervention of Pope John-Paul II in 1978 managed to avoid a military conflict over the Beagle Channel that might have had unseen consequences. For three days we sail aboard a Chilean naval patrol boat, the PSG Sibbald, accompanying the crew as they bring supplies to the lonely islands of Southern Patagonia. We meet service men on Lennox Island, we follow the marines on a mission at Cape Horn, and we end our journey on the island of Nueva, secured by Sgt Carrasco and his family. The dark years of dictatorship and military conflict are long gone, but we can still find on these islands the shelters where Chilean soldiers awaited the invaders. Today the people live in peace, but the magnificent landscapes of this end of the world still carry the scars of a war that never was.…

BAIA
Baia, l’ardente de l’empire romain
Pompeii, Vesuvius… two sites so evocative of the archaeology and volcanism of the Naples region. So who spares a thought for Baia and the Flegrean Fields? And yet, at the time it was the supreme resort for the emperors and aristocracy of Rome, a totally other world on the other side of the bay which represented every vice cited in ancient texts. Today Baia is a sunken city, swallowed up by a very rare and particular form of volcanic action: bradyseism.

PLASTIC ART
L’art plastique
Anita Ahuja is a designer. A convinced environmentalist, she has chosen to recycle plastic bags to create fashion accessories and founded an NGO called Conserve. But Anita’s project and her creativity, her designs, have a context. She never forgets that those fashion items come from the toil of labourers who work all day long handling garbage. And doing something for those people’s lives is really important!
MEERA, KAVITA, SHANTI… AND THE OTHERS
Meera, Kavita, Shanti et les autres
Kavita, Meera, Shanti and the others have had to fight to make their dreams happen. Together they have started their own newspaper, Khabar Laharia. The unusual thing about the editorial team is that it is made up entirely of women, who are all members of low castes like the untouchables. In the state of Uttar Pradesh, where illiteracy is higher than the national average, this handful of women journalists battles every day to bring information to their fellow men… and women.

KAWA IJEN
Kawa Ijen
“Seeking young man, good health, good physical condition, sure-footed, not clumsy, for post of miner: remuneration 15 times that of an agricultural worker, 15 days off per month, possibility of accommodation on site, free transport.. Duration of contract… uncertain.” If it were to be published one day that would be the job description for the miners of Kawa Ljen; The name, which means « green crater » in Javanese, is inspired by the pretty woodlands which clothe its flanks. But once inside, right in the mouth of the volcano, is an open sulphur mine which is a living hell.

MERAPI
Merapi
When you’re getting on for 75, and still gambolling on the hillside like a young girl at an altitude of 6,000 feet, you don’t worry about that big cone smoking above your head. It’s just part of life. Trisno, who gleans wood on the slopes of the mountain, is not scared of Merapi, which the volcanologists consider to be one of the most active and dangerous volcanoes of the planet.

FINAL SIGNAL
Signal de fin
The last days of “Le Signal” residential home in the community of La Pointe du Médoc have arrived. The official letter written by the Mayor to each of the occupants leaves no room for doubt. The four-story block, built less than half a century ago and consisting of 78 dwellings, has long been threatened by the erosion of the beach. This year the inevitable happened: the high tides and battering winds have dashed the last hopes of the Signal’s residents. It’s heartbreak!
Jacqueline Gandoin, 81, has lived on the ground floor since 2005. She is leaving her three-room apartment to move into the old folks home in Soulac. “It’s like a serious illness, you say to yourself… Dear Lord, allow me a little more time. Ever since Storm Xynthia in 2010 I’ve known that it was over. But it would have been nice to have had one last summer…” are the 81-year-old’s final, resigned words.

CRACKPOTS ON THE DYKE
Les dingos de la digue
When the sun shines in Dunkirk, Malo-les-Bains turns into a Riviera seafront with its café terraces, restaurants and family-friendly beach. Yet, just a few hundred yards away, there’s another beach, more secret, wilder and much more “exotic”. The Braek dike lies between the factories set up around the port and the open sea. A decree from the Prefecture bans access to it, but the authorities prefer to shut their eyes, aware that this tiny piece of shoreline is part of the local heritage. Since its construction in the 60s, a whole world has been rubbing shoulders on the Braek dike in a good-natured atmosphere. On one side are the factories with their huge plumes of smoke, on the other the vastness of the North Sea, and between the two slices of life, stories, moments of happiness.

CAMPING UP NORTH
Un camping au Nord
As holiday makers plunge into the traffic jams and head for the sun, we decide to test holidays in the north. So we set down our bags (and our prejudices) in the most northerly campsite in France, at Bray-Dunes, on the Belgian border, set on the sands of a beach that is characteristic of the region. There, we share the everyday lives of Chantal and François, regulars for over thirty years, and José, the camp’s Jack-of-all-Trades, and also its living memory. Meeting them, our prejudices soon disappear…
THE BOAT LIFT
A fond de cale
A few weeks before a summer season of gliding across the clear waters of the Mediterranean, large luxury yachts get their beauty treatment in the shipyards of southern France. For several years, a shipyard in La Ciotat has been using a fast and revolutionary method to bring these billionaires’ babies out of the water. They have invested in a boat lift, a machine that can lift an 80 metre yacht and set it down on dry land. Using a dozen cameras placed on the docks, on board and under the water, we filmed the delicate process of drydocking. On board the Annamia the crew are on alert because the slightest gust could divert the ship from its trajectory. Underwater, divers prepare the manoeuvre. They are responsible for positioning the boat on the large underwater platform. The success of this precise operation depends on their skill and accuracy. Today the task is more complicated than usual because the mistral is blowing and there is a strong swell. All players are aware that the monster emerging from the water represents tens of millions of euros.

THE LAST LINE OF FISHERMEN
Les derniers canneurs
On the Atlantic coast, the hunt for schools of bluefin tuna takes place during the summer months off the coast of the Basque Country. Taking advantage of fish migration and subject to draconian quotas, the crews set off in pursuit. Once on the banks the men fish without nets, using a simple rod and line and the strength of their arms, hauling in individual tuna that can weigh up to 30 kilos. The sale of bluefin accounts for more than 50% of their turnover for the year, a very lucrative business that provides a livelihood for ten families on the Basque coast. But with the meager quotas imposed on them by the Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, the anglers know that each season may be their last.

THE VALLEY OF BRICKS
La Vallée des briques
This smoking valley is feeding the expansion of Kathmandu. The capital is exploding in all directions, and its already sprawling tentacles are getting ready to explode still further. New offices, new buildings are going up everywhere. Buildings need bricks.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE VAHINAS GONE?
Où sont passées les Vahines?
An investigation into the myth embedded in our minds: that of the vahine, the Polynesian island woman, of rare and savage beauty, whom the early explorers described in their journals page after page. We go to meet those who perpetuate this wonderful story, but also those who believe the myth is just a traveler’s fantasy.

GAWURA
Gawura
They were born and raised in the “ghetto”, but are being educated in a prestigious private school right in the centre of the city. Every morning, twenty-five aborigines and Torres Strait Islander children head for the roof of St. Andrew’s Cathedral in the heart of Sydney, where their new “Gawura” school has finally found a home. Gawura is an isolated class for indigenous children between 5 and 11. They work among their friends and relatives in a cultural environment designed for them and separated from the rest of the school.

ROMMEL’S TREASURE
Le trésor de Rommel
This is the story of a ghostly hoard that treasure hunters from all over the world are still searching for. In 1943, several chests filled with gold, jewels and pearls were said to have been sunk off the coast of Bastia. This treasure was said to have come from pillaging by the troops of Erwin Rommel who were fighting in Africa during World War II. There are few witnesses in this story, but much fantasy surrounds a real legend created by a single, mysterious figure: one Peter Fleig. This former diver swears that it was he who hid Rommel’s loot.
SOUTHBEND, CAPITAL OF OYSTER
Southbend, la capitale de l’huître
The center of the world for the most widely eaten bi-valve on the planet is not in Japan or Arcachon. No indeed. It’s South Bend, the self-proclaimed oyster capital of the world. On the West Coast of the United States, not far from the Pacific Ocean, the city of South Bend is located on the shores of the Willapa River, which flows into Willapa Bay. 500 times as big as the Gulf of Morbihan or the Basic of Arcachon, 670 times as big as the Etang de Thau, South Bend supplies no less than 1/6th of all oysters produced in the United States. about 4 million tonnes per year, a bonanza worth 70 million dollars. The Herrold family has lived there for generations. Today, the two brothers, Roy and John, run the oyster farm.

THE SKELETONS OF QUEMENES
Les squelettes de Quemenes
On March 10 2008 a ferocious storm is unleashed upon Brittany. Off the coast of Finistere, in the Molene archipelago, the tiny island of Quemenes is battered by giant waves. It was on this tiny island that a young couple had arrived to give new life to an abandoned farm by turning it into holiday accommodation. That day, when David is taking a solitary stroll along the beach, he discovers four skeletons in a state of perfect preservation. From that moment an enthralling investigation is launched… into a realm somewhere between fantasy, myth and reality.

HUNTING THE GOUZOU
La chasse au Gouzou
On Reunion the new Sunday sport is hunting the gouzou. Whole families set out on the trail of this tiny beast that hangs around everywhere: on walls, on billboards, on cliffs, sometimes even perching more than a 100 feet up on the ruins of a house. He’s a mischievous little character with no arms and no face who expresses his joy and anger, leaving messages as he goes and pointing his finger at facets of society in a constantly humorous way. Now a full 20 years old, the gouzou has become a part of Reunion’s heritage. But who lies behind this character? Jace, gouzou’s creator, is a secretive man who prefers to remain in the shadows. Nevertheless, he did agree to open the doors to his lair up on the heights of Saint Pierre for us and we follow him discretely on the trail of his mischief-making. We also learn that, boosted by his success, gouzou is spreading far beyond the frontiers of Reunion.

CANNES, THE FESTIVAL SEEN FROM THE SEA
Cannes, le Festival vu de la mer
Every year the month of May sees the world of cinema descend on the Croisette and the Bay of Cannes: it’s the Festival. But just for a change we’re ignoring the red carpet and the starlets to take a look at the other festival taking place along the shore. On the water during these rather special two weeks the folks of Cannes have to cohabit with people who are there to party and to be noticed, whatever the cost.

THE SAILS OF ST. TROPEZ
Les voiles de St. Tropez
At the end of every summer, the famous village with the coloured bell tower holds a race that is unique in the world. The “Sails” is the largest gathering of sailing boats in the world. Three hundred boats sail the Bay of St Tropez to win the most prized trophy of the season, the final regatta before winter, the Holy Grail for classic yachting crews. This year we invite you to experience the race as you’ve never lived it before, aboard two emblematic yachts of the 30s, both from the drawing board of the famous Scottish designer, William Fife: Tuiga of the Monaco Yacht Club and Mariska with its Swiss crew. These two monuments of sail are the ultimate sporting boats and their identical dimensions make them close competitors. Aboard are the finest sailors of the day, constantly working their cathedrals of sail with one single objective: to cross the finishing line first.

A THORNY DISH
Une épineuse disparition
Every Sunday, from the month of February, along the Côte Bleue, it’s the oursinade hour. A plate of sea urchins, a glass of white wine, a ray of sunshine, a few friends… the feast of the sea urchin now attracts up to 10,000 people on a Sunday. What was originally a minor traditional festival has turned into an institution. But there’s one small problem: the “caviar of the sea”, as it is called, a victim of its own success, intensive fishing and perhaps also of the consequences of global warming, is disappearing from the Mediterranean seabed. Today there are barely a dozen professional fishermen in the Mediterranean, subject to very strict regulations and inspections in order to limit the disappearance of the species. Among this handful of professionals, Franck Ravez, with the aid of scientists, is carrying out an experiment aimed at creating a breeding farm in the region.
MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

Messageries Maritimes

SOS, love letters, expressions of friendship… Stuart commits to the sea the emotional outpourings of those who, unlike himself, are not fortunate enough to live on the Channel. This seaside English postman receives hundreds of e-mails from all over the world that he prints, puts into a bottle and tosses into the sea. Maybe one day his bottles will fetch up on the beaches of the North Sea, which Wim has been relentlessly scouring for 30 years. This solitary pensioner has found nearly 800 messages in bottles brought to him by the simple chance of the tides. We go to meet two men passionate about maritime messaging: anchors aweigh!

THE INDIES COMPANY

La Compagnie des Indes

“*The French Indies Company*” was founded in 1664. This was the great period of adventurers, pirates, and shipwrecks that still retains a part of its mystery today and feeds some incredible tales. It also marked the birth of a city: Lorient, built upon naval dockyards and trade with the New World. However, behind the romance of these epic adventures, there was an extraordinary commercial enterprise that has no equivalent today. The French Indies Company, founded on the model of a multinational, had the power to appoint ambassadors, to declare war or sign treaties. It had its own bank and its own currency, managed overseas companies and thus contributed to the spread of France abroad alongside her two great rivals: England and Holland. Today, all that remains of this fabulous adventure is our taste for coffee, spices, fabrics, porcelain, but above all the seeds of a globalisation that was to profoundly change the economic structures of our societies.

YELLE

**Yelle**

Saint-Brieuc has its star. She is young, fresh, smart and friendly. She electrifies theatres and dance floors on all continents. She’s better known around the world than she is in France. Her name? Julie Budet, aka Yelle… Hip globetrotter, but with roots deep in Saint-Brieuc. A girl almost like any other. And it runs in the family: her father wrote and composed one of the most famous of Breton sea shanties. An anthem that is played everywhere and every when.

TRASHVORTEX

Du plastique plein le Pacifique

An island in the Pacific Ocean twice the size of France, which belongs to no-one. It sounds like a dream come true. However this ‘island’, floating in the sea half way between Hawaii and San Francisco, is in fact a giant rubbish heap, made up of 80% of plastics.

THE HERMIONE: THE GREAT VOYAGE

Hermione : La grande traversée

It is the story of a ship: the replica of the frigate that carried Marquis de La Fayette to the United States in 1781 on his mission to help the American insurgents. Two hundred and thirty-five years later, the Hermione, once again sails to America. And her voyage marks the beginning of another adventure. 160 people were chosen to make up the crew and were trained to sail this ship whose construction in Rochefort took over 20 years.

On the crew, only 15 are professional sailors. The others, for the most part, have never set foot on an old tall ship. They take their places on deck as top men and top women. They must learn by heart the 250 maneuvers on deck, and prepare themselves to struggle with the 24000 square feet of sails which makes the Hermione one of the most demanding ships in the world to navigate.

Their mission is a dangerous one. This is the first time the Hermione has set sail on such a long journey. No one knows the limits of the tall ship or knows if the skills of today’s crew will be equal to the sailors of the 18th century.

IN FLANDERS, AROUND DUNKIRK

En Flandre, autour de Dunkerque

From the pretty town of Bergues featured in the film, “Bienvenue chez les Ch’tis to Oostduinkerke, the Belgian seaside resort on the other side of the border by way of Dizmou, Zuidcoote and Malo Les Bains, this is a flight over Flanders, seaside and landside. A trip of around one hundred kilometres to discover the details, life-size, of the panorama surrounding Dunkirk. A big breath of Flemish air with just one little incursion along the Opal Coast around the sites of two Capes (Blanc-Nez and Gris-Nez) recently nominated Major Sites of France.
TRUCKS TO GO

**Truck en stock**

For decades the truck was the only means of transport for Tahitians. It’s a homemade construction: an engine, a cab from a lorry and a wooden container. The truck provides the link between the town and the little villages around the islands.

We are in Raiatea, the capital of the Tuamotus, and they still use trucks here. Manua started one of the biggest trucking services on the island. However, today his big worry is the technical inspection of his oldest truck. His son, Pierre, is taking care of it. The old truck, with 719,000 km on the clock, has always come through this delicate trial and starts without a hitch. This truck has a very special place in the family and, like an old friend, they have a nickname for it: “Bombo”, the warrior of Pomotu. However, the last trucks are receiving a death sentence under new laws. Manua will probably park his last trucks in the shed that stands next to his house... a shed that seems to serve as a cemetery for his old trucks, which he can’t bring himself to destroy.

20 000 LEAGUES OVER THE SEA

**20 000 lieues sur les mers**

On January 24 2012 the André Malraux is launched in the presence of the Minister of Culture. This new ship for the Department of Subaqueatic and Submarine Research (Drassm) will enable France to maintain its lead in the world of undersea exploration. Created in 1966 by André Malraux, then Minister of Culture, the Drassm is responsible for a maritime territory with a surface area of 11 million m2 along the coasts of France. Since its creation the Drassm has explored 1,500 sites in France and abroad. After 5 years of thought and study, the André Malraux is about to turn a new page in the history of underwater archaeology. With this new ship, which benefits from the latest technology, the Drassm teams now foresee exploring the deeps where hitherto inaccessible wrecks are lying. The André Malraux’s first mission will be to excavate the wreck of La Lune, a vessel that sank off Toulon in the 17th century. According to estimates, 200,000 wrecks lie in French waters... which leads scientists to describe the sea as the greatest museum in the world.

ALL MY LIFE, I HAVE HAD A DREAM...

**Toute ma vie, j’en ai rêvé**

In an India that has changed at breakneck speed, new-found wealth has deepened the rift between the richest and poorest segments of society, and created desires that people never imagined before. Only 3% of the population can afford a plane ticket. B.C. Gupta has installed an old Airbus whose flying days are over in the poor district of Dwarka in New Delhi. Thus the very poor can enjoy a simulated flight for only a few rupees. For an hour they can be a passenger like any other. With one slight difference: the plane can’t take off.

THE PELADAO, FOOTBALL AND BEAUTY

**Le Peladao, du foot et des filles**

“Goooooooooooooal!” On the beach, in the street, at the back of an empty lot ... Throughout Brazil, everyone plays “futebol”... In Manaus it’s the same, everywhere and with no reason to play, because for Brazilians football is the reason to live. But in the heart of the forest, there is an event where football has to share the limelight. In Manaus a competition takes place every year which brings together the beautiful game and the beautiful forms of the loveliest girls in the Amazon. It is called the Peladao. We spend a week-end with Erika and her team on their way to the semi-finals.

CURRENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE RIVER BANKS

**Des billets de banque au fil de l'eau**

From Manaus to the border with Colombia, the Amazon enables boats to supply the Indian villages of the river banks. The boat owners are often whites who transport goods and passengers following their centuries-old commercial tradition. But one of them has decided to innovate. In recent months he has had a bank on board. The “Explorer IV” is a boat like any other, but with a cargo of banknotes. The boats load, unload, wait, cast off. Before, the traders would exchange a few products from town for the indians’ gold and spices. Today, you can open an account. The boat is revolutionizing the habits of the Indians who miss the days when their land was still a paradise, before they discovered the existence of money.
HOLIDAY ON MOOREA  
Vacances a Moorea
Rubel and his men have just a few hours to prepare a huge family banquet. More than 300 guests have made the journey to Moorea for his nephew's wedding. The deadline is tight, because the Church ceremony is about to begin. We invite you to share a marathon day around an Ahi ma’a, the ancestral oven of the Tahitians. An oven dug in the sand where everything depends on mastery of the fire and the heat.

THE KHOC SAAT SALT MINE  
La Mine de Sel de Khoc Saat
In Khoc Saat, the alchemy that accompanies the dawn evokes the ancient magic of the dawning of the world. It is eight o’clock when the small village rises to the call of the sky. It is about to repeat its lifelong rhythm, a race against time to extract salt from the bowels of the earth. Seventy families live and work there, right in the middle of nowhere. Water is pumped from 250 meters down in an ancient sea, rich in salt. It is left to stand in shallow ponds. After three days, the water has evaporated. The white gold - salt - appears. This cycle has been renewed since the dawn of time, by the sweat of the brows of succeeding generations. The men and women going about their business in the salt fields, in the shadow of warehouses or factories, bear witness to lives spent in the dampness of potash, eyes fixed on the horizon of days to come.
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