



MAIN CATALOGUE

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SPIEGEL TV

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ANGELA MERKEL

44' 16:9

Bernd Jacobs, Michael Kloft

It is her toughest defeat to date: the nomination of Joachim Gauck as candidate for the office of German President by the Liberals, Social Democrats and Greens has brought Angela Merkel to her knees. Now that her own two candidates – Köhler in 2010 and now Christian Wulff - have been forced to resign, Merkel has finally relented.

This is not untypical for the 58 year old, who, in her almost seven years as Chancellor, has steered the fate of the Federal Republic, both as the first woman to hold the office and the first person from the former East.

On the one hand, she comes across as assertive and highly determined, insisting on Germany's leading role in saving the Euro. Yet at the same time, she is regularly accused of indecisiveness and weak leadership.

Who is this woman, who first spoke out against the GDR when the regime was on its last legs?

Ever reluctant to speak about her background, an interview, given a couple of years ago to SPIEGEL TV, is one of the rare opportunities to learn more about Angela Merkel the person, and her long path to the top of the political world.

The never-before-aired interview forms the basis for this documentary, which shows the many stages on Merkel's route to political power:

From her childhood as pastor's daughter from Uckermark to East German physicist, from apolitical scientist to Deputy Spokesperson for the GRD's final government, from minister in Helmut Kohl's cabinet to becoming the first female Chancellor in German history.

© 2012

WORLD BEHIND BARS

50' 16:9

Jails – places of fixed-term imprisonment, of reeducation, resocialisation and mandatory labour – have existed since the beginning of the 19th century.

This SPIEGEL TV documentary, filmed inside prisons in Russia, Norway, San Marino, Germany, the USA, Afghanistan and Monaco shows how the conditions in a jail always reflect the society that built it.

They saw inside the women's penal colony in Krasnojarsk, more reminiscent of the darkest period of Soviet history than of a prison in a modern democracy, visited the prison island of Bastoy in the Oslofjord where there are no bars, walls or barbed wire, but only a deep faith in the liberal penal system, and learned how the tiny jail of a ministate in the centre of Italy often has only one inmate. A situation that the EU has deemed "solitary confinement".

They document how the teenage violent criminals in a youth detention centre in North Rhine-Westphalia try to pass their school leaving exams and how the prison in the Californian town of Vacaville attempts to alleviate the pain of dying for its lifelong detainees. They also witnessed conditions at the women's prison of Fayzabad in Afghanistan: reminiscent of a medieval dungeon, yet also a place of sanctuary - in their villages, these women would have been killed long ago.

Finally, they paid a visit to the luxury jail in the Principality of Monaco, with its views of the Mediterranean, gourmet catering and its own Tai Chi instructor, as well as to the Number 13 prison in the Russian city of Nizhny Tagil, intended for delinquent police officers and state-employed security officials.

© 2012

DELHI RISING **Five Portraits of Hopes and Dreams**

51' 16:9 HD

Tanja Dammertz

India's urban centers are hubs of opportunity - each with its own, unique character: In Bangalore IT rules, in Mumbai the film industry has reached global proportions. But what about Delhi, India's capital?

In "Delhi Rising" five men and women who make this bustling city their home, tell the stories of their lives and with them we reveal a city of contrasts and extremes in an attempt to understand what defines Delhi's unique character.

Apart from their love for the city, Avinash, Jaggi, Nazrana, Taru und Chitwan have little in common.

Nazrana is a 21-year-old seamstress in the slums of Delhi. She lives with 19 members of her family, spends her days sewing from morning until night and has a completely different life than her peer, Chitwan. This young woman has just finished her studies and is learning German at Delhi's Goethe Institute. In yet another contrast, 33-year old video artist Avinash sees Delhi as inspiration for his renowned video-installations. Then there is Taru, 31, a musician born in Delhi, raised in the U.S. and in Germany, who wants to shake things up. His lyrics point a critical finger at India's injustice and continued discrimination based on caste, ethnic background and religion. Jaggi, 51, on the other hand, belongs to a different generation. The wealthy Sikh businessman wants to expand his textile factory in Delhi's industrial hub Gurgaon.

Even though Avinash, Jaggi, Nazrana, Taru and Chitwan have different lives, hopes and dreams, there is one thing that unites them all: they are all determined to take advantage of any and all opportunities that come their way.

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MY COUNTRY ON THE BRINK **ITALY / GREECE / SPAIN**

3x 45' 16:9 HD

Southern Europe is mired in debt. For months, its leaders have been debating a way out of the crisis. On the streets ordinary people are venting their anger and frustration. In households and in workplaces concerns about the future are growing.

Who will take responsibility for the debt, unemployment, corruption and chaos? Are reforms making any difference? How are city dwellers and people from the countryside faring? Is there any hope left?

In a three part series a SPIEGEL TV team follows emigrants from Greece, Italy and Spain on a journey through their countries. They describe and show the crisis, from the perspectives of those most directly affected.

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NO WAY OUT REFUGEES IN ATHENS

23' 16:9

Peter Hell

The images of feeble refugees in ramshackle dinghies landing on the coast of the Canary Islands or continental Spain have remained firmly implanted in Europeans' collective memories.

Yet, increasingly tighter controls in Spain have forced the people smugglers to shift their routes towards Eastern Europe.

As a result, Greece has now evolved into the main point of entry for an almost uncontrollable inflow of people from Somalia, Afghanistan, Iraq and Algeria.

Once they arrive in Greece, they have officially entered the EU, meaning that it is no longer easy to deport them.

To date, the authorities have registered over 850,000 illegal immigrants, with a further half a million or so estimated to have gone unnoticed.

SPIEGEL TV reporter Peter Hell has followed and observed the stream of refugees in the people-smuggling heart of Istanbul, on the Turkish/Greek border, in Greek transit camps and in Athens, where many refugees arrive in the hopes of travelling to another destination in Europe offering them work and the hope of a life in dignity.

He also visited a small Greek village not far from the border, where the locals have taken it upon themselves to bury the refugees who drowned in the rough waters of the Maritsa. A final resting place for the nameless dead.

© 2011

THE BLUEFIN TUNA A FISH'S FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL

52' 16:9 HD

Christopher Gerisch

The Bluefin tuna is one of the world's most intelligent predatory fish. Yet this underwater hunter is itself among the hunted. It is a victim of the

billion-dollar tuna fishing industry and is a perfect symbol of the ruthless overexploitation of our seas. Scientists point to evidence that shows

stocks of Bluefin tuna have decreased by 80 per cent over the past few decades. 80 per cent of Mediterranean tuna are served up in sushi dishes

in Japan. This documentation shows Scientists and activists around the world that try to save Bluefin tuna from extinction.

© 2012

THE PRIVATE FILM ARCHIVES OF THE "MERCHANT OF DEATH"

21' 16:9

Karin Assmann, Anna Sadovnikova

As Viktor Bout, whose life has been clouded in secrecy, enters the Lower Manhattan federal court room the afternoon of January 21, the atmosphere is tense. TV cameras are not allowed, photography prohibited. His knowledge is dangerous for governments and warlords across the world. Two years ago DEA agents had set a trap for Bout in Thailand. After a long battle over his extradition, he now stands trial in the U.S. The 44-year-old Russian is accused, among other things, of conspiring to support a terrorist organization, of wire fraud and money laundering and of conspiring to kill U.S. citizens.

For years Bout was considered an enigma. Only two photographs had been shot surreptitiously, showing him in Africa during the 1990's. It was not until the mid 90's that the public was introduced to him through the movie "Lord of War" starring Nicolas Cage.

SPIEGEL TV reporters Karin Assmann and Anna Sadovnikova have now gained access to exclusive photographs and footage that shed light on Bout's secret life.

A small sensation are images from 2001 showing Bout in a Rwandan military training camp. Until now the extent of his activity in this African nation had been unknown. With approximately two dozen Rwandan troops receiving paramilitary training in the background, Bout appears. "We are training hand-to-hand-combat", one of the Russian instructors reports to him. "How many of them are any good?", asks Bout. "About 40 or 50", the officer replies. In several scenes the soldiers are wearing chemical weapons suits.

On several tapes Bout is seen in negotiations with Africans, discussing access to gold, coltan and diamonds.

Just how loyal Bout remained to the ideals of the former Soviet Union, becomes clear in another film clip: during a meeting of former Red Army soldiers and colleagues in 2008, Bout toasts the "glorious Soviet Army". Months later he is arrested in Thailand.

Interviewees include his brother, his former bodyguards and business associates. How investigators pursued and finally caught up with the "merchant of death", leading up to his 2008 arrest, is described by former officials of the DEA, the State Department and the National Security Council.

© 2011

DATA THIEF HEINRICH KIEBER

52' HD

Sebastian Frommelt, Sigvard Wohlend

It was the worst catastrophe imaginable for the discreet Liechtenstein trustees and their international clientele: Heinrich Kieber, an employee of the Princely trust company LGT, illegally copied the firm's entire client database and sold the stolen data to the German intelligence agency BND, the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, and the Australian Taxation Office, and other authorities. In return he was paid several million Euro by the Germans, as well as a new identity, new passports, and a safe haven by other grateful governments.

For the finance ministers of the world, Heinrich Kieber is a hero – for Liechtensteiners, a traitor.

But who is Heinrich Kieber really?

His friends and acquaintances thought Heinrich was just an eccentric windbag – which turned out to be a fatal misjudgement. Since his earliest childhood, Heinrich led an eventful double life: the outsider from a children's home, his youth as a runaway, his cons in Germany and the frauds in New Zealand and Australia, his kidnapping in Argentina, his crimes in Spain.

Thanks to intensive research over a year and a half, the filmmakers were able to put together a conclusive picture of the man who cracked bank secrecy in Liechtenstein and Switzerland and to provide an equally answer as to why Kieber did what he did. Greed wasn't the driving force, but neither were his motives noble.

© 2010 An Autoren.tv production in coproduction with Australien International Media Services

SOIL ON SALE

26'

Thomas Kasper, Dirk Schulze

The struggle for food is on: according to UN projections, world population will exceed nine billion by the year 2050. Global harvests and food stores will fall well short of demand. State-run companies, market speculators and commercial agribusinesses are already fiercely competing for the raw material of the future: farmland. Global players have their sights set first and foremost on Africa, a continent already plagued by hunger and malnourishment.

Corrupt governments, wars, natural disasters and underdeveloped agricultural practices all collude to perpetuate the problem. 'Soil on Sale' reveals that Tanzania has long been selling off fertile land for a pittance on a grand scale to foreign companies. China, especially, is losing no time in the scramble for new land claims – with dramatic consequences for the local population.

But there are also positive developments in Kenya, where a US multi-millionaire aims to win the fight against hunger for good with agricultural projects in former swampland.

© 2010

DEATH OF A SOLDIER

26'

Karin Assmann

"Hmmm, someone loves me" he wrote in his blog, sarcastically describing his reaction to the priority overnight draft letter the Army had just sent him. Although Jacob Blaylock had long been discharged from active duty, his name is still on the roster of the Individual Ready Reserve. And when he is reactivated it never occurs to him not to go to war. Instead, he reports for duty and quickly forges a bond with fourteen other men whose fates are similar to his. They had been so close to the end of their contracts as reservists, none had expected to be recalled and deployed to Iraq. Now they dub themselves "the involuntaries" and take over the most dangerous positions in the National Guard's 1451st Transportation Company.

As tank commanders and gunners they are always on the front line, manning the scout vehicles during countless convoys through the IED infested Iraqi desert. It is their friendship, their common love of music and their weakness for playing practical jokes that both helps them survive and creates emotional ties some of them have never experienced before.

And for a young man like Jacob Blaylock, known as “Jackie” to his comrades, it is what keeps him afloat. Alongside his tank commander, Josh Schmit, he grows into his new role as watchdog, as the eyes and ears at the head of the convoy.

Somewhere along the line they discover that this, their big wartime adventure, would make a great movie. Armed with video cameras, they document and narrate not just their pranks but also intimate moments of fear and loneliness. As “Jackie” begins to crack under pressure, he sets the camera up in his room and begins to play: his songs about loneliness, war and death become the soundtrack to the film he wants to make.

A year into his deployment, “Jackie” is burned out. When his friend, Brandon Wallace, offers to take his place in the scout vehicle, he agrees. Josh Schmit, his companion on so many suicide missions, remains up front. No one questions the decision: it is an honorable deal made between “involuntaries”. Just hours before they head out on their last mission, “Jackie”, camera in hand, asks Brandon to switch back. He declines. It is a brief, almost unnoticeable exchange.

As their convoy moves along the familiar route one last time, their luck runs out: the scout vehicle, carrying Josh Schmit and Brandon Wallace, hits an IED. Both are killed on site. A week later Jackie again turns the camera on himself. He is alone in his room, his eyes darting nervously as he exhales and tries to focus on the confession he struggles not to make.

“Hey, it’s Jackie, it’s the 20th of April, we go home in 6 days. Lost two good friends on the 14th I am having a hard time dealing with it.”

Instead of celebrating the end of his ordeal, he and his comrades begin a journey back to a life that could never be the same. Blaylock’s return home marks the beginning of his true fight for survival – one he would ultimately lose.

“Jackie’s” story unfolds through the lens of his camera, as he narrates his way through eleven months of war and six months of homecoming and as he and his brothers in arms embark on a pilgrimage to the parents of their fallen comrades. As friends and family remember Jacob’s struggles, the portrait of a man emerges who should never have gone to war and who should never have died so close to home.

© 2010

THE WAR WITHIN

52’ / 72’

Astrid Schult

American daily life in Landstuhl, Germany: Wounded U.S. soldiers receive medical treatment at the largest U.S. military hospital outside of the United States. They and their relatives find a home away from home at the so-called “Fisher House” between the treatment processes.

Here they try to find a way back to normal life. German and American spouses who fear to lose their husbands. Returning soldiers who question their mission yet continue. A German-American life takes place behind high fences inside the military area. All, Germans and Americans, have one thing in common: The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have left marks that everyone has to deal with alone.

© 2009

THE END OF A SUPERTRAIN TEN YEARS AFTER THE ESCHEDA DISASTER

52' 16:9

Nicola Burfeindt, Alexander Czogalla

At 10.59 in the morning, the Intercity Express ICE 884 "Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen" headed from Munich to Hamburg was derailed just outside the station of Eschede. A failed tyre fitted to one of the wheels caused the worst train catastrophe in the history of the Federal Republic of Germany, taking 101 lives and injuring 105 people, some seriously.

In a 52-minute documentary, SPIEGEL TV authors Nicola Burfeindt and Alexander Czogalla reconstruct a catastrophe which shocked people around the world.

The documentary also features those whose lives were thrown into turmoil on this day in a small town of 4,000 inhabitants which had previously been virtually unknown. Doctors, members of the fire brigade, pastors and paramedics. Joining the survivors and family members, they speak of this day of tragedy and the difficult aftermath, in some cases for the very first time.

The rescue teams also suffered from the sight of the apocalypse: mutilated victims, grieving family members, children's toys strewn amongst the wreckage - vivid images which tormented them in their dreams at night. The honorary Red Cross helper who spent days collecting parts of dead bodies, the rescue assistant who found a gravely injured woman and her dead child - they all suffer from the burden of their horrific memories, which they can frequently only bear with professional psychological help.

"The film-makers approach the subject with restraint. A remarkable documentary."

("Die Welt")

© 2008

A WORLD IN DESPAIR HOW SUBSIDIES CREATE POVERTY

52'

Ralph Quinke

The vicious circle has its origins in European subsidization practices: Encouraged by generous EU funding, European farmers produce more milk than domestic consumers can drink. The bulk of this excess supply is converted into milk powder and exported to developing countries. The EU also offers plenty of subsidies for converting fresh milk into powder and for exporting it.

The consequence: European milk powder is exported to third-world countries at prices far lower than those which could be achieved by local production. As a result, national milk producers are unable to compete as imported milk powder is far cheaper.

Senegalese fishermen are also victims of EU subsidization policies: These days, they often return to the port with boats less than half full of fish. There is hardly anything left to catch. The waters off the coast of West Africa have been fished dry by large factory ships. The EU pays for the coastal fishing rights and also funds the fitting-out of the giant ships as well as their fuel.

Because the fishers of Senegal can hardly earn any money from fishing, many convert their ships and sell them to traffickers who smuggle refugees from West Africa into the Canary Islands. Those lucky enough survive the trip through hell. And those with even greater fortune receive a Spanish passport. And an even smaller number of people may find a job, perhaps as a sailor on board a Spanish factory ship operating off the coast of West Africa. And so the circle closes.

© 2007

SECOND HAND THE GLOBAL BUSINESS

52'

Beate Schwarz

The donations of clothes are becoming a global economic asset. Whoever places old clothing in a collection bin as a donation today generally has no idea that this is the first step of a trade in used merchandise that spans the globe. In the process, the bundle of worn pieces of clothing increases in value each time from trader to trader and from station to station. It is transformed from an old item no longer immediately needed into what it used to be, namely a fashionable article of clothing. By means of complex recycling processes, it finds its way back to the consumer in the form of insulation materials, roofing felt, car seat covers or as finely spun thread for expensive designer fashion apparel.

A trade and utilization chain in the age of globalization: worn things from the wealthy nations are newly sorted – partly in low-wage countries such as Poland or even Dubai. 600,000 tons of old clothing from Germany alone is recycled in this way each year. In doing so, up to 200 different sales articles are created, based strictly on demand: affordable clothing for the poorer countries of eastern Europe and Africa.

This film shows how this value added chain works and who earns a living from these rags.

© 2006

BHUTAN LAND OF THE THUNDER DRAGON

50'

Helmut Muelfarth

Known to the natives as Druk Yul, Bhutan with its isolation, spectacular mountains, varied flora and fauna, ancient Buddhist monasteries, vibrant culture and mystic aura is regarded by many as one of the last hidden paradises on earth.

As one of the first film teams, which was allowed to film the people of Bhutan and through the eyes of the residents this beautiful landscape, the fascinating traditions in the middle of this hidden kingdom are portrayed.

Never before the influence of western lifestyle in Bhutan was presented to a camera team. His Majesty Jigme Wangchuk dislikes the foreign influence and gave out the order to the people to wear traditional clothes until 9 p.m. Nevertheless, the documentary shows the traces of the immigrants and the growing influence of western lifestyle.

The last bow-makers, the biggest festivals at the beginning of the year with dancing monks in the monastery of Paro, known as the central monastery of Bertolucci's film "Little Buddha", and golf with the royal family in the capital city - the highest golfing green on earth – shade a different light on Bhutan.

© 2004

OSAMA BIN LADEN THE PROPHET OF TERROR

54'

Asiem El Difraoui, Britta Sandberg

"We got him" - these were the words used by the U.S. Presidential Envoy to Iraq to announce the capture of Saddam Hussein. A liberating pronouncement which the world continues to wait for in vain in connection with Osama bin Laden. It is as though the earth had swallowed up the prophet of terror.

Who is this man who has become the wirepuller and symbol of the global terrorist war? How did the architect and businessman Osama bin Laden become a fanatic religious warrior, who imagines himself to possess the sole religious truth and is prepared to walk over thousands of dead bodies in the fight for Allah?

He orders murders to be committed in the name of Allah, has declared war on America and is the scourge of the modern West: Osama bin Laden. With the attacks of September 11, 2001 he and his henchmen changed the world. His terror is the greatest threat of our age.

© 2004

BURIED ALIVE THE SINKING OF THE KURSK

50'

Anna Sadovnikova

In a desperate note written to his wife, a young lieutenant captain of the sunken nuclear submarine Kursk wrote, "None of us can get to the surface. I am writing blind." Using partly unpublished film and private video footage, this film reconstructs the story of the Kursk and its sinking, illuminates the desolate state of the once glorious Northern Fleet, and provides an emotional account of the fate of the sailors and their loved ones.

© 2001

CALLING ALL ALIENS

2 x 50' 16:9

Christian Schidlowski

It is one of the biggest mysteries of our time: Are we alone in the universe? Hollywood has already given its own answer. After close encounters of the third kind such as "E.T.", scientists have now taken up the hunt for real aliens.

Since 1977, a golden gramophone record has been travelling through space. The Voyager record contains greetings in 55 languages and music from Mother Earth. 30 years later, some researchers even want to load human DNA on a rocket. But this plan is causing trouble. In a worst case scenario, we are inviting hostile invaders to take control over the earth. Do we really want to give away our most important secret to everybody?

The two part documentary shows us a world where science and fantasy mingle, and where fictions inspire real research. CALLING ALL ALIENS shows the desperate yet hopeful believers behind their monstrous telescopes. In 2007, their search will reach a new dimension. With 350 satellite dishes, each one measuring six meters in diameter, the world's most gigantic telescope array ever built will be tuned in to detect the message that could change the world.

Director Christian Schidlowski has exclusive access. His uncle is one of the world's leading experts on our cosmos.

A Vidicom production for La7, NRK, SBS, SPIEGEL TV, YLE, ZDF ARTE
**French version also available*
© 2008

EGYPT'S SUNKEN TREASURES

50'

Christopher Gerisch

In the spring of 2006, fantastic treasures from the realm of the Pharaohs are shown for the first time in Europe. Berlin hosts the exhibition "Egypt's Sunken Treasures" with the priceless artefacts brought to the surface by the world-famous underwater archaeologist Franck Goddio during his expeditions off the Mediterranean coast of Egypt. Golden rings, impressive statues and mysterious cult objects – approx. 500 artefacts which document the rise and fall of the legendary and largely submerged cities of Alexandria, Herakleion and Canopus. In addition to statues and sphinxes a royal palace was also found that may have belonged to Cleopatra – and the Timoneum, the palace of her lover, Marc Anthony.

Over a thousand years ago, calamity struck these former centres of science and religious high culture. Earthquakes and flood tides buried them under the seafloor. Yet they have remained important to this day. Franck Goddio's unique finds make it possible to gain profound and sometimes quite unexpected insights into Egyptian history.

The documentary "Egypt's Sunken Treasures" shows the fascinating work of the underwater archaeologist Franck Goddio off the coast of Egypt. As well as the various expeditions, the documentary features the breathtaking underwater footage of the discovery of the artefacts.

© 2006

HOW TO BUILD A RAINFOREST

54'

Ayana de Vos

One man fighting against the destruction of the rainforest and the extinction of the orangutan.

The rainforest used to cover 20 percent of the Earth. Today, two thirds of this fascinating and - in parts - unexplored region have disappeared. Man needed oil, coal, wood and space and recklessly took what he could. Man's exploitation of nature has had consequences - drought, infertile grass wastelands and groundwater polluted by pesticides. A biotope that originally abounded with various species is being turned into a wilderness.

For 15 years now, the Dutch scientist Dr. Willie Smits has not only been fighting against the destruction of the environment in Indonesia's forests. His goal is to save the orangutans living there from extinction. They are threatened in many ways - by farmers who unknowingly kill the animals to protect their plantations, by poachers who generally kill the orangutan mothers so that their offspring can be sold at the markets.

At the moment, six hundred apes are living in the two rescue and rehabilitation centres which Dr. Smits has set up in the north of and east of Borneo. Here they are learning how to live in the wild. But Dr. Smits has a much more far-reaching vision - he is working on the development of a new rainforest. Five years ago, he began his "Samboja Lestarie" project. He has 1,000 trees planted every day on 1,700 hectares of land. The first trees planted are now already more than 20 metres tall.

© 2006

THE RETREAT OF THE ICE GIANTS ALPINE GLACIERS AND THEIR SECRETS

54'

Kirsten Mommsen, Kay Siering

In the summer of 2003, the Vernagtferner glacier lost as much meltwater daily as the entire metropolitan area of Munich consumes in one day, namely 350 million litres. In recent years, the speed of glacial flow has decreased substantially, which can also be seen in the declining number of crevasses. Mighty ice caves forming at the edges of glacier snouts are a further indicator. If the unprecedented thaw should continue, then glaciers would cease to exist in Europe by the year 2100.

Glaciologists at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, Switzerland, have been looking into the causes and consequences of glacial retreat. During an elaborate expedition the Swiss scientists are trying to find answers to the question why Switzerland's Gorner glacier regularly fills a glacial lake, whose water is then suddenly released in an outburst flood. The glaciologists spend several months every year on the

ice, boring probe holes up to 400 metres deep. Their experiments have succeeded in deciphering the puzzling glacial discharge system. Meltwater and the permanent motion of the glacier form galleries, channels and often even large caves in its interior. Few scientists dare to enter into this netherworld. Meltwater and falling ice present an enormous danger. A French-Swiss team, however, undertook a descent into the labyrinth inside the Gorner glacier. The footage from the glacier's interior is extraordinary.

A continuing glacial retreat would be a disaster not only from an environmental but also from an economic aspect. In an attempt to combat it, several Austrian skiing resorts have launched an experiment for the preservation of glacial ice. In the summer of 2005 they covered the most exposed areas with thin white fleece blankets. The results are encouraging: 1.6 metres' depth of ice could be saved from melting.

The *glacier d'Argentière* in Chamonix, the second-largest glacier in the French Alps, is another declining ice giant. A system of underground caves and tunnels that is unequalled worldwide built beneath the 400-metre thick ice is the workplace of glaciologist Luc Moreau. The results of his research work are impressive.

The documentary affords an in-depth view into one of the most fascinating new research areas of recent years. Expeditions with Europe's leading glaciologists transport the viewer into enormous ice caves and deep glacial lakes and call attention to the efforts these scientists make to understand and perhaps even prevent the retreat of the ice giants.

© 2006

LOCUSTS SCIENCE OF THE PLAGUE

50'

Tillmann Scholl

They travel in enormous swarms eating everything bare within minutes. Locusts are a plague – particularly in Africa, as most people tend to believe. Very few know that locusts can also be useful and that many ecosystems would not be able to function properly without them. Frequently, their massive onslaughts are also caused by human beings. Using the example of "the biggest environmental disaster since Chernobyl" (UNESCO), the film shows how the insects multiply astronomically around Lake Aral in Uzbekistan, which is drying up. Huge belts of reeds have spread right around the lake – the staple diet of the Asian migratory locust.

In fundamental neurobiological research, however, the insects have advanced to stardom as they represent model organisms on which the functions of the central nervous system can be studied particularly well. Equipped with miniaturised transmitters, they are shot into the air with catapults in order to measure the nerve impulses on their wings.

SPIEGEL TV author Tillmann Scholl has had a look around research laboratories, joined locust experts in hunting for them in the steppe of Uzbekistan, and has discovered fascinating details about these insects.

© 2006

**CHINA'S LEGACY
TRADE WAR ON THE HIGH SEAS**

52'

Robert Wortmann

Globalization and world trade are not modern comforts. Already in the Middle Ages, the Chinese crossed the sea in search for new markets. Later they were followed by the Spaniards, Portuguese, Dutch and English, who often violently tried to get a hold of the gold, spices, silk and treasures.

With fascinating details the renowned French underwater archaeologist Franck Goddio has detected sunken ships in the South-Chinese Sea for the past eighteen years with which the history of early world trade can be reconstructed. The treasure is within reach: "White Gold" – Chinese porcelain of stunning beauty, the freight of seven Chinese junks. The documentary adjourns to the search of trail in Southeast-Asia, reconstructs by means of diving expeditions, complex computer animation and movie-scenes, an agitating chapter in the early history of seafaring.

© 2004

**MY CLASS
FROM RUSSIA WITH RELATIVITY**

89' 16:9

Ekaterina Eremenko

Moscow, 1982. The entrance exams for Russia's elite natural science school are tough. Filmmaker Ekaterina Eremenko is among the 26 accepted pupils. A golden future lead ahead of them, but are they prepared for the emerging Perestrojka and the collaps of the USSR?

More than 20 years after graduation Ekaterina Eremenko visits her former classmates from Moscow. Some have remained close friends, others haven't seen each other for years, yet others have died. Hardly any of the former elite students are now working in science or research. Many of them live abroad, most of them are part of "Corporate America". Some have remained in Russia or have returned. The huge changes in their home country have turned their lives upside down.

"My Class" is a very personal documentary. It is a film about belonging and the migration of highly qualified workers, about tradition and globalisation, about materialism and idealism and last but not least about national and personal identity.

© 2006 A Zero One Film production for BBC in association with RBB/Arte, SF Swiss Television Medienboard Berlin Brandenburg

THE SVANS **43' HD**
A MOUNTAIN PEOPLE BETWEEN TRADITION AND MODERN WORLD

Andreas Lünser

The Svans' way of life is simple and suggestive an illusion of an idyllic world. But behind the romantic backdrop a fundamental change take place at the beginning of the new millenium. The history of the Georgian mountain people shows, the Svans hold on their tradition and try to preserve their identity even though emigration and global opening is getting stronger.

The Georgian mountains are difficult to access and time seems to stand still. The people live a mediaeval life in a breathtaking landscape. Until now the Svans farm their scant land without engines; archaic rites are an important element of their everyday life. The homeland of the Svans, Svaneti, all in all 40 mountain villages, is based in a scenic valley between Abkhazia and South Ossetia surrounded by mountains of the high of 5000 meters. Each house has his own fortress tower which once guarded against vendetta and enemies. Still they bring up the cattle to the mountain side with ox carts and old folksy practices are performed with blood sacrifice and death cult in extended families. The Svans differ from the rest of the Georgians by their distinct consciousness of tradition, they try to keep their mediaeval culture using an own language and own cult of icons.

Now a time started for the Svans, a time of change and variation, but they don't want to take leave of the old values and traditions.

© 2012

KIMBERLEY LIFE AT THE EDGE OF THE WORLD

43' 16:9 HD

Christopher Gerisch

The Kimberley region of Australia is among the most lonely and barren places on earth. This region – covering an area larger than Germany – is extremely hostile. Nonetheless, 30,000 people have embraced its magnificent seclusion and chosen to make a life for themselves here. It is a landscape that captivates everyone with its breath-taking beauty.

There is one road that connects everything: The Gibb River Road – the lifeline of this region. For 640 kilometres, it carries us through the rugged heart of this spectacular landscape.

This is the land of the Aborigines, whose history is inextricably linked with the history of the region. Through them we learn what it means to venerate nature. They bring us to the holy spots of their forefathers and let us share in their unique way of life – caught between the modern world and the past.

Along the Gibb River Road, one of only three roads in this entire 420,000 square kilometre region, the owners of huge cattle farms have set up business. They can only keep an overview of their operations using aeroplanes, thereby covering areas the size of Saarland. This is rugged work, in rugged surroundings. In summer, the sun burns down at a merciless 50 degrees, leaving all living things withered and dry. During rainy season, the dried out riverbeds transform into raging floods.

Nature provides the people of the Kimberleys with other dazzling treasures: diamonds. Pink diamonds, unique in the world and found here: in the largest diamond mines on Earth. The people work in two-week cycles. Most of them don't last any longer – due to loneliness and isolation.

© 2012

THE BURYATS A SHAMANIC CULT AT LAKE BAIKAL

43' 16:9 HD

Kay Siering

In the vast wilderness around Lake Baikal reside a nomadic people: the Buryats. They live according to their own customs, and their everyday life is defined by shamanism and a strong sense of family.

The Buryats lead their lives in harmony with powerful forces of nature: wide open steppes, majestic hills, dense forests and a vast body of water they call the "Holy Sea": Lake Baikal. For hundreds of years its western bank has been home to the Buryat family clan, who travel across the land with their traditional yurts and their large herds of cows and horses.

Shamanic rituals and a cult of ancestor worship are what define the lives of these nomads.

For them, the natural world has a soul, while trees and rocks have a deep spiritual significance. The holiest place of all is the Shaman Rock on the island of Olchon. This is where the spiritual leaders pay homage to their faith once a year with a cult ritual.

Further east, on the other side of Lake Baikal, is Ulan Ude. With 400,000 inhabitants, it is the largest city in the independent republic, and a third of its residents are Buryats.

Shamanism is booming here as well: the town even has its own Shamanic clinic, which treats people using traditional medicine and spiritual ceremonies. The town, which - thanks to international trade and manufacturing - has seen an increase in employment, is undergoing a major upturn.

The rapid growth of Ulan Ude is presenting the Buryats with the toughest challenge they have ever faced.

© 2012

**LUXURY WITH A RICH TRADITION
THE GRAND HOTEL EUROPE IN ST. PETERSBURG****55' 16:9****Kay Siering**

Oligarchs worth billions, famous Hollywood stars and heavily guarded heads of state - the flock of guests of the Grand Hotel Europe certainly are the cream of the crop. 300 luxuriously furnished rooms and suites, individually equipped with valuable antiques, are available to the discerning guests. Located at St. Petersburg's upscale *Newsky Prospekt* shopping street, this hotel steeped in a rich tradition is considered a microcosm of Russian society.

Since 1875 the *Evropeyskaya* has been the absolute hotel of choice in Russia. Peter Tchaikovsky spent his honeymoon at the *Grand Hotel Europe*, the poets Maxim Gorki and George Bernard Shaw enjoyed the affluent luxury - as did Dmitri Shostakovich, who played a sonata to Sergei Prokofjew in his suite.

Today, "security level 1" has been proclaimed behind the noble façade. Burly security guards and untold surveillance cameras ensure that Russian oilmen can feel at ease too. Many of them live permanently at the *Grand Hotel Europe* for security reasons.

Luxury as far as the eye can see: a staff of 800 serve the guests all the culinary delights and other treats they could possibly desire. In the *Caviar Bar*, the Vodka sommelier advises eager listeners as to what type of vodka is the perfect match for *blinis* with Beluga caviar. And in the restaurant *L'Europe*, Petersburg's high society dines every Friday evening during "Tchaikovsky Night" to the sound of the hotel's own orchestra.

PIEGEL TV takes a look behind the scenes of Russia's most luxurious hotel. Previously unpublished archive images and interviews with contemporaries illustrate the unique history of this hotel with a glorious tradition. A documentary about star chefs high on caviar, porters with doctorates and spoilt millionaires.

© 2007

**ON THE FLOWER TRAIL
BY TRUCK AND AIRFREIGHT AROUND THE WORLD****52'****Gesine Mueller**

Globalization has not spared the flower industry. The rose has long since followed the call of the climate and low labor costs in other continents. Kenya is now one of the major growing regions of this thorny but beautiful queen of flowers. While coffee and tea were the African state's major export earners years ago, flowers have meanwhile outperformed these merchandise categories.

Seventy per cent of the rose farms are owned by Kenyans. Whereas ten years ago these flower farms made headlines because of poor working conditions and pesticide incidents, European importers are now keeping a sharp eye on the protection of workers. The damage to image of this sensitive product would be far too high.

This is why consumer labels such as "FFP – Fair Flowers and Plants" are to guarantee fair working conditions, protection of health and adequate wages.

After all, seventy per cent of the roses are air-freighted to Europe on the same day they were picked. So far, the sector has not recorded any declines in sales, and the product is proving to be resilient to crises.

The Dutch auction house in Aalsmeer is one of the major global trading hubs. Twenty million flower stems and two million pot plants change hands on a daily basis, which translates into 60,000 transactions or 300 sales concluded per minute. New markets like Russia and Mexico are also ordering their goods from Kenya.

© 2007

HIDEAWAYS MALDIVES / THAILAND SIX STARS UNDER PALM TREES

2 x 50'

Torsten Mehlretter, Silvana Rosenzweig

The luxury tourist trade worldwide gears up a level: white sandy beaches, crystal-clear water and five-star amenities are often not enough to ensure that millionaires in need of a rest are getting guaranteed satisfaction out of their holiday. In an attempt to design the best holiday places on the planet, hotel companies copy exotic royal palaces, fill dream beaches with white coral sand, transform islands into tropical gardens of Eden using 15,000 plants, or lure colourful fish to an exclusive underwater restaurant.

On the Maldives, hotel operators rely on luxury taken straight out of “Thousand and One Nights” to attract the international A-list guests to the island state in the Indian Ocean. Luxury resorts such as *Cocoa Island* or *Soneva Fushi* provide peace and relaxation on the highest possible level by means of luxurious water villas and abundant service staff. The *Reethi Rah* hotel offers to its guests no less than ten massage pavilions, twelve beaches, thirty diving spots, and holiday villas up to 322 square metres in size and private pools. The 24-hour-a-day service of a personal butler are as normal here as a crash course in opening champagne bottles with a sabre. Those who can afford it could actually rent the entire island including the 600 employees. The going rate is one million US dollars for five nights.

In Thailand, too, several resorts have qualified as acceptable addresses for the super-rich in need of a rest. Owing to its exquisite wellness facilities, the *Four Seasons* hotel in Chiang Mai is frequented by the international jet set; in the latest spin-off of the *Mandarin Oriental* luxury hotel chain, the nouveau rich can now feel what it's like to be royalty: an exact replica of the king's palace in Mandalay has now been built in the *Dhara Dhevi* resort.

© 2006

JEANS – THE BLUE CULT FROM STUDED WORKMEN'S TROUSERS TO CULT DESIGNER STATUS

52'

Alexandra Schmidt

For decades now, jeans – usually blue, faded and often with holes or patches – have been a best seller of the fashion industry and a standard element in wardrobes of the western world. Designed over 100 years ago as work trousers for gold diggers, horse breeders and farmers, jeans today have advanced to become a highly modern and fashionable piece of clothing. The bandwidth of trousers on offer ranges from the dark-

blue classics all the way to luxurious designer items with fancy embroidering or gemstone trimming.

The Mustang Company is one of the few manufacturers that still produce their blue jeans in Europe. In Hungary, this German firm steeped in tradition produces up to 4,000 pairs of jeans each day. Even though fully sewn in 14 minutes on average, many a pair of jeans is subjected to ill treatment for up to seven hours using pumice stones, emery paper and bleaching agents. After all, whatever looks old and used is considered trendy. The Italian manufacturers Martelli are considered masters of the art of so-called vintage jeans. Using complex destructive processes, sitting creases are pressed, seams worn down and "bottoms" scrubbed until light in colour. This is where jeans collections from Levis, Dolce & Gabbana and Armani are also given their popular "scrappy" look & feel, modelled along the lines of hundred-year-old pairs of jeans for which the company is prepared to pay up to 30,000 euros on the international collectors' market.

A documentary on the design and manufacturer of this classic element of clothing.

© 2005

HIDEAWAYS SEYCHELLES / BALI UNKNOWN PARADISES - WHERE THE JET SET GO ON HOLIDAY

2 x 50'

Jens Nicolai, Silvana Rosenzweig

A luxury villa, a private beach and the kind of view that can only be described as "sensational" - when the jet set want to recuperate from the strain of their turbulent everyday life, their holiday quarters too must be of the finest.

The Seychelles are considered Paradise on Earth; affordable particularly for the well-off: Cousine Island can be rented for 5,000 euros a day, four villas included. For half that amount, a superlative luxury lodge offers three days on the uninhabited North Island, in a 450-square-metre residence for two – including a personal butler. Exclusive dishes can be eaten on the beach at sunset. At the “Banyan Tree”, the Presidential Villa with its view over the Indian Ocean also comes with your own personal beach.

Bali, the island of the gods, offers extremely comfortable lodgings, too. Far from the spiritual self-awareness tourists, guests seeking relaxation can splash about in private indoor and outdoor pools between terraced paddy fields, wait in jungle gardens for a “mandi susu massage” with the finest oils, and recover from their body mask in banana leaves. Resorts such as “Amankila” or “Begawan Giri” are considered the Holy Grail of exquisite taste, and the “Four Seasons at Jimbaran Bay” also caters for those seeking to indulge in luxury cuisine and accommodation. With prices starting from 750 dollars a night per visitor, the guests who stay here are indeed treated like kings – which they often really are.

© 2004

**TRAPPED ON THE ICE
THE BIRTH OF AIR MOUNTAIN RESCUE**

52' HD

**Kristina Karrer, Patricia Wagner
Director Fiction: Marc Brasse**

It is the 19th of November 1946, post-war Europe. A Dakota with American generals and their wives on board takes off from Vienna headed for Pisa.

Bad weather forces the pilot Ralph Tate to select a route across the Swiss Alps. The altitude is set to 3000 meters above sea level. With a lot of luck, he manages to avoid some of the peaks of the Bernese Alps despite poor visual conditions until the plane finally crashes on the Gault Glacier above Meiringen. Miraculously, all the passengers survive.

The crash landing leads to the most spectacular Alpine rescue at that time. The Americans enter Switzerland and hope to reach the glacier in their tanks. The small village of Meiringen experiences an invasion replete with the army, military tanks and more than 150 journalists from all around the world.

Yet, this fails to perturb the Swiss. Despite the extreme weather conditions, local mountain guides with the simplest of equipment set off and, exhausted after a 15-hour climb, finally reach the site of the crash. At the same time, a Fieseler Storch lands on skids on ice for the first time and flies the injured passengers safely down into the valley.

"Trapped on the Ice" shows using a combination of impressive archive footage, interviews with survivors and high class re-enactments the birth of air mountain rescue, the invasion of Switzerland by the 88th battalion and how the courage and bravery of some locals helped rescue the survivors of a plane crash in the Swiss Alps.

A C-Films production in coproduction with SPIEGEL TV for SF and ZDF

© 2011

**FÜHRER CULT AND MEGALOMANIA
THE NAZI PARTY RALLY GROUNDS IN NUEREMBERG**

50' HD

Michael Kloft

At the Zeppelin Field in Nuremberg, the ruins of Hitler's stand are a reminder of the bombastic marches that were staged here during the Nazi party rallies. It is one of the few relics still left from the era of Hitler's favorite architect Albert Speer. "Even the pyramids," Hitler told his protégé, "will be dwarfed by the masses of concrete and stone blocks, which I am building there."

There is evidence to suggest that Hitler had already decided in 1929 to make Nuremberg the "City of the Party Rallies".

In the twenties, it had been the most anti-Semitic city in Europe. What is more, Nuremberg was a symbol representing the greatness of the German Empire in medieval times, and it was a traditional site for political rallies.

Up to one-and-a-half million people converged on Nuremberg in the course of a party rally, which lasted eight days. The party rallies were indispensable for the Nazis as they provided a platform at which the regime could present itself once a year - with a gigantic propaganda machine, brochures and books, recordings, radio and films. The highlight

was doubtless a "Triumph of the Will" by Leni Riefenstahl. Even today it is possible to see signs in Nuremberg of the megalomaniac proportions that the system was to assume. In such arenas, the individual was worthless and nothing more than a minute ornament. According to experts, this state and party rally architecture was also a symbol of Hitler's determination achieve world domination. Rare footage of the construction work was used for this documentary. A previously unknown amateur film even shows the land in color in 1936. Witnesses report on the atmosphere during the party rallies, of fanatical anti-Semitism and the unprecedented Führer cult.

© 2011

INSIDE NAZI GERMANY AN OUTSIDE VIEW

52' HD

Michael Kloft

In the summer of 1937, the American documentary filmmaker Julien Bryan unexpectedly received special permission to travel to the Third Reich and to film the country.

Bryan traveled through large parts of the country in September and October 1937, gaining a deep insight as a result. Obviously, he was only allowed to film approved sites, but he still repeatedly managed to gain footage of scenes which were not what the government wanted the world to see.

About four hours of black and white 35mm footage have been preserved and extracts from this were shown in a newsreel in 1938.

Michael Kloft has sifted through the unique original footage, using it to create an unusual documentary about the Third Reich.

1937 is widely regarded as the least interesting of the 12 years of Nazi rule, and yet it is one of the most important because this was the period during which the foundations were laid for the path to war and the Holocaust. At this time, critical observers were touring the country in order to study the background to the Nazi successes or to expose the true nature of Hitler's reign of terror.

They included the young John F. Kennedy and authors Samuel Beckett and Jean Genet. Their experiences and assessments aptly complement Bryan's authentic footage.

A SPIEGEL TV production for BR in cooperation with ARTE

© 2011

J F K THE PRIVATE PRESIDENT

53' HD

Kathrin Seelmann-Eggebert

In January 1961, a new generation in the guise of John F. Kennedy moved into the White House. All of a sudden politics were youthful, dynamic and sexy.

During the brief period in which he was in office, the first pop star of politics accompanied America through the darkest days of the Cold War. At the same time, his signal to embark in new directions was eagerly welcomed by younger generations all around the world.

Later on, Jackie Kennedy was to compare his presidency with Camelot - the legendary court of King Arthur.

Yet, there were also dark sides to this popular president's life. Kennedy had countless affairs. And behind the brilliant politician was a very sick man who needed to take up to

12 medicines a day. If the public had known how ill Kennedy really was, says his biographer Robert Dallek, who has examined Kennedy's medical records, he would never have become president.

The documentary features reminiscences by Robert Kennedy Jr. and Matthew Maxwell Kennedy, the sons of Robert Kennedy. John F. Kennedy's friend and campaigner Harry Belafonte, his closest adviser Ted Sorensen, who has recently died, and Sergei Nikitich Khrushchev, the son of the Prime Minister of the USSR.

Rare amateur footage from the private archives of the Kennedys sampled in HD provide an intimate view of the life of the legendary First Family.

© 2011

D-DAY THE SOLDIERS' STORY

4 x 50' HD

Michael Kloft

In early June 1944, 1.5 million Allied soldiers stand ready in southern England to embark on the largest amphibious assault in military history: Operation Overlord. For tens of thousands of young U.S. soldiers, this war against the Nazis seems almost like an adventure. Only very few, if at all, have any combat experience.

The sixth day of June 1944 is "D-Day", "Decision Day".

American troops land on the coast of Normandy to bring the Third Reich to its knees from here. Platoon after platoon go ashore without any cover. Only now does the horror awaiting them begin to dawn on many of them. From the dunes above them, the Germans open fire on the GIs from bunkers and foxholes. They have orders to keep their positions whatever the cost. The bloody carnage continues into the afternoon hours. Two to three thousand American soldiers are killed or injured on the "Omaha Beach" landing section alone.

The successful landing in Normandy accelerates the downfall of the Third Reich. The war continues for another eleven months, after which the Germans are defeated.

SPIEGEL TV filmmaker Michael Kloft meticulously records the sequence of events by means of original footage, photos and documents. He visited the original sites in Normandy and interviewed the last surviving witnesses. In an interview, the military historian Antony Beevor, author of "D-Day - The Battle for Normandy" reconstructs in an interview the "longest day" of the war.

© 2011

DEAR UNCLE HITLER THE GERMANS AND THEIR FUEHRER

60' 16:9

Michael Kloft, Mathias von der Heide

"... we would so much like to see you again. I love you. Write to me. Yours affectionately, Gina"

"These are the conditions which we are experiencing in your Reich. The law is increasingly being ignored. I know that my letters to you will be to no avail...."

"On April 18, 1938 our second son was born. Unfortunately, I was unable to postpone his birth until the 20th ..."

"If your government or your officials do anything to harm us, our blood will be on your head and you will be accountable to God the Almighty."

More than any other historical documents, it is the personal private letters written by a people to "their" dictator that provide the most intimate glimpses of the history of the Third Reich. A treasure of more than 100,000 such letters was recently found. Hidden in a special archive in Moscow, the letters written to the Fuehrer had gone unnoticed for six decades. They had been taken to Moscow from Hitler's private chancellery by the "Trophy Commission" in 1945 and remained unnoticed in the cellars of the building housing the document collection.

The content of these letters reveals in uncensored form the true feelings of the people at the time: personal revelations disclosed by the writers to the recipients - hopes, longings, fears, lover letters, declarations of loyalty, birthday wishes, requests and occasionally also words of protest.

Like a seismograph, it mirrors the change in mood in Nazi Germany, providing a reflection of the German spirit in the years from 1933 to 1945.

© 2010

WHERE IS HITLER? A HOT TRAIL DURING THE COLD WAR

48'

Michael Kloft

1954: The local court of Berchtesgaden. The daily mail sent to a judge includes an inconspicuous postcard, bearing a single sentence:

"I'm alive and will be returning, Adolf Hitler".

Did the Fuehrer and seducer of the Germans, responsible for 60 million deaths, die in 1945 – or did he perhaps survive the Second World War after all? Was he rescued from the burning cinders of Berlin in good time and taken to safety?

For more than ten years FBI agents, British intelligence and later German authorities were not sure what really happened in the bunker. Investigators and prosecutors have been trying to ascertain the circumstances surrounding Adolf Hitler's death. They followed every rumour, every hint and every trace. Even the most unlikely and weird theories were checked meticulously. Did the Fuehrer escape with a submarine to Argentina, was he living in Washington D.C. or is there proof that he committed suicide?

With previously undisclosed files and interrogation tapes, rare footage and photographs, with interviews and state of the art reenactments this documentary will be a stunning reconstruction of the secret hunt for Hitler.

© 2010

IMPRISONED TO BE FREE

51'

Susanne Gerecke, Kay Siering

Seven-metre-high walls, freezing cold cells and sadistic guards: Hoheneck women's prison in the Erz Mountains is one of the dark secrets of East Germany. Criminal offenders as well as political prisoners served long sentences in the 700-year-old castle. Conditions in the prison were catastrophic, and many of the inmates committed suicide.

The public never knew exactly what went on behind the thick walls, and the 55,000-square-metre complex was not marked on any map. What went on there was only documented in secret files.

At Hoheneck, 21 women are housed in a single holding cell. The castle is massively overcrowded, with sometimes over 1,600 prisoners held there. Anyone who breaks the strict rules is locked up in the old dungeons of the castle. But the most-feared room is the so-called water cell. In this film, former prisoners confirm for the first time that women were actually forced to stand in water for hours in this cell.

Life at Hoheneck prison is governed by a strict 3-shift system. In the production halls in the south wing, the women have to produce goods for the West – everything from tights to shirts.

The women of Hoheneck are at the mercy of the despotic East German leadership. From their offices in the administrative building at the castle, the secret police deploy informants to the cells. These women, disguised as fellow inmates, are instructed to worm out the names of potential accomplices from the prisoners. For intimidation purposes, political prisoners are often held in cells with murderers. For some, the time in prison is so unbearable that they deliberately hurt themselves to be sent to the infirmary; they swallow spoons and forks or stick sewing needles under their skin.

SPIEGEL TV reporters Susanne Gerecke and Kay Siering spent months researching to find out the truth about Hoheneck. In exclusive interviews, former prisoners describe the hopelessness they felt as inmates, and even former guards talk about events at the castle for the first time. Previously unpublished archive footage shows what life was like inside the prison fortress.

© 2009

CHRONICLE OF THE THIRD REICH

4 x 50'

Michael Kloft

"The Germans have a long way to go before being finished with Hitler." (Sir Ian Kershaw)

"The past is still with us and will not go away." (Helmut Schmidt)

Adolf Hitler was appointed Reich chancellor on 30 January 1933. Once they had seized power in Germany, the Nazi no longer relinquished it until their demise on 8 May 1945. The Third Reich lasted for 12 years, 3 months and 9 days. It began with great hopes and unprecedented jubilation and ended after a world war in which 50 million people were killed, Germany was destroyed and the European Jews murdered.

To mark the 75th anniversary of the seizure of power by the Nazis, SPIEGEL embarks on a unique journey through the bleakest chapter of German history. Michael Kloft traces the story of the Third Reich, painting a picture of Nazi dictatorship behind the propaganda by utilizing what in some cases is previously unpublished footage. In describing the politics, day-to-day life, the war years and the crimes of the Nazi state, he is aided by three famous historians: Sir Ian Kershaw has set worldwide standards with his biography of Hitler, Brigitte Hamann illuminates the background to the fascination

with the Führer in her groundbreaking studies and Goetz Aly describes the “feel good dictatorship” of the thirties and mercilessly shows how the Germans plundered the rest of Europe in his book 'Hitlers Volksstaat'.

© 2008

HEINRICH HIMMLER ANATOMY OF A MASS MURDERER

52'

Michael Kloft

Heinrich Himmler is considered the incarnation of a mass murderer, the driving force behind the indescribable crimes that has made the National Socialist dictatorship so unique in modern history. An early henchman of Hitler's, Himmler slowly but surely rose to become one of the mightiest “prefects” of the Nazi state. He turned an insignificant gang of thugs into a pseudo-religious order, and his “SS state” became a highly feared instrument of terror. As a compliant servant to his “Führer”, Himmler controlled an economic empire in which hundreds of thousands of slave workers were exploited, including extermination camps in which millions of people were murdered. Using rare and hitherto unpublished archive material, photographs of historic sites and records of interviews with select persons, this film biography shows how - and, above all, why - Himmler, the offspring of a Bavarian bourgeois family became a “monster of history”.

© 2008

THE NIGHT OF BROKEN GLASS THE NOVEMBER 1938 POGROMS

48'

Michael Kloft

“We will dispel them more and more with unprecedented relentlessness.”
(Heinrich Himmler on 8 November, 1938)

The “Reichspogromnacht” is one of the central “milestones in genocide”. After systematically excluding Jews and looting their homes and businesses in Germany after the seizure of power, the Third Reich showed its violent face openly in what has come to be known as the “Kristallnacht”. On 9th and 10th of November 1938 roughly 400 synagogues around Germany were set on fire, while SA troops destroyed 7,000 Jewish stores and businesses. More than ninety people were killed, while some 600 committed suicide. Over 26,000 men were deported to concentration camps - allegedly for their own protection - and abused. In response to a storm of international protests, the Nazis claimed that spontaneous acts by agitated citizens had caused the situation. In actual fact, however, it marked the climax in a government-led wave of anti-Semitic violence. The documentary describes the events leading up to the “Kristallnacht” and illuminates the background to these dreadful events.

Rare footage and photos will show how antisemitism escalated in Germany in the 1930s. Documents from the “Stürmer Archive” in Nuremburg prove that the majority of the community accepted the state-induced antisemitism and, in some cases, supported it with denunciations.

A SPIEGEL TV production for NDR in association with History UK

THE FLYING AIRCRAFT CARRIER

52' HD

Robert Wortmann

This is the untold story of one of the biggest zeppelins ever built: the USS Macon, a flying aircraft carrier.

In the late 1920's a group of German engineers went over to the USA to set up a joint venture with the "Goodyear Rubber and Tire Company". In the next years they would be responsible for the construction of a project commissioned by the US Navy - the USS Macon. Completed in 1933 it started its first trial flights. On board, the USS Macon carried 4 Sparrowhawk planes, stored in bays inside the hull. These planes could be launched and retrieved during flight using a trapeze.

Only two years after its maiden flight in a dramatic incident the USS Macon went down in a storm off the Californian Coast in 1935. The crew saw the 240 meter long airship go down in front of their eyes. In 1991 Chris Grech, Deputy Director MBARI together with the US Navy found the wreckage about 450 meters below sea level.

In 2006 Grech returned to the wrecksite with a team of scientists to complete intensive research of the wrecksite. Over 40 hours of HD underwater footage reveal the long lost heritage showing parts of the scelleton of the airship, the well conserved Sparrowhawk planes and the massive Maybach engines lying at the bottom of the ocean.

This documentary contains interviews with scientists, historians and the last survivor of the Macon, rare high quality archive footage of the construction and breathtaking air to air footage of the Sparrowhawk planes taking off the airship. Together with brilliant HD underwater material and high class re-enactments this film tells the story of the long forgotten flying aircraft carrier and the brave aviation pioneers of the 1930's.

A SPIEGEL TV Media production for ZDF and ARTE, National Geographic Channel, History UK and Discovery Channel Canada
© 2007

THE SEARCH FOR THE EXPLORER

47' HD

Marc Brasse, Torsten Mehlretter

A stunning crowd gathers on the docks in New York harbour in May 1866. A submarine suddenly emerges from the murky water. Julius Kroehl, an emigrated German engineer, surfaces after a 90-minute dive. In 2001, archaeologist Jim Delgado found the wreck of the world's first cast-iron submarine on a remote beach of a deserted Island in Panama. Delgado started an expedition and uncovered amazing facts:

The submarine was able to carry 5 persons. The crew could submerge and go back in it, whenever they wanted. They could navigate it under water and it had a separate chamber for pressurized air and two hatches that could be opened under water. But the submarine with its incredible technology and his ingenious builder Julius Kroehl is nearly unknown in the history of underwater ships.

The Search for the "Explorer" is a lavish science history documentary about ambition, adventure, war, technology, brilliance, and disaster. The documentary traces the

amazing life of the emigrated German engineer who built the “Explorer” for the American Civil War and ended up pearl diving off the coast of Panama.

Original filming of the expedition to the shipwreck in the remote archipelago in Panama are complemented by extensive CGI’s and re-enactments.

A SPIEGEL TV Media production for ZDF in association with History UK and Discovery Channel Canada
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THE CATACOMBS OF ROME THE CRADLE OF CHRISTIANITY

55’

Thomas Schaefer

What was Christianity like in its very early days? How was Jesus seen? How was the Son of God depicted? What were the reasons for the triumphant march of Christianity? Was the Christian faith different in its early days than it is today? Answers to these questions can be found in the Catacombs of the Eternal City. The subterranean labyrinths of Rome contain the oldest Christian paintings. As no other building or church dating back to the first few centuries of the then young religion still exists, the Catacombs are a unique source for researchers. The images found there do not show Christ suffering, tortured and nailed to the cross. Rather, they depict a youthful, mostly beardless miracle-worker and speaker wearing the robes of a philosopher. This suggests that early Christianity was more oriented to people than it is today.

SPIEGEL TV author Thomas Schaefer reveals the latest research into the origins of the catacombs. His report provides an insight into a project which is simulating one of the largest catacombs in a computerized 3D documentary.

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THE LAST FLIGHT OF LIEUTENANT ESTILL

52’

Kay Siering

Arlington Cemetery, October 2006. A pilot’s coffin is lowered into a grave. His tearful daughter watches. It is the end of a love story and a mystery that began in the final months of World War Two.

In April 1945, a mother in Iowa writes to her husband about their new baby girl. Lt. Shannon Estill is stationed in Europe as a fighter pilot, attacking Nazi targets in the last months of the war. Despite being just 22, he is a skilled pilot and well respected by his comrades. During the next weeks his wife Mary sends letters every day about their new born baby. She’s certain that he’s coming back. Tragically, she’s wrong. On April 13th, 1945, a German 88-mm projectile tears through the fuselage of Estill’s P38 Lightning. The plane crashes to the ground, the pilot dies. Mary will never touch her beloved husband again. But her daughter will. In 2005 Sharon Taylor-Estill travels to Germany to solve the mystery of her father’s disappearance. She is determined to find his plane and his remains. Her search began forty years ago. When she turned 21 she was given the letters her father wrote to her mother during the war. They are a touching collection

of love letters. Through the letters she meets her father when he was her age. Sharon vows that she will find her father and do what her mother could not – she will bring him home.

The Last Flight of Lieutenant Estill is a story about the power of love and finding closure. We follow Sharon as she starts the search for her father's remains in Germany. From US Army documents she learns that her father's P38 was shot down over East Germany, off limits to Americans at that time. In 1989, when the Berlin Wall falls, Sharon travels to Germany. With the help of a German archeologist, specialized in locating lost WWII planes, she finds the exact location where her father's plane was shot down.

Sharon's discovery sets the machinery of the US military in motion. From Hawaii, a recovery team of the "Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command" (JPAC) embarks on a journey to East Germany. This taskforce is in action around the globe, and its job is to "bring the boys home". After six days the excavation unit makes its first find: small, rounded pieces of bone, clearly of human origin. But are they really the remains of Lt. Shannon Estill?

To match the DNA the remains are taken to Hawaii – home of the world's largest forensic laboratory. Using state of the art technology, the scientists manage to clearly identify the remains of Lieutenant Estill. The bones are his. Sharon has found her father and can finally lay him to rest at Arlington Cemetery. Dad has finally come home.

**DVD Rights not available*
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EXPLORING HITLER'S BERLIN

50'

Michael Kloft

Throughout his entire life, Adolf Hitler's attitude towards the German capital, Berlin, was reserved, even distant. After all, this was where the radical party leader from Bavaria only managed to elicit little support in the 1920s and, at times, was even prohibited from speaking in public. Hitler preferred to stay in his beloved Munich. Only when he took power in 1933 did he set up permanent residence in the capital.

According to the will of the "Führer", the "old" Berlin was to cease to exist, and to be replaced by the global capital, "Germania" – in line with plans drawn up by his architect, Albert Speer. Only few buildings were erected; most were destroyed by allied bombs or the victorious armies. Some remarkable remains of National Socialist Berlin have stood the test of time, perhaps the most wellknown being the former Aviation Ministry of Hermann Goering, the massive Olympic stadium and Tempelhof airport, Europe's biggest construction complex of the day.

Yet together with experts of the organization "Berliner Unterwelten" (Underworlds of Berlin), in this documentary SPIEGEL TV conducts research on the less well-known buildings of the Third Reich, abandoned subterranean street tunnels that were part of the "Germania" plans, former Wehrmacht barracks and the ruins of gigantic Flak (anti-aircraft) towers. They explore former torture chambers and settlements of the SS, former Hitler youth homes and extensive bunker facilities, the original purpose of which is known only by few people today.

Rare archive photographs created on instructions from film producer Leni Riefenstahl bear testimony to models of the gigantomaniac buildings Hitler wanted to erect in Berlin.

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EXPLORING HITLER'S MUNICH

50'

Frank Gensthaler, Michael Kloft

Munich was associated with National Socialism more than any other city in Germany. This is where the movement began, where the party, the SA and SS were founded. With its beer cellars, Munich provided a particularly fertile breeding ground for the ideas of the NSDAP.

Accordingly, it is hardly surprising that Hitler too was closely associated with "his Munich" and kept an apartment in Bavaria's state capital.

When the regime's center of gravity increasingly shifted in the direction of Berlin after Hitler came to power, he underscored the significance of Munich by declaring it the "capital of the movement". This was also intended to be expressed in architectural terms with the construction of various representative buildings, such as the "*Haus der Kunst*", an art gallery. Around the refurbished *Königsplatz* area accommodating the party headquarters and the *Führer's* house, a so-called party district came into being, much of which has been preserved to this day. Rare archive material shows Hitler visiting the construction sites in the *Königsplatz* area.

Hitler still had many more extensive plans. The entire cityscape of Munich was to be changed to a marked degree. Parts of the inner city were to have been completely destroyed. The models for the boulevard and the central railway station, both of megalomaniacal proportions, still exist today. SPIEGEL TV managed to find an architect from the planning office who had participated in drawing up the conversion plans.

Even though very little was actually implemented, the symbols of the Nazi dictatorship are still visible in many places in Munich today.

© 2007

EXPLORING HITLER'S MOUNTAIN

50'

Michael Kloft

Adolf Hitler spent more than 1,000 days – almost every fourth day of his dominion over Germany on the Obersalzberg, his mountain holiday refuge near Berchtesgaden. Not only did the "Führer" spend time relaxing in this restricted area close to the Austrian border, cordoned off by a massive phalanx of security forces; this was also where he played host to the mighty of the Third Reich and Europe. In the midst of this picturesque mountain world, he made his decisions about war and destruction.

At the end of April 1945, Royal Air Force bombers razed the compound to the ground; after the war, the area was occupied by the U.S. forces and returned in its entirety to the Free State of Bavaria only in 1996. Public authorities today are uncomfortable in light of memories associated with the site. Yet the relics of the dictatorship have not disappeared altogether, even though most buildings were torn down long ago. For fear of attacks by the allied enemies, subterranean bunkers had systematically been built during the war; the extensive, complicated work was only discontinued when the war

came to an end. Today, most of the widely diverted, manifold branches of galleries and tunnels have been closed down and are inaccessible to the public.

SPIEGEL TV managed to obtain a special permit from the Bavarian state to explore the abandoned concrete tunnels. This documentation is a spectacular search for the relics of history of Hitler's mountain and tells almost forgotten tales of the people who lived there, high up in the shadow of power.

**DVD rights not available*
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U-864 **50'** **HITLER'S LAST DEADLY SECRET**

Marc Brasse, Christopher Rowley, Karl Vandenhole

In February 1945, one of the most dramatic chases in the history of naval warfare took place in the North Atlantic. The German submarine U 864 loaded with some of the latest Messerschmitt jet engine parts and missile guidance systems headed its way to Japan.

Unknown to them, one of the Royal Navy's most advanced hunter submarines, the *Venturer*, already lay in wait. After a three hour chase through the icy waters off the Norwegian coast, the *Venturer* fired four torpedoes and sunk U-864. Hitting a submerged target was a feat that had never been achieved in the history of submarine warfare.

Had the German U-boat arrived at its destination, the Nazi's revolutionary jet technology might have changed the course of the Second World War, tipping the balance in favour of the Japanese Air Force in its desperate struggle against the US Navy.

60 years later, following a chance discovery by local fishermen, a Norwegian salvage team prepares to recover U-864. For the wreck is an ecological time bomb. According to German records, the sub also carried 60 tons of highly toxic mercury. At any time, its deadly load could leak from the sunken vessel's eroded hull and cause a major environmental disaster in the North Sea.

A SPIEGEL TV production in coproduction with Cream Productions Canada for BBC, Discovery Science, The History Channel UK, History Television Canada, La7, NRK and ZDF

**French version also available*
© 2006

AN INCREDIBLE RESCUE AGAINST ALL ORDERS **50'** **U-3505 AND THE CHILDREN OF HELA**

Robert Wortmann

Between January and May 1945 one of the largest naval rescue operations ever took place. 790 ships were involved: they sailed from the besieged ports of East Prussia, crammed with desperate refugees. The voyage across the Baltic Sea presented a deadly risk. Enemy submarines, aircraft and mines made every westbound voyage a suicide mission.

There is, however, one aspect of this evacuation drama that has found little mention until today: the fate of some 40 German submarines and their crews. Acting against

explicit orders, their commanders rescued many children, adolescents, women and babies from the inferno of Danzig and Hela before they sank their own submarines.

Horst, Ursula and Barbara Willner, Guenter Schulz, and Fritz Deutschmann are the names of the protagonists in this story about U-3505. 24-year-old naval officer Horst Willner was the captain of this submarine, one of the feared XXL class. He used the most advanced submarine model of that time to rescue women, children and adolescents.

The eye witnesses shall shed light on the little-known destiny of some 40 German submarines which, acting against all orders, evacuated many babies, children and women from the war-ravaged areas of East Prussia.

Almost sixty years after the voyage of U-3505, one of the last submarines to leave the besieged town of Gotenhafen, the survivors of this adventure meet again for the first time. The former crews and evacuees meet in Hamburg.

**DVD rights not available*
© 2006

GOERING'S LAST BATTLE THE NUREMBERG COURTROOM DRAMA

2 x 52'

Michael Kloft

"The first really great dramatic moment of this trial will come when Goering is cross-examined by American prosecutor, Jackson. It will be a duel to the death between the representative of all that is worthwhile in civilisation and the last important surviving protagonist of all that was evil. In a sense, the whole result of the trial depends on that duel."

(Sir Norman Birkett, Nuremberg judge, March 1946)

The Nuremberg international military tribunal against the Nazi leaders, that began almost 60 years ago, to this day defined trial procedure for state criminals, such as Slobodan Milosevic or Saddam Hussein. In 1945, it was the task of the United States together with Great Britain, France and the Soviet Union to lay down the rules for the first court to deal with unprecedented war crimes and crimes against humanity. One of the central personalities of the trial was the American Chief Prosecutor, Justice Robert H. Jackson. In his opening speech on November 20, 1945, he described his vision: "That four great nations, flushed with victory and stung with injury, stay the hand of vengeance and voluntarily submit their captive enemies to the judgement of law is one of the most significant tributes that power has ever paid to reason."

His most notorious opponent was Hermann Goering, the last surviving high ranking accomplice of Adolf Hitler. Expecting to be found guilty by the court and executed, Goering was ready to fight his last battle: to show the German people that they had done nothing wrong and National Socialism had not ended in failure. "In 50 years the Germans will dedicate memorials to celebrate my life", he would often say during his days in the Nuremberg cell. In part, we owe it to Robert H. Jackson that he was proved wrong. However, his final victory over Goering seemed in jeopardy during the cross-examination of the infamous Reichsmarschall in March 1946.

Goering lost his last battle but there was one last way in which he could defy his opponents: only he would be able to escape the hangman. How he managed to smuggle

a capsule of cyanide into his cell is still not clear. He committed suicide on October 15, 1946.

Back in Washington, Robert H. Jackson considered Goering's dramatic exit only a preliminary shadow on his achievement in Nuremberg. He served on the U.S. Supreme Court, until he died in 1954 - without becoming chief justice. His splendid work in Europe had caused criticism at home. "A high grade lynching", said one of America's leading jurists, Chief Justice Harlan Fisk Stone. But Robert H. Jackson was sure, that history would finally reveal the enduring significance of the tribunal.

The clash of titans 60 years ago will form the centrepiece of this documentary. Rare footage will trace their careers. Films recently unearthed in Russian archives depict Hermann Goering's rise to power. Previously unpublished material is contained in archives around the world. Eyewitnesses recall Goering's life and appearance in the courtroom, historians share their latest discoveries about Hitler's No. 2 and the trial of the century. For more than ten years, writer and director Michael Kloft has done extensive research for various projects on the Nuremberg Trial. His recent films "The Tramp and the Dictator" and "Hitler's Bayreuth" have been shown in many countries worldwide.

A SPIEGEL TV production for BR, NDR in coproduction with National Geographic Channel & WGBH/The American Experience
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P47 – MISSING IN ACTION RECOVERY OF A WW II U.S. FIGHTER

52'

Kay Siering

The booming noise is deafening. It is the sound announcing that an aircraft is about to crash. Henry Mohr also remembers this vividly as his P47 Thunderbolt crashes onto the surface of the Austrian lake *Traunsee* on 8 May 1945, the last day of World War II. "This is the end", is Mohr's last thought before the ice-cold waters engulf him and his plane. Mohr's Thunderbolt goes down in history as the final loss on record for the U.S. in Europe in the Second World War.

A feverish search for the wreck of the P47, commissioned by an American businessman, continues for years; the task of salvaging the vanished aircraft would be a historic sensation.

In April 2005, the aircraft is finally located. The Thunderbolt is in excellent condition as the thin layer of mud has preserved it perfectly. Using special divers, floating winches and huge cranes, the wreck is salvaged in an expedition lasting for days.

The sensational find makes the headlines in the United States – and brings together two men who saw each other for the last time on 8 May 1945: the stricken pilot Henry Mohr and James Powers, who watched Mohr's crash from his own P47. "My first thought was 'Henry's alive!' - I've just got to see him again", said Powers.

The present and the past converge in a film that combines one of the most exciting search and salvage operations with the fate of the survivors and their highly moving reunion.

EMBEDDED '45 SHOOTING WAR IN GERMANY

2 x 54'

Michael Kloft

"Crossing the Roer was no piece of cake. Rest was snatched in a period of minutes, not hours. Fatigue and trench food made every step of that operation tough as hell. We looked more haggard than the Nazis we captured." (Samuel Fuller)

When American troops started their final invasion of Nazi Germany in mid-February 1945, U.S.-Army cameramen were at their side. They filmed many hours of incredible war footage on 35-mm celluloid. More than a thousand reels have been preserved in American archives; many of them have not been touched in decades. They are for World War II what we have seen so far only from the wars in Vietnam and most recently in Iraq. Embedded with the troops, the cameramen covered many stories of victory and defeat, death and liberation. Faces of despair and joy, scenes of war and peace, meticulously filmed by masters of the profession. Stories on the road from the Bulge over the Remagen Bridge to the Eagle's Nest. Twelve weeks of fighting in Germany until the ultimate collapse of the Third Reich.

Writer and director Michael Kloft has screened all the footage and selected the most striking scenes for his two-part documentary. He and his team researched the stories attached and found amazing war diaries, moving letters and eyewitness accounts that describe what happened. He will put together a chronicle of the last days of a war that cost 55 million lives and ended 60 years ago.

© 2005

THE GOEBBELS EXPERIMENT

2 x 53'

Lutz Hachmeister, Michael Kloft

The biography of Dr. Joseph Goebbels is unique because it links the unbridled expression of self with accomplished direction and leadership through media, a development not unlike the 'media politics' of today. In this sense, the life of the first and only German Propaganda Minister reaches out beyond the confines of the Third Reich.

This documentary uses key passages from his diaries as a base and combines it with contemporary film material, thus mirroring the life of Goebbels, his emblematic media persona and the politician-publicist image he represented. The film will be exclusively built on contemporary audio-visual material, and will not contain new eyewitness interviews. Goebbels' diary entries and articles are so self-explanatory that any accompanying commentary can be kept to a minimum. In its place, written inserts and a brief classification of the facts will suffice to help demonstrate that Joseph Goebbels may be the most frequently filmed politician in the 20th century.

A HMR Productions & SPIEGEL TV production
© 2005

DEATH IN THE BUNKER THE TRUE STORY OF HITLER'S DOWNFALL

78'

Michael Kloft

Adolf Hitler's final ten days in his bunker ensconced deep below the Berlin Chancellery of the Reich have been described in numerous books and memoirs.

The documentary by Michael Kloft reconstructs the dramatic events of 1945.

Was Hitler a physical and mental wreck at this point, waiting for the arrival of troops that no longer existed, or was this the coolly planned and executed final act of a failed fanatic? Did Hitler shoot himself as called for by Prussian soldiers' honour, or was he given the coup de grâce by his loyal servant after biting on a poison capsule? Did Magda Goebbels put her six children to death herself, or did a physician perform this terrible act on her behalf?

Michael Kloft interviewed the last remaining contemporaries of the day, including former Wehrmacht adjutant Bernd Freytag von Loringhoven and former Hitler Youth member Armin D. Lehmann, and he assessed and evaluated numerous interviews with eye witnesses since deceased. He reviewed the available documentation and consulted experts.

© 2005

THE REICH UNDERGROUND

2 x 50'

Michael Kloft

It was one of the most massive construction projects ever attempted by humankind. Late in World War II, the Nazis launched a bold plan to shelter armaments factories from the constant hail of allied bombs. All important manufacturing facilities would be relocated in underground labyrinths of protective caves. Today, many of the half-built facilities have been long-forgotten. A small fortune was spent to seal them up, making them inaccessible to trespassers and intruders. With previously unreleased film material and exclusive interviews, the fascinating and dramatic story of the Underground Reich is reconstructed when the Nazis leaders still hoped that the miracle weapons they produced would bring Germany final victory.

After securing special permission, a team of highly qualified experts explore the sprawling tunnel systems, finding their way into man-made caverns unseen for decades. The film also documents the horrors faced by forced laborers, compelled to construct the tunnel system under the most inhuman conditions. Tens of thousands gave their lives to realize the Nazis' crazed project.

Sixty years later, the two-part series provides a fascinating glimpse into awesome worlds beneath the earth that still exist in Germany, France, Poland and Norway.

© 2004

**PATH OF FORGIVENESS
A LONG WAY BACK TO OMAHA BEACH**

54'

Alexander Czogalla

June 6, 1944, on D-Day: the allies stormed the beaches at Normandy, gaining a tenuous foothold on the shores of France. On a stretch of shoreline the Americans had code-named Omaha Beach, the allied forces were subjected to one of the bloodiest battles of World War II. For seven hours German private Heinrich Severloh fired at the oncoming invaders, mercilessly, unceasingly, like a robot. Severloh, then 21 years old, was credited with killing more enemy troops than any other Wehrmacht soldier. The horrifying estimate is anywhere from two thousand to two thousand five hundred men, in a single day. A simple man transformed into a murdering beast. Like a madman, he fired his machine gun killing soldiers that, for him, have no names or faces. Except for one. David E. Silva, then 19, a GI from Cleveland, Ohio, survived the massacre with severe injuries. And then a miracle happened. Two men who were bitter enemies, met briefly, then went their separate ways. They exchanged letters, became friends. And now, the former enemies meet again years later at Omaha Beach.

© 2004

**FIRESTORM
THE BOMBING CAMPAIGN AGAINST NAZI GERMANY**

93'

Michael Kloft

Sixty years after the bombing campaign, a new debate is underway over the reasons for the allied air war against the Third Reich. The book, "The Inferno", by Joerg Friedrich is currently a bestseller. Were the relentless aerial attacks on German cities necessary tactics in the prosecution of war that resulted in unavoidable civilian casualties, or were they meaningless acts of revenge by the British and Americans, as Joerg Friedrich asserts?

SPIEGEL TV correspondent Michael Kloft documents the history of the air campaign, using film material never before made public and stirring interviews with witnesses. He questioned former bomber pilots in Britain and the U.S.A. as well as survivors of the carpet-bombing of Braunschweig on October 14, 1944. And, last but not least, the debate continues, with Joerg Friedrich and British historian Richard Overy.

**DVD rights available until 2011*

© 2003

THE TRAMP AND THE DICTATOR

54'

Kevin Brownlow, Michael Kloft

As Viktoria Chaplin was rummaging through her father Charlie effects some time ago, a unique document was found on the 16mm filmstrips: Sydney Chaplin had photographed the shooting his brother's masterpiece, THE GREAT DICTATOR, with his amateur camera – in full color.

The unusual find highlights one of Chaplin's most ambitious projects: his revenge on the Nazi regime of Adolf Hitler. With his satirical genius, he not only exposed the "Fuehrer" to ridicule, but more than that, he revealed the brutal nature of his dictatorship.

For their one-hour documentary "The Tramp and the Dictator", producers Kevin Brownlow and Michael Kloft will be given unlimited access to Chaplin's cinematic and literary estate, and hitherto unknown documents from German archives. Eye witnesses will talk of the difficult shooting in Hollywood, and of the Nazi leadership's reaction to the unexpected success of the film - and of course, outtakes from the amateur color film of the shooting of Chaplin's masterpiece will be shown for the very first time.

**DVD rights available till 2012*

© 2002

**THE JEW-BAITER
JULIUS STREICHER AND 'THE STUERMER'**

50'

Michael Kloft

Even high-ranking Nazi officials such as Joseph Goebbels and Hermann Goering felt mostly contempt for their fellow party member. Nevertheless, this man was one of the most influential figures in the Third Reich: Julius Streicher, who in his capacity as publisher of the antisemitic weekly 'The Stuermer' was responsible for the worst demagoguery and was notorious for his corrupt and violent regime as head of the Nazi administrative district in Franconia. The Allies regarded him as a symbol of national-socialist anti-Semitism. In 1946, he was sentenced to death and executed in Nuremberg.

With partly unpublished footage, photographs and documents, as well as interviews - with, among others, one of Streicher's former aides and famed American newsman Walter Cronkite - this documentation retraces one of the darkest chapters in German history.

**DVD rights not available*

© 2001

**THE STOCKING THAT CHANGED THE WORLD
THE NYLON STORY**

50'

Natascha Adler

Delaware 1937, Wallace H. Carothers discovered something that would greatly influence the following six decades of economic, social, political and cultural history - Nylon. Parallel to that, I.G.-Farben in Germany developed another synthetic fiber called Perlon, later renamed Dederon. Nylon, Perlon and Dederon were associated with dreams of beauty and eroticism, progress and prosperity, but also of power and domination. The Nylon/Perlon stocking became one of the symbols of the economic miracle.

© 2001

TELEVISION UNDER THE SWASTIKA

54'

Michael Kloft

Legend has it that the triumphal march of television began in the United States in the 'fifties. But in reality its origins hark back much further. As early as the 'thirties, a bitter rivalry raged for the world's first television broadcast. Nazi Germany wanted to beat the competition from Great Britain and the U.S. - at all costs. Reich Broadcast Director

Hadamovsky christened the new-born "Greater German Television" in March 1935. And it was only in September 1944 that the last program flickered across the TV screens. For a long time the belief persisted that only very few Nazi programs had survived, but SPIEGEL TV has now succeeded in tracking down a stock of television films and reports which have remained intact since the end of the Third Reich.

This documentary by Michael Kloft will reveal a rare and intriguing view of the Third Reich, one far removed from the propagandistic presentations of Leni Riefenstahl & Co. and the weekly cinema newsreel, yet no less ideologically slanted. This is Nazi Germany expressed in an aesthetic medium that we ourselves have only really known since the 'fifties.

© 1999

**EVA BRAUN
THE PRIVATE FILMS OF HER BELOVED ADOLF HITLER**

52'

Beate Schwarz

On October 11, 1945, five months after the fall of the Third Reich, the American Secret Service discovered 28 rolls of film in Schladming, Austria. They were being hidden away by a SS officer's mother. It was a sensational discovery - the private films of Eva Hitler, née Braun. Private films of Adolf Hitler and his friends and surroundings. They are, up to now, the only uncensored films of the 'Fuehrer' and his trusted Nazi cronies.

Additionally, Eva Braun filmed the outings and the many activities they did together with her family and the wives of Hitler's confidants: trips to Norway and Italy, swimming and ski outings in the Austrian Alps. It was a luxurious life, devoid of privation but with its own strict observance of form and custom, the same daily conformity, the same guests - completely juxtaposed to the bloody reality of the Third Reich.

**DVD rights available excluding music rights*

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