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CULTURE

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Hot Spots – Connecting Cultures

This series focuses on the world's cultural melting pots: cities like Salvador da Bahia in South America, Hanoi in Asia, Durban in Africa, and Berlin in Europe. Home to ethnic groups of many kinds, they reflect the broad cultural spectrum of the country in which they are located.

Through artists and their everyday lives, the films illustrate how music, dance, painting, theatre and cinema, and the various cuisines, ways of life, and religious beliefs impact on one another. We see how tradition blends with modern aspects to cement the co-existence of divergent cultures.

01 Berlin

The vibrant atmosphere in the German capital attracts artists from all over the world, from international stars of the art scene to highly motivated but unknown artists.

02 Salvador da Bahia

Nowhere in South America are African influences more pronounced than in Salvador da Bahia, a city with an exciting and highly divergent music and art culture.

03 Hanoi

One of the oldest and liveliest cities in the world, the face of Hanoi is shaped by wide boulevards and splendid palaces, but slowly the city is also becoming famous for its film and music-makers.

04 Cracow

Historic Cracow is one of the most exciting cities in Europe. Besides being on the world heritage list, it acts as a magnet for artists who stage the most unusual performances.

05 Kuala Lumpur

In the Malaysian capital Malays, Chinese, and Indians coexist peacefully. We focus on the intercultural aspects of art and religion as traditional forms impact on western elements.

06 Durban

Africa's biggest port is also a pulsating cultural centre. Zulus and Indians, Moslems and Christians, black and white artists live in harmony but also in a carefully cultivated contrast.

07 Shanghai

With skyscrapers shooting up everywhere, no city is changing its face more than Shanghai. A place of massive contrasts, it attracts creative minds – from finance to art.

08 Singapore

Singapore is no longer just a shopping paradise, it is also the cultural melting pot of south-east Asia. Chinatown, Little India, and Arab Street symbolize its intercultural flair.

09 Havana

One of the oldest, most picturesque and most sensuous cities of the New World, Havana has an incredibly vibrant cultural scene characterized by young, creative artists.

10 Düsseldorf

Düsseldorf is a city of commerce, art, fashion, and modern architecture. Its lively cultural scene embraces star painters, photographers, sculptors, and architects.

11 Mumbai

In this economic centre and cultural melting pot Hindus, Moslems, and Christians live in harmony with other religious minorities. Mumbai is a dream factory with the world's biggest film industry.