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Our world is full of mystery and wonder. What if we looked at it with the curiosity and openness of a child? If we looked beyond textbook answers to basic questions? If we were not afraid to question supposed certainties? And if we stopped worrying about seeming dumb?

What happens when scientists interpret such questions as an invitation to share what they know? When they convey their insights in a way that’s accessible to all, demystify the jargon and explain complex interconnections simply and clearly? When learning is fun and astonishing? Then we discover a world that’s surprisingly different from the one we think we know; science opens our eyes and leads us into the unknown. We ask questions – big and small – about Life, the Universe and Almost Everything. The responses from the world of science are smart, informative and entertaining.

264951 001
What is the Secret of Light?
Without light, there would be no life and no breathable air. It’s a natural part of our reality, but the response to the simple question: What is light? could hardly be more complex. Scientists have been grappling with it for centuries, but light remains an enigma riddled with contradictions. In Chile, the European Space Agency ESA is building the world’s largest supertelescope to capture light from distant worlds. Researchers hope it’ll help them find answers to the big questions about our universe.

264951 002
Will We Relocate to the Water?
The polar ice caps are melting; sea levels are rising. This threatens island nations but also countries such as Bangladesh and cities like New York and Shanghai. That’s why some of the world’s top architects are suggesting we build on water. They’re devising plans for floating cities close to shore. Advocates of the seasteading idea dream of villages on the world’s oceans; in Panama, designers are working on the first self-sufficient homes for the open sea. Are we headed towards a future of floating utopias?
How Much Does Life on Earth Weigh?
Yes, it’s calculable: The mass of all life forms on Earth – humans, animals, bacteria, fungi, even viruses. Scientists have developed sophisticated ways to do the math. They arrived at the figure of one teraton as the dry weight of the biomass; that’s a 1 with 12 zeros. The researchers say the weight of life appears to remain constant, but the composition of the biomass is undergoing rapid change. Human intervention is knocking our world off balance.

Can Algorithms Make Us Healthy?
Big Data is the motor of our age. Inevitably, it is also being applied to healthcare. After all, the human body harbors no end of data: in cells, in DNA, in proteins. In fact, the sheer volume of data is too large to be used for our health management. That’s why scientists are working on algorithms aimed at helping us to better understand our bodies. The result could be a medical avatar for each and every person – an artificial-intelligence application that keeps a close eye on all our physical data and warns us when something’s not right.

Can We Dig Our Way Through the Earth?
We have a pretty good understanding of the universe these days. But when it comes to the ground beneath our feet, the further down we try to look, the less we see. Ground exploration is expensive and technically challenging. But scientists have nevertheless managed to tease considerable insights from the stone and ice, the archive of our Earth. And now, researchers plan to go deeper than ever before: with the help of a powerful drilling vessel, they hope to penetrate the oceanic crust – and reach the Earth’s mantle for the very first time.

What do Animals Talk About?
Although we humans speak many different languages, we have always found ways to communicate with each other. In the old days with dictionaries, nowadays with translation apps. What if there was an app to translate animal noises? Something to help us interpret the neighing of a horse, the trumpeting of an elephant and the mewing of a cat? Researchers say that the vocal language of animals is a window on their soul. If we can learn to decipher it, perhaps we might gain a deeper understanding of animals – and be better at protecting them too.
264951 007
Can Geoengineering Save the Climate?
CO₂ emissions are heating up the planet and stoking climate change. It is so advanced that it cannot be halted through changes in individual behavior. What possible solutions are there? The science of geoengineering is developing and testing processes that could help us to slow and alleviate the impact of global warming. But they too come with their own set of consequences. How can geoengineering help us and, if it is to be effective, what are the prerequisites?

264951 008
How is Migration Impacting Our World?
There are many factors driving migration. Some of these are likely to be exacerbated in the future. For example, technological developments that oust people from the workplace, as well as demographic changes and economic crises that force people to seek employment elsewhere. And then, of course, there is climate change. Global interconnectedness also contributes to migration. It can rock political systems and has an economic impact. We look beyond the myths about migration and ask: Whom does it really benefit?

264951 009
Could We Live on the Moon?
“That’s one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind,” said astronaut Neil Armstrong, who in 1969 became the first man to set foot on the Moon. Half a century later, plans are afoot, involving several nations, to launch new missions to the moon. The goal now is for people to spend longer periods of time there. The question is how to make use of resources found on the Moon. Scientists are exploring ideas about how life on the Moon might be made possible with the help of sunlight, ice water and lunar dust.

264951 010
A World Without Slime?
Many children are told that slime is disgusting – and continue to think that as adults. But scientists say slime has amazing qualities and is essential for life. Slime can slide and stick, close and open. It can trap and confuse pathogens. Slime has a particular physical state: it’s a non-Newtonian fluid. And therein lies its secret. Researchers are exploring the capabilities of the slippery substances that are found throughout the natural world.

264951 011
Is Cryptocurrency the Better Money?
Cryptocurrencies have been sending shockwaves through the financial sector since their introduction. They have made some people millionaires and bankrupted others. What’s the technology behind cryptos? Do Bitcoin & Co. have any advantages over traditional money? Why do they worry many economists? Red flags include extreme price fluctuations and the voracious energy consumption involved in crypto mining. Crypto advocates believe the new kind of money is here to stay. Whoever might be right, cryptocurrencies have triggered an intense debate about the nature of money and central banks.

264951 012
Are Computers Prejudiced?
Who gets the job? Who gets the loan? And who has to go to jail? Decisions on such questions are made by people, who can be swayed by bias. If these decisions were entrusted to artificial intelligence, would that guarantee neutrality? AI systems are already used in sensitive areas of this kind. But can we be sure that these systems are working without discrimination? Or are we expecting too much from computers? Could one even teach them moral conduct?
Most people want to live to an old age. But few want to be old. Because age means decay, limitations, disease. But does it have to be this way? Or can we grow very old and still retain good health?

“The first person who’ll turn 150 years old has probably already been born,” say some scientists – and they should know. Because they’re tackling the root cause of the problem: not age-related illness, but the aging process itself.

But what’s the secret of long life without aging biologically to the same extent? In telomeres, the ends of chromosomes, which are longer in Costa Rica centenarians than in other people? Is it enough to zap what are known as “zombie” cells, present in all of us? At least scientists are now able to measure our biological age regardless of our actual age in years. An invention by one of the gurus of longevity research Steve Horvath has made that possible.

Instead of: “How old are you?”, will we soon be asking: “What age does your biological clock show?” It’s not implausible. We’ve already got a first app, developed in Hong Kong, promising to “protect” us from aging. And there are young biohackers such as Nina Khera from Boston, who want everyone to benefit from such research. If it’s possible to delay human aging one day, how about reversing the process altogether? Greg Fahy is conducting research in California on the thymus gland. His initial study on humans showed that by taking certain medication, they shaved an average two-and-a-half years off their age.

The race to crack the human longevity code currently resembles a scientific goldrush, with researchers competing for fame and investors’ favor. It’s quite possible that scientists may soon begin to realize humanity’s age-old dream of eternal youth. They have already moved beyond the ongoing debate on the many social and economic implications of extending certain people’s lifespans.
Know it!

Know it! is DW Transtel's magazine all about knowledge. Do you know what factors influence climate change or what impact it has on humanity? Are you aware of the questions currently being researched by scientists? How much do you know about energy and the environment? Do you keep up-to-date with the latest developments in technology? Do you keep track of health and medical advances? And did you know...

All over the world, scientists are working to increase our knowledge. Engineers develop practical applications for new discoveries; their research makes it possible for people to embrace the future. Those equipped with greater knowledge have a better chance of solving problems, improving living conditions and curing diseases, and, ultimately, of securing the survival of humanity as a whole.

Know it! brings you magazine-length reports packed full of information on science, technology and everyday phenomena. Know it! lets you in on the latest developments and discoveries from all over the world. If you’re curious about the world around you, just tune in and Know it!

SAMPLE EPISODE 30 MINUTE VERSION

The Microbiology of Geysers
On the geologically active island of Iceland are many geysers that regularly spray boiling water from the depths of the earth. Despite the extremely high temperatures, they’re a biotope for highly specialized microbes that attract a lot of interest from biotechnologists.

Telescopic Turbines for Offshore Windfarms
Setting up wind turbines at sea is complex and expensive. To make the process simpler and cheaper, engineers in Spain have now developed a design that can be assembled on land, towed out to the site, and raised to its final height faster and cheaper.

Strategies for Cutting Food Waste
In industrialized nations, a huge amount of fresh produce is either processed into animal feed or ends up in landfills. This despite the fact that eating it would cause us no harm whatsoever. In The Netherlands, companies and supermarkets are coming up with inventive ways to reduce the amount of food that’s thrown away.

Tracking Emissions in Shipping
Gigantic freighters often emit vast amounts of the toxic gas sulfur dioxide. Many countries are now tightening restrictions to improve air quality, and researchers are having to come up with technology that can test and track emissions from the shipping industry.

Smart Farming: Happier Animals, Bigger Olive Crops
Future farmers will have to cope with issues like water scarcity, but also animal welfare, as necessity and ethics alter how we fulfill human needs. Research is starting to provide many computer- and sensor-based solutions to some of the field’s most intractable problems.

Recovery from Polytrauma
People who survive bad accidents often arrive at the emergency room with a range of serious injuries. Even so, some victims are able to bounce back astonishingly quickly. Along with the right therapies, having the right attitude plays a crucial role.

Regenerating Degraded Coastal Environments
Many coastal regions are heavily contaminated by the side products of industrialization. Even after factories close, some coastlines continue to bear the marks of destruction for decades. What are the best ways to re-establish a thriving marine biotope?

The Future of Architectural Design
Innovations like sensor technology and IT are changing the face of the structures we design. New discoveries in the material sciences are already dramatically influencing the options for the next generation of young architects.
**EinSteinchen**

E=mc² – the most famous formula in the world. Everyone knows it, but very few know what it actually means. This is true of most of Albert Einstein’s revelations. You don’t have to be a genius in physics to understand our program. Whether it’s the photoelectric effect or the relativity of time, the virtual figure EinSteinchen will help you understand the ideas behind Einstein’s work in a simple and straightforward fashion. In twelve 90-second, elaborately animated clips, the virtual whiz explains the great scientist’s most important discoveries. EinSteinchen speaks directly to viewers, and makes them want to learn more about the basic principles inherent in Einstein’s theories. He explains difficult concepts using amusing and fascinating examples that anyone can understand.

124666 001
**Absolute and Relative**
It’s all a question of perspective! EinSteinchen provides a simple example revealing how size – depending on your point of reference – is actually relative.

124666 002
**E=mc²**
Einstein’s famous formula! EinSteinchen explains that energy can turn into mass, while mass can likewise be converted into energy. This second process, for example, constantly occurs in our sun.

124666 003
**The Discovery of Slowness**
What is the ‘relativity of time’? EinSteinchen shows how time changes when traveling through space. Of course, speed also plays a role. An external observer watching a clock on a spacecraft that was accelerating through space could see time ‘slow down’ as the ship gained speed.

124666 004
**As Fast as Light**
EinSteinchen explains that light always moves at the same speed, and why nothing can be faster than light.

124666 005
**Glowing Atoms – Stimulated Emissions**
How does a laser apparatus create its special, highly concentrated beam of light? EinSteinchen explains the role that ‘excited’ atoms play in the process.

124666 006
**The Supermolecule – Bose-Einstein Condensation**
When EinSteinchen drops the temperature of molecules close to absolute zero, they change state and begin behaving like a single ‘wave’.

124666 007
**The Spooky Long-Distance Effect**
EinSteinchen takes a look at a paradox. Two particles can continue to be ‘entangled’ with each other even if they’re far apart in space.

124666 008
**Bent Space**
EinSteinchen shows how incredibly massive objects exerting enormous gravity actually bend space, and how even light follows the curve.

124666 009
**Dancing Particles**
Molecules are in constant motion. Even inanimate particles can move in seemingly unpredictable ways. EinSteinchen explains how the forces that play a role in interactions between molecules can be defined by formulas.

124666 010
**Electricity from Light**
Light can exhibit the characteristics of either a particle or an electromagnetic wave. That’s why light energy can be converted into electrical energy. EinSteinchen shows us how.

124666 011
**The Invisible Force**
EinSteinchen reveals how the forces of gravity exerted by stars and planets keep everything in the universe in motion.

124666 012
**Wormholes**
Theoretically, two black holes could distort space-time in the universe so extremely that they would create what’s called a ‘wormhole’. EinSteinchen explains how a theoretical journey through this kind of cosmic tunnel could provide shortcuts across the enormous distances of space.
EinSteinchen

124665 001 Nuclear Medicine: A Formula and its Results
When an atom in a radioactive element decays, then part of the matter that makes up its nucleus is transformed into energy. This is part of the proof that backs up Einstein’s realization that mass and energy are two sides of the same coin. Without Einstein’s discovery that is expressed in the formula E=mc², some later medical developments would not have been possible. Artificially produced radioactive substances known as radiopharmaceuticals play a major role in modern medical diagnostics and research.

124665 002 Satellite Navigation – Einstein’s Contribution to Galileo
Time is relative – in the field of satellite navigation, Einstein’s theory has practical applications. In space, clocks tick differently than they do on Earth. But the accuracy of satellite navigation systems is dependent on how precisely the atomic clocks on board can measure time.

124665 003 The Speed of Light – Part 1: Light Researchers
At the root of Albert Einstein’s Special Theory of Relativity is the assumption that the speed of light never changes. Einstein said that the speed of light is a universal constant, one that always remains the same no matter where you are. Is that really the case? European researchers now want to conduct an experiment in space to find out.

124665 004 The Speed of Light – Part 2: Radar Satellite
The speed of light also standardizes the exact length of a meter. That’s important for large-scale surveys like those slated to be carried out by the radar satellite TerraSAR-X. The rader satellite will begin surveying Earth’s surface with an accuracy never before seen in civilian applications. The new satellite, for example, will be able to map the ongoing urban sprawl of some of the world’s largest cities.

124665 005 The World’s Fastest Flash
Laboratories all over the world have been taking part in a competition to create shorter and shorter flashes of laser light. Now physicist Ferenc Krausz has broken a new barrier. He’s first to produce an attosecond pulse. An attosecond is an unimaginable 0.000 000 000 000 001 of a second long. The technique that Krausz used is based on Einstein’s prediction of stimulated emission. The great physicist’s hypothesis helped lay the foundations for the development of that incredibly versatile tool – the laser.

124665 006 Juggling Ultra-Cold Atoms
Though he’s just 32 years old, Immanuel Bloch is already a professor of physics at the University of Mainz. He’s an expert on a state of matter that was predicted by Albert Einstein – Bose-Einstein condensation. Immanuel Bloch has now taken things a step further. He has become the first to crack the Bose-Einstein condensation wave and regularly arrange several hundred of these special atoms into a glowing grid. In the future, grids like these could make up the basic elements of a new kind of supercomputer.

124665 007 Cloned Atoms Through Teleportation
For the first time ever, Rainer Blatt was able to transfer the state of one atom to another. Although the process is called ‘teleportation’, no matter is transported from one spot to another. Instead, information leaps the gap. To achieve his goal, Blatt made use of what Albert Einstein described as the ‘spooky action-at-a-distance between particles’. The discovery is a scientific sensation, even though the teleporting distances crossed up until now have only been a few hundredths of a millimeter.
124665 008

**Cosmic Telescopes: Discovering Distant Galaxies**

According to a theory first put forward by Albert Einstein, a large body of mass curves space and the light that traverses it. Clusters of galaxies create what are known as gravitational lenses. Astrophysicist Joachim Wambsganß has spent years studying this phenomena in deep space. He searches and maps massive celestial objects such as galaxies that possess strong gravitational fields. These curve or bend the space around them, and force light from even more distant galaxies and objects into a curved rather than a straight trajectory. The process also ‘bundles’ the light, focusing and increasing its intensity.

124665 009

**Racing down Einstein’s Paths**

Molecules in gas and fluids tend to behave in unordered and random ways. This phenomenon, first identified by the Scottish botanist Robert Brown and therefore named Brownian Motion, was also of great interest to Albert Einstein. In 1905, he published his studies on Brownian Motion. Today, his findings can help researchers solve many of the problems linked to the movement of particles.

124665 010

**Organic Solar Cells**

What a pain: the cell phone has to be charged at the mains every few days. But in future that could be rendered obsolete by a portable charging unit in a jacket. It consists of wafer-thin organic solar cells. Like conventional silicon cells, the organic solar cells convert light energy into electrical current. The principle behind it is the photoelectric effect. Albert Einstein received the Nobel Prize in 1921 for his explanation of this phenomenon.

124665 011

**The Search for a Theory of Everything**

For much of his life, Albert Einstein sought a formula that would describe and encompass all four fundamental forces. He failed to find a unifying theory. The tunnel in Geneva is huge – and it runs in a circle that’s 27 kilometers long. Thousands of scientists all over the world are waiting with bated breath for experiments to begin in the Large Hadron Collider. It’s hoped that the gargantuan apparatus will be able to generate a kind of small scale Big Bang, lasting for just fractions of a second, that will recreate the conditions just after the birth of the universe.

124665 012

**Time Travel Through Wormholes – Nothing More than a Dream?**

As early as 1935, Albert Einstein and Nathan Rosen recognized that relativity theory did not rule out ‘bridges’ through space-time. Today, we call these hypothetical pathways ‘wormholes’. Physicists nowadays admit that time travel through wormholes is at least theoretically possible, although journeys into the past or future have remained firmly in the realm of science fiction.
Wildlife Shorts

As individual clips or mini series, our Wildlife Shorts feature evocative images to tell fascinating stories about animals, plants and the environment. Important issues and intriguing protagonists are a hallmark of these reports from and about the natural world.

214827  Clips, 32 x 01–03 min., 2015–2016, HD; English, Spanish  12 x 30 min., Russian  WW, VoD, M, IFE

The Serengeti
Since the 1960s, animal welfare activists have been fighting for the survival of the Serengeti, one of Africa’s most complex eco-systems, which extends from the north of Tanzania to the southwest of Kenya. In the language of the native Maasai, the word ‘Serengeti’ means “endless plains”. But climate change, population growth and poaching are endangering the land and the many species of animals living there. A team from the German Zoological Society in Frankfurt is working to preserve and protect the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania.

The World of Wild Animals
214827  001 Big Five
214827  002 The Importance of the Gnu
214827  003 Hot Air Balloon Flight
214827  004 On Safari
214827  005 In the Shadow of the Stars

The Savanna in Crisis
214827  006 The Threat from Poaching
214827  007 Man and Beast in Conflict
214827  008 Tourists – A Blessing and a Curse
214827  009 The Climate is Changing

Saving the Serengeti
214827  010 Herdsmen and Protectors
214827  011 Pilot in the Serengeti
214827  012 Microcredits not Poaching
214827  013 On the Lion’s Trail
214827  014 Observing the Rhino
Indonesia’s Orangutans
They have human names like Dora, Suro or Jackie. They also behave very like humans, as they explore their habitat, the rainforests of the Indonesian island of Sumatra, with child-like curiosity. Everything is new for the orangutans, even though they are not babies. In fact, if they could talk, Dora, Suro, Jackie and all the others would have quite a few stories to tell. The animals are aged between 5 and 19 and have spent considerable lengths of time in captivity, as pets or as objects of prestige. Now, in their jungle school, they must learn to survive in the wild.

My Favorite
When asked what their favorite animal is, most people think of dogs, cats or horses. But stingrays, sponges and cattle also have their fans. Often, people with a rather unusual favorite are doing something to protect that species: all over the world, nature conservationists are doing their bit for animals – counting and examining them, nurturing the young in breeding centers, or campaigning against poaching, pollution and climate change. Their enthusiasm is infectious and inspires hope that it is perhaps not yet too late for the fascinating creatures of which they are so fond.
In many regions of the world, flooding is a recurring phenomenon that people have more or less learned to live with. But recent years have seen an increase in the frequency of catastrophic, extreme weather events far beyond the norm. In Africa, Mozambique was hit by disastrous floods for the third year in a row. In Europe, the summer of 2021 was especially bad for western Germany. In Asia, although accustomed to deluges, low-lying areas of Bangladesh experienced their worst monsoon flooding in years in 2020.

How are people on the ground responding to the increasingly dramatic effects of climate change? What measures are being adopted by specialists and authorities in the Mozambican city of Beira, the western German Ahr valley and the Bangladeshi capital Dhaka in preparation for future extreme weather events? How do those affected manage to get back on their feet after a devastating flood? Can the problem be solved by investing in flood defenses, warning systems or assistance for flood victims? Or are these events a sign that the issue of climate protection must be taken more seriously?
Global Ideas

Melting polar caps, devastating hurricanes, and rising sea levels. The changes ascribed to climate change are disheartening to say the least. Our series Global Ideas features people across the world who are pursuing innovative projects to counter global warming. To reduce greenhouse gases, maintain biodiversity, provide food for thought, and promote effective action – these are the goals of the projects we profile. We present initiatives that are exemplary in character and creative in approach. Each show has four reports. All the projects are “best practice” models, featuring ideas worthy of emulation.

SAMPLE EPISODE 1 | 30 MINUTE VERSION

Colombia – Guardians of the Andean Bear
The spectacled bear is native to the Andes. But poaching, rapid urban growth and increasing deforestation in Colombia have been forcing the animal to look for new habitats. A sanctuary offers some protection.

Albania – Building a Future at Home
For generations, many small farmers and their families living in the mountains of Albania have reared sheep and sold milk for a living. But now young people often leave home in search of better prospects. An environmental NGO wants to encourage them to stay by helping them establish sustainable livelihoods.

Mexico – Reviving Old Farming Practices
Many farmers in the La Sepultura biosphere reserve in southern Mexico keep livestock. But their methods have left the local forests badly damaged. The project BioPaSOS encourages the farmers to switch to more sustainable livestock farming practices that protect woodland and biodiversity.

Ghana – Cocoa Farmers Struggle to Survive
Ghana is the world’s second largest cocoa exporter. But small farmers are suffering because illegal logging destroys tall trees that provide their plants with shade. Now there’s an app that lets them alert authorities to illegal activities. Small loans are also available to help them get through difficult periods.
Mozambique – Legalizing Gold Prospecting
Illegal prospectors at the Chimanimani National Park in Mozambique are damaging the environment. In their quest for gold and precious stones, they often chop down trees and contaminate the water with toxic mercury. So, the provincial government has started a program to help miners set up their own, legal and eco-friendly mining cooperatives.

Dominican Republic – Tourism Industry Reduces Plastic Waste
The Dominican Republic markets itself as a tropical island paradise of white-sand beaches and blue ocean. Yet mass tourism produces heaps of plastic waste. Now Eddy Rosado from the UN Environment Program is helping the tourism industry clean up its act.

South Africa – Tax Breaks for Nature Conservation
Financial expert Candice Stevens shows South Africa’s landowners how turning their holdings into protected areas can cut their tax bill and protect the environment. She and her NGO Wilderness Foundation Africa have transformed 500,000 hectares into nature reserves.

Indonesia – Leather from Mushrooms
Adi Reza Nugroho’s startup, Mycotech, makes fabric out of mushrooms. The fungi grow on a substrate of locally sourced organic waste. The mycelium leather produced in Bandung, on Indonesia’s main island Java, is vegan and eco-friendly. It’s already being used to make shoes.
Ghana – Sustainable Sugar Cane Cultivation
The sugar cane industry in Ghana has been in crisis for years. Farmers use chemicals, and burn crop residues in the fields, destroying the soil. In addition, climate change means less and less rain. Ghanaian Audrey S-Darko wants to convince farmers to adapt cultivation methods that improve harvests and protect the environment.

Colombia – Pablo Escobar’s Hippos
The Rio Magdalena in the province of Antioquia is the home of Dona Chavita. She offers tourist trips for people want to see something truly unique: Hippos. Not in Africa, but in Colombia. The animals’ presence is a legacy of the drug lord Pablo Escobar. And unfortunately, they are a problem.

Maldives – Sea Grass Protects Islands and the Climate
A valuable ecosystem lies on the Maldives seabed: seagrass beds. Once threatened, they are now being studied and protected. In the fight against climate change, they are valuable reservoirs for carbon dioxide. They also protect the islands from erosion.

Namibia/Botswana – Oil Exploration Threatens the Okavango Delta
The Okavango Delta is a unique natural paradise in southern Africa. But it is threatened. A Canadian company is drilling for oil and gas on the Okavango River in Namibia – in the middle of a protected area. Local residents and conservationists are alarmed.
Founders’ Valley
How Asia’s Startups Founders Work on Innovative and Inspiring Solutions

Award-winning German entrepreneur Fridtjof Detzner sets off to look for people with visionary ideas across Asia. He meets with start-up founders and activists who work on innovative and inspiring solutions to pressing problems: artificial ice-stupas fighting climate change, revolutionary materials to save the world’s oceans, smart apps to fight hunger ...

Of course, entrepreneurship isn’t always glorious. It requires a ton of sacrifice and total dedication. We also show the challenges founders need to overcome as well as the troubles and opportunities in a digitized and globalized world. Showcasing unique characters, their stories and the solutions to some of the world’s most intractable issues that they offer, we feel the pulse of the Asian start-up ecosystem and what makes it so special. Come meet people and companies working on innovative and inspiring solutions in Founders’ Valley.

064901 003
Taiwan: Technology – Promise or Peril?
Young founders in Taiwan are taking electronics manufacturing to the next level. They tell Fridtjof about the positive and negative impacts of technology.

064901 004
Malaysia: Energize the World
Founders in Malaysia talk to Fridtjof about the growing demand for energy and their drive to enhance efficiency and find alternative sources. Their vision: to secure the planet’s energy supply.

064901 005
Singapore: Horizons of Health
Will we grow replacement organs in the lab? Will only the rich be able to afford medical innovations? Entrepreneurs in Singapore share their visionary answers with Fridtjof.

064901 006
Indonesia: Food for the Future
Indonesia doesn’t grow enough to feed its growing population. Innovative founders present Fridtjof with their forward-looking solutions like vertical farming or insects as food.

064901 001
Mongolia: Between Tradition and Globalization
Mongolia is undergoing rapid transformation. Fridtjof’s search leads him to inspiring founders hoping to profit from global markets and make their dreams come true.

064901 002
Hong Kong: Urban Visions
In Hong Kong, high rents affect residents and young creatives. Architect Vicky Chan and Fridtjof discuss possible solutions for increasingly crowded cities.
Bangladesh: Worlds of Work
In Bangladesh, one of the world’s poorest countries, Fridtjof encounters brutal working conditions and meets optimistic founders seeking to move their country forward.

Indonesia: Sacred Water – Scarce Water
Bali, the ‘island of holy water’, is running out of clean water. Founders there help remote communities gain access to the valuable resource and urge facilities for tourists to use water more frugally.

India: Drowning in Plastic
India is drowning in plastic waste. Fridtjof meets with visionary founders who want to address the country’s pollution crisis and are fighting for a cleaner India.

India: The Climate Challenge
As India seeks to address the problem, more and more entrepreneurs there are coming up with ideas to tackle climate change before it’s too late.
How Asia's Startups Drive Digital Change

Technological and digital advances are bringing disruptive and transformative changes that will impact every aspect of our lives. Industry, governments and civil society are trying to anticipate how the pace and scale of these developments will change the way our world works, and tackle the challenges ahead.

Startups are among the main drivers of digital transformation. In season two of Founders' Valley, female entrepreneurs from Germany travel throughout Asia to meet inspiring entrepreneurs and see how their ideas are changing the planet.

Founders' Valley presents inspiring founders and innovative solutions for a digitized future.

064901 011
South Korea – Driven to Succeed
Korea’s education system is ruled by competition. With suicide being the No.1 cause of death among teenagers, it’s been argued the system produces overachieving students who pay a high price in health and happiness. Digitization could bring about a change to Korea’s overheated education system.

064901 012
Thailand – In Data We Trust
Everything we do in the digital world involves data. The bits and bytes can serve our interests or be used against us. But without digital trust there can be no digital business. How do startups deal with personal data and cybersecurity?

064901 013
Philippines – The Dream of New Money
The 2008 financial crisis spread distrust in banks and sped up the acceptance of new kinds of money. Cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin now promise to provide transparent, democratic alternatives. Startups in the Philippines are disrupting old structures.

064901 014
Indonesia – Women Breaking Bounds
All over the globe, digital transformation is opening new paths for women. In Indonesia, more and more women are taking the opportunities for independence it offers to open a business. But how do the young founders cope with the challenges posed by the role? All have had to overcome hurdles thrown up by traditional structures, widely accepted clichés and investors who prefer to bet on men.

064901 015
India – Breaking Silence: Ending Violence
In India, public outrage over violence against women has reached fever pitch. Entrepreneurs are no longer willing to let the devastating violations go unchallenged – and so they’re trying to create safer cities with technology.
Forward to the Future

Millennials around the world are set to be the most highly educated generation to date. They’re a generation characterized by talent, innovation, an overwhelming desire for social change, and a powerful entrepreneurial spirit. At the same time, young people today face huge global challenges, including the threat posed by climate change, ongoing geopolitical crises and rising inequality. But as more and more millennials pursue education and job opportunities across borders, they develop global perspectives – and are poised to design a more inclusive world.

In the third season of Founders’ Valley, we meet with young social entrepreneurs in Asia working on social innovations that mirror the hopes of their generation. The episodes are hosted by Bianca Praetorius, who advises founders worldwide. She meets Asian entrepreneurs who strive for nothing less than a fairer world.

Founders’ Valley – Forward to the Future shows the way there.

064901 017
Malaysia – Humanity on the Move
A vast majority of undocumented migrants work in so-called “3D jobs” - dirty, dangerous and demeaning. Millions live a life without any prospects. We meet entrepreneurs in Malaysia who are trying to give migrants back their dignity. Foreign workers contribute more than a third to Malaysia’s gross domestic product; they help shape the country’s economy and society. However, undocumented migrants tend to exist outside the formal infrastructure. Most of them work in low-skilled jobs in miserable conditions, often existing on the margins of society. Startup founders are helping improve the lives of migrants in Malaysia.

064901 016
Nepal – The Price of Poverty
When it comes to happiness, people’s dreams and desires are the same all over the world: a steady income, good health and opportunities for personal development. But those who come from poor backgrounds barely have a chance. Inequality begins in childhood. At what point is the course of someone’s life set? How can disadvantaged people guard against false promises? Who can they turn to for help? We meet three founders of social ventures. They want to overcome the barriers in society and are committed to creating equal opportunities and promoting social justice. Poverty means not only a low income, but above all a lack of opportunities to shape one’s own life and to advance in society. Many do not succeed in this on their own but need support.

064901 018
Indonesia – Our Wounded Planet
An entire generation of young people is rejecting the idea of unlimited economic growth on a planet with finite resources. Among them are social entrepreneurs in Indonesia looking for ways to do business that don’t harm the environment. The poles are melting. Sea levels are rising. Dozens of species go extinct every day. Environmental migration is already happening on a vast scale. It’s long past time to admit that the biggest threat humanity faces is climate change. Indonesian entrepreneurs are trying to alter the rules of the game. They’re determined to run profitable businesses that are part of the solution, rather than part of the problem. We desperately need new sustainable concepts in business – but can humanity change?
175 Years of Zeiss
The Rise of a Global Company

175 years ago, the young mechanic Carl Zeiss opened a small workshop for precision mechanics and optics. These humble beginnings in the German city of Jena were the foundation of the Zeiss technology company, which today operates worldwide.

The production of glass with game-changing optical properties was one of the developments that helped Carl Zeiss create a company that valued scientific research highly, while never forgetting science's social impact. Zeiss microscopes have been used by more than 30 Nobel Prize winners. To this day, these instruments offer unrivaled image resolution, with lenses that can display structures one thousand times smaller than a human hair. Light microscopes allow living cells to be examined with extreme gentleness and speed.

The Zeiss company was involved in the moon landing in 1969, and thus helped redefine the limits of what humans are capable of. Images of the historic event were captured using Zeiss camera lenses developed specially for space. These lenses were key to the later development of photolithography, which plays a decisive role in the production of microchips. Developments in extreme ultraviolet lithography led to Zeiss winning the German Future Prize together with the Fraunhofer Institute and the Trumpf company.

The DW documentary delves into history of the Zeiss company and also examines current developments in the photonics sector, in which the firm is a key player.
Guardians of Truth

DW’s series follows Can Dündar as he meets other Guardians of Truth – activists, journalists and politicians – exiles like him forced out of their homelands. He investigates their struggles as they make new lives for themselves while pursuing their dangerous quest for truth. He talks to them about their motivations and the personal cost of speaking out against authoritarian politics.

Can Dündar’s personal history allows a unique insight into the lives and minds of these fighters for democracy and freedom. In Erdoğan’s Turkey, Can Dündar has been regarded as ‘Public Enemy No. 1’ ever since he exposed illegal arms shipments by the Turkish government to Syria back in 2015. Declared as a terrorist by Turkey’s President and threatened with imprisonment, Can Dündar survived an assassination attempt and fled to Germany.

Can Dündar Meets Anabel Hernández

Dündar meets the journalist Anabel Hernández, who’s been investigating drug-related crime and corruption in Mexico for more than 20 years, publishing numerous books and articles on the subject. She is best-known for highlighting close links between the government and the drug clans – groundbreaking research that almost cost her her life. Luckily, she wasn’t at home on the day 11 armed men showed up to shoot her dead. She knew then that she would have to leave her home country. Not that she doesn’t return from time to time, under tight security, to continue her work and see her family. Can Dündar meets her in exile and then again, during one of these highly dangerous trips back home. He poses the pivotal question: what’s driving her to take this huge risk again and again?

It’s a question that Anabel Hernández grapples with herself. She knows that each time she says goodbye to her family, it could be the final farewell. Whenever she leaves for a research trip to Mexico, she makes sure her son’s documents are prepared and accessible, in case of an “emergency”, she says. Even before he could walk, the little boy has always been accompanied by bodyguards, she adds, almost apologetically. But she also says this: “It’s my homeland, and we journalists are the prosecutors, there’s no independent judiciary, no justice, people have to know what’s happening.”
Can Dündar Meets Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya

Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya has a mission not of her choosing. In 2020, her husband Sergej made the transition from blogger to presidential candidate, standing against the dictator of Belarus, Lukashenko. Like all opponents deemed to be potentially dangerous, he was thrown in jail. In a spontaneous move, his wife Sviatlana declared her own candidacy for the post – and was permitted to run. The dictator didn't see her as a threat – but Tsikhanouskaya and her team captured the hearts of the people and her popularity levels soared.

When election day came Lukashenko claimed victory with an alleged 80 per cent of the vote, leading hundreds of thousands of people to cry fraud and take to the streets in protest. Tsikhanouskaya received death threats and was forced into exile.

However, her fight against the dictator Lukashenko continues – from Lithuania. Tsikhanouskaya has been received by world leaders and showered with awards. Can Dündar accompanies her on her travels and experiences her struggle to secure freedom for political prisoners, including her husband Sergej. Dündar encounters a woman who, to this day, doesn't feel totally at ease in her role. How can someone who never wanted power be a leader?
According to the UN there are now more than 70 million refugees worldwide. The series Displaced focuses on the causes of this historical negative record and tells exemplary stories from different continents.

The documentaries draw attention to questions to which there are only complex answers – for example, about the links between international trade policy and migration, about the effects of the lifestyle of people in the northern hemisphere on their neighbors in the southern hemisphere, or why some countries become a political football for the great powers USA, Russia and China.

Displaced

002 Ghana’s Bitter Fruit – Tomatoes, Dumping and Migration
What do tomatoes have to do with mass migration? Tomatoes are a poker chip in global trade policies. Subsidized products from the EU, China and elsewhere are sold at dumping prices, destroying markets and livelihoods in Africa in the process.

003 Drought and Floods – The Climate Exodus
More people around the world are fleeing from climate change than from war. If human-induced climate change continues at the current rate, the World Bank warns that by 2050 there could be as many as 180 million climate refugees.
Renowned Russian spin doctors, Wolf and Hare, are busy discussing the hottest political issues of the day. Every week they rip the political elites to shreds – from Putin to Biden, Erdogan to Scholz. Dissecting political scandals, the big issues and the intrigue.

In their newscast summary, Wolf – biting, cynical, meticulous, and Hare – cowardly, prone to compromise and panic, comment on the current political situation in Russia and its aggression against Ukraine. They are supported by Crow – a reporter, able to get anywhere at all without being noticed, doing the roving reports, and Owl – the editor, putting the stories on air.

The characters' discussions are illustrated by sketches of 1–5 minutes, involving Russian and foreign politicians. In places where people, animals, money and the last remnants of common sense disappear.

The animation is created using a state-of-the-art game development environment, with the animated characters coming to life through real-life actors and motion capture. An innovative new production technique makes it all possible. This show is politics stripped bare and with no make-up – DW's animated satire Zapovednik (The Nature Reserve).
Large areas of Asia are experiencing unbridled urbanization. The disparity between city and rural regions is increasing, as the gap between rich and poor continues to grow. Around half the continent’s population are under 25 and demanding greater participation. In many of its emergent nations this part of the world is experiencing a political and above all religious radicalization that would have been unthinkable not so long ago. A dangerous blend of autocratic systems and religious extremism threatens to divide several nations in this region. Others run the risk of leaving democratic principles by the wayside. How are people living with this growing intolerance?

Zero Tolerance

In May 2017, militants affiliated with the “Islamic State” terrorist movement seized power in the city of Marawi on the Philippine island of Mindanao. The Filipino army needed five months to liberate Marawi from the Islamists. The result: more than 1,000 dead and a city in ruins. More than 60,000 people from Marawi are still living in refugee camps and other emergency accommodation. The conflict between Muslims and Catholics, stoked by the Islamists, continues to impact upon the political situation in the southern Philippines. And President Rodrigo Duterte is known less for his talents as a peacemaker, and more for his hardline policies. Is the Islamist threat in the Philippines now a thing of the past?

Documentary, 45 min., 2019, HD; Arabic, English, German, Spanish; WW, VoD, M, IFE

Indonesia – Diversity under Threat

Following the end of the brutal Suharto dictatorship in 1998, Indonesia became a model for a democratic Muslim majority state. But in recent years, Islamist groups have gained influence. More women are wearing headscarves in public places. The niqab, the face veil, is becoming increasingly popular. Members of minority groups feel marginalized. “Unfortunately, Indonesia is not immune to the worldwide increase in intolerance”, says politician Yenny Wahid. The daughter of the first elected president after the Suharto dictatorship stands for cosmopolitanism and represents a liberal view of Islam. She, too, has observed a slow Islamization of her homeland and the tendency of politicians to make concessions to radical and populist groups. Student activists blame the corruption of the ruling class for growing radicalism and undermining diversity. The documentary asks whether the country can preserve its religious tolerance.

Documentary, 45 min., 2020, HD; Arabic, English, Spanish

Bangladesh – The Dawn of Islamism

Secular bloggers risk their lives by speaking out, opponents of the government disappear without trace, the Hindu minority is under attack: In Bangladesh headlines are dominated by violence. The country that wants to reconcile democracy and Islam appears to be finding it harder and harder to strike a balance between the two. But the political elite refuse to recognize the growth of violent Islamism in the country. Just how influential are the Islamists in Bangladesh?

Documentary, 45 min., 2019, HD; English, German, Spanish; WW, VoD, M, IFE
Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and other social media can drive social change or even spark revolutions. Women around the world are using the Internet as a weapon in their struggle for equal rights. They are fighting against the murder of women in Latin America, female genital mutilation in Africa, compulsory headscarves in Iran and for peace between India and Pakistan.

Net activists are increasingly fearless. No matter what hostilities they face, including online trolls who call for them to be killed, they do not back down. Hundreds of thousands follow these women on social media. Their campaigns inspire other women to take to the streets for equality, self-determination, human rights, freedom of speech and to oppose sexualized violence.

In Argentina, activist María Florencia Alcaraz and her comrades-in-arms launched the #NiUnaMenos campaign against gender-based violence in general and the epidemic of femicides in particular. The movement has swept Latin America like an avalanche. Amid a culture of machismo, the movement is about dignity, self-determination and sheer survival. Dignity and self-determination are also issues Masih Alinejad fights for. A real force of nature, the exiled Iranian now lives in New York. Her campaigns My Stealthy Freedom and White Wednesdays, in which women in Iran protest against being forced to wear headscarves, are so successful the regime in Tehran now fears a revolt by women.

In Guinea, where 96% of women have been forced to suffer female genital mutilation, Aissata M.B. Camara's Break The Silence campaign is fighting to end the practice. Aissata herself has had to live with the physical and psychological anguish of FGM since she herself was cut at age eleven. In a viral video Profile for Peace, Gurmehar Kaur called for reconciliation between arch-enemies India and Pakistan. She has been insulted and received death threats on India’s social networks. Gurmehar herself would have good reason to hate Pakistan. When she was barely three years old, her father, an officer in the Indian army, died fighting the Pakistani military in Kashmir.

Four women, four continents, one mission: Using social media to mobilize support in and beyond their communities, Florencia, Masih, Aissata and Gurmehar are changing the world.
The War on my Phone

“‘I’m in Europe and safe, but I cannot escape the war. Every day it is here on my mobile phone.’ Amjad, Omar and others may now be living in Europe but they are not entirely present in their new homes. Every day they receive messages and videos from relatives and friends: shelling in Idlib, scenes from inside a Syrian jail and everyday life in an area controlled by the so-called Islamic State (ISIS). These are not the anonymous images we see on news broadcasts, but very personal accounts from people who have names and faces, with their own stories and destinies. The videos sent by phone are not professional productions; they are blurred, shaky and noisy, but they are authentic and they confront us with the daily experience of war – unofficial, personal war. The images intrude on the secure world of Europe, leaving the protagonists torn between their often idyllic new surroundings and the home and people they have left behind. Videos of bombardments or prisons burst into the picture-postcard backdrops of the Münsterland or Saarbrücken in Germany. ISIS propaganda films pop up in a café. The war is suddenly close – with a face and a voice. These images and the stories are all the more moving because they reach us directly, without any professional remove. They are images of war in the digital age, and this is a film about a time in which distant realities are brought close every minute of the day – in this case painfully close.”
Full Report

Full Report spotlights key and current social developments that affect us all. It is a series with its finger on the pulse. The investigative reports expose problems, provide explanations and offer visions of life in the future.

564681 086
A Ray of Light – The Lebanon Project
Every summer, young people from Europe volunteer at a summer camp in the Lebanese mountains, where they help disabled people enjoy an unforgettable brief holiday. The disabled people involved in the Lebanon Project spend the rest of the year in institutions, often in poor conditions.
Documentary, 30 min., 2015, HD; English, Russian, Spanish; WW, VoD, M

564681 094
Whistleblowers – Alone Against the System
For the justice system, they are people who betray secrets, while society often regards them as heroes. Whistleblowers expose corruption, data misuse or war crimes. They place their conscience above the personal consequences of their actions – which all too often result in a clash with a system in which former allies become bitter enemies.
Documentary, 30 min., 2016, HD; Arabic, English, German, Russian, Spanish; WW, VoD, M, IFE

564681 104
Masoud’s List – From IS Victim to Terrorist Hunter
For eight long months, Masoud Aqil languished in the torture chambers of the IS terrorist militia in Syria. The video journalist was the first Kurdish civilian to be set free as part of a prisoner exchange in September 2015. He fled via the Balkans to Germany, where he is now living at a secret location. Thanks to his contacts and meticulous online research, Masoud Aqil has tracked down his torturers and other supporters of IS. He has traced some of these individuals to refugee centers in Europe and reported them to the German authorities. The torture victim has now become a terrorist hunter.
Documentary, 30 min., 2018, HD; Arabic, English, Spanish; WW, VoD, M, IFE

564681 105
Water is Life – A Soccer Player Builds Wells in Ethiopia
Neven Subotic is a soccer star with a busy life and hordes of fans, yet he still finds time to help others less fortunate. During the summer, when there are no matches to train for, he builds wells and sanitation facilities in northern Ethiopia, where many people do not have access to safe drinking water or clean toilets. The foundation he has set up focuses on clean water, sanitation and hygiene, in order to help children in the world’s poorest regions have a better future. If conditions are hygienic, children are healthier and more likely to go to school.
Documentary, 30 min., 2018, HD; English, Spanish; WW, VoD, M, IFE
Afghanistan under the Taliban – A Land of different Truths

When the Taliban returned to power, life changed dramatically for the people of Afghanistan, and for women first and foremost. Our reporters travelled there to find out what life is like under militant Islamist rule.

Imam and Gay – Islam and Tolerance

Ludovic-Mohamed Zahed wants an Islam that is more tolerant of the LGBTQ community. He’s fighting for gay Muslims to be able to live their lives openly without fear or shame.

Brussels Sends an Envoy – EU Aid in Latin America?

Janez Lenarčič is the EU’s Commissioner for Crisis Management. However, he also deals with problems far beyond Europe’s borders. In Colombia, Janez Lenarčič meets with the leaders of an indigenous community that is in urgent need of medical care and sanitary facilities. The European Union aims to set up its first permanent emergency response center outside of Europe, with a focus on humanitarian aid and disaster preparedness programs.

Famine: SOS Somalia

Somalia is struggling through its worst drought in 40 years. Half the population is dependent on food aid. By mid-2023, as many as half a million children under the age of five could die, says the United Nations. It’s warning of a humanitarian disaster unless an urgently needed one billion U.S. dollars in aid money arrives in time.

SAMPLE EPISODES

Dwarf Bullfighters – Tradition or Spectacle?
Their numbers may be dwindling, but they’re still around: Short-statured people who entertain audiences at bullfights in Spain. They call themselves “dwarf toreros.” Organizations promoting equality for short-statured people want to see dwarf bullfighting shows banned. But the dwarf toreros want to keep performing. They say arena shows are fun and without them, their livelihood is at stake.

Red Gold – Mozambique’s Rubies – A Blessing or a Curse?
Rubies are increasingly prized on the international gemstone market. The world’s largest ruby mine is in northern Mozambique, where thousands of people are fleeing Islamist militias. Can the lucrative business improve the lives of the people there?
The little boys and girls proudly pull on their new soccer boots and, seconds later, they’re out on the field to train together. Many have experienced terrible things as refugees and live in a precarious situation in a new country. But here on the soccer pitch, they can forget about their worries for a few hours. Their laughter rings out over the field and, after scoring a goal, they all hug each other, regardless of where they come from, whether they’re refugees or were born here. And where is this wonderful place? In the Lebanese capital Beirut. And the kids are taking part in ‘Soccer Camp Lebanon’.

Lebanon has more refugees relative to the size of its population than any other country. Here Syrian refugees live alongside Lebanese locals and Palestinian refugees who were forced to leave their homes decades ago – sometimes in close proximity. This has created a volatile situation that requires a variety of strategies to build tolerance and mutual trust if social conflict is to be avoided.

‘Soccer Camp Lebanon’, a nationwide tournament for children and young people, is an initiative of Germany’s Goethe Institute and coaches at a local soccer school. Based on faith in the conciliatory power of soccer, it gives 900 youngsters from Beirut and three other Lebanese cities the chance to play soccer together, to escape from their everyday lives and gain new perspectives in the process. At training sessions in mixed teams – boys and girls from Lebanese, Palestinian and Syrian families – and a closing tournament, the children have the opportunity to explore their cultural and social commonalities and differences.

Beirut Parc – Kids Seeking Refuge in Football observes the young people and explores the impact of the soccer camp on their daily lives. The program provides an insight into how the youngsters and their families live in Lebanon – either as locals or refugees – and what role soccer can play in developing new perspectives and the foundation for a peaceful coexistence.
People like to have a lot of stuff because it makes them the feeling of living forever,” says American social psychologist Sheldon Solomon, who believes today’s materialism and consumerism will have disastrous consequences. Anyone who fails to satisfy his or her desires in this age of the ego is deemed a loser. But with more than 7 billion people on the earth, the ramifications of this excessive consumption of resources are already clear. Isn’t the deplorable state of our planet proof enough that “The Greed Program,” which has made us crave possessions, status and power, is coming to an end? Or is the frenzied search for more and more still an indispensable part of our nature?

We set off to look for the essence of greed. And we tell the stories of people who — whether as perpetrators or victims or even just as willing consumers — have become accomplices in a sea change in values.

Greed

A Fatal Desire

“People like to have a lot of stuff because it makes them the feeling of living forever,” says American social psychologist Sheldon Solomon, who believes today’s materialism and consumerism will have disastrous consequences. Anyone who fails to satisfy his or her desires in this age of the ego is deemed a loser. But with more than 7 billion people on the earth, the ramifications of this excessive consumption of resources are already clear. Isn’t the deplorable state of our planet proof enough that “The Greed Program,” which has made us crave possessions, status and power, is coming to an end? Or is the frenzied search for more and more still an indispensable part of our nature?

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884865
Documentary, 01 x 90 min., 2016, HD; English, German;
WW, VoD, M, IFE

884866
Documentary, 01 x 60 min., 2016, HD; Arabic, English, Russian, Spanish;
WW, VoD, M, IFE

884867 001, 884867 002
Documentary, 02 x 45 min., 2016, HD; Arabic, English, German, Spanish;
WW, VoD, M, IFE
Trash is a symbol of our times. The amount we generate and the way we deal with it speak volumes about our consumption patterns and level of prosperity – and also about social inequality. The rich consume much more than the poor and produce much more waste. But what some people throw away, others need to survive.

Godwin Ochieng lives in Dandora, a poor suburb of Nairobi, Kenya, where one of the largest dumpsites in Africa is located. He spends his days combing through endless piles of garbage, brought in by the truck-load from the city’s wealthier districts, in the hope of finding something to sell: for him, the mountain of trash is a lifeline. Meanwhile, halfway around the globe in one of the world’s richest and most expensive cities, Pierre Simmons combs the streets of New York for cans he can sell to recycling companies. Both men live in countries where the gap between rich and poor is vast. But the economic and social disparities between the US and Kenya are also huge. Economists Lucas Chancel and Kate Raworth warn against the consequences of huge imbalances at both the national and international levels. They argue that they poses a great danger to our entire system of values, to our understanding of democracy and to our economy.
WORLD ISSUES

Assassination in Minsk
A Witness Speaks Out

864935
Documentary,
01 x 30 min.,
2020, HD;
English, Spanish
WW, VoD, M, IFE

Political murders in Belarus: For the first time a witness has spoken out in an exclusive interview. Twenty years ago, three prominent members of the opposition disappeared without a trace. Back then rumors began to circulate that they had been assassinated by a death squad.

Were the three men Yuri Zakharenko, Viktor Gonchar and Anatoly Krasovsky, all members of the opposition, abducted and murdered by a hit squad in 1999? This is the rumor that has circulated ever since. Yet the presumed contract killings under the authoritarian leadership of President Alexander Lukashenko have never been proven. Now a key witness has come forward to shed light on the matter. At the time of the killings, Yuri G. was serving in a special unit of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Now he has revealed insider knowledge of the crime. He depicts the precise sequence of events, from the kidnappings to the disposal of the bodies. The former elite soldier names the culprits and admits to being an accessory to the murders. His information leaves little doubt that in 1999 government agencies in Minsk brutally eliminated the leaders of the opposition in Belarus. How do the relatives of the deceased react to this disclosure? What does it mean for the already tense relationship between Belarus and Europe? And what is it like to live with such guilt?
Colonial Legacy
Where do Africa’s Treasures belong?

The Humboldt Forum in the capital Berlin is Germany’s biggest cultural project. Intended as a place of dialogue, it houses exhibitions on the history of the German capital, as well as the Ethnological Museum and the Museum of Asian Art. And indeed, the ethnological collections have been the focus of many controversial debates. Many of the objects, acquired during the colonial period, are tainted with blood. What does this mean for the Humboldt Forum exhibitions? How should such works be dealt with generally? Amidst the controversy surrounding looted art, the discussion about provenance research and how to curate sensitive exhibitions, we joined the head of the Ethnological Museum, Jonathan Fine, at his workplace in Berlin and on an earlier trip to Cameroon.

In 2017, Fine conducted research into one of the collection’s most impressive objects, a royal throne from the Kingdom of Bamum. He was searching for answers: How did it come to be in Germany? Was it a diplomatic gift to the German Kaiser or a forced gesture of submission? Is it a case for restitution? If it were up to Cameroonian curator and art critic Bonaventure Ndikung, Germany would have to present Cameroon with an important artwork in return – as a true act of diplomacy.

Another research project explores Germany’s colonial past in Namibia. Official German acknowledgement of the Herero genocide didn’t come until 2016. Many treasures looted during the colonial period are still in German museum collections. As part of the provenance project, researchers looked at the history, significance and artistic potential of 1,400 objects from Berlin’s collections in cooperation with the Museums Association of Namibia.

So far, 23 objects have been returned to Namibia, although only on loan. The renowned Namibian fashion and costume designer Cynthia Schimming, who was also involved in the project, has called for the works to be returned unconditionally.

Many have asked that the same be done with the Benin Bronzes, some of the most renowned and controversial pieces in the Berlin collection. These masterpieces, which once adorned the royal palace in the Kingdom of Benin (in present-day Nigeria), were plundered by British troops as part of a punitive expedition in 1897. They were then sold on the international art market; many ended up in various European museums.

They have become a touchstone for whether the Humboldt Forum will really break new ground and dare to enter into a cultural exchange on a level playing field. It was recently decided that part of the collection would be restituted, but some of the Benin Bronzes will be displayed at the Humboldt Forum. The question is how to do this appropriately.

For Jonathan Fine, ethnological museums today need to make it clear that Europe’s history is closely intertwined with colonialism: “I think it would be a success if we take the idea of a forum at its word and think of the Humboldt Forum, not as a place that will give us answers to our questions, but will enable us to pose questions about the past and the present and to bring in more voices, wider voices and different perspectives on what those questions mean. Only in that way, I think, can we come to an understanding and find answers for ourselves about what 500 years of European colonization has meant for the world we live in.”
European museums showcase their international collections with pride, but they often brush aside questions about how some of the artefacts came to be in their possession. Those stories can sometimes be brutal and bloody, particularly in the case of items plundered and stolen by European colonial rulers, for the most part in Africa. In the 19th and the first half of the 20th century, hundreds of thousands of African cultural assets were brought to Germany and other European countries. Many Africans view these objects as ‘stolen souls’ leading a bleak existence in ethnographic museums far from home. Some German experts would still rather see the artefacts as being of ‘unknown provenance’. What does the future hold for these works of art? Shouldn’t African nations have control over their own cultural heritage? Artefacts in the spotlight in recent years include priceless bronzes from Nigeria, an ornate ship’s prow from Cameroon and the Witbooi Bible from Namibia. Will these objects find their way back home from Germany? Why is it so difficult to liberate Africa’s ‘stolen souls’? Young Africans say it is important for them to reconnect with artefacts of such significance in their cultures.
After the Escape

Finding a Home in a Foreign Land

Judith Kerr, Aeham Ahmad, Saša Stanišić, Nneka Egbuna and Antonio Skármeta come from four different continents and have one thing in common: They all fled war, hardship or persecution and started over in a new and unfamiliar place. Culture became their key to integration. Books, films and music helped pave the way.

"Isn't it wonderful to be a refugee?" ten-year-old Judith Kerr shouted across the rooftops of Paris in 1934. She and her family had fled Nazi Germany one year earlier. Escape was a great adventure for her, and her parents didn't let her sense their fear. Today, the world-famous writer ("When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit") lives in London and says: "For me, England was my home at the end of the war. But it wasn't for my parents. They never belonged anywhere." It's a story typical of many refugee families.

Aeham Ahmad, "the pianist amid the rubble" of the Yarmouk refugee camp in Damascus, keeps wondering why he of all people survived while so many others didn't. Saša Stanišić has become a renowned German-language author after fleeing the Bosnian War in 1992 at the age of 14. Musician Nneka Egbuna who fled the violence in her family in Nigeria as a teenager, lives in Lagos, Hamburg and Paris but isn't truly at home anywhere – "home" to her is a feeling. Author Antonio Skármeta was no longer allowed to work at home in Chile after Augusto Pinochet's coup d'etat in 1973, and lived in exile in West Germany.
Life Links
Sharing Realities, Changing Perspectives

Life Links sheds light on issues that affect young people around the globe: on what holds them back, what cramps their style and how they nonetheless manage to master their lives. In each episode three Life Links reporters meet young people in different parts of the world. Their personal experiences show how different yet similar young people’s realities are.

864843 001
Who Am I – Finding Myself

Ka-yeon escaped from North Korea to the neighboring South – and is now trying to fit in. Alina lives on the outskirts of Paris, France and has always experienced rejection because she is a Roma. Amin in Cologne, Germany considers himself German, though his roots are Egyptian. He is always confronted with people who insist on knowing where he is “really” from.

864843 002
Drug Trap – Breaking Free

Gilda from Bolivia would much rather be a teacher than a coca farmer. She is forced to pick the leaves from which cocaine can be made. Dominik from Germany started taking drugs when he was a teenager and his life went downhill from there. Now he’s in prison for aggravated assault. Emma hasn’t had a sip of alcohol for three years. But even now that she’s sober, she still struggles because her fellow Finns like to drink a lot.

864843 003
Deal with Me – Seeking Acceptance

Paul comes from a family of fishermen, but he’s one of the last young men wanting to do the job in Germany. Jeroen from Holland, like his colleagues, faces countless obstacles: shipwrecks, piracy, dangerous working conditions and lots more. Alamgir works with his bare hands to dismantle ships in Bangladesh – a dangerous and backbreaking profession. But he has no choice but to keep going.

864843 004
Blame My Parents – Bearing the Burden

Jacqueline from Germany feels called to Catholic priesthood. The only problem: she’s a woman. Petrus is a member of the Suriyani, a Christian minority in Turkey. He wants to become a priest, but his religion isn’t officially recognized in his country. M is a Methodist in the United States and believes that sexuality and gender are fluid concepts. She feels called to the ministry but has been turned down by her church.

864843 005
For Christ’s Sake – Ordain Me!

Ships make for some of the toughest workplaces on earth. It’s hard work, long hours and little pay. Paul comes from a family of fishermen, but he’s one of the last young men wanting to do the job in Germany. Jeroen from Holland, like his colleagues, faces countless obstacles: shipwrecks, piracy, dangerous working conditions and lots more. Alamgir works with his bare hands to dismantle ships in Bangladesh – a dangerous and backbreaking profession. But he has no choice but to keep going.
Why was classical music so important to the German dictator Adolf Hitler and his propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels? The stories of the persecuted Jewish cellist Anita Lasker-Wallfisch and the conductor Wilhelm Furtwängler, who cooperated with the Nazis to a certain degree, provide insights into the musical life of the German dictatorship between 1933 and 1945.

The film’s main protagonists are two people who represent musical culture during the Nazi era in very different ways: Celebrity conductor Wilhelm Furtwängler and a cellist in the women’s orchestra at Auschwitz, Anita Lasker-Wallfisch. On the one hand, a world-famous conductor who wielded great influence with Hitler and his cronies. On the other, a young German Jewish woman imprisoned at Auschwitz, who only survived because of her musical talent. Both were affected by the Nazi dictatorship: Furtwängler opted to stay in Germany and was courted by the Nazis. For Lasker-Wallfisch however, her cello was the only thing protecting her from the brutality of everyday life in the concentration camp. Classical music, which they both loved, was performed by the Berlin Philharmonic but could also be heard at Nazi party rallies in Nuremberg and in concentration camps such as Auschwitz. Why did gifted artists like Furtwängler cooperate with the Nazi regime? Why was music played in the death camps? And how did this affect the victims’ view of music?
German music was used to legitimate the supremacy of the Third Reich on the world stage and distract from the Nazis’ wrongdoings. As well as Beethoven, Bach and Bruckner, Richard Wagner enjoyed a particularly high status as Hitler’s favorite composer. Hitler was very conscious of the power of music; his propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels controlled all musical life in Nazi Germany, where Jewish artists no longer had a place. The Berlin Philharmonic was rebranded as the “Reich’s Orchestra”.

Interview partners in this music documentary by Christian Berger include the conductors Daniel Barenboim and Christian Thielemann, Wilhelm Furtwängler’s children and of course the cellist Anita Lasker-Wallfisch, now almost 100 years old. Her recollections are the most poignant and moving. Archive footage restored and colorized especially for the film brings these stories to life and bears witness to a dramatic period in history.
It was Hitler’s invasion of Poland that triggered World War Two in Europe. This assault by National Socialist Germany, which contravened international law, began on 1 September 1939 when German troops entered Poland without warning. It ended on 6 October that same year when the last remaining Polish forces capitulated.

The commonly accepted theory is that the war began when the German warship Schleswig-Holstein shelled a Polish garrison on the Westerplatte peninsular in the city of Gdansk. In fact, however, a German air force bomber squadron had already reduced the small Polish town of Wielun to rubble.

The town’s unsuspecting residents were taken by surprise as they lay sleeping in their beds. Wielun was a town without any military presence or strategic importance. It was almost completely destroyed in three bombardments.

Hitler’s Assault is without precedent in television history. It is the first German-Polish co-production to document the events that started World War Two. The bombing of Wielun forms the dramatic framework of the film, which is told from both sides – German residents of the border region and soldiers on the one hand, and Polish eyewitnesses on the other. 70 years on, they talked about their personal recollections of how the war began. Renowned historians also discuss the events of August and September 1939.
Walled in! The Inner German Border

The computer animation, depicting the Berlin Wall and the border between East and West Germany, illustrates the oppressive reality of the border region as it seeks to answer the question: “What was the Wall really like?”

Today, only fractions of the no-man’s land and the Wall itself remain. The computer animation connects the dots – making the perils of the border region visible. For the first time, historians and television producers have created a detailed reconstruction of the no-man’s land as it looked at the start of the 1980s, including new views of the border fortifications.

With startling imagery, the animation recreates what was once a divided Germany for those who know it today as just another piece of distant history, helping younger generations better understand the suffering of people in Berlin and throughout Germany, divided for decades by the border between East and West.

Animation, 11 min., 2009, HD; Arabic, English, French, German, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish; WW, VoD, M, IFE

Making of “Walled in!”

To recreate the border region in as much detail as possible, animators generated more than 130,000 images from historical models, in a high-definition computer process that took some 100,000 hours to complete. Every object had to be created as an individual graphical element using polygon shapes. The Church of Reconciliation, located in the death strip, for instance required some 500,000 polygons. The Making of Walled in! tells the backstory of the striking animation, including the intensive effort required to build a virtual replication of the Berlin Wall.

Documentary, 11 min., 2009, SD; Arabic, English, French, German, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish; WW, VoD, M, IFE
The Promise of the West

The Berlin Wall was one of the most infamous symbols of the Cold War and the division of Germany. For some people living behind the Iron Curtain, the pull of the West was so strong that they were willing to risk their lives to cross the heavily guarded border between East and West Berlin. Hundreds were killed trying to flee, but many others managed to make it to the West by using ingenious and spectacular methods of escape.

564713 001
Just Get Over There! - Kicking for the Class Enemy
Falko Götz – star on the football pitch for many years and former coach to German Bundesliga club Hertha BSC. Few people know that Götz took the decision of a lifetime at the age of 21. He left his family, his home, and his country, the German Democratic Republic. Falko Götz tells the whole story of his flight and its consequences. Did he find the freedom he was looking for?

564713 002
Flight to Freedom
Three brothers, three escapes, three incredible stories. Ingo, Holger and Egbert Bethke fled East Germany one by one in dramatic style. In this film the brothers meet for the first time in eighteen years to talk in detail about their escapes, about what happened, and what might have happened.

564713 003
Sailing to Freedom
The Russian combat helicopter dived towards the little boat at top speed. When it was almost on top of the craft, the pilot pulled the nose up and turned away. The three men in the boat thought they had made it and continued heading north-west towards Denmark. What reads like a scene from an action novel was a daring escape bid that took place in 1986.

564713 004
Veiled Plans
As the daughter of a diplomat, Kerstin Beck saw more of the world than most East Germans. She lived in Iraq and Vietnam, and went to Soviet-occupied Afghanistan as an exchange student when she was 23 after hitching a plan to cross the Hindu Kush and enter Pakistan. From there, she was able to fly on to West Germany.

564713 005
Risking Everything
When Berit Geißler was 21, she and her family escaped the GDR by hiding in the back of a caravan belonging to a holidaying Swiss couple. They then crossed from what was then Yugoslavia to the West, with Berit locked into a water tank and her husband and baby sewn into a mattress.

564713 006
Escape Through the Sewers
Dieter Wohlfahrt was 15 when he left the GDR and moved to West Berlin. Years later, he took advantage of the fact that his Austrian nationality allowed him to cross between West and East Berlin to help East Germans escape through the sewerage system. During a rescue attempt in 1961 he was shot and killed by GDR border guards. Karl-Heinz Albert was with him at the time. He’s never come to terms with his friend’s death.

When the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, it marked the end of an era. How did people adjust to their new lives?

564713 007, 564713 008
The Harvest – The Aftermath of East Germany’s Fortified Border
The fall of communism in 1989 turned life in a small East German village upside down. Twenty years on, most of the inhabitants were still there, but their lives had been transformed. This epic report from deep in the heart of the former GDR provides fascinating insight and is compelling as a study of personal hopes and fears, joy and suffering.
It’s been 30 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall, but differences between eastern and western Germany still remain. Franz Hildebrandt-Harangozó and his sister Antonia Hildebrandt were both born after 1989 and grew up in a united Germany. They study in Berlin and live near Bernauer Strasse, a street where the Berlin Wall once split the city in two. Their grandparents watched the Wall go up in 1961 and decided to stay in East Berlin; their mother fled to the west in 1989, shortly before the Wall came down. Franz and Antonia want to find out why traces of Germany’s division still exist to this day. As the two talk to their family and explore the former East Germany, the legacy of Germany’s division into two states comes to light. What did East and West look like back then, and what has since changed?
**The Rebels – Regime Change in East Germany**

In 1989, communist East Germany was in uproar, with its citizens increasingly demanding freedom of expression, free elections and political reforms. Involved in illegal peace and civil rights groups, young activists like Catrin Ulbricht, Katrin Hattenhauer and Jochen Lässig faced interrogation and imprisonment. But myriad individual acts of courage grew into the rebellion that spelled the end for East Germany’s communist dictatorship.

Documentary, 45 min., 2015, SD; Arabic, English, German, Spanish; WW, VoD, M

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**Tito’s Murder Squads – The Killing of Yugoslav Exiles in Germany**

Before the fall of the Berlin Wall, around 30 opponents of the Yugoslav regime were murdered in West Germany – most exiled Croats assassinated on orders from Belgrade. German prosecutors believe former high-level intelligence agent Josip Perkovic was responsible for at least one of the killings, and he’s now been indicted in Munich. In a documentary as exciting as any spy thriller, Philipp Grüll and Frank Hofmann look into this and other cases.

Documentary, 45 min., 2015, HD; Arabic, English, German, Spanish; WW, VoD, M, IFE

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**“Learn Polish!” – The East German Opposition and Solidarity**

In the early 1980s, the courage displayed by members of the Solidarity movement in Poland gave East German opposition figures hope for reform in their own country. There were attempts at support – for example, the hunger strike by some 300 prisoners at a Stasi prison after martial law was proclaimed in Poland. But there were few direct contacts. Our film tells the stories of opposition activists then and now.

Documentary, 45 min., 2015, HD; Arabic, English, German, Spanish; WW, VoD, M
Transit Camp Friedland, Part I and II
For millions of people, arrival at the Friedland camp in Lower Saxony marked the beginning of a new life – or at least some respite from a life on the run. The British military government opened the camp for German refugees and returning soldiers in September 1945. Today, Friedland is a reception center for asylum seekers and refugees. Many have abandoned everything back home and risked their lives to reach Europe. We accompanied some refugees during their stay in the camp and also talked to people who came to Friedland in the early days. All had dramatic stories to tell. "When I meet children from Syria or elsewhere in Friedland today, I am always meeting myself," says Annelie Keil, who arrived there as an eight-year-old child in 1947. How different are the feelings, experiences and aspirations of the people in this place where so many decades of escape stories intersect?

Documentary, 02 x 45 min., 2015, HD; Arabic, English, German, Spanish; WW, VoD

The Scent of Home – Encounters in Little Hanoi
It smells of coriander, mint and fish sauce. The Dong Xuan wholesale market in Berlin's Lichtenberg district is like a mini-version of Hanoi in Germany. The stalls are a meeting place for East and West, Germans, immigrants, tourists and locals alike. "Dong Xuan means spring meadow," explains Mai-Phuong Kollath, who came from Vietnam to the former East Germany as a contract worker in 1981. Here she buys fresh herbs for her spring rolls. Retailers like Raghbir Singh buy clothes wholesale here. He arrived in West Berlin from Punjab as a student in the summer of 1989. The Sikh is now a grandfather. His children and grandchildren were born in Berlin and only know a unified Germany. Businessman Suat Bakir was eight years old when he arrived from Turkey with his parents. "German reunification was like a wedding to which the immigrants were not invited," he says. We also meet Elisa Dosse from Mozambique, who lives with her husband in the eastern German city of Dessau. One of her best friends was murdered by neo-Nazis in 2000. They all have their own stories to tell, and all of them are closely linked to Germany. We visit them at home, in Dessau, Hamburg and Rostock, and accompany them to a place where Germany is exotic and different: a place that feels and smells like home.

Documentary, 45 min., 2015, HD; Arabic, English, French, German, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish; WW, VoD, M
Wang Shu and Arno Brandlhuber
Innovation and Conservation

Wang Shu is China’s first ever winner of the renowned Pritzker Prize for Architecture. For many years, Arno Brandlhuber has been stirring up the European architectural scene with his innovative approaches.

The two architects have a similar understanding of sustainability: the less that is newly produced and the more use that is made of existing materials, the better the eco-balance of a building. Both are vehement opponents of the current demolition mania.

In many of his structures, such as the Xiangshan Campus in Hangzhou, Wang Shu utilizes bricks from demolished villages. Some of those bricks are centuries old. Traditional craft techniques are practiced on his building sites. Wang Shu designs attractive and comfortable homes for the rural population as a way of stemming mass migration to cities.

Arno Brandlhuber sees potential where others only see ruins. The architect prefers to work with structures that already exist, transforming them into attractive spaces for living and working through ingenious and imaginative design. His processes require minimum material to attain maximum flexibility and usability for the building’s inhabitants. Wang Shu and Arno Brandlhuber – two extraordinary architects fighting passionately for sustainability principles in architecture.
The Art of Space

Architecture in a category of its own, employing the most up-to-the-minute construction designs and traditional composition in natural spaces. From the breathtaking to the bizarre, the series The Art of Space shows the incredible variety of spatial experimentation being conducted today. It shines the spotlight on the risks and opportunities presented by the ever-changing face of our world.

564704 090
Wang Shu – New Builds with a Historical Flavor
Wang Shu’s buildings are a counterweight to the prevalent forms of architecture in China’s urban construction boom. He salvages rubble from demolition sites to create new structures, such as the Xiangshan Campus in Hangzhou and the Ningbo History Museum. His approach translates traditional building methods and materials into contemporary architecture. In 2012, Wang Shu became the first architect in China to win the prestigious Pritzker Prize.
Documentary, 30 min., 2021, HD; Arabic, English, Spanish

564704 094
Building with Straw – For Natural Longevity
Natural materials are experiencing a boom in the construction industry. Take straw, for example. An eight-storey apartment building made of wood in eastern France is entirely insulated with bales of straw. They ensure excellent thermal and acoustic insulation – and a pleasant interior climate.
Documentary, 30 min., 2021, HD; Arabic, English, Spanish

564704 095
Danish Design – Ecological and Functional
The Danish capital Copenhagen is home to a large number of highly original and ecologically-sound buildings: For example, Green Lighthouse, which is Denmark’s first carbon-neutral public building, and The Mountain residential complex. Danish architects are showing the world how building can be both environmentally friendly and unconventional.
Documentary, 30 min., 2021, HD; Arabic, English, Spanish

564704 096
Arno Brandlhuber – The Appeal of the Abandoned
The architect Arno Brandlhuber pushes the boundaries of the sustainability principle, preferring to work with existing buildings. His ingenious and imaginative designs transform even structures that at first appear unsalvageable into appealing spaces for working and living. When conceiving his prize-winning buildings, he pays particular attention to material minimalism and the social aspects of architecture and urban planning.
Documentary, 30 min., 2021, HD; Arabic, English, Spanish
Ecopia
Intelligent Building, Sustainable Living

Today, more than half the world’s population lives in cities. By 2050, the figure will have risen to more than two thirds.

Cities produce huge amounts of greenhouse gases and garbage, and are at the root of many of the world’s environmental problems. Energy, water and raw materials are in increasingly short supply. What can we do to halt this trend?

The series Ecopia looks at exciting projects that address key questions: How should we live and work in the future? How should we shape our public urban spaces? How can green architecture provide new impetus for urgently needed ecological reforms?

School buildings made of locally-sourced clay in Burkina Faso, with a sophisticated roof construction and a passive ventilation system that uses no electricity. A university campus in South Korea that has been partially sunk into the ground to blend in with the landscape of an existing park. And a virtually planned science lab in Germany that is carrying out research into work environments of the future. These three sustainable projects from Africa, Asia and Europe in the education sector invite imitation.

The number of skyscrapers currently at planning or construction stage has never been greater. These buildings are becoming steadily more luxurious, imposing, taller and more robust. But architects are increasingly required to consider the environmental impact of their designs. The key question here is how to build in a manner that is simultaneously effective, efficient and ecologically sound. A sustainably built high-rise block costs around 10 percent more than a conventional one. But in view of rising energy prices, this investment pays for itself in just a few years. When assessing how to improve the green credentials of our towns and cities, the skyscrapers of the future are representative of the need to consider ecological and economic principles in equal measure.
Modern Culture Temples
Museums, concert halls, theaters and libraries enjoy high status throughout the world. They are all landmarks of a town or city and define its cultural identity. As well as being important factors in the competition to attract international tourists, they also provide local people with a place to gather and exchange ideas. And if their architectural design is spectacular and avant-garde, these buildings hold a very special appeal.

Tourism Goes Green
The tourism industry is viewed worldwide as an important economic factor with considerable growth potential. But more and more people are concerned about the environmental impact of their holidays. This has led to more sustainable architecture for tourist facilities. For example, in the east African nation of Rwanda, work is underway on two hotels distinguished by their innovative ecological approaches, cooperation with local partners and a design that reflects local traditions. On the Indonesian island of Bali, designers have created a holiday complex that aims to combine luxury with ecological principles. Materials have been sourced from the region; the ceilings are made of bamboo from certified plantations. The water recycling quota within the complex is at 80 percent, and most of the staff have been recruited from nearby villages.
The Cranachs and Medieval Modern Art

Two artists who embodied the ideal of the Renaissance man were Lucas Cranach the Elder (1472–1553) and his son Lucas Cranach the Younger (1515–1568). They were among the most successful painters of the 16th century, working as court painters and immortalizing Martin Luther and the Reformation in their paintings. They also ran printing workshops, were paper wholesalers, had a pharmacy license and were mayors of the renowned university city of Wittenberg. In Cologne, the Cranachs’ work is being digitized – a treasure trove for professionals and art lovers. The Cranach Digital Archive (CDA) makes it possible to zoom in on even the tiniest figures or the fine networks of cracks in painted faces. Our film follows in the Cranachs’ footsteps and provides an insight into the lives, work and times of the famous family of painters.

Words Against Silence

Indonesia’s Courageous Writers

With its 17,000 islands, 800 languages and 300 ethnic groups, Indonesia is a nation of superlatives. And one that is still searching for a common identity. After 350 years of Dutch colonial rule, decades of regional independence wars and a military regime that cost the lives of a million people, the country has yet to look its past squarely in the eye. For many years, a number of courageous writers have been agitating for this process to begin, by tackling subjects that still remain shrouded in silence: As a student in the 1990s, Linda Christanty from Jakarta joined the movement to topple Suharto. Azhari Aiyub from Banda Aceh writes about the region’s past struggle for liberation and coping with the aftermath of the tsunami. Oka Rusmini lives on the island of Bali. She describes the constraints of the Hindu caste system. Through their work, all three give a voice to the weak.
Ai Weiwei Drifting

Ai Weiwei is one of the most provocative artists of our time. At home in China, he was subjected to surveillance, detention and house arrest. He was able to leave in 2015 and now lives in Berlin. In his recent work, he takes Europe to task for what he considers its disastrous refugee policy. He turns his despair and anger into art and protest.

A solitary rubber dinghy floats in the Aegean between Turkey and Greece. Ai Weiwei cowers inside the boat. He cannot swim. What is the message? “We are all refugees,” the artist says. He has created memorials in museums and public spaces out of boats, lifejackets and clothes abandoned on Europe’s beaches.

The film gets close to Ai Weiwei, illuminates his work, and also gives a rare glimpse into his private life – with his mother in Beijing, with his son and partner in Berlin. Nevertheless, he remains a mysterious figure in many respects. Just who is Ai Weiwei?
For years, a talented fraudster smuggled counterfeit antiques onto the art market. No one knew who the person was but workshops in southern Europe aroused suspicion. Experts have therefore named the fraudster the "Spanish master." The documentary follows German archaeologist Stefan Lehmann, who's been on the shark's tail. Around 40 counterfeits have been discovered so far, but he thinks it's only the tip of the iceberg. Lehmann hasn't made himself popular, as the subject of counterfeiting tends to get swept under the rug within the art trade and museums. A Swiss collector was the first to break the silence. He gave Lehmann access to a bronze head of Emperor Augustus, which he had bought for several hundred thousand dollars in New York. It's an exciting case for Lehmann. Will his examinations prove that the head is fake? Auction houses and galleries know exactly what they're selling, according to Christoph Leon, an art dealer from Basel who's working with Lehmann. He says the market is full of fakes because antique sculptures fetch high prices among investors. This film follows a trail of dirty dealings and gives an insight into the secretive world of the antiques trade.
For centuries, the book has been the vehicle and symbol of knowledge and intellect. But it has now been caught up in the digital revolution. Reading from a screen has become widespread. Online retailers of E-books are replacing bookstores, and putting publishers under pressure. Data about E-reading habits are being captured and analyzed, leaving readers vulnerable to manipulation.

What is the value of the book in the digital age? How different are the approaches in Germany, where movable type was invented, and in the US, the pioneer of digitalization?

What does it sound like when Germany’s National Youth Orchestra (BJO), plays music by the Chinese-Mongolian avant-garde composer Zulan? Zulan, who comes from Inner Mongolia, composed an opulent piece for the BJO and her own ensemble Mongolism. It’s called Amila and describes the dance of the shaman that gives mankind a new soul. While the BJO’s role is to set the scene, recreating the natural world, the shrubs, the mountains, Mongolism’s role is to relate the story. The film charts the journey of Zulan and the orchestra, beginning with the first encounter in Germany. Then there is the BJO’s concert tour of China, the second meeting with Zulan in Beijing and the first rehearsal of her music. And finally, the premiere of Amila at the 2015 Beethoven Festival in Bonn, where the German National Youth Orchestra and Mongolism perform together on the same stage for the first time.
Peter Lindbergh has taken pictures of countless supermodels and stars, and has become a star in his own right for his artistry and boldness as a photographer. His approach to fashion photography is very individual – and has been hugely influential. He establishes a very personal relationship during photo shoots. His talent at getting people to open up and at capturing them at a single, particular moment, is what makes his pictures so special. Vogue magazine selected his iconic photo of supermodels in white shirts as the most memorable image of the 1990s.

Lindbergh has a particular fondness for black-and-white photography, which he feels often conveys a particular kind of melancholy. His photos blend an avantgarde aesthetic with the unpretentious style of the down-to-earth person that is Lindbergh. The result: realistic portrayals that allow for the odd flaw.
Cities Reinvented

Before long, most of the world’s population will be living in cities. If megacities are to be in a position to tackle the challenges represented by overcrowding, overburdened infrastructure, energy provision and climate change, appropriate structures need to be established. Whatever is planned or built today will determine whether cities will be good places to live in the future or whether they will collapse under the strain. The series shines a light on innovative architectural and urban-planning projects in New York, Tokyo and Singapore that can be considered exemplary responses to some of those challenges.

**284915**
Documentary,
03 x 45 min.,
2020, 4K,
English, Spanish
VoD, M, IFE, LR

**264916**
Documentary,
03 x 30 min.,
2020, 4K,
Arabic, English, Spanish
WW*, VoD, M, IFE

*No licensing rights for Austria, Germany, Switzerland

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001
**New York: Time for an Upgrade**
Manhattan may be one of the world’s liveliest and richest places, but it is a slender island just 21 kilometers long and very crowded. Its buildings have been getting taller and taller. Many buildings from previous centuries need to be upgraded or replaced. The infrastructure is also severely strained. So large-scale eco-friendly redevelopment is on the cards, as is the creation of neighborhoods that are pleasant places to live and work. New York will need to stand its ground as cities compete for the best and the brightest.

002
**Tokyo: The Urban Village Concept**
The Greater Tokyo Area is the world’s most populous metropolitan region, and it is continuing to grow at a fast pace. The cost of housing is astronomical. This forces hundreds of thousands of people to commute long distances to work; their daily travel time can be several hours. Urban-planning solutions are urgently needed to prevent Tokyo from choking on its own growth. Strategies include raising density, promoting shared housing and micro-homes, and investing in ‘urban villages’, neighborhoods where people can live, work and spend their leisure time. That would reduce the number of commuters and improve the quality of life.

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003
**Singapore: Embracing Nature**
Singapore is arguably the world’s most modern metropolis. The small island state with a growing population needs to plan land use and construction carefully. It is committed to sustainable development and to maintaining the city’s greenery. The climate is tropical, so ways to keep buildings cool and cool open spaces are a priority. Singapore has become a pioneer in eco-friendly energy-saving urban development. The regulations are stringent: any green space lost when a new building goes up must be replaced somewhere else – for example on the façade or on the roof. The city is creating a new generation of green skyscrapers that harvest rainwater and run on solar power.

**Interview partners include:**
Sou Fujimoto, Sou Fujimoto Architects
Kenneth A. Lewis, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill
Ole Scheeren, Büro Ole Scheeren
Kengo Kuma, Kengo Kuma & Associates
Christoph Ingenhoven, Ingenhoven Architects
Ken Hasebe, Mayor of Tokyo-Shibuya
Elizabeth Diller, Diller Scofidio & Renfro
Moshe Safdie, Safdie Architects
Adele Tan, Singapore Urban Redevelopment Authority
Wong Mun Summ & Richard Hassell, WOHA Architects
Renzo Piano, RPBW Architects
Bjarke Ingels, Bjarke Ingels Group
Prof. Takayuki Kishii, Consultant, Masterplan Tokyo, Nihon University
Prof. Hideo Takahashi, Urban Meteorologist, Tokyo Metropolitan University
Berlin’s Treasure Trove

The Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation

Berlin is home to an outstanding treasure trove, the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation. It is one of the five largest encyclopedic collections in the world, comprising 19 museums with more than five million objects, a huge library, archives and research institutes, covering a vast range of cultures, artforms and epochs from the Stone Age to the present day. Scholars and visitors explore this collection for answers to the burning questions facing humankind: How can we tap the resources of the Earth while also living in harmony with it? How can we deal responsibly with our history? How can our cultural heritage help us to understand and shape reality?

Berlin’s museums are not just centers of research and temples of beauty, they also reverberate with countless fascinating stories.
What do escalators in Medellín, Arabic lettering in Amman, story-telling furniture from London, urban farming in Detroit and a co-living complex in Tokyo have to do with the Bauhaus?

The architect Walter Gropius founded the Bauhaus in Weimar in 1919. He brought together some of the most illustrious artists in Europe to create a school that would fuse the fine arts and the crafts. Together, they set out to fundamentally rethink the world and society. Although the Bauhaus school – which later relocated to Dessau and then to Berlin – only existed for a few years, it revolutionized ideas about the organization of modern life.

In 2019, the Bauhaus will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding. To mark the occasion, planetfilm has produced a series of three documentaries for Deutsche Welle. The films focus on the influence that the philosophy of the Bauhaus movement still exerts on the globalized society of the 21st century. They also explore historical parallels between 1919 and the present day: Society is facing major upheavals and challenges, just as it did back then.

We meet architects, urban planners, designers and artists from around the globe who, in the spirit of the Bauhaus, want to rethink and change the world. Tatiana Bilbao, for example, is a Mexican architect who has designed an 8,000-dollar house for the poorest members of society. The designer Ahmed Humeid is working on plans to bring order to the traffic chaos of the Jordanian capital Amman. How and where will the world’s burgeoning population live in future? Minimalistically and collectively in tiny spaces, as the German architect Van Bo Le-Mentzel envisages it? Or maybe even on Mars? British star architect Sir Norman Foster has drawn up designs for a settlement there.

Segments on the history and philosophy of the Bauhaus provide context and background to some of today’s most pressing issues.
The series of documentaries

384902 001 The Code
What is the secret of the Bauhaus’s success?

384902 002 The Effect
How were Bauhaus principles developed further?

384902 003 The Utopia
A good life for all?

Protagonists include:

Jennifer Goggans, Dancer, USA
Sir Norman Foster, Architect, UK
Mateo Kries, Vitra Design Museum, Germany
Tatiana Bilbao, Architect, Mexico
Yinka Ilori, Furniture Designer, UK
Claudia Perren, Bauhaus Dessau Foundation, Germany
Mio Tsuneyama, Architect, Japan
Martino Stierli, Curator for Architecture and Design at MoMA New York, USA
Sharon Golan-Yaron, Conservation Architect, Israel
Jan Gerner, Typographer, Germany
Annemarie Jaeggi, Bauhaus Archive Berlin, Germany
Amor Muñoz, Artist, Mexico
Christoph & Manuel Goller, Product Designers, Germany
Evamaria Rönnegård, IKEA, Sweden
Alexander von Vegesack, Art Collector, France
Kasia Kucharska, Fashion Designer, Germany
Gary Wozniak, Recovery Park Detroit, USA
Jürgen Mayer H., Architect, Germany
Ahmad Humeid, Designer, Jordan
Van Bo Le-Mentzel, Architect, Germany
These tutorials show viewers how to make all kinds of practical furniture simply, quickly and cheaply. The designs adhere to the fundamental tenets of the Bauhaus movement, which stipulate that they should be useful, aesthetically pleasing and affordable. Architect Van Bo Le-Mentzel explains which materials and tools are required and, by providing step-by-step instructions, makes the entire process accessible to even the most inexperienced DIY practitioners. All the pieces of furniture are inspired by iconic works from the Bauhaus, the most important German design school of the 20th century.

**324907 001**  **Study Desk**  
Open design for a new society

**324907 002**  **Lounge Chair**  
Just what people need

**324907 003**  **Table Lamp**  
New light for new ideas

**324907 004**  **Wooden Stool**  
Less is more

**324907 005**  **Basic Block**  
Standardization and flexibility

**324907 006**  **Tube Shelf**  
Industrial production
Bauhaus Clips

Bauhaus in 60 Seconds
One clip for each of the three Bauhaus films "The Code", "The Effect" and "The Utopia" to answer the questions at the heart of the episodes.

324908  001
What Is Bauhaus?
Bauhaus is composed of many different ideas and values. Harmony, innovation, functionality, creativity, freedom, intuition, community, accessibility and fairness – all this is what Bauhaus is about.

324908  002
Where Can We Find Bauhaus?
Even 100 years after the founding of the Bauhaus school, its effects can still be felt around the world in architecture, fashion, technology, art, dance, industry and typography.

324908  003
Why Care About Bauhaus?
How we utilize the spaces we live in has strong implications for our present and our future. Democracy, humanity, nature – all are under threat and smart design might be the only thing that can save us.

The Spirit of Bauhaus
Meet three creative individuals who keep the spirit of the Bauhaus alive.

324908  004
Space to Develop: Norman Foster
The world-renowned architect dares to envisage the future. There's so much space left to develop right here, to optimize our societies, adapt to imminent threats and better our lives.

324908  005
Follow Your Gut: Yinka Ilori
Always on the lookout for vintage furniture that he can up-cycle, Yinka Ilori transforms his find into a functional piece of art, inspired by the traditional Nigerian parables and African fabrics that surrounded him as child.

324908  006
Design = Bauhaus: Jan Gerner
When German graphic designer Jan Gerner traveled to Jordan, he developed the official "Amman font". It represents both Arabic and Latin lettering equally well and adorns the capital's many street signs, public vehicles and buildings.

The Bauhaus Philosophy
Our great minds of today find new solutions for tomorrow inspired by the ideas of the Bauhaus. Our shared desire for utopia is what propels innovation and inspires us to pull together.

324908  007
Driving Innovation: Saving Mayan Tradition

324908  008
Form and Function: IKEA

324908  009
A Better Life for All: Elevating the Favelas
Architectural Trend: Sustainable Wood Buildings
In the Austrian Ziller Valley, the first luxury hotel made entirely of wood is an outstanding example of the trend towards building sustainably using this natural material. The hotel was designed by star architect Matteo Thun.

Clearly Concrete – Brutalist Architecture in Berlin
Brutalist architecture divides opinions to this day. Many say the concrete buildings erected between the 1950s and the 1980s are ugly. But isn’t there still an allure to this style? Euromaxx looks at a few noteworthy examples.

New Living Concepts – Unusual Houses in Europe
Some dwellings are anything but ordinary: Euromaxx presents three special housing projects from a converted church to a circular house surrounded by trees and an underground house.

Zany and Delightful: The Amphibious E-Bike Camper
It’s both quirky and amazing: Latvian designer Aigars Lauzis invented a hybrid vehicle that not only has room for passengers to sleep inside, but that also functions as an e-bike and amphibious vehicle.
Design is the process by which nearly all objects – from cars to paper clips, from clothing to chairs – acquire a certain form and function. But design involves more than just shaping and styling: good design is a complex process in which different and often contradictory requirements have to be met to ensure that objects function in the desired way. Design is only good when aesthetic, ergonomic and ecological aspects, durability, function and comfort harmonize and complement one another.

Euromaxx Design presents the most important and exciting creations on the European design scene. It portrays star designers, shows emerging trends and pays tribute to traditional design.

The individual reports of our successful series Euromaxx Design introduce the latest creations from the automotive industry, from furniture designers, glassworks and material and jewelry studios and visit trade fairs, exhibitions and presentations.

SAMPLE EPISODE 1 | 30 MINUTE VERSION

Almost Real: Balloon Birds
Terry Cook’s work is a far cry from the kind of balloon animals you’re likely to see at a children’s birthday party. The Scottish artist photographs his balloon birds in nature, and they look as real as can be.

Lyrical Glass Art by Simone
Simone Crestani’s works draw their inspiration mainly from nature. But he’s got his own, very personal style. His work is described as fragile elegance, balance and poetry. Every object is handmade.

Surreal Photo Compositions by Tessa Dóniga
Tessa Dóniga made her name with her photo series “Break/Fast”, which takes the word ‘breakfast’ literally. The images portray everyday objects in surrealistic contexts. Tessa Dóniga lives and works in Madrid.

Furniture or Art?
ONE stands for the prototype, ELEVEN stands for the limited edition. The Berlin design studio has garnered widespread acclaim and won top design awards.

Catwalk to the Kitchen
High-end restaurants ensure everything is tastefully coordinated, from the interior decoration to the table settings. Now, the overall look includes staff uniforms. An agency in Paris specializes in fashion for restaurant employees.

Magical Machine Creations
Pietro Proserpio, a retiree living in Portugal’s capital Lisbon, builds entire worlds with a little junk and lots of imagination-bringing them to life with complex technology. His machines have enchanted thousands.
Goldbeater from Venice Continues Ancient Trade
Only a few businesses still produce thin sheets of gold. One of them is a shop in Venice run by Mario Menegazzo. There, gold bars are hammered so thin that they’re almost transparent so they can be used in a host of products.

Need for Speed: Art from Old Motor Vehicles
German sculptor Stefan Rohrer loves cars and mopeds. His artwork, repurposed from old vehicles, bears titles such as “Whiplash”. These embody the thrill of high speed, but also the devastation of resulting disasters.

Matteo Cibic’s Eccentric Designs
The Italian designer Matteo Cibic creates objects that aren’t essential, but which are nonetheless touching. With his sharp ideas, he has transformed Vicenza’s Michelin starred restaurant “El Coq” into a fantasy world.

The Tailor of Princesses and Queens
Edouard Vermeulen is one of the most famous fashion designers in Belgium. His creations are synonymous with tasteful exclusivity. For more than 30 years he has been considered the tailor of European nobility.

The Fabulous World of Bruno Weber
Bruno Weber’s property is a fantasy world brought to life! Fairy tale creatures and mythological figures populate the garden and the building. Surprises still abound on the grounds of the artist who died in 2011.

Art with a Mission: Clare Celeste’s Nature Collages
Berlin-based artist Clare Celeste creates paper image installations of nature. She wants to present the beauty of fauna and flora, as well as highlight mankind’s threat to the environment.
The Last Traditional Fan-Maker in Paris
French fan-maker Anne Hoguet supplies Hollywood and luxury fashion labels with traditional fans. And even Karl Lagerfeld turned to her skilled craftsmanship. But this special profession is on the verge of disappearing.

A Gigantic Picnic Cloth: An Art Installation in Switzerland
Once a year locals meet up for a gigantic picnic in the Swiss canton of St. Gallen. The art installation goes by the name of BIGNIK.

The Art of Crafting Gilt Leather
Two Polish sisters are keeping the tradition of crafting gilt leather alive. They also create exquisite wall coverings following a 400-year-old tradition.

Alexander Steffen Documents the Vanishing Berlin
Like many major cities, Berlin is undergoing a construction boom. Photographer Alexander Steffen photo-documents its special corners, vestiges and relics of another time, preserving them for future generations.

Saint-Claude, Capital of Tobacco Pipes
The small French town of Saint-Claude is considered the pipe capital of Europe. It’s also home to the pipe maker Sébastien Beaud. He continues that town’s centuries-old craft tradition.

Bespoke Shoemaker Adele Williamson
Tradition plays a major role at the oldest shoe manufacturer in Britain. Even the British royal family wear their bespoke shoes. Now, for the first time, the master custom shoemaker is a woman: Adele Williamson.
Euromaxx à la Carte

We travel around Europe to trace the manifold roots of European cuisine and to show how Europe's culinary heritage is reworked and refined by the continent's top chefs. They give us an insight into their skills as they turn regional specialties into gourmet delights. For Euromaxx à la Carte they demonstrate European gastronomy at its finest in their award-winning restaurants.

It's all here – from new Scandinavian cuisine to hearty Bavarian dishes. For dessert, each program focuses on a special subject, such as the delicate craft of the chocolatier or top wines from France. Euromaxx à la Carte takes your taste buds on a European tour.

**SAMPLE EPISODE 1 | 30 MINUTE VERSION**

**The Enduring Success of 'Dinner in the Sky'**
The gondola serving a gourmet dinner was first hoisted 50 meters above the ground in 2006. It's served meals in 55 countries since then, to rave reviews. Now, it's back in Belgium, where the idea first got off the ground.

**Tasty Lamb Goulash Gheimeh Bademjan from Iran**
Rice is the most important side dish to accompany Gheimeh Bademjan, a lamb goulash made with eggplant and yellow split peas. And no one cooks rice like an Iranian, says restaurant owner Saeed Sanatpour.

**Wine From the Greek Mainland**
Wine has been cultivated in Greece for over 4,000 years. Simple wines are traditionally served in taverns here, but now stylish wine bars are competing. And a new generation of vintners is taking over the market.

**Revolutionary Cuisine: Mikkel Karstad**
Mikkel Karstad is one of Denmark's most unusual chefs. He says there's no excuse for companies to provide their workers with bad canteen food – and he's set out to change that.

**A Dish to Cook at Home: Koshary from Cairo**
Egypt's national dish, Koshary, is a mixture of macaroni noodles, chickpeas and tomato sauce. It inspired the name of Michael Landeck's Berlin delicatessen. The Koshary Lux serves original Egyptian dishes.
The Secret of Authentic Neapolitan Pizza
Pizza is eaten around the globe, but it is made differently in different places. So what makes an Italian pizza authentic?

Dining in a Former Chapel in Antwerp
The Jane is a gourmet restaurant in the grand setting of a decommissioned chapel. The open kitchen is in the apse.

Halloumi – A Specialty Cheese from Cyprus
Halloumi is a staple in Cypriot food and part of the island’s cultural heritage. Gourmets around the world treasure this export hit, produced from sheep and goat milk. There are many ways to serve it.

Winegrowing on Lanzarote
Wine harvesting in Lanzarote is exceptional. Instead of vineyards the vines grow in hollows. Heat and humidity are stored here. The earth is rich in minerals and organic farming is in trend.

Berlin Lobster – From Pest to Delicacy
American crayfish are served in Berlin restaurants. The crustaceans were set free and have since greatly multiplied. Now they are offered as a regional delicacy.

“Nolla” – The Zero-Waste Restaurant in Finland
“Nolla” is the first Finnish restaurant that composites all of its food scraps and leftovers. What's more: everything is made from recycled materials, including the furniture and dishes.
Milk Chocolate from Switzerland
Swiss chocolate is a hot export item and popular the world over, we try to find the recipe for its success. What makes this sweet Epicurean experience so special?

The Blind Chef Antonio Ciotola
Italian chef Antonio Ciotola lost his eyesight in an accident. But he still manages perfectly well in the kitchen of his restaurant, which is known for its excellent dishes.

In Search of Truffles in Provence
France is one of the largest truffle producers in the world. Most black truffles are found in Provence. There, visitors can also go in search of the valuable mushrooms with specially trained dogs.

Glowing Algae Tarts
Algae are rich in protein, available worldwide and easy to grow. A pastry chef in Munich came up with the idea of creating glowing blue algae tarts. Not only do they taste yummy, they’re good for the global climate.

Haggis: Scotland’s National Dish
This dish might take quite some getting used to for non-Scots, but in its land of origin, it’s attained cult status. Haggis is made with cooked innards, oatmeal and spices.

The Pizza-Baking Robot
In one Parisian restaurant, machines are running the show! The pizza recipe comes from Thierry Graffagnino, a three-time World Pizza Champion.
Euromaxx on Vacation

Euromaxx on Vacation invites you to spend your vacation with us. Let us be your guide on a tour of the most beautiful destinations, glamorous locations and tranquil regions Europe has to offer. You will be enchanted by these diverse and fascinating places.

We provide all kinds of information and insider tips about the places we visit. Euromaxx on Vacation is guaranteed to infect you with the travel bug.

SAMPLE EPISODE 1 | 30 MINUTE VERSION

La Gomera’s Whistled Language
Inhabitants of the Spanish island La Gomera don’t need a phone to get in touch over large distances. They can chat using the whistled language “Silbo Gomero”.

Tolkien’s Inspiration for Middle Earth
J.R.R. Tolkien’s “The Hobbit” and “The Lord of the Rings” are fantasy masterpieces. Which places inspired him to write these acclaimed novels? Tolkien expert John Garth has some of the answers.

All Aboard the Rigi Railway
This train takes us to Switzerland. Watch as reporter Axel Primavesi rides the Rigi Railway, Europe’s oldest mountain railroad!

Braga: Home of the Happy Portuguese
This city in northern Portugal has been collecting distinctions: best European destination of 2021 and happiest city in the country. It may be over 2,000 years old, but some 40% of its people are under 30 years young.

Legendary Sparta
On the Greek peninsula of Peloponnese, near the ancient city of Sparta, there are people who still speak like the legendary Spartans today. And even their food is authentically Spartan.

Meissen: Digital Time Travel to Germany’s Oldest Castle
Albrechtsburg Castle in the Saxon city of Meissen is using cutting edge technology. With the help of digital tablets known as HistoPads, you can go back in time and visit the castle with augmented reality.
Europe by Train: A Ride on the Glacier Express
There's no nicer way to travel through the Alps than in the panoramic train cars of the Glacier Express. The ride from St. Moritz to Zermatt on the “world’s slowest express train” takes around eight hours.

Finding Our Way Around Amsterdam
The Dutch capital evokes images of picturesque canals and world-famous museums. But what can be found there off the beaten tourist paths? Euromaxx asked local residents for their best tips.

Through the Ages in Sofia
Bulgaria’s capital is one of Europe’s oldest cities. But the architecture of this city of 1.2 million people is still shaped very much by its recent socialist past. Travel blogger Veneta Nikolova reveals some of her favorite spots.

A Tip for Nature Fans: Iceland’s West Fjords
Secluded beaches, towering waterfalls and spectacular landscapes are all found in the West Fjords, Iceland’s remote natural splendor. The Lonely Planet travel guide lists the peninsula among its ‘Best in Travel’ areas for 2022.

Europe’s Longest Place Name
A Welsh village draws tourists mainly due to its unusual, and unusually long, name: Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogogoch. At 58 letters, it’s the longest single-word place name in Europe.

The Renaissance Festival in Tortosa
It’s July, 2022, in Spain – or is it 1522? At the Tortosa Renaissance Festival it’s hard to tell! We take a trip to the east coast and look back at a golden age of art and culture.
Euromaxx

Europe to the max – Euromaxx. The name says it all. Europe is always on the move. A source of new ideas and a motor for change.

But Europe's traditions are also flourishing and being updated for life in the 21st century. Europe's values of tolerance and its diversity make it an exciting mix of cultures and temperaments. Arts and entertainment, fashion and glamour, design and architecture. Europe is all this and much more. And so is Euromaxx.

Vibrant and alive – Euromaxx gets up close to the action and captures the fast pace of modern Europe. Come and discover the Europe of today. Stay right up to date with the latest fashion and be the first to know about tomorrow's trends.

We'll keep you informed about all the latest news from the worlds of fashion, food, travel, art and architecture to name but a few.

Euromaxx, unique clips packed full of Europe for your show reflecting the continent's constantly changing cultural landscape. Euromaxx – Europe to the max!
**Global Living Rooms**

Our own four walls say a great deal about us, our history and our culture. Global Living Rooms allows us a glimpse into the homes of artists, farmers, managers, presidents and their families. People all over the world throw open their front doors and invite us to spend some time with them – whether it be in Thailand, Kyrgyzstan, Ethiopia or Belize. Please come in!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clip No.</th>
<th>Name and Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>524864 001</td>
<td>Eric Massé – Mexico City, Mexico</td>
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<td>524864 002</td>
<td>The Ramirez Family – La Técnica, Guatemala</td>
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<td>524864 003</td>
<td>The Anthamatten Family – Saas-Fee, Switzerland</td>
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<td>The Bermejo-Sanchez Family – Agulo, Spain</td>
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<td>Lydia Jakimowna – Pesmog, Russia</td>
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<td>524864 006</td>
<td>Jim Lowry – Dublin, Ireland</td>
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<td>Norbert and Elizabeth Wirsching – New York, US</td>
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<td>Nguyen Tuan Bao – Hanoi, Vietnam</td>
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Food can break down boundaries and connect people all over the globe. It also tells stories about the world’s diverse cultures. An omnipresent phenomenon in our globalized world is fast food, or light bites on the go. When it comes to snacks, every region has its own specialties. The snack is a reliable barometer of a nation and its people.

Whether it’s tapioca in Brazil, falafel in Lebanon, dal baati in India or maandazi in Kenya, ... whether it’s a mobile cookshop, a hawker’s tray or a hotdog stand: Global Snack guides the hungry through the maze of light-bite possibilities, wherever you happen to be.

524856 001
Berlin, Germany – Currywurst

524856 002
Costa Rica – Ceviche

524856 003
Auckland, New Zealand – Pie

524856 004
St. Lucia, Caribbean – Souse

524856 005
Belgrade, Serbia – Pijeskavica

524856 006
Valparaíso, Chile – Sopaipillas

524856 007
Dublin, Ireland – Guinness Bread

524856 008
Montreal, Canada – Bagels

524856 009
Istanbul, Turkey – Balik Ekmek

524856 010
Zagreb, Croatia – Zagorski Cuspajz

524856 011
Sofia, Bulgaria – Banitsa

524856 012
Luang Prabang, Laos – Noodle Soup

524856 013
Coquimbo, Chile – Empanadas de Marisco

524856 014
Bangkok, Thailand – Som Tam

524856 015
Lima, Peru – Tacacho Mixto

524856 016
Colombia – Fruit

524856 017
Dhaka, Bangladesh – Fuchka

524856 018
Cape Town, South Africa – Boerewors

524856 019
Tirana, Albania – Crêpes

524856 020
Quito, Ecuador – Las Corvinas de la Sierra

524856 021
Taipei, Taiwan – Personal Snacks

524856 022
Kyrgyzstan – Beshparmak

524856 023
Beirut, Lebanon – Falafel

524856 024
Kaeng Khoi, Thailand – Phad Gra Phao

524856 025
Podgorica, Montenegro – Cevapcici

524856 026
Kiev, Ukraine – Blinis

524856 027
Chorugh, Tadzhikistan – Biljasch

524856 028
Tapachula, Mexico – Quesadilla

524856 029
Bali, Indonesia – Ayam Pelalah

524856 030
Szczecin, Poland – Pierogi
Mumbai, India – Pav Bhaji
Tel Aviv, Israel – Sabikh
Katmandu, Nepal – Bara
Panama City, Panama – Patacónes
Port Louis, Mauritius – Mie Noodles
Buenos Aires, Argentina – Churrasco
Cusco, Peru – Sopa de Moraya
Vienna, Austria – Käsekrainer
Porto Seguro, Brazil – Tapioca
Mount Abu, India – Dal Baati
Aberdare Range, Kenya – Maandazi
Negros Oriental, the Philippines – Shakoy
Bologna, Italy – Panzerotti
Tel Aviv, Israel – Kzizot
Gall, Sri Lanka – Dal Vada
Niamey, Niger – Brochettes
Boca de Camichín, Mexico – Oysters
Sète, France – Tielle

Copenhagen, Denmark – Hot Dogs
Príncipe – Moqueca
Stockholm, Sweden – Herring
Tunis, Tunisia – Safha Toun
Sarajevo, Bosnia – Burek
Munich, Germany – Vegan Kebabs
Belém, Brazil – Acai with Fish
Thessaloniki, Greece – Gyros
Abidjan, Ivory Coast – Alloco
Quang Binh, Vietnam – Banh Loc
Berlin, Germany – Deluxe Fries
Sao Paulo, Brazil – Pao com Mortadella
Lake Skadar, Montenegro – Eel Risotto
Jaipur, India – Omelettes
Anguilla, Caribbean – Barbeque
Rufisque, Senegal – Sweet Beignets
Chetumal, Mexico – Tacos al Pastor
Cayo District, Belize – Grilled Meat with Rice
Santa Cruz, Tenerife – Pommes Frites
New Delhi, India – Parathas
Bosnia and Herzegovina – Cevap
Oxford, Britain – Fish and Chips
Sulaymaniyah, Iraq – Shifta
Colombia – Arepas de Huevo
Uganda – Chapati
The Philippines – Lugaw
Iceland – Súpa í brauði
Solomon Islands – Siskolo-Soup
Colombia – Buñuelos
Brazil – Guaraná
Nairobi, Kenya – Chapati
Moscow, Russia – Shuba
Bangkok, Thailand – Khanom Bueang
Accra, Ghana – Corn on the Cob
Villaflores, Mexico – Garnachas
Jakarta, Indonesia – Kerak Telor
Brasilia, Brazil – Pastel e caldo de cana
Cape Town, South Africa – Koesister
Belén, Costa Rica – Sugarcane Juice
Voronezh, Russia – Olivier Salad
Laamu, Maledives – Golha Riha
Bizerte, Tunisia – Lablabi
Sal, Cape Verde – Cachupa
Semarang, Indonesia – Lumpia
Tasty Taipei
Food, Fusion and Fun

From street food at the Raohe Night Market to gourmet cuisine: eating in the Taiwanese capital Taipei offers a wide variety of experiences. The city's food reflects the many different cultures that have influenced Taiwan over the centuries. Few other cities in Asia offer such a concentration of delicious dishes to be sampled in one location.

Two reporters guide us through Taipei's diverse restaurant landscape. DW correspondent Tsou Tzung-Han was born in Taiwan and knows pretty much everything about the country's culinary history and specialties. Lifestyle presenter Meggin Leigh discovers the nation and its food together with her host. Together they explore the kitchens of Taipei and describe the history of Taiwanese cuisine: what's on the table, why does it taste so good and how did it get here in the first place?

Tzung-Han Tsou is absolutely certain: "Nowhere else does one eat as well as here."
Meet women across Asia who are breaking stereotypes and voicing their opinions loud and clear. Get ready for HER – great stories about education, health, depression, dating, beauty and marriage filled with twists, turns, highs and lows.

In recent years, the position of women in south and southeast Asian societies has been strengthened – in conjunction with economic developments. Reforms of basic rights and legal systems, demographic changes and more dynamic civil societies have made this transformation possible. But despite all the progress, enormous challenges still lie ahead in various parts of Asia, especially concerning gender equality. HER shines a light on the lives of women from India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Taiwan and Thailand. Each episode focuses on one topic featuring three women from different countries and backgrounds. The topics are as universal as they are controversial.

544944 001
Finding Mr. Right
Dating is only a recent phenomenon in countries like India, but now dating apps are flourishing there. What role does the generation gap play in countries such as Indonesia or Taiwan? Are traditional and modern lifestyles compatible? In this episode of HER, three women share their experience of online dating.

544944 002
Stepping Up
Many women across Asia still lack access to basic education, and even educated women often face significant obstacles at work and in their daily lives. How can women secure a decent income? How can they succeed in male-dominated professions? Are careers compatible with family life? Three women tell us their stories.

544944 003
The Meaning of Marriage
Marriage was once seen as a social and economic necessity. The equation that marriage makes us happy and divorce is a failure still prevails in many societies. But should women still aspire to marry? In this episode of HER, we explore the different ways women navigate the topic of marriage. What does it mean to them? Why do they decide to get married or not? And is marriage really the key to happiness?
My Own Kind of Beauty
From beauty contests to cosmetic surgery, magazines and TV shows: The obsession with women's beauty is ubiquitous. Images of ideal beauty surround us daily. But what does it actually mean to be "beautiful"? And who sets the standards? HER shows three very personal and very different approaches to what makes a woman beautiful.

Out of the Void
In many Asian countries, issues such as mental health and addiction are often swept under the carpet. For those in crisis, this can make it especially hard to address the problem. In this episode of HER, three women look back at difficult periods in their lives. They share their stories and reflect on how they made it out of the void that surrounded them.

Body and Mind
Often, they're looking after their families, running households and holding down jobs – all at the same time. That's why many women forget that they also need to take care of their own health and wellbeing. Asia is the home of traditions dating back thousands of years, such as yoga or traditional Chinese medicine. In this edition of HER, three women share their path to happiness through health and nutrition.

Motherhood
While the nuclear family of mother, father and children is still widespread in many Asian countries, it's changing. More and more children are growing up with single moms. Meet three mothers from different Asian countries and hear their stories. Farheen Ishtiaq Naqvi in Pakistan leads the life of a man in order to provide for her daughter. Young mother Queenie and her husband struggle with the work culture of Hong Kong, which is not very family-friendly. And Dewi Candraningrum from Indonesia fights hard to give her disabled son the help he deserves.

The Art of Freedom
Get to know three women from three different Asian countries who have found their own form of expression. How do themes such as femininity, gender roles, women's rights and violence feature in the works of these female artists? Malaysian artist Yante Ismail paints nude women, challenging the norms of patriarchal society. Uzma Ashraf is a Kathak dancer. Through dance, she learned to relate to her body, which is not easy for a woman in Pakistan. Kartika Jahja, better known as Tika, is an Indonesian musician, a cultural activist and sexual assault survivor. Music helped her through tough times and is now the medium of her activism.
Being My Own Boss

Around the world, women play important roles in business. Either as bosses and high-ranking managers of international corporations, or as self-employed owners and operators of small kiosks, and even founders of start-ups. This edition portrays three women from three different worlds, but they all have one thing in common: passion for their business. They include Louise Mabulo, founder of the Cacao Project in the Philippines, and entrepreneur Uma Hapsari from Indonesia, who created the community Mendaki Kembali, meaning ‘climbing back’, to speak openly about failures. And then there is Wandee, who manages a popular street food stall in Bangkok.

Tech Power

Digitization is changing the world dramatically. What does that mean for Women in Asia? What role do they play in that process? In this edition, HER portrays three women whose lives have been significantly shaped by technology. Take hip-hopper Niana Guerrero. Aged just 15, she is the most followed TikTokker in her country, the Philippines, and one of the biggest YouTube stars in Southeast Asia. Or Aulia Halimatussadiah, one of Indonesia’s most influential serial start-up entrepreneurs and founder of ‘Girls in Tech’. And then there is Molly Hunag from Taiwan, whose startup Velodah has developed an app for cyclists.

Talking Money

More and more women are becoming financially independent. What does money mean to them? How do they earn their cash? And how do they spend it? What setbacks have they experienced? Three women from three Asian countries tell us about their relationship to money – such as Filipina actress and philanthropist Angel Locsin. Tutiana Jusat from Malaysia works in the male-dominated banking world with Islamic bonds. And Shikha Mittal from India helps educate women in savings, insurance and investment methods.

My Roots

What role do traditions play in women’s lives? Is it important to move away from one’s roots to lead an independent, self-determined life? Or is it more that the roots themselves provide a secure basis to move ahead? Three women from different Asian countries share their stories on what roots and tradition mean to them. HER sheds a light on how traditions and roots can have such different meanings. For example, for Lauren Sevilla Faustino who decided to leave her modern life in Manila. And from Thailand there’s the story of Andrew’s journey, leaving his roots and transitioning to Anne.
Faith Matters

Faith provides many people with a framework for life and a moral code. This series offers insights into matters of faith, with reports on contemporary Catholic and Protestant communities around the world. The main focus is on the purpose of existence, Christian values and social responsibility, as well as contributions Christians make to society, culture and the arts. Faith Matters portrays the everyday life of Christians; it reports on the latest events in the Christian community and on the work of churches in Germany and worldwide.

564675
Documentary,
46 x 30 min.,
2018-2023, HD;
Arabic, English,
German, Spanish
WW, VoD, M, IFE

564675 111
Luther’s Legacy in Namibia – Evangelization and Genocide
As the Lutheran World Federation celebrates 500 years of Protestantism, Namibians remember a grim chapter of their history. Missionaries set sail for the future German colony of South West Africa in 1840, fired with the ideals of the Reformation. But their message of humble service prepared the way for economic exploitation – and a conflict that ended in genocide.

564675 112
No Heaven Without Hell
The internationally acclaimed Berlin Radio Choir has joined forces with American theater director and visual artist Robert Wilson for a production that marries Martin Luther’s writings and translations with the music of Johann Sebastian Bach. Wilson’s theater of images evokes both anxiety and hope in a timeless statement that places Luther among the great thinkers of history.

564675 113
Women in the Driving Seat – Revolution at the Vatican
When Pope Francis appointed Barbara Jatta director of the Vatican Museums in 2016, it caused a sensation. Some even described it as a mini-revolution. But Barbara Jatta is not the only woman to hold an influential position at the Vatican. Are we seeing the end of male domination in the Catholic Church?

564675 114
A Dynamic School – “Bold – Protestant – Tolerant”
The Evangelische Schule Berlin Zentrum is renowned for its innovative approach to learning. Pupils take lessons in such unusual subjects as ‘responsibility’ and ‘challenge’. The aim is to help students become engaged and independent-minded citizens committed to shaping the society they live in. The school welcomes students from a wide range of backgrounds.

564675 115
The Moravians of Suriname
The Moravian Church is one of the oldest Protestant denominations. Since the 18th century it has been sending missionaries to many parts of the world. The church is especially strong in the former Dutch colony of Suriname on the northern coast of South America. The Moravian community there has organized the 2018 World Day of Prayer, a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women.

564675 116
The Secret of the Cross
Since its very beginning, the paradox of the cross has disturbed and even offended people. The cross unites two irreconcilable opposites: a deeply cruel death and divinity. It refers to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is at once bleak and a symbol of hope. For 2,000 years, the cross has been the symbol of Christianity. And its message is a deeply moving mystery.
564675 117
The Monks' Legacy – On Reichenau Island
A thousand years ago, the Benedictine abbey on the island of Reichenau was a center of scholarship. The monks created some of the finest illuminated manuscripts ever produced. But in the early 19th century, the religious community was expelled. In spite of secularization, the islanders struggled to preserve the monks' legacy and today Reichenau is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

564675 118
Mediaeval Beauty – The World of Uta of Naumburg
Finally declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Naumburg Cathedral is one of Germany's finest churches – significant not only for its architectural splendor but because it contains a portrait of one of the great beauties of the Middle Ages: Margravine Uta von Ballenstedt. The statue was carved by a mediaeval stone sculptor who, in spite of his fame, is known to history only as the Naumburg Master.

564675 119
goRome! The International Pilgrimage of Altar Servers
"Mega, awesome, cool!" That was twelve-year-old Linus's comment. He is one of 60,000 Catholic altar servers from across the world who made the pilgrimage to Rome this year to see the pope. With the Eternal City sweltering in temperatures around 40 degrees Celsius this summer it wasn't always "cool." But nothing could stop these kids.

564675 120
Coffee – The Good, the Bad, Fair Trade
More than even beer, coffee is the most popular drink in Germany. Every German drinks about 300 liters of it a year. Many of them try to square enjoyment with a clear conscience by buying fair trade coffee. It costs more than normal coffee but the "Fairtrade" seal means that farmers in Africa or Latin America receive a greater share of sale proceeds than they would from normal coffee companies.

564675 121
Theologian, Archaeologist, Maverick – Dieter Vieweger
Dieter Vieweger is a Lutheran theologian and an archaeologist. He has been Director-General of the German Protestant Institute of Archaeology in Jerusalem since 2005. With his infectious enthusiasm for unravelling the past, Professor Vieweger succeeds in fascinating young and old with his exploration of the Holy Land's 5000-year-old history.

564675 122
Death is Part of Life – A Lutheran's Quest for Meaning
The Lutheran pastor Nikolaus Schneider held the highest office in the Evangelical Church in Germany, but his life has often been clouded by death. Aged 22, his daughter, Meike, died of leukemia. He preached at the memorial service for the victims of the crowd disaster at the 2010 Love Parade in Duisburg. Then his wife was diagnosed with cancer.

564675 123
NoonSong – Concert and Church Service in Berlin
NoonSong has been called "thirty minutes of heaven." A choral concert, but also a church service. Thirty minutes of sacred music. Each NoonSong is unique. Every Saturday, it features a cappella singing selected from centuries of Christian music. The choral ensemble 'sirventes berlin', which includes some of Berlin's finest professional singers, performs at these events.

564675 124
Building a Church – Catholics in Cuba
Twenty years ago, Pope John Paul II visited Cuba. He was the very first pontiff to do so in the island's history and his visit marked a thaw in the Communist regime's relations with the Vatican. In the optimism those days ushered in, the small Catholic parish in Guiteras, a suburb of Havana, planned to build a church. But it never got off the drawing board. Not until Pope Francis reignited the community's hopes and aspirations when he visited in 2015.
564675 125

The Miracle of Flores – The World’s Largest Seminary

The churches of Europe are pretty empty generally. But in Indonesia, with its mainly Muslim population, Christian seminaries are overwhelmed with applicants. On a hill in the middle of the jungle on the island of Flores lies the world’s largest seminary. More than 1000 students study at Ledalero, and at least 600 of them are candidates for the priesthood.

564675 126

Provost in Jerusalem – A Lutheran in the Holy Land

Emissary, pastor and director: Life in the Holy Land is a life full of tension for Wolfgang Schmidt – invigorating, but also exhausting. A life full of tension – that’s how Wolfgang Schmidt, the Provost in Jerusalem, describes his ministry in the Holy Land.

564675 127

‘Sign of Solidarity’ – A Hospital Ship on the Amazon

The Papa Francisco is the best-equipped hospital ship in Brazil’s Amazon Region. She was launched in August 2019. Her mission is to serve more than 1,000 isolated communities along the world’s longest river – villages where there is no hospital and no doctor.

564675 128

Silent is the Grave – The Changing Landscape of German Cemeteries

Burial sites in all cultures speak loudly of the prevailing values and beliefs of the societies that design them. Germany’s cemetery culture is unique. But it is currently changing. Many Germans are no longer choosing the time-honored cemetery for their final resting place; more and more people are seeking alternatives to the traditional family grave.

564675 129

Helping People Help Themselves – 50 Years of Kolping International

It started half a century ago with a campaign to provide vocational training for young Brazilians. Today the Catholic social services association Kolping International is a worldwide network with some 400,000 members in more than 60 countries.

564675 130

The Female Peacemakers – 50 Years of “Religions for Peace”

Religions for Peace (RfP) is an association of people representing members of diverse religions in more than 100 countries. This independent organization is committed to mediating in religious conflicts worldwide. RfP will be fifty-years-old in 2020. The endeavors of these women is only now receiving international recognition.

564675 131

Rabbi Schudrich’s Miracle – Jewish Life in Poland

Jewish culture festivals, kosher restaurants, Klezmer bands and Jewish schools. This is Poland today – a country that had been crushed by Nazi Germany; its Jewish population almost entirely exterminated in Auschwitz-Birkenau and lesser-known German concentration camps. The revival of Jewish life here is little short of a miracle.

564675 132

Oberammergau Passion Play – The Plague and Covid-19

The history of the Oberammergau Passion Play reaches back to the seventeenth century, when a plague known as the Black Death swept through Europe. In 1633 the residents of this Bavarian village vowed to present a play depicting the suffering and death of Jesus Christ every ten years if they were spared extinction. Oberammergau has kept its word for more than 400 years. But in the end, the village that the plague made famous had to bow to the corona pandemic. Bowed but not broken, the villagers are determined to fulfill their vow and stage the Oberammergau Passion Play in 2022.

564675 133

Religious Resistance – Christians Against Far-Right Vigilantes

A vigilante group calling itself “First Class Crew – Steele Boys” takes over the streets of Steele each week, a suburb of Essen in western Germany. Sometimes the vigilantes are twenty-strong; other times as many as one hundred. Most of them are Rockers or Rowdies, and their presence strikes fear into the hearts of law-abiding residents. Steele is not even a dangerous area; the crime rate has been dropping steadily over the past ten years. But now these so-called militias have also started threatening anybody opposed to them – on the Internet and in public. For they are being met with courageous opposition from a counter-group calling itself “Steele Stays Mixed.” Residents, churches, clubs, political parties and unions have united to protest either in silent marches or with singing against the far-right.
**Different, Amen – Evangelical Youtube Stars**
Stefanie and Ellen Radtke are the Youtube stars of Germany’s Lutheran Church. The two female pastors from Eime, in the state of Lower Saxony, are a same-sex couple. With their Youtube channel “Anders Amen,” which roughly translates as “Different, amen,” they’ve always been controversial ministers. Their aim is to reconcile LGBTQ people and the church.

**Eco-Friendly Monks – Plankstetten’s Green Abbey**
Running a monastery these days includes having good business sense. Plankstetten Abbey, in Bavaria, has a community of only twelve brothers, but the monastery is thriving. St Benedict’s motto was “Pray and Work.” Between prayers, these Benedictine monks run a highly successful organic farm.

**Open to Everybody**
The Catholic Church of St Theodor and St Elisabeth in the western German city Cologne is located in a district known as a social flashpoint. The parish priest, Father Franz Meurer, views building community as his top priority. Not just in the Church but in daily life. He has established a second-hand clothing store, a furniture and bicycle warehouse and a food bank – all open to everybody.

**The Artist Who Saves Churches**
The artist Moritz Götze grew up in East Germany, in an atheistic environment. However, shortly after the collapse of communism in 1989 he helped turn a church ruin into a cultural center and conserved what was left of the historic building.

**New Life in Old Walls – Village Churches Bearing Witness to History**
Anyone driving through eastern Germany may be surprised by the number of old churches east of the River Elbe. Almost every small village has one. Many of them are fieldstone churches built more than 800 years ago.

**Repaying the Desert – An Unusual Environmental Project**
In their quest to get close to nature two German women have made two fourteen-day tours into the Sahara. It was a great experience, but at what cost to the environment? They were troubled afterward by the damage caused by flying from Germany and driving through the desert. Now they want to repay the Sahara. Together with 15 other desert enthusiasts they are planting a palm grove in Morocco.

**The Cup and the Covenant – Wine and Catholicism**
Wine has been part of civilization for more than six thousand years. On religious holidays and on the Sabbath Jews pronounce a blessing over cups of wine. For the ancient Greeks and Romans wine also had symbolic significance; it was poured out in libations to the gods. The Book of Genesis names Noah as the first winegrower. After rescuing humans and animals during the Great Flood he is said to have planted the first vines on Earth. The parables that Jesus of Nazareth told are full of references to vineyards, grapevines and wine. The Catholic Mass, a religious commemoration of Jesus’ death and resurrection, is based on his actions during the Last Supper, when the savior is said to have taken wine, blessed it, and given the cup to his disciples saying, “Take this all of you and drink from it. This is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant…” In this report we take a look at the cultural and spiritual significance of wine in the Catholic tradition.

**New Light in Old Walls – Windows for Tholey Abbey**
The small village of Tholey in southwestern Germany is home to the oldest monastery on German soil. Founded in the seventh century, the Abbey of St Maurice was plundered and badly damaged 1000 years later during the wars of the French Revolution, and only re-established in 1949. But local philanthropists have breathed new life into the old walls. The renovations carried out between 2008 and 2021 could make Tholey Abbey an international tourist destination. The highlight of the extensive works are the stained glass windows for the north and south aisles of the abbey church by Afghanistan-born artist Mahbuba Maqsoodi, who lives and works in Munich, and the three choir windows designed by Germany’s most famous living artist, Gerhard Richter. The art establishment are calling this the most significant project of its kind on the continent of Europe.
The Quest for Utopia – Grassroots Democracy in Venezuela

The Cecosesola Cooperative Federation grew out of a practical necessity. Some fifty years ago, when a co-op member died, the other members founded a funeral home. Cecosesola now comprises a federation of more than fifty cooperatives, mainly providing food and medical services to hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans. All 1,300 staff draw the same salary, and they reach their decisions by consensus without any hierarchical structure. The federation has no fewer than 23,000 active members in western Venezuela. They produce fruit and vegetables in their regions and run wholesale markets. In addition, they treat many hundreds of patients in their clinics and provide midwifery services.

Heavenly Sounds – The Organ and its Fascinating Versatility

No other country has as many organs as Germany. Of the organs in the country, 40,000 are church organs. The German Music Council declared the organ the “Instrument of the Year” for 2021. This film features the sounds of selected organs from all over Germany: from the oldest church organ in the world, located in Ostönnen, Westphalia; to Berlin Cathedral’s Late Romantic organ; to a flagship of contemporary organ construction, the organ of St. Martin’s Church in Kassel.

The Neinstedt Foundation – Love at Devil’s Wall

The Neinstedt Foundation provides education and support, accommodation and life opportunities, work and counselling, as well as practical care for people with disabilities. Here they receive professional support to facilitate their full participation in society. One example is the Neinstedt’s performance at the Disability Triathlon – an impressive testimony to the achievement of sportswomen and sportsmen with disabilities.

Church in the Living Room – Hoodie Ousts Cassock

Max Bode and Chris Schlicht had envisioned Christian ministry rather differently. These rookie pastors wanted to revamp the Lutheran liturgy: A sofa replacing the altar, a hoodie the cassock, and techno music the traditional organ-worship in the guise of a party. Corona put an end to their plans. But the two young ecclesiastical rebels from Bremerhaven rose to the challenge. With sensitivity and love they are transforming Church tradition in their town.
564675 146

A Shepherd in the Storm – Pope Francis
On 13 March 2013 a conclave of cardinals chose the Argentinian Jorge Mario Bergoglio to succeed Josef Ratzinger (Benedict XVI) as pope. The new leader asked to be called Francis after the “little poor man” of Assisi. Almost immediately the new Pope set about reforming the Vatican, vowed to confront and root out child abuse in the Catholic Church, raised his voice in support of climate activists and sought dialogue with other religions.

564675 147

Bach’s Successor – The Thomaners’ New Conductor
The Swiss conductor Andreas Reize is the latest musician to join the Thomanerchor’s prestigious list of choirmasters. He’s the 18th musician to hold this post since Johann Sebastian Bach trained the famous Leipzig boys’ choir between 1723 and 1750. The choir’s main function is to sing at St Thomas’ Church, Leipzig. However the greatest innovation is that for the first time since the Reformation a Catholic is conducting the choir in this famous German Lutheran church. In this report we sit in on the new conductor’s first rehearsals and performances. We also take a look behind the scenes – at the life of the boy choristers.

564675 148

Church Bells - Chimes between Heaven and Earth
Often hidden from view, but impossible to ignore, church bells ring out from towering belfries. For centuries they have given a rhythm to human activity. Even today their unmistakable tolling summons people to prayer and to worship. More than any other artefact the church bell has become associated with the voice of Christianity. Dr. Kurt Kramer is a world-renowned campanologist. Affectionately known as “Monsieur Bimbam” he has examined and restored countless bells in the Archdiocese of Freiburg and far beyond its boundaries for more than 40 years.

564675 149

Caring for Creation – Climate Protection in Rwanda
Rwanda: A poor, landlocked country of 13 million people. In terms of climate protection this East African nation is a role model for the whole region, a powerful example of how a country that is only minimally responsible for polluting the atmosphere is doing an impressive amount to reduce its CO₂ emissions. One striking example is a pilot project promoting high efficiency kitchen stoves amongst Rwandan families. These eco-friendly stoves reduce wood consumption by 60 percent compared to traditional cooking fires. Rwanda’s kitchen stove initiative is highly relevant, since 80 percent of all Rwandan families currently cook on an open fire.

564675 150

Oberammergau – A Village and its Passion
Two thousand residents of a village in the Bavarian Alps are currently performing almost every day a pageant depicting the suffering and death of Jesus Christ. Even the cancellation of the Oberammergau Passion Play due to the Covid pandemic could not stop the villagers from fulfilling the pledge their forefathers made in 1633 to perform the play every ten years if they were spared the plague. The well-known German theatre personality Christian Stückl has directed this year’s production. Overcoming some resistance, Stückl has included Muslims and unbaptised people in the cast. Married women have also only been allowed to play the female roles since 1990.
564675  151
Prayer and Action – The Church and the War
Christians have a duty to welcome strangers. The gospels record Jesus as saying, “I was a stranger and you invited me in.” In response to the refugee crisis precipitated by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, Christians in Germany are helping in a number of ways. In our report we investigate the Church’s response to the refugees’ plight. Parish centres have been turned into shelters; in the Café Ukraine in downtown Berlin the new arrivals are invited to discuss ways of making the best of their situation; concerts and prayer services offer them support and encouragement.

564675  152
Cheers, and Amen!
Father Wolfgang F. Rothe is no run-of-the-mill priest... and not only because he goes on whisky pilgrimages. While exploring Scotland’s wild beauty this rebellious Catholic cleric also addresses the controversial issues facing his Church. Wolfgang F. Rothe tells us of an attempted rape by his bishop and that he was forced into silence by the Church authorities. However, instead of holding his tongue he is fighting for change in the Catholic Church: the ordination of women to the priesthood, gay marriage and a more honest approach to human dilemmas.

564675  153
Ulm Minster – The Tallest Church in the World
In the very center of Ulm, a city in southern Germany on the River Danube, stands the tallest church in the world. Its 161.53-metre-high steeple bears witness to the city’s glorious past as one of the most powerful and prosperous German cities in the Middle Ages. Begun in the late 14th century the church is a masterpiece of Gothic architecture and Ulm’s most famous landmark. A backdrop for international sporting events, a popular tourist attraction, a training site for height rescues, a place for spiritual renewal: Ulm Minster is much more than simply “the tallest church in the world”.

564675  154
Cologne’s Holy Women
In the Catholic Church only the Pope can declare somebody a saint, but the process always starts with a popular movement – local people revering a person for their holy way of life. Christianity arrived in Cologne in the 4th century. Since then, a number of remarkable Christian women have left their mark on this western German city. Who are they? And how did they influence Church and Society? What inspiration do modern women draw from these role models? And what role are women today seeking in the Catholic Church?

564675  155
Successful Evangelizing – Revisiting Africa
We accompany a 92-year-old woman on a journey from Germany to Tanzania – a pilgrimage to the country of her birth and a revisiting of German Protestant missionary work in East Africa. Both Ruth Köhne’s father and her grandfather were sent out by the Berlin-based Protestant missionary society “Bethel” to Bukoba on Lake Victoria in what is now Tanzania. Following the story of Ruth’s father, Otto Hagena, through the memories of his now elderly daughter, our report focuses on German Protestant missionary activity in East Africa both past and present.

564675  156
Phoenix from the Ashes – An Old Church in a New Role
Two artists and a young Lutheran pastor had to use chainsaws and axes to uncover the ruins of an old church in former Communist East Germany. The site had been reclaimed by nature and trees were growing through the gapping roof. In the undergrowth they discovered the tombstone of Friedrich Nietzsche’s grandfather, who died in 1850. Moritz Götzé and Rüdiger Giebler grew up in East Germany, where faith and religion were discouraged by the Communist dictatorship. However, the two artists developed a strong interest in the pre-Communist history of their homeland. With their own money, donations and subsidies, they have saved the old church from final decay.
Afro.Germany

Black people have been living in Germany for around 400 years, and today there are an estimated one million Germans with dark skin. But they still get asked, "Where are you from?" Jana Pareigis is all too familiar with this often latently racist question. When she was a child, the Afro-German TV presenter also thought her skin color was a disadvantage. "When I was young, I wanted to be white", she says. Pareigis takes us on a trip through Germany from its colonial past up to the present day, visiting other dark-skinned Germans to talk about their experiences. They include rapper Samy Deluxe, pro footballer Gerald Asamoah and Theodor Michael, who lived as a black man in the Third Reich. They talk about what it's like to be black in Germany – and what needs to change.
Facets of Life

45 Min.

Facets of Life documentaries and reports cover culture and education, business and science, historical and contemporary events as well as sports and leisure. A wide variety of issues are investigated in depth and presented in an informative format, making for 45 minutes of captivating television.

584798 001
In Search of a Lost Childhood – The Cruel Fate of Bruno Schulz

For a short time around the turn of the millennium, everyone in Europe was talking about the Jewish Polish painter and writer Bruno Schulz. A German documentary film maker had discovered frescoes that Schulz had been ordered to paint for an SS officer in a villa in Drohobycz, in what is now Ukraine. A short time later, representatives of Yad Vashem removed parts of the pictures and took them to Israel where they are now on display. But what do we really know about Bruno Schulz? He was born in Drohobycz in 1892 and shot there by a Nazi officer in 1942. He created images and stories often set in a fantastical, fairytale realm. He could so easily have been forgotten, but now his literary oeuvre has been translated into 30 languages, a successful Polish group is named after him, and in the town of his birth, artists from all over the world gather to perform his work.

Documentary, 45 min., 2012, SD; Arabic, English, German, Spanish; WW, VoD, M, IFE

584798 002
Traces of the Past – German-Jewish Cultural Heritage Worldwide

300,000 German Jews fled their home country during the Nazi era and were forced to rebuild their lives in exile. Their Jewish-European culture gradually blended with that of their adoptive home. “We tried to assimilate the best bits of everything,” says the physicist Ernst Wolfgang Hamburger, who lives in Sao Paulo. Some refugees returned to Germany and brought with them aspects of their host countries, such as Berlin resident Sonja Mühlberger, who spent her childhood in the Chinese city of Shanghai. Donna and Brian Swarthout from the US have come to live in Germany, the land of their ancestors, and to become German citizens.

Documentary, 45 min., 2013, HD; Arabic, English, German, Spanish; WW, VoD, M, IFE

584798 003
Get Lucky – Young, Skilled, Enterprising

Marta Pérez has a dream. A young trained nurse from Vigo, she wants to start working in her chosen profession at last. IT expert Dimo Urumov from Plovdiv also spent ages looking for a job in his home country, as did actress Mara Vlachaki from Athens and Paulo Rodrigues, an engineer from Lisbon. Like many other academics and skilled workers from Southern and Eastern Europe, they have few prospects of finding work in their home countries. As a result, hundreds of thousands have come to Germany, where employment stands at record levels but demand for skilled workers is increasing at the same time. Our documentary follows the four from Spain, Bulgaria, Greece and Portugal as they move to Germany and watches them take their first steps in their new lives. Will their hopes and expectations be fulfilled? Will they find their fortune?

Documentary, 45 min., 2014, HD; Arabic, English, German, Spanish; WW, VoD, M, IFE

584798 004
A Ray of Light – The Lebanon Project

Every summer, young people from Europe volunteer at a summer camp in the Lebanese mountains, where they help disabled people enjoy an unforgettable if brief holiday. The disabled people involved in the Lebanon Project spend the rest of the year in institutions, often in poor conditions.

Documentary, 45 min., 2015, SD; Arabic, English, German, Spanish; WW, VoD, M, IFE
A Special Relationship – Germans in Israel. Israelis in Germany
26-year-old Shahak Shapira lives in Germany – even though he has experienced anti-Semitic hostility first-hand, and despite the fact that members of his family were killed in the Holocaust. Moreover, his grandfather died in the Munich massacre, the terrorist attack on the 1972 Olympic Games. Israeli singer Rilli Willow has also settled in Germany. Her great-aunt died in Auschwitz but Rilli married a German and now lives in Berlin. German chef Tom Franz converted to Judaism, has an Israeli wife and lives in Tel Aviv. German writer Sarah Stricker also lives and works in Israel. They are four examples of a new generation of Israelis and Germans who have stepped out of the shadow of the past to prove it’s possible to live together in peace and friendship.

Documentary, 45 min., 2015, HD; Arabic, English, German, Spanish; WW, VoD, M, IFE

90 Minutes for Israel and Germany – Football between Tel Aviv and Berlin
These days Bayern Munich and its various world cup-winning German stars even have fans in Tel Aviv. And when Israeli international Almog Cohen, who now plays for Ingolstadt, steps on the pitch at his former club Nuremberg his German fans wave Star of David flags. Meanwhile, Michael Nees is helping to build the future of Israeli soccer as coach of the country’s under-21 team and as technical director of the Israel Football Association. When West Germany and Israel established diplomatic relations 50 years ago, all this would have been unthinkable. Football continues to play a significant role in normalizing ties between the two countries. What is it like to be a Jewish player in Germany? And how does a German coach in Israel cope with the burden of German history and the Middle East conflict?

Documentary, 45 min., 2015, HD; Arabic, English, German, Spanish; WW, VoD, M, IFE
The three-part documentary series Transoceanica – The World’s Longest Bus Journey takes the viewer through the heart of South America. The series follows a bus that travels from Rio de Janeiro to Lima. The bus trip lasts six days and covers a distance of 6,300 kilometers – a journey of superlatives. A voyage filled with contrast: from the Atlantic, it leads initially through a savannah landscape, then through the Earth’s largest area of wetland, the Amazon jungle, and finally up to the Andes and the Pacific on the western side of the mountain range. The road movie affords the viewer a glimpse into the soul of South America. It shows the beauty of its nature and the pride of its people, but also some of the negatives: environmental pollution, poverty and crime.

584888 001
The Maiden Voyage: From the Copacabana to Cowboys

584888 002
Crossing Jungle, Barricades and Borders: From Brazil to Peru

584888 003
The Final Stage: Over the Andes to Lima
The Rhine is one of Europe’s great rivers, and has long been bound up with myth and mystery. Majestic and romantic, scenic and legendary are just some of the adjectives used to describe it. The French writer Victor Hugo called it a “noble river”. And the English landscape painter William Turner captured the essence of the romantic Rhine.

No other river in Germany is so steeped in legend. For example, it is said that the Nibelung treasure lies on the riverbed near the town of Worms. Further north, the beautiful Lorelei would bewitch hapless sailors with her song and cause them to capsize their boats. The rock that bear her name is visited by tourists from all over the world.

The Rhine not only has its place in myths and legends, songs and poems, it also plays a political and economic role. Whereas it used to serve as a dividing line between “arch enemies” Germany and France, today it unites the two neighbors now perceived as the motor driving European unity. The river serves as a key transport route between the industrial cities along its course and the North Sea. Its banks are strewn with romantic towns and villages drawing tourists with their quaint alleys, picturesque half-timbered houses and countless pubs selling local wines and beers. Another attraction are the region’s many castles, formerly customs posts that brought their owners great wealth and now elegant restaurants and hotels.
Dragons, rhinos and kangaroos, flute players and wizards... fairytales are universally popular and fire the imagination of children all over the world. Fairytales are passed on from generation to generation – stories that not only entertain, but also serve to preserve tradition and folklore in all cultures.

In our series Once Upon a Time..., we share fairytales from different countries and cultures all over the world. The stories, some of which are well known and others less familiar, reflect the huge wealth and diversity of fables and fairytales.

Lovingly illustrated, they lead us into a world full of adventure and wisdom.

Come with us on a magical trip around the globe:

**724772 001**
China – The Flute Player

**724772 002**
Italy – Cola Pesce

**724772 003**
Poland – Pan Twardowski

**724772 004**
Afghanistan – Little Ahmad Is Still Awake
Tanzania – Giraffe and Rhino

Romania – Youth Without Age and Life Without Death

Russia – Adventure in the Enchanted Forest

Turkey – Keloglan and the Magic Bowl

Bangladesh – The Seven Champa Brothers

Australia – The First Kangaroo

China – Tiger and Fox

India – The Wise Man and His Daughter

Indonesia – The Tale of Manik Angkeran

Arabia – The Fisherman and the Jinni

Afghanistan – The Brown Goat

Brazil – Vitória Régia

Tanzania – Kibo and Mawensi

Denmark – The Little Match Girl

France – The Washerwomen of the Night

Ukraine – Sirko

Persia – The Tale of Ali Muhammad’s Mother

Germany – The Star Talers
Motormania

Motor racing. The latest car technology. Classic cars. Automobile design: MotorMania is the ideal swift introduction to all issues concerned with mobility. For motor racing enthusiasts, tuning fans and anyone interested in technology. Or simply for all those fascinated by the subject of four-wheel transport.

Application & Tips
How does global car sharing work? When does it make sense to use winter tires? What should you watch out for when you’re buying a car? MotorMania provides helpful tips and answers to everyday motoring questions, unveils innovative ideas and presents new possibilities for mobility arising from technological advances.
06 x 03 min.

Racing & Events
You won’t find these cars in any car dealership. They have been tuned for maximum performance or simply to get noticed. Most are only authorized for the racetrack, and carmakers use them to test out technology and to showcase their performance potential. In the exotic world of car tuning, extreme models are lovingly customized by their owners to make them stand out from the crowd.
07 x 03 min.

Technology, Development & Design
Car manufacturers are developing new technologies to make road travel safer, greener and more modern. The global race to find the most efficient drive technology, the most intuitive cockpit or the most attractive vehicle design means exciting and innovative new products are coming on the market on an almost daily basis.
16 x 03 min.

Classic Cars
Despite all the innovations on the market, classic cars still enthral and delight: the elegant forms, gleaming chrome, and engines motorists can still tinker with themselves. When it comes to the classics of automobile history, these are the cars that get pulses racing and have fans all over the world.
22 x 03 min.
Ludwig van Beethoven’s 9th Symphony is one of the most popular pieces of classical music in the world. Countless people are familiar with its Ode to Joy. Beethoven composed it during a time of personal and political crisis. He was struggling financially and as his deafness worsened, his social isolation became yet more acute. He also suffered from worsening ill-health, partly caused by his consumption of wine apparently contaminated with lead. Beethoven completed the 9th Symphony in 1824.

Thirty five years after the French Revolution ushered in liberty, equality and fraternity, there was little left of these aspirations in Europe. Instead, life was marked by war and oppression.

Despite the grim context in which it arose, the 9th Symphony leaves us fascinated, moved and elated by its creativity, its power and its culmination in the Ode to Joy. More than 160 years after it was written, Beethoven’s hymn to brotherhood was adopted by the European Union as its official anthem. But Beethoven’s Ninth is also met with enthusiasm far beyond the borders of Europe. What’s the explanation for its enduring success? What is it about this work that fascinates people all over the world?

To mark the 250th birthday of Ludwig van Beethoven, Symphony for the World travels around the globe from Europe to South America, Asia and Africa. We meet extraordinary musicians who interpret Beethoven’s Ninth in new and different ways, sometimes forging ties to the musical tradition of their home countries. These musical encounters are profound and personal, yet they always draw us back to Beethoven himself and the turbulent times he lived in.
Celebrating Ludwig van Beethoven’s 250th birthday, the world is paying tribute to a cultural icon, a genius, a wildly popular composer – and a deeply radical artist who expanded the horizons of music and who engaged with the political upheavals of his time.

It is said that Beethoven changed the world. But what does that mean? Can an individual artist influence the course of (musical) history? And how do we gauge the extent of that influence? One way to find some answers might be to imagine a world in which there had been no Beethoven!

How would the film composers of today set the mood without the nuances of instrumentation created by Beethoven in his symphonies? What would jazz be without the syncopation found in Beethoven’s later works? And aren’t all rock music riffs based on Beethoven’s famous “da-da-da-daaa”, the shocking opening notes of his 5th symphony?

So Beethoven is clearly still with us. His works are performed around the world. He is an inspiration to artists who engage with politics. The anthem of the European Union derives from his 9th symphony. And he also wrote the first ever solo for horn!

Sarah Willis, French horn player with the Berlin Philharmonic and a well-known music educator, explores Beethoven’s enduring influence in conversation with musicians and experts – among them film composer John Williams, jazz trumpeter Wynton Marsalis, the Brazilian musician and former political refugee Chico Buarque, the multitalented Van Dyke Parks, rock guitarist Rudolf Schenker, and the director of the Vienna Musikverein concert hall Thomas Angyan. We also hear excerpts from works by the master himself.
Every summer DJs like Felix Jaehn and Alle Farben clock up more air miles than some airline pilots, conquering the international charts from their laptops. They produce hit songs, and have made German-style Deep House popular in Australia, Japan and the US.

We accompany Alle Farben, Felix Jaehn and Trance pioneer Paul van Dyk to some gigs. Jaehn performs at Summer Sound in Latvia, the biggest festival in the Baltic region. Frans Zimmer aka Alle Farben has to contend with torrential rain and a power outage at the Parookaville festival in Germany. And at a rave in San Francisco Paul van Dyk tells us why he keeps performing in the aftermath of a near-fatal accident during a concert.

They each attained fame and fortune in their twenties. What drives them on? The three DJs tell us about their different views on music, success and the music business. It’s a scene in which nobody becomes a star ‘just like that’. Their life is not all glamour and glory. It is also very tough; it takes hard work and self-discipline. It means late nights and long periods far from home, spending the summers traveling from festival to festival.
Musica Maestra: With Alondra de la Parra

It’s still rare to see a woman conducting an orchestra. But female conductors do exist – and one of them is Alondra de la Parra. Although the Mexican maestra is not yet 40, she’s already conducted some of the best orchestras in the world. Since 2017, she’s been Music Director of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra in Australia. As well as the standard classical repertoire, she believes it is important to familiarize audiences with the work of South American composers. To this end, she’s even founded her own orchestra. Alondra de la Parra also doesn’t shy away from cooperation with pop and rock musicians. In the series Musica Maestra she introduces some of the artists she has performed with in the concert hall or on stage.

644897 001
Alondra de la Parra in Paris and Budapest
In Paris, Alondra de la Parra talks to members of Ensemble Recoveco. The Venezuelan-Colombian group combines Baroque and classical music with jazz and samba. In Budapest, she meets the violinist Barnabás Kelemen, who is renowned for his masterful technique.
Magazine, 12 min., 2018, HD; English, Spanish; WW, VoD, M, IFE

644897 002
Alondra de la Parra in Zurich
After performing Mozart together in Zurich, Alondra de la Parra talks to the Canadian pianist Jan Lisiecki. He may be very young, but he is already regarded as one of the best pianists in the world.
Magazine, 12 min., 2018, HD; English, Spanish; WW, VoD, M, IFE

644897 003
Alondra de la Parra in Monaco
In Monaco, Alondra de la Parra conducts works by the Mexican composer Silvestre Revueltas. She then rehearses with and talks to the Brazilian musicians Yamandú Costa (guitar) and Ernesto Fagundes (percussion).
Magazine, 12 min., 2018, HD; English, Spanish; WW, VoD, M, IFE

644897 004
Alondra de la Parra in Bamberg and Stockholm
After a concert with the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra, Gautier Capuçon talks about the joy he feels playing the cello. In Stockholm, Patrick Raab and Johann Bridger introduce Alondra de la Parra to playing the marimba.
Magazine, 12 min., 2018, HD; English, Spanish; WW, VoD, M, IFE

644897 005
Alondra de la Parra in Brisbane
The Australian composer and conductor Joe Chindamo has written a new piece for his daughter, the vocalist Olivia Chindamo. After 23 years on the stage, the Spanish ballerina Zenaida Yanovskaya prepares for her farewell performance. She’ll be accompanied by the Queensland Symphony Orchestra, led by Alondra de la Parra.
Magazine, 12 min., 2018, HD; English, Spanish; WW, VoD, M, IFE

644897 007
Alondra de la Parra in Mexico
Alondra de la Parra meets two of her favorite musicians: in Mexico City she performs with Rodrigo de al Cadena – and with Natalia Lafourcade she gives a concert in Mérida’s iconic Coliseo Yucatán!
Magazine, 12 min., 2019, HD; English, Spanish; WW, VoD, M, IFE

644897 008
Alondra de la Parra in Germany
Alondra de la Parra performs with the Bremen Kammerphilharmonie at Hamburg’s iconic Elbphilharmonie and with the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra at the “Kissinger Sommer” music festival.
Magazine, 12 min., 2019, HD; English, Spanish; WW, VoD, M, IFE

644897 009
How to become a Musica Maestra
Alondra de la Parra shares some memories from the past. See her private archive with files and tapes she has kept for years!
Magazine, 12 min., 2019, HD; English, Spanish; WW, VoD, M, IFE

644897 010
Alondra de la Parra in Australia
Have you ever seen Alondra de la Parra doing a ballet dance? Join her and the Queensland Symphony Orchestra in Brisbane!
Magazine, 12 min., 2019, HD; English, Spanish; WW, VoD, M, IFE
Sarah’s Music – Contemporary Classical

Sarah’s Music – Contemporary Classical is a magazine show dedicated to the rich diversity of classical music. Presenter Sarah Willis, a world-class horn player with the Berlin Philharmonic, gets up close and personal with the stars of the classical music world.

What motivates a star conductor like Sir Simon Rattle to rehearse Carl Orff’s ‘Carmina Burana’ with a children’s choir? Or how does one of the world’s famous opera singers, Plácido Domingo, remember his cooperation with the celebrated conductor Herbert von Karajan?

In each edition Sarah Willis will present European concert highlights, showcase top events and welcome a star guest. The British host was born in the US but grew up in Tokyo, Boston and Moscow. Sarah’s Music – Contemporary Classical gives audiences around the globe a peek behind the scenes of current productions.

644844 008
What precisely is a double reed, and why are woodwind players always tinkering with their instruments? To get answers to these questions and others, Sarah Willis meets the “Double Reed Club” – the oboists, bassoonists and cor anglais players from the Berlin Philharmonic.

644844 011
All the world’s best musicians want to play at New York’s Carnegie Hall. What is it about the famous concert hall that makes it so special? Sarah Willis explores the reasons for the venue’s mythical status and meets the Norwegian pianist Leif Ove Andsnes.

644844 015
At the Max Planck Institute in Göttingen, Sarah Willis meets scientists who are analyzing musicians’ movements with the help of magnetic resonance tomography and motion capture technology. She even allows herself to be used as a guinea pig.

644844 016
Håkan Hardenberger from Sweden is widely considered to be the greatest living trumpet soloist. Sarah Willis meets him at a concert with the Berlin Philharmonic conducted by Andris Nelsons.
644844 018
Sarah Willis meets the Austrian star percussionist Martin Grubinger at the 2015 Eurovision Song Contest in Vienna. What does it feel like to perform for 200 million television viewers worldwide?

644844 019
Once a year, the Berlin Radio Choir and conductor Simon Halsey stage a sing-along concert at the Philharmonie hall. The concerts are always a huge hit, involving 1,300 singers from all over the world. Sarah Willis is among them.

644844 020
Classical music is intensive training for the brain. The neurologist Eckart Altenmüller, who is professor at the Institute of Music Physiology and Musicians’ Medicine at Hanover University of Music, Drama and Media, explains why.

644844 023
Sarah Willis travels to the Japanese city of Sapporo for the Pacific Music Festival. This international festival of classical music was founded by the legendary conductor Leonard Bernstein. Every year world-renowned artists from all corners of the globe take part.

644844 026
Sarah Willis talks to the cellist Sol Gabetta and the violinist Daishin Kashimoto about chamber music and its very special charms. And we hear excerpts from the concerts performed by the two at the Beethoven Festival in Bonn.

644844 029
Sarah spends the day backstage at the famous Theater des Westens in Berlin, as it puts on Chicago The Musical. She meets the cast and musicians and finds out how the musical theater prepares to perform the Broadway classic.

644844 030
Sarah is in Vienna to discover the secrets of the Viennese Waltz. Dance instructor Thomas Schäfer-Elmayer sweeps her off her feet, and live waltzes are provided by the ensemble The Philharmonics.

644844 034
The famous Simón Bolivar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela is on tour in Berlin. Sarah holds a Horn Hangout with the horn section live online, answers questions from all over the world and attends the orchestra’s concert in the Philharmonie.

644844 036
Sarah meets the great Russian pianist Daniil Trifonov. She finds out how he chooses a piano for important concerts and is thrilled to hear him live for the first time.

644844 038
From New York to Japan to Australia – every place Sarah Willis visits with her horn becomes the subject of an episode of Sarah’s Music. See some of her favorite locations during the making of the program so far.

644844 039
Renowned tenor Ian Bostridge and pianist Julius Drake perform “Winterreise” in Berlin. The two British musicians have specialized in the Lieder genre for many years now, and Ian Bostridge has written a book about Schubert’s glorious song cycle.

644844 042
Daniel Hope – violinist, author, broadcaster, musical activist and festival director – talks to Sarah Willis during a festival at the Konzerthaus Berlin celebrating the life and work of his mentor, Yehudi Menuhin.
Sarah spends a day at the inspiring Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, California, where every summer, the halls and the beach are filled with music played by talented young musicians from all over the world.

Sarah Willis meets John Wilson and his orchestra at the Music Festival Berlin. The musicians play hits from American film musicals of the 1930s, '40s and '50s. Wilson has reconstructed the lost orchestrations of many classic shows.

Katia and Marielle Labèque, seven breakdancers, an electric guitarist and a percussionist perform together at the Beethovenfest in Bonn Star Cross’d Lovers by David Chalmín – a modern version of Romeo and Juliet.

Viewers of Sarah’s Music have been sending Sarah Willis samples of their favorite Christmas music. She presents a selection of works from around the world – as well as her own favorites.

Zohra, the Afghan Women’s Orchestra, plays in Berlin for the first time. Sarah Willis meets these brave and inspiring young musicians and speaks to the two female conductors about fighting for the right to play music.

Sarah Willis meets violinist Lisa Batiashvili as she prepares for her first performance in the new Pierre Boulez Saal in Berlin. Renowned acoustician Yasuhisa Toyota reveals how he creates excellent acoustics in a concert hall.

Sarah Willis savors the Sound Unbound Festival with all kinds of exciting music at the Barbican in London. The London Symphony Orchestra performs and Sarah even leads her own horn flashmob!

Germany’s capital Berlin is full of music and many episodes of Sarah’s Music have been filmed here. Sarah Willis shares some of her favorite Berlin episodes so far.

Adalberto Álvarez is known as El Caballero del Son – the Gentleman of ‘Son’. He talks to Sarah Willis about Cuban Son, the traditional Cuban dance music of which he is a master, at his home in Havana.

Join Sarah Willis for some of the highlights from the opening weekend of the 2017 Beethovenfest in Bonn featuring, of course, Bonn’s most famous resident, Ludwig van Beethoven, who can be found simply everywhere!

The Danish String Quartet delights the audience and Sarah Willis at the Klassiske Dage festival in Holstebro, Denmark, with their eclectic mixture of music from classical to folk.

From Lucerne to Sapporo: Sarah Willis takes you to some of her favorite classical music festivals and meets some of the great musicians who are performing there!