

2018 Arkhaios Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Conference and Film Festival

Films Synopsis

On the Rocks: Art in the age of the dinosaurs

Director: Jean-Luc Bouvret & François Xavier Vives

Producer: Le Miroir Production

France, 2014, 52 min.

"On the Rocks: Art in the age of the dinosaurs" focuses on the "rupestrian" art of the first Indians of America.

In the setting of Utah's magnificent canyons it takes us on a tour of the major sites that have revolutionized our understanding of prehistoric art. A series of interviews with experts and enthusiasts helps us comprehend this exceptional and surprisingly little-known heritage.

On the Rocks: Art in the age of the dinosaurs tells the story of several of these mysterious engravings. The film develops like a real field investigation in the company of two internationally-renowned specialists of rock art: Paul Bahn and Jean-Loïc Le Quellec.

What do today's archaeologists know about the strange figures that adorn rock faces across the world? What can they tell us about these fascinating works created in the mists of time?

The state of Utah is one of the most important repositories of rupestrian art in the world and thus a fitting setting for Paul and Jean-Loïc to carry out their investigations. The beauty of the landscape also provides a common thread for the film.

The magnificent settings are an integral part of the stories evoked by the engravings and are, still, a permanent invitation to travel and explore and perhaps hold the key to our understanding...

Just Like Us

Director: Hans Dirven and Merel ten Elzen

Producer: Loveland

Netherlands, 2017, 40 min.

Archaeologists have discovered a complete graveyard from the Stone Age in Dalfsen, the largest in Western Europe. More than 120 graves with spectacular grave gifts. The discovery of the remains of a house right next to the cemetery, along with a 5000-year-old road, are also a first for the Netherlands.

This survey opens a new view of the 'Dutch-Dutchman', the first people who settled here permanently and no longer drew around as hunter-gatherer.

The findings do not stand for the history of the Netherlands, but for the history of northern western Europe. From the Netherlands to the Baltic States.

Filmmakers Hans Dirven and Merel ten Elzen follow for a year all relevant developments about Dalfsen's treasures. Looking at the actual findings, they draw a unique image of the original inhabitants of the area, their habits and activities. In addition, they look for connections with the present; with the surroundings and residents of Dalfsen now, between our history and who we have become.

This makes it clear why rituals and practices are so important.. They make us feel that we belong together. And that we can always choose to get together. As a family. Even without bloodshed.

The film documents life, farewell, happiness and consolation connecting history to the present, and revives the lives of the first inhabitants of Dalfsen.

USA Premiere

Black Brazil

Director: Angèle Berland

Producer: AB Productions

France, 2016, 52 min.

A look at Brazilian culture from different perspectives. With the largest slave system in the Americas, which was in 1888 the last to be abolished, Brazil is finally beginning to address this dark side of its past and recognizing its African heritage in the context of Olympic Games and archaeological excavations.

« Black Brazil » talks about the strong motivations from some archaeologists, historians, lawyers and Cariocas to highlight the African past and recognition of slavery in a country where this history is a big taboo.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR: Angèle Berland is a French documentary films director. After a journalism school in Paris, she has been working for 7 years for French television. From Philippines to Senegal, Eastern Europe or Mexico, she is very passionate about individual stories which speak about History and our society.

She made documentaries about climate refugees in Philippines after a dangerous typhoon « The life after » (2016), the history of Gypsies « Gypsies : people at the margin » (2015) or about employees in the temple of mass tourism in Cancun « Cancun, the other face » (2014). Angèle Berland likes to meet people who do not usually have the opportunity to express themselves.

AWARDS & SCREENINGS: Brazilian Film Festival, Paris. The «J. Verne» award, Archeology Film Festival, Amiens (France), 2018.

Teotihuacan, Birth of a Metropolis

Director : Agnès Molia & Nathalie Laville

Producer : Tournez S'il Vous Plaît, ARTE France

France, 2018, 26 min.

When we think of America, the images of the great cosmopolitan metropolises invade our minds. Mexico is a good example. With 22 million inhabitants, it is the largest city in America after New York.

This urban lifestyle would be born in Mexico. This is in any case what asserts a team of archaeologists. A few kilometers from the capital, the famous city of Teotihuacan would be the oldest metropolis in America. Created in the 2nd century BC, this city has continued to expand until its decline in the 6th century. Neither Maya nor Zapotec, Teotihuacan is not related to any known culture, it is a civilization on its own. After a century of digging, scientists are just beginning to unravel its story. They discovered that this city would have attracted tens of thousands of migrants from all over Mesoamerica, creating a new model: the cosmopolitan metropolis.

By excavating its greatest monuments, such as the huge pyramids of the Moon and the Sun, archaeologists have returned to the origins of the city. In the different neighborhoods of the city, they discovered clues that reveal that it was in fact a huge hub of commerce and that the immigrant populations had played a decisive role in the economic development of the city. The search of living quarters also provided them with crucial information on the living conditions and social organization of the Teotihuacan society. But they still have a big question: who ran this city and how?

American Premiere

The Discovery of the Temple of Amenhotep III

Director: Antoine CHÉNÉ

Producer: Mission des Colosses de Memnon et du temple d'Amenhotep III

France, 2016, 52 min.

In Luxor, the colossi of Memnon, on the left bank of the river Nile, marked the entrance to the biggest temple ever built by a Pharaoh, the temple of Amenhotep III.

Since early 2000, an international team led by Hourig Sourouzian, an egypt-ologist specializing in the sculpture of the Pharaohs, is bringing back to life this temple, whose remains, with the exception of the two Memnon colossi, have all but disappeared. The team have unearthed another six colossi, each measuring more than 10 meters high, as well as more than 150 statues of Sekhmet, the goddesses bearing a lion's head on a female body, each of them about two meters tall. In addition, many sphinxes, royal statues and others relics have been found.

Filed since 2004, we follow all the major phases of this project, which has served to highlight the spectacular discoveries, realizing in the process the grandiose character of this temple, constructed by a Pharaoh in times of peace and prosperity.

AWARDS and SCREENINGS:

AGON, Athènes (Greece), 2016, prix du film archéologique.

Rovereto (Italie), 2016, 2nd prix du public.

Festival international du film d'archéologie, Nyon (Suisse) 2017, prix du public.

Festival du film archéologique de Narbonne (France), 2017, prix du public.

Secrets of the Nolichucky River

Director : Buck Kahler

Producer : Nolpix

USA, 2017, 57 min.

Secrets of the Nolichucky River investigates a buried Native American village in upper East Tennessee that may hold the key to a missing link in Cherokee history. Nestled alongside the scenic Nolichucky River, the archaeological site known as "Cane Notch" reveals secrets buried for hundreds of years. Could this be the fabled lost Cherokee homeland?

For the first time, witness a Cherokee archaeological excavation as it unfolds. Join modern-day explorers from East Tennessee State University as they use technology to see beneath the land's surface. Uncover the perfectly preserved Cherokee house archaeological experts have dubbed "a mini-Pompeii." Hear Cherokee archaeologists explain the cultural significance of this find and archaeology's importance to Native American peoples. Follow the team's progress as they discover ancient artifacts and unlock the Secrets of the Nolichucky River.

Narrated by Freeman Owle, Cherokee Elder and traditional storyteller. Original film score by Grammy Award-winning guitarist Bill Mize.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR: Buck Kahler has over 30 years of filmmaking experience and is the co-owner of Nolpix Media, LLC. As an independent producer, writer, cinema-tographer, and editor, he created the three-part series, *The Vietnam War: East Tennessee*, as part of Ken Burns and Lynn Novick's *The Vietnam War*. His documentary, *The Mysterious Lost State of Franklin*, aired nationwide on PBS. Buck holds an M.F.A. in Motion Picture and Television Producing from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco.