

# **Dutch CORE**

Line-up Documentary MIPCOM 2023



Title: Along the New Silk Road

**Producer: VPRO** 



# My Generation @ War 5x30' NEW

The documentary series *My Generation at War* shows raw portraits of ten young people affected by the war in Ukraine. A generation with common dreams, ideals and role models. What have their lives looked like since the start of the war, on February 24th 2022? They are forced to deal with violence and death, but also refuse to give up on their youth and dreams. *My Generation at War* gives a personal and intimate insight behind the news images, by use of personal social media, making it look and feel like a film.







#### Frontline 21x35' NEW EPISODES

The current affairs series *Frontline* focuses on conflicts (of war) from around the world that are often no more than a footnote in our daily lives. Among them the war in Ukraine, a conflict that was barely shared through the news for the past 8 years. In reports of 35 minutes, journalists and film makers dive into the background of current stories and context is given to news. Their aim: telling forgotten stories that are inextricably linked to our lives. This does not only concern the consequences of armed conflicts, but also issues such as climate change and its impact on daily life.









#### Water Crimes 4x30' RELEASE DECEMBER 2023

A true crime series, of four episodes, in which four stories on global water shortage are seen as crime scenes. A dead man in the Mexican desert, a fatal fall of a Spanish toddler into a well, a rape in Nairobi and a sabotage of the water supply to a Greek Island. Each documentary shows a different place in the world where water disappears and moral dilemmas arise. But who needs the water the most? Are waterrobbers the bad guys or the good guys? There is only one certainty: the fight for water is a fight on life and death.



# Food for Thought 4x50' RELEASE IN 2024

Food production accounts for at least 25% of global greenhouse gas emissions, putting increasing pressure on the world's food supply. In the documentary series *Food for Thought*, journalist Kadir van Lohuizen explores the world behind our food production; where it is produced and how it moves around the world. From calf slaughterhouses to the producers of seed for vegetables, from the mega-ships of soya coming into the Amsterdam port to onions for the Middle East. What is the impact of our food consumption on the environment, public health and the economy?



# A Wind of Change 27' NEW

A Wind of Change investigates the darker side of the energy transition in Colombia. Thanks to its constant wind, investors are planning the construction of dozens of wind parks on the La Guajira peninsula. Approximately 400,000 indigenous Wayuu people inhabit the area, and they are generally less enthusiastic about the plans. The current government and the energy companies themselves believe that the Wayuu should seize this opportunity. However, the arrival of the wind farms puts the ancient traditions connected to the land and the relationships between families at risk.



#### Backlight: Welcome to the Symbiocene 49'

What can humans learn from nature? Environmental philosopher Glenn Albrecht proposes a new era in which people, nature and technology find a new balance and benefit from each other's existence: the Symbiocene. Researchers and artists such as Jalila Essaidi, Lucas de Man and Iza Awad are working on new materials that originate from nature and can also be absorbed by nature. They come up with surprising examples such as the use of silkworms, mycelium and kombucha to make clothes or build houses. Welcome to the Symbiocene.





# The Eel's Journey 50' NEW

For centuries, it has not been possible to fathom the mystery of the eel's reproductive cycle; where and how does the eel reproduce? Now that the eel is in danger of extinction much effort is being made to unravel the mystery, including an international scientific expedition to the Sargasso Sea, the eel's suspected birthplace. And in a laboratory in the Netherlands, experiments are under way to breed eels. With the seemingly imminent exploration of the reproductive secret, we will finally secure our consumption of the eel. Or is our domination of nature further threatening the primal fish?



#### Backlight: The Voice of Nature 50

Crows solve puzzles. Whales have a complex language. Humanity makes one mind-boggling discovery after another about animals. *The Voice of Nature* explores the latest scientific discoveries about the inner life and behavior of animals and addresses ethical questions about how we should use this knowledge. From animal communication and emotions to rights for nature, this documentary investigates what our responsibility as humans is to act on what we know about animals and their place in the world. Can we entrust ourselves with this responsibility?



#### Dark Green 53'

The solo expedition of adventurer Paul Rosolie into the Amazon Rainforest teaches him how to reconnect this unique region of Peru. He travels alone, in search of the last remaining wilderness on Earth. It is a journey into the heart of the Peruvian jungle, but equally an investigation into the relationship between modern humans and nature. What's so special about this region of Peru, a province so rich in natural beauty that it bears the name Mother of God? What dangers threaten it? And what efforts is Paul taking for its protection?



#### North Sea, Nature Untamed 4x50' RELEASE IN 2025

Europe's largest wilderness, the North Sea, lies for the most part out of sight. That is now about to change. The many secrets of the sea are revealed in the spectacular documentary series and feature film *North Sea*, *Nature Untamed*. The North Sea is the stage for an enormous energy transition. But first and foremost, it 's our largest nature reserve. With a fascinating, undiscovered underwater world, home to a surprising wealth of marine life. *North Sea*, *Nature Untamed* will be released in 2025 is now available for prebuy.





#### A Forgotten Exodus 2x56' NEW

At the start of the 20th century, around one million Jews lived in the Middle East and North Africa. They were often persecuted and didn't have the same rights as their fellow Muslim countrymen. Their precarious situation became even more dire after the establishment of Israel. In North Africa there was a strong increase in atrocities committed against local Jews. By the end of the 1970's, almost the entire Jewish population had fled from the Arab world. In this two-part documentary eight people from Yemen, Aden, Iraq, Egypt, Lybia, Syria and Morocco share their stories.



# Adrian VI - The Dutch Pope 55' NEW

Adrian VI tells an exciting and adventurous story that took place exactly 500 years ago, in the very first years of the Reformation. The Dutch bishop Adrian was unexpectedly elected pope when he was governor of Spain. However, the Romans had little use for this 'barbarian from the North'. Adrian, in fact, wanted to reform. He planned to end the lavish and corrupt court culture within the Vatican. His pontificate lasted barely a year and a half. In 1523, he died under suspicious circumstances. Who was this carpenter's son? And what did he eventually die of?



#### Nieuwlande – Unyielding Hiding Village 43'

Only two villages in the world have earned the Yad Vashem Award, a distinction reserved for non-Jews who took great risks to save Jews during the Holocaust. The small village of Nieuwlande in the Netherlands is one of them. This documentary investigates the story behind the resistance to the nazis in Nieuwlande. Why were so many villagers willing to offer shelter to people they didn't know? Thereby risking their own lives? Who were the Jews seeking a hiding place? What role did faith play? And: what did the Germans know?



#### Etty Hillesum – In Search of a Wartime Writer 52'

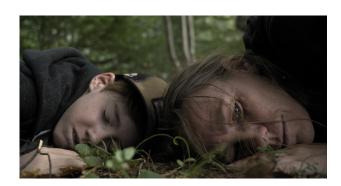
Etty Hillesum is a Dutch woman who became known in the early eighties after the posthumous publication of her war diaries, titled 'An Interrupted Life'. The book soon got translated in many languages and her literary legacy shows that, if she hadn't been killed in the nazi death camp Auschwitz, she would have become a famous Dutch writer. The documentary *Etty Hillesum – In Search of a Wartime Writer* sheds a light on the person behind the author, and comes up with previously unknown facts.





#### The Underground Astronaut 17'

Beneath our feet lies a mystery. A complex underground network of mycorrhizal fungi keeps our ecosystem alive by exchanging nutrients and carbon with almost all plants on Earth. Remarkably, no one quite knows how these advanced and age-old systems operate, and how they are affected by climate change. *The Underground Astronaut* follows evolutionary biologist Toby Kiers, named one of the 2022 TIME100 Next Innovators, on her quest to map the world's fungi networks and understand their behaviour before it's too late. 'No fungi, no future,' according to Kiers.



#### The Guts of the Neuroscientist 14'

What is intuition? And how can gut feelings influence science? Known for her extensive research in adolescent brain development, neuroscientist Eveline Crone proposes that intuition is an aspect of the mind worth studying and embracing. In her scientific career, her own gut feelings have often led the way to new insights. In *The Guts of the Neuroscientist*, Crone takes us on a journey through an abstract landscape of morphing white lines as she contemplates the development and the future of neuroscience.

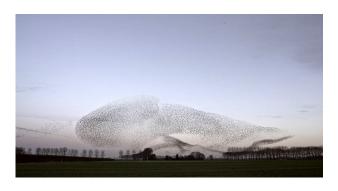


#### The Mystery of MS 15'

Neuroscientist Jeroen Geurts has dedicated his career to finding the cause of multiple sclerosis, a brain disease affecting millions. He hopes to find a cure within ten years. Unsure of what exactly he is looking for, his mission feels like wandering through a dark forest. Following his intuition, he searches in places others have neglected. Geurts says he is trying to find something which "language cannot yet grasp", and emphasises the role of metaphors in this scientific field riddled with mysteries.





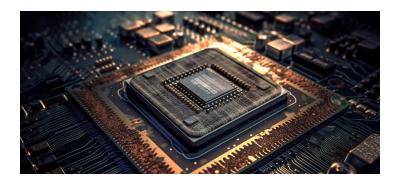




#### Backlight: The Cost of Al 50' NEW

Generative AI is the latest buzzword in Silicon Valley. The Big Tech giants all launch chatbots and incorporate AI assistants into their products. But what is hidden behind the shining promise of Artificial Intelligence? The recent success of AI comes with the use of even more raw materials, poorly paid labour, dubious data sets and larger server parks. *Backlight: The Cost of AI* shows the reality behind the smokescreen that Silicon Valley presents us and speaks with people who are engaged in dissecting the global AI industry.







# Planet Finance 6x50' | 6x10' NEW SHORTS

Planet Finance does not offer investment tips, nor is it a crusade against bankers or the wealthiest 1%. It simply looks behind the shiny scenes of the big bucks. In six documentaries, former Backlight director Marije Meerman takes viewers on a tour of "Planet Finance", a parallel world where you can make money if you think you know what the future will bring. It's a parallel world where a big loss for one person can mean a huge gain for the other. Who live and work here? What is the use of this "planet", and what makes this financial world so irresistible to many people?



#### Backlight: The Secret of ASML 50'

One of the world's biggest drivers of technological progress is located in the Netherlands: ASML. This company makes the most advanced machine in the world; the lithography machine for making computer chips. Ordinary people have no business here, but ministers, heads of state and CEOs of large tech companies are frequent visitors. With chips as a strategic asset, ASML's machine is in the middle of the geo-political world stage. What is the secret of ASML, and who are the people who build this wonderful machine?





#### The Jussen Brothers 3x50' | 90' NEW

The Jussen Brothers is an inspiring documentary on how two young and extremely talented musicians from Amsterdam are conquering the world. Due to their unparalleled skill and training by the legendary pianist Maria João Pires, the brothers Lucas and Arthur Jussen became master pianists - popstars in the world of classical music. They share an extraordinary bond, as brothers as well as musicians. In this behind-the-scenes documentary, the Jussen brothers travel to Paris, São Paulo, Vienna and Boston. An incredible story of perseverance, that instils hope in the hearts of the next generation.



# Candy 70'| 85'

World-famous Dutch saxophonist Candy Dulfer has performed with superstars such as Prince, Dave Stewart and Nile Rodgers. When the pandemic breaks out and she can no longer perform, Candy must fight to keep her head above water. She's concerned about her vulnerable parents, who are getting older, and sorrowful about not be able to pass on the Dulfer name due to unwanted childlessness. Candy, however, does not give up. Candy is an exhilarating musical yet intimate portrait of an independent artist, daughter and 'bonus' mother who reinvents herself in difficult times.



#### The Royal Republic 85'

In *The Royal Republic*, Spanish-Dutch filmmaker Carmen Cobos is given exclusive access to a group of musicians within the Dutch Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra that rarely receives attention, but would be badly missed if not present: the timpani and percussion section. It's a pleasure to get to know these five men; to discover the love for the profession, the care for their instruments and the appreciation of their mutual connection. This beautifully presented documentary is a feel-good movie about friendship, craftsmanship and music.



#### LICHT - Stockhausen's Legacy 90'

Brilliant... Megalomaniac... Unstageable – these are just some of the words that have been used to describe the mammoth opera cycle LICHT (Light), the most radical project in the history of music theatre, written by the legendary and controversial composer Karlheinz Stockhausen. He spent 26 years writing this larger-thanlife opera, which would take days to perform and was completed only in 2003, six years before his death. But his magnum opus was never staged, because no opera company was brave (or rash) enough to produce it. Until now.





#### The Art Detective 12x35' NEW

If a precious painting gets stolen, the owners do not call the police - they call Arthur Brand. The art detective makes world news time and again. This September he recovered a stolen Van Gogh: it was brought to him in an IKEA bag. This happens rather often: in the last decades over a hundred stolen paintings, sculptures and relics were returned to their rightful owners through intervention of the world's most successful art detective. From Hitlers Horses, recovered in a police raid including 9 cities in Germany, to a stolen Picasso delivered in a garbage bag behind a tree.



#### Masterpiece: Rembrandt's Night Watch 4x43' NEW

Over the past two years, a group of researchers from the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam have used the latest and most advanced techniques to scrutinise the painting The Night Watch and assemble an enormous amount of new data. This research is the trigger for now stepping into Rembrandt's shoes in order to imitate his painting techniques and reconstruct his materials for this special. What secrets does this famous masterpiece still hold for us?



# Masterpiece 31x40' NEW SEASON IN PRODUCTION

New York Festivals TV & Film Award Winner
In the fourth season of Masterpiece, a new team of top experts
takes on the ultimate challenge: reconstructing famous Dutch
masterpieces from artists such as Vermeer, Van Gogh and AlmaTadema. In the process, the experts pull out all the stops to get as
close as possible to the artist's technique, style and perception of
the world. Is there a secret behind these great masterpieces?



#### Paul Blanca: This film Will Save Your Life 55' | 90'

Because of his uncompromising, sometimes violent behaviour, Paul Blanca, one of the most important photographers in the Netherlands, is in danger of disappearing into obscurity. In a possibly futile attempt to save a fading life from an inglorious demise, filmmaker Ramon Gieling filmed Blanca on what turned out to be his last journey. After a lifetime of drug- and alcohol abuse, he died at the age of 62 in October 2021. With the camera we witness Blanca's struggle against the transience of his body and the inexorable passing of time. Until finally only photos remain.





#### Sisters of the Good Shepherd 4x50' NEW

Around the world, the Catholic shelters of 'The Sisters of the Good Shepherd' are accused of having used children for forced labor until 1975. This documentary series shows how this history influences the lives of those involved to this day. We follow the main characters in a lawsuit against the congregation in the Netherlands. Both the perpetrators; four nuns and director Hubert Jansen, as well as the victims - women in their seventies who were locked up in boarding schools as children and have filed a lawsuit. How do both sides relate to this gruesome past?



#### Children of Mavungu 4x17' | 68' NEW

Children of Mavungu is a tough and adventurous youth documentary film and series about children growing up deep in the deep jungle of Suriname, South America. A mysterious world full of rituals and forest gods, of which Mavungu is the most important for children. Mavungu watches over the children in this exciting world full of venomous snakes and piranhas, where the day consists of swinging on vines, canoeing the rapids, fishing and hunting, eating iguanas and attending school... in another language.



#### TWIN 7x12' | 90' NEW

Palermo, Italy, 2016. A twin is born prematurely on a rickety boat on the Mediterranean, surviving against all odds. Filmed in the course of seven years, *TWIN* is a surprising and unsettling coming-of-age documentary about twin brothers Hiyap and Evenezer, and their determined Eritrean mother Merhawit. After settling for asylum in Germany, Merhawit pursues her mission to be reunited with father Yohannes, who stayed behind in Sudan. Her neverending dance with the Kafka-esk bureaucratic system in Germany turns into a feminist fairytale when she finally liberates herself.



#### Lions de L'Atlas 4x25' NEW

The documentary series *Lions de L'Atlas* tells the unique historical tale about the Moroccan football team that surprised friend and foe during the World Cup in Qatar. Morocco was the first African country ever to reach the semi-finals of a world cup football tournament. This sport surprise of the century is shared through the eyes of Rapper ICE, who get's very close to the main characters, the football players. What was the teams' secret? How did they experience their dream? And how did their performance on the pitch affect the morale of the Moroccan community worldwide?





# **Human Interest & Society**

Image: Life as Liesje

# Life as Liesje 3x40' FiLM

In the documentary series *Life as Liesje*, we follow Liesje, a young woman. After becoming the victim of the biggest gang rape the Netherlands has ever known, she loses all respect for men. Now, the tables appear to have turned and in her job as a stripper and luxury escort, she has men eating out of her hand. When she unexpectedly meets someone she develops genuine feelings for, Liesje will finally have to face her trauma. Will Liesje succeed in breaking free and opening herself up to true love?



#### The Beast of Amsterdam 54'

The documentary *The Beast of Amsterdam* tells the story of international martial arts legend Jon Bluming (1933-2018). From his early childhood until his death, Bluming's life was marked by violence; from World War II and the Korean War, to extreme martial arts and street violence. Bluming was the founder of karate in Europe, Kyokushin Karate – or full-touch karate. Now, the grandmaster in traditional Japanese martial arts slowly shuffles through his home. But former students like four-time world kickboxing champion Sem Schilt and martial arts champion Chris Dolman continue to visit him.



# Pretend Student 50'

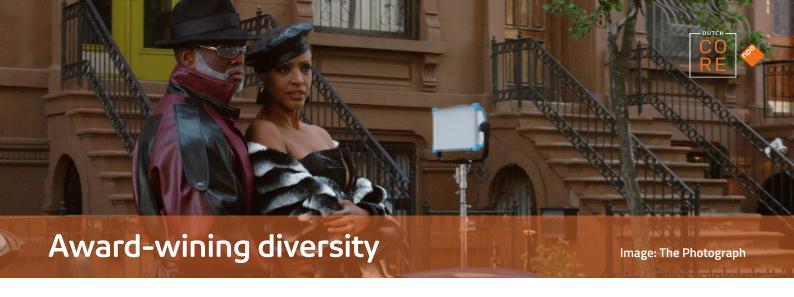
In the wake of her older sister's suicide, Rachel is left with many unanswered questions. After finding out that her sister Dianne had been leading a double life, she embarks upon a final investigation of her sister's life. It turns out Diane dropped out in her first year of medical school but never told her loved ones. For six years, she was a 'pretend student', until the date of her alleged graduation grew closer.



# King on Dam Square 85'

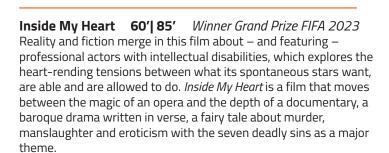
Horeca tycoon and millionaire Won Yip runs his family business like a sole ruler, from Las Vegas to Amsterdam. In Won's smoke-filled office, deep below Dam Square in Amsterdam, the money machines are running at full speed, everything Won touches seems to turn to gold. Until his always-hidden Chinese family history takes an unexpected turn. The documentary does not only offer a unique portrait of a tough businessman who has never shown so much of himself before. But above all, it shows the dark side of the Chinese diaspora and the deep imprint still left on generations to come.





**The Photograph 55' | 99'** Winner Audience Award and Best Feature Film Playa Film Festival 2022

A sweeping exploration of the power of positive imaging of black identity in Harlem, New York City. A hundred years after his grandfather, Sherman De Jesus travels to New York. The picture of his grandfather, made hundred years ago by now renowned African-American photographer James Van Der Zee, leads the filmmaker back to Harlem, where he explores the visibility of the residents of this New York borough.









**Sexual Healing 55'** *Winner Audience Award Hotdocs 2022* Evelien, spastic from birth and with merely disappointing sexual experiences in her pocket, is taking the first steps on her quest for intimacy. During this personal journey, she discovers new parts of herself and her body, and she gradually opens up to the needs and desires she has been suppressing all her life. 'Is it true that sex makes you more complete?', she wonders. Sexual Healing is a film about the necessity of intimate, human contact for every human being and how complex it can be to realise this if having sex is not evident.

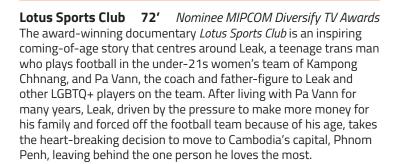






# Pano: Gender Crossroads 40' VCL NEW

In the last fifteen years, the number of young people treated at the Children and Youth Gender Team at Ghent University Hospital in Belgium multiplied by forty. However, in countries like Finland doctors are becoming more cautious. 'Ninety percent of our patients were biological girls. We observed many patients with autism, depression and anxiety disorders. There is a risk that they see medical transition as a solution to all their problems,' says child psychiatrist Riittakerttu Kaltiala. Is hormonal treatment the right care for all these trans teenagers?





#### Mama 85'

Mama tells the story of a self-chosen family. At the head of the family are mother and drag queen Ma'MaQueen. Together with her three cats, she forms a safe haven for her six drag children. Not everyone in the household can count on understanding from their biological family and they all struggle with personal problems; being rejected by their family, having a negative self-image, or not feeling seen. In each other, they find support, security, and a home in which fantasy becomes reality. Above all else, they want to celebrate each other.



# Sweetling 72'

Hetty (76) and Jeanne (91) are lovers, enjoying their colorful life together. But slowly, their carefree spirit dwindles, now that dementia is gradually affecting Jeanne's behavior. Inevitably, their relationship changes. Hetty is faced with the dilemma of how to best engage with her lover, now that her abilities are compromised. Should Hetty seek support from others, even if it feels like betraying Jeanne?





# Along the New Silk Road 6x45' NEW

Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Pakistan - these countries once formed the old Silk Road, the trading centre of the world. Now we hear little about it, while it is teeming with interesting stories. A high stakes game is going on in which China and Russia are trying to fortify their grip on countries such as Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. They are rapidly gaining influence, because whoever controls the Silk Road, determines history. In the documentary series *Along the New Silk Road*, we discover the everyday reality of geopolitics.



# Rail Away 35x25' NEW EPISODES

In 5 new episodes, Rail Away takes the viewer on a journey around Germany, Italy and The Netherlands. Rail Away is a series about remarkable railways around the world. With the train acting as a guide, we traverse by a number of special locations. During the journey, the landscape, history and local culture are highlighted. For over 20 years, the series has delighted fans with breathtaking tracks in Europe, Asia and South America.

Please note, it's possible to cherry-pick epsiodes.



# Across the Mediterranean 9x45'

Across the Mediterranean is an adventurous travel program in which Arnout Hauben crosses the Mediterranean Sea, from west to east, from Gibraltar to Santorini. With infectious enthusiasm he travels along well-known and lesser-known islands and goes in search of the story of the people who live in and with the Mediterranean. Hauben discovers the spiritual past of Ibiza, rescues endangered monk seals in Greece, kayaks to the foot of the alps in Italy and meets the descendants of Corsican resintance fighters.



# Around the North Sea 10x45'

Each country that borders the North Sea boasts its own typical coastline. But the limits of the actual North Sea stretch much further than commonly thought. It's a sea that connects the Belgians, the French, the English, the scots, the Norwegians, the Danes, the Germans and the Dutch. In this 10-part documentary series we explore the rich history of the North Sea and collect amazing stories that unfolded on and around the water. From the World Wars that were fought there, the evolution of the fishing industry, the offshore wind farms, to the effects of global warming on life in the sea.





#### My Parents Are Divorced series 1 4x15'

Award Best Documentary Children's jury at JEF Festival 2023
The youth documentaries From That Moment On, Everything Changed, Ref! Replacement!, Semi Divorced and Safiya The Movie, all show the impact of divorce in different ways. What to do when everything that was familiar and safe suddenly changes because of a divorce...
How do you survive that and tell your parents that you want to love both and not choose?



#### My Parents Are Divorced series 2 4x15'

How do you cope with your parents' divorce? This question is the focus of the second series of the youth documentary series *My Parents Are Divorced.* In the four short documentaries *Summer Without You, Angry Enzo, Rocó and Noï* and *Little Boss,* children show what impact it has when their parents split up and what problems they are left with. Should you be happy for your father when he has a new girlfriend? What should you do when grief turns into anger? And how do you talk to your parents about the pain you feel deep inside?







#### Children of the Labyrinth 9x6' | 1x10'

In a series of short films, *Children of the Labyrinth* presents the letters that refugee parents in Greece have written to their children. Reading aloud, they emotionally recount their fearful journey, feelings of helplessness to be caught up in the labyrinth of the European asylum policy, and about the love for their child. The letters offer a deep human insight of the lived experiences of the world's more than 100 million refugees. In a very intimate way, these parents reveal who they are — motivated by the most commonly held, universal wish: that of a better future for your child.





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