

# NPO Sales

2018 Docs

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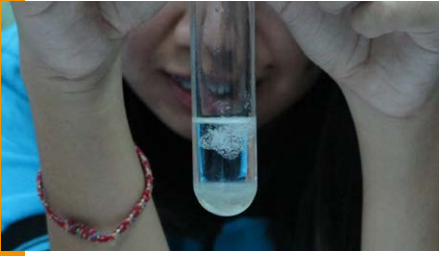
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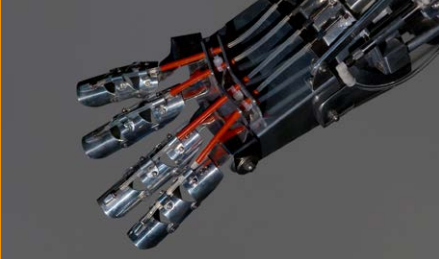
Title: Amid The Peaks Of The Andes >  
Producer: VPRO  
Photographer: Niels van Koevorden





### Backlight: Coding Life 46' ▶

Welcome in the world of the new nature. With the new CRISPR-technology we can now literally copy and paste in DNA. There is a new revolutionary development happening which will have tremendous consequences for humans, plants and animals. The new biotechnology is there. 'Bio is the New Digital'. We are capable of precisely reprogramming the genetic code of our body's cells, embryos, bacteria, viruses and plants.



### Backlight: Humans, Gods & Technology 46' ▶

What will our world look like in 25 years' time? By that time our work may have been entirely taken over by autonomic robots. Our world controlled by a single global brain as we are left to be slaves to the technology we were responsible for creating. Will we become immortal and therefore be able to call ourselves gods in our own self-made highly-intelligent system? The big questions about the future of the human race and its relationship to technology we ask of two influential experts at this time: Kevin Kelly and Yuval Noah Harari.



### Backlight: The Immortals 46' ▶

Is eternal life something reserved only for the wealthiest inhabitants of the planet? Silicon Valley has become obsessed with eternal life. Billions are being invested in the hacking of our biology. The mindset is that when aging becomes a disease, then we can also develop a drug to fight death itself. The epicenter of human self-complacency at this time is in Silicon Valley. An array of scientists and entrepreneurs are drilling into a gigantic well of risk capital and are likely convinced that our DNA can indeed be cracked: the code of immortality.



### Anne & Jean-Paul - Our World Prix Regarde Social - Prix Unaforis

52' & 80' ▶

Anne & Jean-Paul, our world, is a poetical portrayal of the filmmaker's sister Anne (Down's syndrome) and her partner (Fragile X Syndrome) living as independently as possible. The unique intimacy with a touch of humor reveals their happiness, difficulties, and line of reasoning as well as the dilemma's related to the support they need.



### Backlight: Anger As A Weapon According To Pankaj Mishra 46' ▶

Anger. A word often heard in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The anger of a lone wolf and the anger of nationalists. Anger, fed by Trump, the Brexit, IS, Catalanian separatists and even the Hindu supremacy in India. The Indian writer Pankaj Mishra, born and raised in India but since 2006 a resident of London, published the book this year *Age of anger: A History of the Present*. Herein he attempts to explain where his so-called 'great wave of paranoia hatred' comes from. Who is the target of this anger and what has this led to during the past decade?



### Backlight: City For Sale? 46'

All large cities in the world have become magnets for newcomers, tourists, expats and laptop-nomads. In the Netherlands two cities like Groningen and Eindhoven are bursting at the seams. In our capital Amsterdam the pressure is the greatest. In the next fifteen years the city will continue to grow until the magical number of 1 million residents has been reached. Will we in Amsterdam follow London or Paris, where the middle class is disappearing? What will this do to the capital and can anything be done to bring this to a halt?



### Backlight: Radical In Birmingham 46'

In Birmingham, the second largest city in England, one in five residents is Muslim. Stigmatization and exclusion ensure that young Muslims are sympathetic to messages from jihad recruiters. A remarkably high number of convicted Islamists have a connection with Birmingham, also known in British media as the 'Jihadi Capital.'

**Backlight: The New Silk Route** 46' ▶

The power is shifting from West to East. Until today, the world history was a western-centred enterprise - based on the belief that everyone should be like us, or at least should want to be. According to historian Frankopan, the West has completely alienated itself from the rest of the world. Old Europe is on the decline and the economic prosperity in Asia, Africa and South America is over. We have no friends left east of Venice. The power centre shifts along the lines of the new silk roads, from West to East. How should we adapt to this new world order?

**FATUM (Room 216)** 55' ▶

This is both a documentary and a compiled narration; the film's spine consists of footage of an interrogation in Room 216 by a police officer and a suspect, a highly ranked military officer. All this is embedded by two musicians that seem to be a variation on the forced assembly of the two men, condemned to be together for hours in the same room. Their music is the soundtrack of an interrogation that becomes more unbearable every minute. During the interrogation the man slowly becomes a suspect and eventually confesses a terrible truth.

**Highway Confessions** 53' ▶

The German highway system harbors surprising sanctuaries: highways chapels, wedged between gas stations and fast-food restaurants. Visitors pen down all sorts of things in 'wish books'. Some offer a thank you for a hard-won football game or fantastic sex. Others pour out their hearts and write about their deepest fears and desires as if it were their own diary. This heartwarming documentary draws you into unexpectedly intimate stories about loss, lust and love. In a tender way, it shows the confrontation between the daily grind and our secret fears and passions.

**Puck's World** 57' ▶

When their daughter Puck is born, filmmaker Gert-Jan and his wife have an eerie feeling. Nine months later they finally consult a pediatrician: Puck is severely handicapped. Starting with the pregnancy Gert-Jan films his wife, his sons and his daughter. This provides 20 years of unique film material. The family members interview each other about the struggles and the tensions that come with the arrival of Puck, because Puck can't talk. It results in an intimate and frank documentary, showing the impact of having a severely handicapped child in your family.

**ALICIA IDFA Special Jury award** 90' ▶

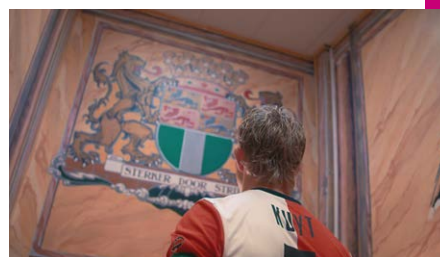
Alicia is one year old when she is removed from her home. Via a foster family she is placed into a children's care home when she is five. By the time she is nine, she is still there, awaiting placement with a new family. This is the moment where we meet Alicia. For three years the film follows the girl in her daily life in close-cropped, observing images. These make the desires and powerlessness of the young, homeless Alicia, as well as the impact of a lack of perspective, palpable. All Alicia needs is being loved.

**Deaf Child IDFA Audience Award** 72' ▶

'Deaf Child' is a coming of age film by Alex de Ronde in which he portrays the life of his son, a charismatic young man who happens to be deaf. The film follows Tobias from the cradle to the present day through archive material and other personal footage. Tobias lives in two worlds: one in need, the other as a fish in the water. The director's approach is also twofold; as an understanding observer and as a critical loving father.

**KUYT** 69' ▶

'KUYT' is a classic tale of heroism. Football player Dirk Kuyt returns to his club after a long stay abroad. Where other football players retire at the age of 36, he returns to Feyenoord, with only one goal: the championship. We follow Kuyt through the turbulent season in pursuit of the Dutch national title and see how he struggles behind the scenes to carry the burden on his shoulders, the nation's eyes upon him. But he also needs to fight for his place in the starting line-up.



## Scenarios For A Normal Life 70' ▶

Jonathan is 8 years old and has ASD (autistic spectrum disorder). 'Scenarios for a Normal Life' shows the people who deal with him on a daily basis: his parents, carers at school and social workers. The film shows their struggle to understand Jonathan and follows the process of using robot KASPAR as an ultimate attempt to get a handle on him. A film about love, hope and powerlessness.



Feature-length

## The Pilot's Mask 93' ▶

'The Pilot's Mask' is a touching documentary about the emotional rollercoaster where seriously ill children end up in a hospital for a long time. We see the children during their time in the hospital. The film is literally shot from the perspective of the children. This perspective is supported by footage shot by the children's themselves.



## Amid The Peaks Of The Andes 6 x 43'

Stef Biemans traverses the Andes to see first-hand what changes are taking place in Latin America. The history of the continent mirrors the Andes' razor-edge profile: one with ups and downs. Biemans sets out to find out what life is like for South Americans these days.



Travel series

## Along The Banks Of The Yangtze 6 x 43'

This beautiful, cinematographic series takes us along the banks of the River Yangtze in China. From Shanghai (the most westernized part of China) to Shangri-La (the most authentic Chinese part) we discover the real China of today, 40 years after Mao's death. How does the average Chinese person live and work nowadays? What are his or her ambitions and fears? And what is the impact of the economic progress? Photographer Ruben Terlou takes his camera along the river banks and interacts, in fluent Chinese, with the local people to capture stories throughout his journey.



## Through The Heart Of China 7 x 43'

The series 'Through the heart of China' is sequel two of the successful series 'Along The Banks Of The Yangtze.' Again host Ruben Terlou gets close to the Chinese people. He is present when some lanky Mongolian farmers hold a horserace on the dry grasslands. Or when an unmarried man is buried with the necessary rituals in the rural countryside of Shaanxi. He photographs homosexuals in Beijing, proud car owners in Guangzhou and gamblers in Macau. He climbs a 90-metre-high windmill and visits the caves of the Zhongnan Mountains.



## Danny In Arabistan 6 x 40'

When Danny Ghosen was 15-years old he fled with his family from Libanon to The Netherlands. He speaks Arabic fluently and still has a lot of childhood memories from Lebanon. In this series Danny visits various Arabic countries and dives into different cultures to see what the current situation is like. Is the Arabic world as violent as he sees on the news and how do people really live in the Middle East?



## Hallowed Ground 6 x 35'

What can a cemetery tell us about a country's culture and history? That is the central question posed in the documentary series 'Hallowed Ground'. In this series presenter Kefah Allush travels to cemeteries in Sicily, Amsterdam, Dublin, Sarajevo and Lisbon in search of Europe's soul. "A cemetery is like a history book," says Allush. "A place to discover how people lived and died, to learn who were the villains and the heroes of revolutions, coups and forgotten missions, and how religion and morals are intertwined with it all."





### Living At The End Of The World 12 x 35'

Some people choose to live at the far corners of the earth. Out of passion, out of conviction, simply because they follow their heart. In this series 'Living at the End of the World', the host Floortje Dessing travels to those remote areas and their inhabitants to feel what it's like to live in such an unusual place. Literally a place at the end of the world.



### Our Man In Tehran 4 x 45'

Curiosity brought Thomas Erdbrink (38) to Iran years ago, and now he's married to an award-winning Iranian photographer and lives there as one of the last Western journalists in a country always at odds with the rest of the world. *Our man in Tehran* lives an exciting life, full of puzzles and obstacles. In Iran, where everything seems different than we thought, Thomas provides a unique insight into one of the last remaining isolated countries in the world. He works in Iran as bureau chief of The New York Times. He is one of the most influential journalists reporting about Iran in the United States.



### Our Man In Tehran 2 – available by April 2018 5 x 44'

Two years after the first series journalist Thomas Erdbrink takes us through Iran but this time he also visits the US. Quite a bit has changed in between the production of the series. Erdbrink discusses the love-hate relationship between the US and Iran while investigating the situation even further. He visits the frontline: the Strait of Hormuz where the American fifth fleet continues to sail around. He reconstructs the disaster with the Iranian Airbus that was mistakenly shot down by the Americans. In America he tries to discover why Iran is far more feared than Saudi Arabia.



### Robo Sapiens 6 x 43'

In the travel series 'Robo Sapiens', host Jelle Brandt Corstius ('From Moscow to Murmansk', 'From Moscow to Magadan' and 'From Bihar to Bangalore'), investigates how robots and artificial intelligence influence our lives and how this will still be changing even more. The speed of new technological developments is mindboggling. What does this mean for us? Is there a reason to be fearful or should we long for the future with great expectations?



### Backlight: Melting Mountains 46'

Climate change is causing the glaciers in Switzerland to melt. We must take action quickly to get a grasp on the warming up of the planet. According to Indian author Amitav Ghosh this is because we are incapable of imagining the possibility that our children will be forced to live in an uninhabitable world. Our endless desire for items such as automobiles, meat and luxury products form the greatest causes of the climate crisis. Ghosh says. 'We are like a turkey at Thanksgiving. We are being well stuffed but then one day the head will come off.'



### Backlight: The End Of Cheap Nature 46' ▶

Everything of value is defenseless. That is especially true when it pertains to nature, which we are losing on a large scale at an accelerated rate. For the global preservation of nature there is 300 billion dollars needed, but worldwide there is only 51 billion being made available per year. Calls are being made to deal with the preservation of nature in a professional manner: to protect nature people literally want to give it a real value.



### Backlight: True Cost Of Flying 47' ▶

We are flying far more often these days. A quick few days to the sun. A weekend to New York. A meeting in London. The airplane is nice, fast and is getting increasingly cheaper. That's great, isn't it? Not really. Flying has become so cheap due to a fierce price war and years of government funding. As a result in the drop of prices passenger numbers have increased dramatically. Due to this, flying is under threat of becoming the greatest single source of pollution. After years of delays the electric automobile is finally beginning to become more popular, but where is the green revolution in the skies?

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