

# THE DINOSAUR CODE

by Jan N. Lorenzen



documentary

45 / 52 min

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## SYNOPSIS

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Is it possible to reconstruct a whole world out of some fossilised footprints? Palaeontologist Dr. Cajus Diedrich is capable of doing so. Almost completely unnoticed by the world public he discovered extraordinary, more than 240 million year old footprints in a quarry not far from Bernburg, Saxony-Anhalt. Some were small, resembling traces of birds – some were huge and massive, as if they originated from an elephant. Never before had such footprints been discovered in Europe! And here, the marks could even be tracked for several meters. Soon it became obvious: This site is one of the most important information sources about the life of dinosaurs in the Triassic period – which would be much earlier than experts thought that Dinosaurs actually populated the planet.



In the documentary „The Dinosaur Code“ Jan N. Lorenzen and his film team accompany the palaeontologist Dr. Cajus Diedrich when he tries to reconstruct from the conserved traces what exactly happened in the region around today´s Bernburg. He reconstructs the Triassic landscape from the consistence of the stones, the pace of the dinosaurs from the footprints he found. He investigates the behaviour of the dinosaurs by looking at the arrangement of the tracks. But there are still questions: In which way did they move? How did they hunt? What did they eat?

To answer those questions he uses an unusual mixture of traditional palaeontology, pathfinder skills and a theory which in modern science is called actualism: It is kind of a criminal investigation. He makes running experiments with present lizards, looks for analogies with contemporary landscapes and gains new scientific facts about the dinosaur skin by drawing a comparison to the skin structures of crocodiles and other reptiles . His research makes him go around half the world and over three continents: He travels to the museums of natural history in Paris, Zurich, Phoenix/Arizona, to the zoo of Dubai and to the desert-like beach of Abu Dhabi.

His scientific findings from his journeys are visualized in high-quality 3D animations. Together with graphic designers who usually develop computergames, 3D-animations are created to give an idea of what the world could have looked like over 240 years ago in Middle-Europe. One realistic dinosaur after another arises. The dinosaur code, decoded

by Dr. Cajus Diedrich with the help of the find spot in Bernburg offers a unique view in the Triassic period. "The Dinosaur Code" is a film about dinosaurs which in this way has never been made before.



## CREW

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A documentary by Jan N. Lorenzen

Camera	Thomas Simon
Research	Carolin Biedermann
Specialist counseling	Cajus Diedrich
Special Shoots	Jürgen Daum
Camera USA	Jeff Halperin
Sound	Jürgen Daum, Enno Grabenhorst
Video Editor	Klaus Eichler
3D-animation	Alexander Haß, Eric Werner, Piotre Gemza DigiTale Studios GmbH & Co. KG.
Narrator	John Berwick
Production Manager Abu Dhabi	Gemma Beecher, Georgina Morton Bareface-Production
Production Manager	Peter Effenberg
Producer	Olaf Jacobs
Editor	Roland Miethke
Head of the editorial department (MDR)	Bernhard Wiedemann

## PRODUKTION DATES

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Shooting Period:	March – October 2010 Completion: September - November 2010
Shooting Locations:	Abu Dhabi (Dubai); Phoenix /Arizona (USA); Paris (France); Zürich (Switzerland); Halle, Bernburg (Germany)
Shooting Format:	HD-Cam / RED
Length:	45 / 52 min
Language:	English, German

## THANKS TO

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Landesmuseum für Vorgeschichte  
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Florence Labalette

Arizona Museum of Natural History  
Robert McCord

Dubai Aquarium  
Paul Hamilton

Primehouse-Productions  
Frank Stehling

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George Teichmann

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