



# HOFERICHTER & JACOBS

Gesellschaft für audiovisuelle Medien und Kommunikationstechnologien mbH

## COMPANY PROFILE



## ABOUT

Since 1996, Hoferichter & Jacobs GmbH has continuously produced high-quality documentaries, reports and feature films. Our classical film and television productions have also been complemented by various cross-media productions for some time now. Addressing the German and European theatrical markets, our productions have garnered prestigious prizes, such as the German Grimme Award and the European Television Prize. Every year, they are presented in many countries and at numerous film festivals.

From a journalistic point of view, we dedicate our work to contemporary and demanding topics. These include current social challenges in demography, the environment and science. Our focus lies with social responsibility and a critical yet constructive approach to German as well as international history.

Our popular science productions include selected topics, such as the documentary series „Urban Future“, Europe’s Cultural Landscapes“, or „The Power of Knowledge“.

Our science documentaries regularly emphasize on topics ranging from biodiversity over expeditions, glacier and volcano research, paleontology and behavioral biology to agriculture. To realize these topics, we collaborate closely with scientific experts involving them in the respective filmic narrative.

We are very ambitious to design up to date productions. Our portfolio not only includes transmedia narratives and forms of exploitation but also graphically upscale scientific and future scenarios. Our strengths lie with data-driven journalism and its audiovisual presentation on television and interactive websites.

Extraordinary topics often lead us from European co-productions to an international and cross-media realization of our contents. We further refine our contents by developing digital education media and additional features.

Our mission is to tell unique stories and to address important issues. Top quality is our goal. We aim to address our audience as equals and entertain and inform on the highest creative and narrative level.



## RECENT PRODUCTIONS



### PHARMACY OF THE APES

*The rainforest is the biggest medical dispensary of the world and a treasure of biodiversity. In the Kongo scientist Barbara Fruth observes Bonobos using healing plants. This knowledge of the apes is hardly studied by now.*

Germany – 2015 – 52 min  
written & directed by Axel Friedrich, Eva Demmler  
comissioned production for ZDF



### MONITORING A GLACIER

*An international team sets off to study the movement and inner structure of the Russel Glacier. Their mission is an extraordinary scientific adventrue to the beautiful tundra of Greenland. The results of this research will make it possible to understand and wvreliably predict glacial change in the future and thus draw conclusions about the global climate.*

Germany – 2014 – 52 min  
written & directed by Martina Treusch

world sales: New Docs  
Festivals: Life Science Film Festival Prag



### WEATHER AND ARCHITECTURE

*Sea levels are rising and storms are besoming increasingly powerful. Climate change has serious consequences. Is our architecture still fullfilling its actual purpose, namely to protect us from the cold and the heat, from rain and storms? The pioneers are already at work.*

Germany – 2015 – 52 min  
written & directed by Ariane Riecker  
co-produced with MDR/ARTE

Festivals: Pariscience, Science Film Festival



### WHO OWNS EAST GERMANY

*The political changes in the former GDR brought tremendous upheaval to the property situation in the country. In this three-piece documentary the author Ariane Riecker explores the question who owns the former public property from today's perspective.*

Germany – 2015 – 3×45 min  
written & directed by Ariane Riecker  
co-produced with MDR/ARTE, supported by Kulturstiftung NDR



### ALONG THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL

*The Ho Chi Minh Trail ist not just a pathway between Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. It's a network of more than 16000kms of highways, streets and hidden tracks, being built as a logistic system during the Vietnam War. This film is a journey along this trail from the North of Vietnam and the Annamite Range Mountains through Laos and Cambodia untill the sky-scrapers of Saigon.*

Germany – 2015 – 2×45 min – HD  
written & directed by Cornelia Volk  
comissioned production for MDR/ARTE



### JAVA IN JEOPARDY – EXPLORING THE VOLCANO

*Scientists regard it as one of the most dangeous volcanos in the world. The film accompanies an expedition to the 3000-metre high rim of the steaming crater. Together with researchers from all over the world, it engages in an exiting search for clues on Indonesia's most active volcano.*

Germany – 2015 – 52 min  
written & directed by Felix Krüger  
co-produced with rbb/ARTE

Festivals: Science Film Festival,  
Mountain Film Festival



## DOCUMENTARIES – SELECTION



### HITTING THE GERMAN MARK

*When the border between Poland and Germany fell in 2004, the Poles feared that their rich neighbours would buy up their land and property. Ten years later things look different: The Poles are conquering the lonely expanse of the provincial East German border regions. A whimsical sociological study about cheap real estate, typical Poles, typical Germans, the old and the new Europe.*

Germany – 2014 – 90 min  
directed by Markus Stein  
co-produced with MDR/ARTE

Festivals: dok Leipzig, Filmfest Wismar,  
Szczecin European Filmfestival



### FATIH WANTS IT ALL

*Fatih thinks big. He wants to become a boss and earn a lot of money. Fatih lives with a brittle bone disease, moves around in his heavy wheelchair and permanently needs help. The film follows Fatih through his life full of barriers and obstacles, however also with friends to support him.*

Germany – 2014 – 86min  
written & directed by Stephan Löhr  
co-produced with NDR

Festivals: dokumentarfilmwoche Hamburg,  
DRK-Medienpreis



### FORGETTING DAD

*Three days after an apparently harmless car accident, a 44-years-old man loses his memory – for good. The film is a personal quest in the search of this man's (inner) self and an investigation of the events that followed.*

Germany – 2010 – 84 min  
written & directed by Rick Minnich,  
Matt Sweetwood  
co-produced with ZDF „Das kleine Fernsehspiel“

world sales: Films Transit  
Festivals: IDFA, Hot Docs Toronto,  
Max-Ophüls-Preis



### AMONG MEN – GAY IN EAST GERMANY

*Not allowed, yet tolerated: the lives of six gay men in the GDR. From this perspective, socialism looks quite different.*

Germany – 2012 – 90 min  
written & directed by Ringo Rösener  
co-produced with MDR/Salzgeber

Festivals: Berlinale Panorama



### BEERLAND

*The American Matt Sweetwood travels through „Beerland Germany“ and collects cheerful folk-tales, illustrated by animated graphics for the audience's amusement.*

Germany – 2011 – 84  
written & directed by Matt Sweetwood  
co-produced with BR/Telepool

Festivals: dok Leipzig



### HACKER

*Five unique and self-willed characters determine this filmich kaleidoscope by Alexander Biermann. His documentary film sheds light on the modern myth of the hacker, always questioning what it really means to be one.*

Germany – 2010 – 85 min  
written & directed by Alexander Biermann  
co-produced with 3sat

Festivals: dok Leipzig



## DOCUMENTARIES – SCIENCE & NATURE



### SECRET OF THE APES

*Do apes have a culture of their own? What seemed unthinkable for centuries is hardly called into doubt at all any more in the scientific community. This doc follows the trail of a provocative thesis.*

Germany – 2013 – 52 min  
written & directed by Axel Friedrich, Eva Demmler  
co-produced with MDR/ARTE

Festivals: Wildlife Vaasa Festival



### EGYPT'S SUNKEN CITY – A LEGEND REVEALED

*Searching for a forgotten city: off the coast of Egypt, just a few metres under the surface, but blanketed by sand and mud, slumbers the ancient part of Heracleion. The film takes you on a journey to ancient Egypt and features breathtaking and exclusive underwater footage.*

Germany – 2013 – 45/52min  
written & directed by Jan Tenhaven  
co-produced with MDR/ARTE

Photo: Christoph Gerigk  
©Franck Goddio/Hilti Foundation



### THE SECRET OF MIGRATING BIRDS

*In »The Secret of Migrating Birds. Tryst at the Red Sea«, Martina Treusch accompanies scientists, ornithologists and photographers at the Red Sea where millions of birds rest every year in spring and fall on their way to the north and back to the south. A unique natural spectacle that only does fascinate scientists.*

Germany – 2012 – 45 / 52 minutes  
written & directed by Martina Treusch  
co-produced with rbb/ARTE

world sales: Authentic GmbH



### WHEN THE POLES MELT. ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION SECRETS IN SIBERIAN ICE

*Both documentaries accompany German research teams looking for the key to understand both the climate and it's change in Siberia as well as in the Antarctic.*

Germany – 2010 – 2x45 min  
written & directed by Kai Voigtländer, Jörg Poppendieck

world sales: Global Screen GmbH



### AMONG ELEPHANTS

*Elephant Orphans are caringly raised and carefully reintroduced to the wild at a one-of-a-kind animal orphanage in Kenya – a moving and beautiful journey from tragedy to freedom.*

1. Elephants' orphanage
2. Return of the elephants

Germany – 2011 – 2x52min  
written & directed by Peter Dreckmann  
co-produced with MDR/ARTE/ARD

world sales: Global Screen GmbH



### THE DINOSAUR-CODE

*In an open pit, a young scientist has discovered dinosaur footprints that are considerably older than any others that had been found before. In the film, these footprints are the point of departure for a journey of discovery that will finally reveal the first dinosaur's appearance and show that this part of history of these gigantic animals has to be rewritten.*

Germany – 2011 – 52min  
written & directed by Jan N. Lorenzen  
co-produced with MDR/ARTE



## DOCUMENTARIES – SERIES



### EUROPE'S CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

*The history of modern agriculture and their pioneers in some of Europe's most impressive regions. „The Spreewald“, „The Cevennes“, „Mecklenburg an the House of Maltzan“, „The Archduke and the Discovery of Majorca“, „South Tyrol“, „South Sweden“*

6 x 52 minutes  
co-financed by the European Commission,  
Agriculture and Rural Development  
dvd: PentAlpha gGmbH

world sales: Authentic GmbH



### GDR-AHOY! EAST GERMANY AT SEA

*A country with the worst possible requirements wants to capture the sea to find its prosperity. A huge merchant fleet is built that more and more mirrors the problems of the small country.*

3 x 45 minutes  
co-produced with MDR/NDR  
dvd: PentAlpha gGmbH  
book: Mitteldeutscher Verlag

Grimme Award 2011



### EXACT – THAT'S HOW WE LIVE

*„Exakt – So leben wir“ is a widespread survey in Central Germany. It analyses and compares the Central German regions, the federal states and Eastern and Western Germany. What do we have in common and what are the differences?*

three seasons 2013/2014/2015; 4x60min per year  
comissioned production for MDR



### URBAN FUTURE

*A journey of discovery through the megacities of the new millenium. The series delivers insight into how people take the initiative in order to improve their living conditions and how they creatively shape their surroundings with unique projects: Mumbai – Sao Paulo – Istanbul – Mexico City – Cape Town – Rio de Janeiro – Neu Dehli*

a series by Olaf Jacobs  
7 x 30 minutes

world sales: Gloal Screen GmbH



### THE POWER OF KNOWLEDGE. EUROPE'S GREAT UNIVERSITIES

*Armin Mueller-Stahl leads through the greatest universities in Europe: Jan Hus in Prague– Sigmund Freud in Vienna – Tolkien in Oxford – Marie Curie in Paris – Robert Koch in Berlin – Kopernikus in Krakow*

6 x 52 minutes  
co-produced with MDR  
dvd: Komplet Medien

world sales: Global Screen GmbH



### THREE SHADES OF GREEN

*Unique three part documentary about three completely different sides of Ireland.*

1. Rugged Ireland
2. Fertile Ireland
3. Gentle Ireland

3 x 45 /52 minutes  
script and direction: Jan Tenhaven  
in participation with Martina Treusch  
co-produced with MDR/ARTE

world sales: Autentic GmbH



## FESTIVALS – AWARDS (SELECTION)

### 2015

- DRK-Medienpreis: „Fatih“
- Pariscience Festival Paris: „Weather and Architecture“
- Life Science Film Festival Prag: „Monitoring a Glacier“
- Mountain Film Festival Graz: „Java in Jeopardy“
- Ökofilmtour: „Hitting the German Mark“
- Science Film Festival (Asia): „Java in Jeopardy“; Weather and Architecture“

### 2014

- doc Leipzig: „Hitting the German Mark“
- BVKJ-Medienpreis: „Little Fighters“
- Ökofilmtour: „Cultural Landscapes“
- Filmkunstfest Mecklenburg Vorpommern „Unter Honeckers Flagge“

### 2013

- Kasseler Dokumentar- und Videofest „Auswärts“
- Festival of Archaeological Film : „Egypt’s Sunken City“
- International Festival of Science Documentary Films Olomouc: „Egypt’s Sunken City“

### 2012

- Green Screen International Nature Film Festival
- Filmfest Wismar
- Vedere la Scienza Festival
- Filmkunstfest Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
- democracine Festival de Cinema de Porto Alegre, Brasilien
- Out Takes Festival New Zealand
- 62nd Berlin International Film Festival – Panorama

### 2011

- 61st Berlin International Film Festival – LOLA @ Berlinale with „Forgetting Dad“
- Darßer Naturfilmfestival
- NaturVision Filmfestival
- Grimme Award 2011 for “GDR ahoy!”

### 2010

- Kasseler Dokumentar – und Videofest
- Filmfest Wismar
- DokumentART Neubrandenburg
- Green Screen International Nature Film Festival
- TV Festival Shanghai „Forgetting Dad“, China
- Ekotopfilm, Bratislava, Slovakia
- Filmkunstfest Mecklenburg Vorpommern
- The London International Documentary Film Festival
- Environmental Filmfestival, Washington, USA

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## CEO

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