

Films at the Video Bar, TAC Festival 2022

The 1001 Faces of Palmyra: The Lost Jewel of the Desert

Distributor: UN FILM À LA PATTE

France

83 minutes

Producer: Laure Bernard

For the first time, archaeologists from around the world come together in search of sculpted funerary portraits from Palmyra disseminated around the world to recount the story of the ancient city in a way that has never been done before: through the faces of the city's inhabitants. The exploration of the inner secrets of these sculptures reveals the exceptional nature of this legendary city and its multicultural identity. A key to understanding the fascination the city has exerted for centuries lies in the fact that Palmyra has always aroused curiosity and has always been the source of countless powerful stories and images.

The Ancient History of Anatolia: Adventure of Neolithic from East to West

Distributor: vtr yapım

Turkey

Producer: Nalân Sakızlı - VTR YAPIM

133 minutes

This film covers the development of the Neolithic culture, which started with the hunter-gatherer communities' transition in the core regions of Anatolia between 13,000 and 5000 BC, and its spread to Europe. The adventure of the Neolithic is expressed in the studies of scientists that made this adventure known. The documentary team introduces itself to the film with a question: How did civilization develop beginning in these ancient times?

The Ancient Sicilian Crossing: Path of the Mother Goddess

Distributor: Eternal Joy Movies Srls

Italy

Producer: Francesco Bocchieri

80 minutes

This film is a journey through Sicily, following the path of the Ancient Sicilian Crossing—one of the oldest paths in Italy. From Mozia to Kamarina, 650 km. of roads is rediscovered by a group of enthusiasts inspired by the research of the archaeologist Biagio Pace and immersed in nature, landscape and history. This is a journey of places, people, encounters, and strong emotions, an act of love for one's land.

Arena

Distributor: Myles Clohessy

USA

Producer: Myles Clohessy

13 minutes

Arena is a story of forbidden love, an LGBTQ drama set in Ancient Rome. It tells the incredible true story of the adopted son of one of Rome's cruelest emperors who must choose between his life as the future ruler of the ancient world and a love and friendship once forcefully prohibited.

Artifact

Distributor: Riccardo Campagna

USA

Producer: Riccardo Campagna

14 minutes

A bitter archaeologist uncovers the truth about a mysterious discovery he made with his mentor years ago. *Artifact* is an entirely self-produced narrative short film, shot without a script or crew on the Alvord Desert plays in southeast Oregon.

Baia: The Atlantis of Rome

Distributor: GA&A Productions

Italy

Producer: GA&A Productions

53 minutes

Just a few kilometers from Naples, Baia, the city of luxury and hedonistic pleasure of the Roman Empire, is the largest submerged archaeological site on the planet. It is located inside the caldera of the Phlegrean Fields, a supervolcano currently on orange alert. A team of restorers, unique in the world, has the arduous task of restoring and preserving this wonder.

BEWITCHMENT

Distributor: Masoomeh Kiyani

Iran

Producer: Masoomeh Kiyani - Documentary and Experimental Film Center

29 minutes

A man from centuries ago has remained in an old castle. Narrated from a first-person perspective, this film offers stunning imagery and the story of an intriguing journey.

Bighead Cripple

Distributor: Soroush Javadzadeh

Iran

Producer: Soroush Javadzadeh

22 minutes

This drama tells the story of Amirali Katebi, a well-known television presenter, who one day receives a package containing a video and a letter. The video reveals his private life and will affect his personal and professional life if made public.

Black Hawk's Final Resting Place

Distributor: Russ Fry

USA

Producer: Russ Fry

26 minutes

The Sauk war leader Ma-Ka-Tai-Me-She-Kia-Kiak, known to the American settlers as Black Hawk, fought and lost a war in 1832 as he tried to retake his homeland. Black Hawk died in 1838. His grave was robbed the following year. The history books say his remains were destroyed in a museum fire in 1853. The history books are wrong.

Boneyard Alaska

Distributor: Paul Andrew Lawrence

USA

Producer: Paul Andrew Lawrence

74 minutes

Beneath the ever-frozen ground of Alaska, a gold miner is unearthing a treasure trove of perfectly-preserved Ice Age bones, including woolly mammoths and prehistoric bears. For the first time, a team of paleontologists are allowed into the mine site to search his immense bone collection for the secrets that will unlock the history of the animals of the Pleistocene Epoch.

Borders and Frontiers of Gender: Rethinking Cabeza de Vaca's Indigenous Encounters 1527-1536

Distributor: Katrina Spillman

USA

Producer: Katrina Spillman & Tristian Spillman

49 minutes

Cabeza de Vaca entered the annals of colonial history as a "Savior among Savages," a great explorer who led and taught the natives. However, what if that's not how the story really went? This 49 minute documentary examines Cabeza de Vaca's time with indigenous North American peoples through the lens of gender.

Burren Girl*Distributor: Rita Davern**Producer: Rita Davern*

USA

56 minutes

A Minnesota woman searches for the place and people her grandmother left behind. The quest takes her to the Burren: a beautiful, windswept region of County Clare, Ireland. There, she finds a clan—and its medieval legacy—which was scattered and lost during some of the most difficult periods in Irish history. This documentary film uncovers the distant past through the vibrant, present-day community of the Burren. It is not the Ireland of gravestones and faded records that this film offers, but the thrill that comes with reknitting centuries-old Irish connections among the living.

Caesar's Domsday War*Distributor: ITV**Producer: Fabrice Frank*

France

84 minutes

In recounting how the most famous Roman leader rose to power, the standard narrative about Caesar's conquest of Gaul and its Celtic people—his steppingstone to the control of Rome—becomes unraveled. For centuries, all we knew about Caesar's great battles in Gaul was limited to writings that came from the Roman general himself. Now, archaeological excavations are revealing the reality of the Celtic people he fought, the remarkable story of their rebellion against Roman invasion, and the dramatic battle which would take Caesar to the brink of defeat.

Candidate*Distributor: Mozghan Taraneh**Producer: Mozghan Taraneh*

Iran

13 minutes

This slapstick comedy film is a satirical critique of film festival juries and the way some of them judge cinema. A badly acted under-produced film is entered into a film festival. The bored jurors call this unprofessional film an "avant guard" work and award it.

The Colosseum in Quarantine*Distributor: Davide Morabito**Producer: Davide Morabito & Luca Lancise*

Italy

52 minutes

The Colosseum team faces the biggest challenge of their career: a race against time to prepare for reopening after being in lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In fifty minutes with your eyes glued to the big screen, you will be enamored by the breathtaking images of one of the most visited monuments in the world. Throughout this film, you will come across archaeologists, restorers, workers, custodians, and support staff, all of whom never abandoned the Colosseum even in the most difficult and trying moment of its two-millennium history. Where one used to see thousands of visitors daily, what remained was a silence unlike anything this environment had seen before. In advance of the site's re-opening, this family of colleagues must build a new way to visit one of the most famous monuments in the world.

Craigeleith Fossils*Distributor: Tracey Strnad**Producer: Tom Strnad*

Canada

19 minutes

This film explores the history and types of fossils that can be found in the region of Ontario, Canada, known as Craigeleith.

Creating, Knowing & Sharing: The Journey of Kikya*Distributor: Jeremy Dyson**Canada**Producer: Jeremy Dyson & Reeva Billy**13 minutes*

Dugout canoe racing was one of the few traditions that was not interfered with during the colonization of North America. Consequently, this holds a very special place amongst First Nations people of Coast Salish territory in Vancouver, B.C., as the races have served as a conduit for passing down culture and tradition.

Dance of Life*Distributor: Parastoo Haddadi**Iran**Producer: Peyman Zandi**70 minutes*

Water is a precious substance in Iran, where its presence is celebrated and its absence provokes rituals to cause its return. This film is a poetic story about water throughout Iran and the special place it has for the many Iranian tribes.

D'Artagnan: Searching for the real Musketeer*France**Distributor: TERRANOVA**54 minutes**Producer: GEDEON Programmes*

D'Artagnan, the blazing hero out of Alexandre Dumas' iconic romantic historical drama, "The Three Musketeers," and his world-renowned motto, "All for one and one for all," is widely known. Not as widely known is that, behind this adventurous hero from late 19th century popular literature, hides a real-life character: Charles de Batz de Castelmore. As a tribute to Dumas—who died 150 years ago—this film confronts fiction and history by revealing the prolific life of this impetuous Gascon, whose adventures inspired the legend of cloak and sword.

Daughters of Courage*Brazil**Distributor: Usina da I**20 minutes**Producer: Rita de Cácia, Oenning da Silva, Kurt Shaw*

When their village is threatened by an outsider, three girls, inspired by an elderly shaman, imagine a way to protect their jungle, their village, and their future. This is the world's first fictional Tukano-language film. Highlighting the importance of community, this film's beautiful cinematography immerses you into the Amazon, as well as into the hearts of its people. Made together with the Tukano and Desana peoples in the Amazonian village of Balaio, "Wuitina Numiá" or "Daughters of Courage" presents indigenous people as they wish to be seen—and as cinema has seldom presented them before.

Death Rides on Every Passing Breeze: A Ground Penetrating Radar Survey of Wesley United Methodist Church*Distributor: George Wingard/Savannah River Archaeological Research program**USA**Producer: George Wingard**19 minutes*

This film recounts the history of Wesley United Methodist Church in Beaufort, South Carolina, and the research conducted to better understand the 200 year old church cemetery using ground penetrating radar.

The Desert

Distributor: Carl-Emmanuel Blanchet

Canada

Producer: Frédérique Laliberté & Sarah L'Hérault

22 minutes

A mysterious artwork speaking with a German accent re-examines its own existence after being abandoned by its makers in the Sahara Desert. In the process, this film touches on the greatest secrets about objects, mirages and the outskirts of reality.

Dream

Distributor: Majid Sabri

Iran

Producer: Majid Sabri

4 minutes

This 3D animated short film from Iran features dazzling colors, but it's story is filled with undertones of delusion and denial.

flown

Distributor: Hossein Hadinezhad

Iran

Producer: Hossein Hadinezhad

8 minutes

This film, called "flown," is the narration of a day in the life of a lonely man. Searching for his identity in the midst of monotony, he encounters a great obstacle called "media."

Front Window

Distributor: Javid Farahani

Iran

Producer: Javid Farahani

3 minutes

A man looks at others with a camera, invading their privacy. Along the way, he encounters another person who sees what he is doing. This film is based on the Marxist theory of Louis Althusser and the developmental "mirror stage" psychoanalytic proposal of Jacques Lacan.

Ganj Dareh

Distributor: Documentary & Experimental Film Center (DEFC)

Iran

Producer: Keyvan Tabatabaie Samimi

38 minutes

A few years ago, a group of Danish archaeologists came to Iran to work with their Iranian colleagues for the first time on one of the most famous and important prehistoric sites in the Middle East, called "Ganj Dareh," which exemplifies the beginnings of agriculture. This documentary, "Ganj Dareh," describes this international archaeological collaboration to discover and understand the secrets and mysteries of a key event in the history of human life.

Haenyeo

Distributor: Ralph Vituccio

USA

Producer: Ralph Vituccio

28 minutes

This short documentary follows the Haenyeo, an ancient profession of women free-divers from an island off the coast of South Korea, as they dive for valuable shellfish. About 80 percent of the dwindling Haenyeo practitioners today are over the age of 60. Within 15-20 years from now, the Haenyeo will have disappeared.

The Healer and The Psychiatrist

Distributor: Documentary Educational Resources

USA

Producer: Mike Poltorak

74 minutes

On the South Pacific Island group of Vava'u, the traditional healer Emeline Lolohea treats people affected by spirits. One day away by ferry, the only Tongan Psychiatrist, Dr. Mapa Puloka, has established a psychiatry practice well known across the region. Although the two healers have never met in person, this film creates a dialogue between them on the nature of mental illness and spiritual affliction —and the shared obstacles they face in providing their services to the people in need.

Here We Start Painting with Stone

Distributor: Massimo D'Alessandro

Italy

Producer: A.S.S.O. Onlus

28 minutes

In Ostia Antica, the imperial Roman port of Claudius and Trajan, archaeologists work to recover an important archaeological asset: a bathhouse mosaic floor.

ICON: Memoirs of a Master Craftsman

Distributor: Kala Shreen

India

Producer: Kala Shreen

48 minutes

This film chronicles the dynamic life of indigenous artifacts of south India through the memories and stories of a master craftsman. He carries forward the legacy that was bequeathed to him as a 6th-generation artisan hailing from a long lineage of distinguished craftsmen. Guided by his inner vision and revelations, images from his creative consciousness are translated into materiality through hand craftsmanship.

Identibye

Distributor: Sajjad Shahhatami

Iran

Producer: Behrooz Bashemian & Mohammad Narimani

15 minutes

This drama narrates the life of a person who is experiencing the most critical situation in his relationship, and who has to make only one choice.

Ixch'umil

Distributor: Miguel Ajcot

Guatemala

Producer: Miguel Ajcot

13 minutes

Ixch'umil is a 10-year-old Maya girl who goes on a trip with her mother from Guatemala City to her home town. They visit her grandmother, who is sick. Ixch'umil is about to discover the connection to her cultural roots through the teachings of her grandmother.

Kasongo (Im)Material

Distributor: Dinnie Martin

Belgium

Producer: Noemie Arazi

39 minutes

This documentary explores the forgotten history of the Swahili-Arab in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Their trajectory from oppressors to oppressed along with the local adoption of their culture and language mirror the tensions and ambivalence of history. Interweaving scenes from excavations with archival material and contemporary recordings, an archaeologist and a photographer engage with the affective impact of that which persists from the past into the present.

Kythnos Ancestral Memories: Traditional practices throughout history

Distributor: Yiannis Spiliopoulos

Greece

Producer: Yiannis Spiliopoulos

55 minutes

This documentary tells the story of the Greek island of Kythnos in the Aegean Sea. From ancient times until today it shows the traditional practices of the inhabitants for the production of the main agricultural products of the island.

Life is a Very Strange Thing

Distributor: Documentary Educational Resources

Papua New Guinea

Producers: Les McLaren & Annie Stiven

78 minutes

Life Is a Very Strange Thing is an intriguing mosaic of post-colonial France revealed through four generations of a remarkable French family.

The Life of an Artifact

Distributor: George Wingard/Savannah River Archaeological Research program

USA

Producer: George Wingard

10 minutes

This short film discusses an innocuous artifact—a small bottle—and its course through discovery, analysis, and its use as a tool in public education.

Lost Cities of the Trojans

Distributor: ITV

France

Producer: Fabrice Frank

84 minutes

In the infamous tale of Homer, the beautiful Helen is abducted by Pâris, prince of Troy, triggering the great furor of her husband Menelaus, who besieges Troy. The city holds for ten years before surrendering to the subterfuge of Ulysses—the Trojan Horse—but haunting questions remain. Where did the Trojan War take place? Who were the Trojans? Why did the Greeks fight them? What happened to the survivors? Today, historians and archaeologists are looking for new evidence.

Man Creates Man

Distributor: Katerina Bolmati

Greece

Producer: Yiotis Vrantzas

7 minutes

This short film, Man Creates Man, was inspired from the clay model of a house with nine human figurines found inside it and dated to 5500 BC. The film aims to shed light on aspects of the social organization and ideology of the Neolithic farmers of Thessaly.

Mermaid

Distributor: Saber Mostafapour

Iran

Producer: Saber Mostafapour

14 minutes

In this Iranian drama, Milad, who identifies as a woman, abandons her home and school in order to preserve her identity. Three classmates, who notice her absence, come to find her.

Modammareh

Distributor: Premiere Film

Iran

Producers: Hassan Kolabadi & Khadijeh Neisi

47 minutes

This Iranian film tells the story of Arab families who, in the midst of fire and smoke and with the start of the Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988), were forced to leave their homes and travel more than 2,800 kilometers to the heart of Mashhad.

Mundo

Distributor: Documentary Educational Resources

USA

Producer: Ana Edwards

19 minutes

The film, Mundo, explores the widespread phenomenon of evangelical conversion among indigenous peoples in South America through the case of Matilde, an elderly Aymara woman who raises cattle on the border between Chile and Bolivia. The film delicately shows how, for her, the sacred land is becoming an evil place and how the sky is filling up with a new presence. One world is eclipsing to make room for another.

The Mysteries of the Bayeux Tapestry

France

Distributor: Louis Bernard

90 minutes

Producer: Antoine Bamas

The Bayeux Tapestry, still preserved in Normandy, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This immense embroidery, nearly 70 meters long, recounts the invasion of England in 1066 by William the Conqueror, Duke of Normandy. The film recounts an unparalleled odyssey through a period of major upheavals in history: that of the early Middle Ages and the advent of the feudal system in Europe, which marked the end of the Age of Vikings. With its multitude of characters, boats, horses, and monuments, the embroidery amounts to an exceptional archive of remote times.

National Archaeological Museum of Naples: Treasury of Civilization

Italy

Distributor: Rai Radiotelevisione Italiana

52 minutes

Producer: Tg2

Viewers of this film will enjoy a unique experience through the exploration of art masterpieces and archaeological sites in the most important treasury of Classical Western archaeology. The myths of Ancient Greece re-emerge in the national Archaeological Museum of Naples. Previously unseen finds and epochal restorations take us back to daily life in Pompeii and Herculaneum. Long-awaited exhibitions, ancient mosaics and stunning art works illustrate central episodes in the course of Western Civilization and offer a unique key for interpreting our present time. A journey traveling between past and present customs and traditions encourages the viewer to reflect on where we stand in the pages of history.

Numidian Cavalryman

Distributor: Corrado Re

Italy

Producer: Jefferson Elliott

11 minutes

Who were the Numidian horsemen? How did they fight? How did their riding technique work? We try to answer these and other questions with the help of literary and archaeological sources.

The Oath of Cyriac

Distributor: La Caixa de la Llum Produccions

Andorra

73 minutes

Producer: Olivier Bourgeois, Franck Meyer, Houmam Saad

As the war rages around them, a small group of archaeologists, museum curators and attendants struggles to preserve the monumental collections of antiquities at the Aleppo National Museum during the Syrian civil war. For years, these men and women bid farewell to their families every morning before heading to the Museum under a hail of shells, facing sniper fire, often sleeping on the grounds of the Museum for several days, in order to accomplish their mission. Without electricity, without water, without means, they empty the showcases, pack antiquities with pieces of clothing and protect them in makeshift boxes, and build concrete walls to hide ancient statues from looters. In this race against time, nothing is guaranteed, nothing is certain. Then they escape from the city with their precious cargo. The only certainty lies in one fact: if the Museum's collections are lost, a whole part of human history will disappear with them.

Occupying the Megalopolis

Distributor: Jefferson Elliott

USA

Producer: RPS Media

105 minutes

Occupying the Megalopolis explores the use of public spaces in a mega-city. Fine Artists, political protesters, immigrant squatters, and many more band together against commercial interests and the state to defend their ancestral right to collectively take back public space in Mexico City.

Our Remains

Distributor: Pierrick Chilloux

France

Producer: Université Lumière Lyon 2

24 minutes

Emma, an archaeo-anthropologist, questions the different possible destinations of the human remains she exhumes, according to scientific and ethical expectations.

Parizad

Distributor: Mehdi Imani Shahmiri

Iran

24 minutes

Producer: Mehdi Imani Shahmiri

Parizad has a narrative and poetic look at one of the handicrafts of Chashm Village in northern Iran. The film is about Aunt Keshvar, a woman who weaves geleej while living alone in the village. Geleej is a type of kilim, a hand-woven carpet that is made only in Chashm. Aunt Keshvar believes that geleej is something extremely ancient and that a mythical and very beautiful fairy, Parizad, who lived alone in a cave near her village, taught it to the villagers. Aunt Keshvar relates legends about her homeland and shares information about the role of geleej in the daily life of the villagers.

Pilgrimage to Magdalena

Distributor: Sara Martin

USA

Producer: Jerry P. Haas

29 minutes

Every year, thousands of people journey from their homes in Arizona and Mexico to Magdalena de Kino in Sonora, Mexico, mostly on foot or on horseback. This cultural phenomenon extends over three centuries and represents a tradition that predates modern political boundaries. Our story is about that journey, told by anthropologists, historians and everyday people.

The Pillar of Strength

Distributor: AJAX FILMS

Malaysia

Producer: Ayie Ibrahim & Suriya Samsudin

8 minutes

When human beings value the life of nature, respecting and learning from it, the relationship between humans and nature can be strengthened. "The Pillar of Strength" is a wonderful animated story that touches on topics regarding family, natural relations and human identity while displaying the patterns and culture of life in Borneo. In a tale that highlights a conflict in family relationships, an Iban hero named Kanang and his 10-year-old son, Rentap, have a dispute. Kanang feels that his son is too playful and does not respect the local culture and customs. In contrast, Rentap feels that his father is too strict. One day, they go out hunting, and, unfortunately, get into trouble.

The Place in Middle --- Tjuvecekadan

Distributor: Wen bin Don

Taiwan

Producer: Wen bin Don

55 minutes

A business woman living in the UK moves back to Taiwan to live in the Indigenous tribal village she grew up in, one of the best preserved in all Taiwan. She organizes a slate slab house restoration project with other young people. As she is the daughter of the chief, the people of her village are against her leadership. Can this young woman who rebelled against orthodoxy, and even broke taboo by marrying an outsider, really be their next leader?

The Quarry

Distributor: Stuart Cohen

Australia

Producer: Stuart Cohen

12 minutes

The discovery of a highly significant First Nations ax quarry on a 1,100 hectare sheep farm called "Millpost" near the small town of Bungendore in southern NSW, Australia, leads to an important collaboration between the non-Indigenous landholders and the local First Nations communities and finally a decision to have the site formally declared an Aboriginal Place by the State Government.

Raymond Lewis: L.A. Legend

USA

Distributor: Dean Prator & Ryan Polomski

83 minutes

Producers: Dean Prator & Ryan Polomski

This is the true story of the mythical basketball legend from Watts, California, who many say was blackballed from the NBA as a rookie in the early 1970s following an ugly contract dispute with the Philadelphia 76ers. The film features exclusively uncovered archival footage dating back over 50 years, along with a deep array of over 45 raw and candid interviews that tell the incredibly heartbreaking tale of a once-in-a-generation talent who was shunned by a game he was destined to dominate. The film takes the viewer on an emotional ride through one of the sport's most incredible personal journeys of all time. Steeped in the unique history and imagery of south-central Los Angeles and the tumultuous civil rights movement of the late 60s and early 70s, this story offers a unique reflection on the racial justice movement happening today in sports and in American society.

Roman Engineering: Mining

Spain

Distributor: Charo Penedo — Surreal TV

59 minutes

Producer: José Antonio Muñoz, José Antonio Sánchez De

Ancient Rome had a huge appetite for all types of metal and mineral products, including iron, lead, stone, marble, cinnabar, silver, tin, copper, gold, and precious stones. This exorbitant demand required that Roman mining operations reach a scale unimaginable before that time. Until recently, not much was known about ancient mining practices. Fortunately, due to exceptional and important advances in archaeology, new information offers us an insight into Roman mining that we never imagined. Viewers will be amazed at the enormous variety of minerals and the uses made of them in Roman society.

Roman Engineering: Roads, The Neural Network of the Empire

Spain

Distributor: Charo Penedo — Surreal TV

55 minutes

Producer: José Antonio Muñoz, José Antonio Sánchez De León

Engineered roads did not exist before the rise of the first civilizations and great states. The Roman Empire's rapid expansion and growth made roads more necessary for Rome than for any state that had come before it. The stereotypical, rough and inefficient road that comes first to mind does not reflect the reality of these roads. The engineering techniques used by the Romans required a great deal of preparatory work, including choosing routes, adapting terrain, spreading gravel, draining and channeling water, building bridges, and drilling through mountains. Because of the efficiency of these roads, high-volume trade became possible. This interconnected network reached a magnitude unprecedented in the history of humanity.

Sami

Iran

Distributor: Habib Bavi Sajed

75 minutes

Producer: Habib Bavi Sajed & Meghdad Torfeh

Thirty years after the end of the Iran-Iraq war, Sami, who is burdened by the death of his wife from a land mine, is still struggling to de-mine his mine-polluted land.

Seleucus I Nikator: From Europos to the Hellenistic World

Greece

Distributor: Katerina Bolmati

12 minutes

Producer: Yiotis Vrantzas

Seleucus I Nikator is a short animated documentary based on the personality of Seleucus I Nikator, one of the successors of Alexander the Great and founder of the legendary dynasty of the Seleucids. This film is a production of the Ephorate of Antiquities of Kilkis in collaboration with Macine Motion Pictures Productions, funded by the Greek Ministry of Culture and Sports.

Sentience

Distributor: Elliot Spencer

Australia

Producer: Elliot Spencer

9 minutes

Sentience shows us the remarkable influence technology has on the Chinese people. Today, China dominates Asia's tech space. Its mass production of iPhones, and first-ever virtual reality theme park, have made it a significant player in one of the continent's most lucrative markets. The result is a populace who never travels without their devices and feel every excursion must be documented.

Sewu Temple and the Tale of a Thousand Temples

Distributor: Montase productions

Indonesia

Producer: Mohammad Mozafari

30 minutes

This documentary film describes the history of the construction, restoration, building characteristics, and the development of the Sewu Temple Area which is part of the World Cultural Heritage Area, the Prambanan Area of Indonesia.

The Shaker Swamp

Distributor: Theodore W Timreck

USA

Producer: Theodore W Timreck

12 minutes

This film tells the story of the first pharmaceutical factory in the United States, built on the environment and traditions of the Native American peoples in the Lebanon Valley of New York State.

Songs of the Water Spirits

Distributor: FILIGRANO WA

Italy

101 minutes

Producer: Nicolò Bongiorno

Ladakh in northern India is a region that is facing a deeply rooted process of transformation and cultural regeneration, constantly pitting its identity as a land of arcane and mystical traditions against uncontrolled development that is destructive for the environment and alienating to its inhabitants. However, brave and visionary minds are working to overcome this conflict by proposing a virtuous mediation: preserving their traditional identity without withdrawing into a shell, giving value to the incentives of a modernity that does not imply a cultural mutation. Can Westerners learn from this social, economical and cultural lab that is today's Ladakh?

The Still Sound

Distributor: Innokino MediaLab

Italy

Producer: Alberto Gambato

4 minutes

This short and innovative film reconstructs the real, imaginary and sometimes even melancholy Italian city of Rovigo, a much longer-lived scenography than any individual human being. Buildings, monuments, their details, and streets take on another form for a few minutes, exploring the intimate vitality of their sounds to tell a new and magnificent story that is also ours, but above all it's theirs. They are all magnificent and silent sources of sounds, totally belonging to this city.

Story of a Wreck

Producer: Silvia Jiménez Gil

Spain

Producer: Silvia Jiménez Gil

13 minutes

The Umbría is undoubtedly a dream for all diving and wreck enthusiasts. Its size, its accessibility, the historical value of its cargo, its outstanding state of conservation, and the explosion of life inside it make this one of the best wrecks in the world to explore. As we go through every last one of its holds, we discover the singular story hidden behind its sinking.

Synthesis

Distributor: Mohammad Towrivarian

Iran

Producer: Mohammad Towrivarian

14 minutes

In this Iranian drama, a poor family has a child with a disability. Due to his inability to pay for medical expenses, the father and his brother decide to kill his child.

The Trace of Time

Distributor: Maria Gentekou

Greece

97 minutes

Producer: Maria Gentekou, Dionysia Kopana, Greek Film Centre

This is a film about time, memory and nostalgia. Highlighting the beauty of archaeology and excavation through a biographical portrait of late archaeologist Yannis Sakellarakis, ideas about the nature of time, as well as our place in it, inspire deep introspection. This journey in search of a man who is no longer present utilizes the traces he left in the places he has been to, as well as the people he met, in order to gain an understanding. The viewer will witness a cinematic excavation that brings to light an image through fragments and traces, just as archaeology does.

The Trojan Horse: On the Trail of a Myth

Distributor: ZDF Enterprises GmbH

Germany

50 minutes

Producer: Stefan Schneider—Gruppe 5 for ZDF in association with Arte and ZDF

A gigantic wooden horse is loaded with Greek soldiers and presented to the Trojans as a gift. Unsuspecting, they swallow the bait and pull the horse into the city. Under cover of darkness the Greeks slip out of the horse and open the gates to their comrades. Only hours later the mighty Troy goes up in flames. But what if the myth of the horse is not true at all? New, groundbreaking findings show that one of the most famous stories of all time will probably have to be rewritten. The Trojan horse was probably not a horse at all. But then how did the Greeks outwit their enemies? And what history will we find in the history books in the future?

Two Poets and a River

Distributor: *Sinisa Kesar*

USA

Producer: *Sinisa Kesar*

124 minutes

Using as a topos the Amu Darya River, which rises in the Pamir Mountains of Central Asia, this film explores themes of love and loss through the lives and musical poetry of the two most prominent and innovative Wakhi musicians in Central and South Asia: Qurbonsho in Tajikistan and Daulatsho in Afghanistan.

The Unique Principality in the Balkans

Distributor: *Sinisa Kesar*

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Producer: *Sinisa Kesar*

27 minutes

This is a story about the unique principality in this region named Gornja Dragotinja. The film is pervaded by interesting historical facts told by renowned experts and useful for an ordinary viewer to extend his or her knowledge. Humorous scenes give one the sensation of satisfaction after watching the film.

Vallus: The Teeth of the Earth

Distributor: *Malagne, archéoparc de Rochefort*

Belgium

Producer: *Françoise Fontaine*

24 minutes

The Gallo-Roman reaper, or vallus, is an amazing agricultural instrument that has been reconstructed and tested for over 20 years at the archaeological site of Malagne, the Archaeopark of Rochefort, Belgium. Requiring the use of a draught animal—which is a donkey in this project—the maneuver needs technical know-how acquired during many years of experimentation on the field. The vallus is a source of fascination for the public, but this mower has not finished revealing all its secrets.

Vučedol Partridge

Distributor: *Design Studio D*

Croatia

Producer: *Darko Puharić*

49 minutes

This film describes the Vučedol culture of the southern Pannonian Basin. This climatically ideal area on the 45th parallel, with an annual abundance of sunshine, is located on the richest land for agriculture and livestock in southeastern Europe. Vučedol is separated from previous cultures by a great technological leap in metallurgy. The first mass production of metals, the first saws and the world's first true bronze all came about in Vučedol settlements.

The West Indies Fleet

Distributor: *Carlos Sevillano*

Spain

Producer: *Valerie Delpierre*

67 minutes

The discovery of America influenced those two continents that had remained separate. Their connection was through the West Indies Fleet, one of the most successful naval systems in history. With its constant navigation for more than two centuries, this conduit of commerce would end up transforming the New World and initiating the process of globalization.

What if Babel was just a Myth?

Distributor: AndanaFilms

France

Producer: Sandrine Loncke

55 minutes

Following Florian Lionnet, a young researcher documenting a language isolate in southern Chad, this film goes out to meet villagers and explore their relation to languages. With their testimonies, one discovers a deeply multilingual humanity, made up of myriad societies, each endlessly using language to encode its knowledge, its culture, and much more: its entire worldview. Could it be that multilingualism is the “natural” state of humanity? And for how much longer?

Who wrote the Bible? Revelations about one of the Greatest Mysteries in History

Distributor: Grand Angle distribution

France

Producer: Tournez S'il Vous Plaît

53 minutes

It is called the Book of Books. The Bible is the greatest bestseller of all time and the most widely read and reproduced book in the world. However, its first and larger part, the Old Testament, pillar of three monotheistic religions, has one peculiarity: we do not know the authors! When was the Bible written? By whom? In what circumstances? With what objective? These questions remained unanswered for a long time, but since the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947, the in-depth study of the texts, and the progress of science and recent archaeological discoveries, the veil on one of the greatest historical mysteries is gradually being lifted. In this fascinating archaeological and scientific investigation, we set out to meet the most eminent specialists on the Bible to try to answer this great question: who wrote the Bible?

William Waldren, The Alchemist's Footprint

Spain

Distributor: La Perifèrica produccions sl

68 minutes

Producer: Núria Cano

William Waldren (1924-2003) was a multifaceted, restless, charismatic, and controversial artist who arrived on Mallorca in 1953. A pioneer, self-taught in the archaeology and prehistory of the Balearic Islands, he excavated the sites of Muleta, where he found more than a thousand specimens of the now extinct Balearic Islands cave goat, and Son Matge, one of the oldest examples of human settlement in the Balearic Islands. He applied the Carbon-14 dating method here for the first time. As the epicenter of the cultural movement in the expatriate-friendly village of Deià since the late 1950s, he was a painter, sculptor, artistic designer, and a lover of his host land and its people. This true entrepreneur, over time, managed to become a benchmark in the world of archaeology.

A Year In The Field

Distributor: Documentary Educational Resources

USA

Producers: George Gmelch & Dennis Lanson

33 minutes

A Year in the Field shows, through the experiences of a young Estonian anthropologist in a Newfoundland fishing village, how cultural anthropologists carry out ethnographic field research, or “fieldwork.” This methodology, particularly “participant observation,” more than any other attribute gives cultural anthropology its unique identity.