

CATALOGUE OF PROJECTS



sd cinematografica

worldwide distribution

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OUR HISTORY

SD CINEMATOGRAFICA was formed in 1961 as a production company. Since its founding, the company has produced Films, Variety Programmes, and Science and Cultural documentaries for the Italian public broadcaster RAI and other leading international television companies. In recent years the company has focused on wildlife, Science and History documentaries with such success that it now counts National Geographic Channels, Discovery Channels, TF1, ARTE, NHK, TSR, ARD/BR, PBS and ZDF, as well as RAI and Mediaset, among its clients. Many SD documentaries have won major international prizes at the world's leading festivals, including Academy Award, Emmy and Banff nominations. Today SD Cinematografica has over 800 hours of programming to its name.

OUR PROJECTS

Documentaries are our lifeblood.

We invest a significant amount of our annual budget in developing documentary projects of worldwide appeal.

In recent years we have developed international co-productions with prestigious partners such as: National Geographic, PBS, ZDF, ARD, ARTE, RAI and Mediaset.

Our documentary "Flying over Everest" had a budget of over €500,000, and was awarded 18 international prizes.

Our documentary "The Sinking of the Andrea Doria" was nominated for an Emmy award.

Our three main production areas are: Nature, History and Science.

For more information and to pitch your project, please write to submission@sdcinematografica.it

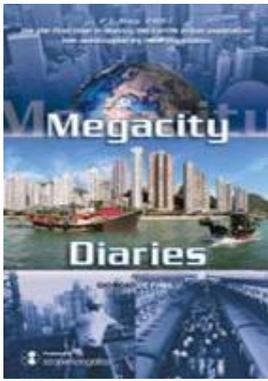


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ADVENTURE / TRAVEL





Megacity Diaries

Directed by: Giorgio de Finis

Produced by: SD Cinematografica

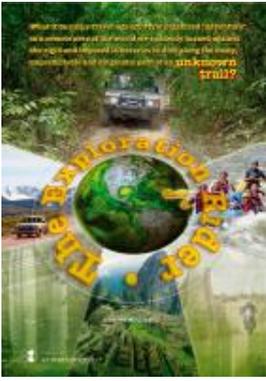
Duration: 40x52'

Versions:  

Format: HD

'For the first time in history urban populations are larger than rural ones'. A journey to discover the planet's largest cities - megacities and megalopoli with over 20 million inhabitants - that continue to grow incessantly. A challenge that Italian anthropologist, director and photographer Giorgio de Finis will set out on alone, equipped with his camera, in search of the sensational, unique images that capture the spirit of a place. Having spent years investigating cities and contemporary architecture, de Finis's journey will bring him into contact with writers, artists, and architects, as well as ordinary people, in search of clues, new avenues to explore, and unusual ways of looking at these immense, man-made concrete and steel labyrinths.





The exploration rider

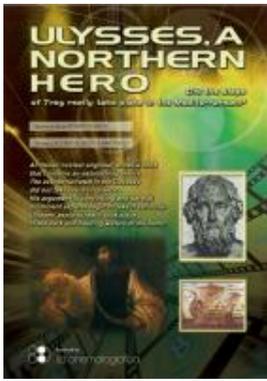
Directed by: Giuseppe Bucciarelli
Produced by: SD Cinematografica
Duration: 6x52'
Versions:  
Format: HDCam + HDV

"Man's real home is not a house.... but the Road" Bruce Chatwin What if during an organised adventure we suddenly decided to dive along the dusty path of an unknown trail? What if our legs and a dugout canoe were the only means of transport? What if the only available food had more than a hundred little legs and crawled happily inside rotten tree trunks? What if the only way to survive was trusting people we'd just met along barely mapped rivers? And once the barriers of the unknown had been crossed, what if our path merged into a treasure chest of hidden stories capable of unveiling the soul of a forgotten region through the adventures and the dreams of the people actually living in the heart of a remote ecosystem? Well, the commonplace would fall to pieces, the forest would slowly close its canopy upon us and the real exploration would start... As a matter of fact, what is concealed beyond the curtain of stereotype covering the destination of our dreams? What do engaging travel-agency-style pictures omit? What does the soul of a forest, the mystery of a desert, the purity of an ocean hide?



HISTORY



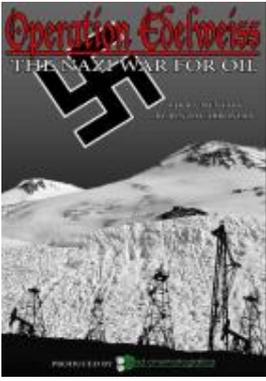


Ulysses, a northern hero

Directed by: Riccardo de Sanctis & Fabio Toncelli
Produced by: SD Cinematografica
Duration: 52'
Versions:   
Format: HD

An Italian nuclear scientist has irrefutably demonstrated that Homer's saga of Ulysses and the Trojan War did not take place in the Mediterranean but in the Baltic sea. One of Italy's top universities is beginning a multi-disciplinary study to test the theory. It may seem incredible, but if one analyses the Iliad and the Odyssey from a scientific point of view, it proves, amazingly, to be true. This documentary will unveil many of the unresolved mysteries from Homer and ancient history. The most important of these is a dilemma which still puzzles both historians and ordinary people: where is Troy? Is the city discovered by Schliemann the one that Homer described?





Operation Edelweiss: the Nazi war for oil

Directed by: Renzo Carbonera
Produced by: SD Cinematografica
Duration: 52'
Versions:  
Format: HD

During the last century oil became increasingly determinant, it first influenced and then ruled the destiny of wars, diplomacy, politics and of course economy. By World War II it became a crucial issue as the Nazi tanks and planes, the U-boats and ships, especially Hitler's Wunderwaffen like the V1 and V2 rockets or Messerschmitt jet planes, all needed huge amounts of oil to do their job. And Germany didn't have these resources. Therefore, in 1942 the Wehrmacht started an operation in order to conquer the richest Soviet oil reserves: the fields of Grozny and Baku. The 49th Mountain Corps was engaged in a battle, which remained in the myth as one of the toughest and unknown challenges of the whole war: the operation Edelweiss.





THE ROADS OF TIME

Directed by: Daniele Cini
Produced by: SD Cinematografica
Duration: 5 x 52 Min
Versions:  
Format: HD

Since the dawn of humanity, men have traced their paths: paths made by their footsteps, by their animals, roads rutted with the wheels of their chariots. But only the ancient Romans built eighty thousand kilometres of roads that radiate out to the whole of Europe: roads for eternity. Like the Salaria, the old salt road, along which antiquity's most valuable mineral was carried by mule. Or the Appia, the first real consular road, built after bloody wars with neighbouring peoples in order to consolidate Roman rule in the south of the peninsula. This military road was constructed by the blind censor Appius Claudius, who examined the paving stone by stone, with his bare feet. Or the Aurelia and the Tiburtina, roads created to facilitate the transhumance of flocks. Or the Cassia, which in the Middle Ages became part of the Via Francigena for pilgrims heading to the great shrines of Europe. The centuries pass and these ancient paths become controlled by brigands. But the roads resist and are still here: the roads of time.



- Episodes:**
- Via Salaria, the Salt Road
 - Via Appia, Regina Viarum, Queen of Roads
 - Via Aurelia, the Etruscan road
 - Via Tiburtina, the transhumance road
 - Via Cassia and Via Flaminia, the roads to Europe

Episodes



Via Salaria, the Salt Road

The Salt Road, with the precious mineral loaded on mules and carts from the port of Ostia to the Forum Boarium at the dawn of the first millennium BC, even before the founding of Rome. From the Ponte del Diavolo, or Devil's Bridge, the site of the legendary battle between the consul Titus Manlius Torquatus and a mighty Gallic warrior, to the stratification work (hence the word strada) clearly visible at Radicara near Città Ducale, from the Cotilia terme near Rieti, the Salaria is studded with remains, milestones, mansiones and villas that recount an entire millennium of Roman history. Like the reclamation of the Velino plain by the Consul Curius Dentatus, who cut into the rock and created the Marmore Falls. Finally the great imperial projects, first under Augustus and later Nerva (1st century AD) that extended the road to the shores of the Adriatic through the narrow gorges of the upper valley of the Velino, as in the Masso dell'Orso, near the village of Posta, before descending to the Tronto valley and on to Ascoli. The route is studded with the catacombs of Christian martyrs (beginning with that of Priscilla in Rome) - the most famous being St. Barbara, who was killed by her own father in Scandriglia - as well as the houses of patricians and emperors (like those of Titus and Vespasian), Lombard garrisons and sanctuaries such as the Farfa Abbey, where Charlemagne stayed and which was later razed to the ground by the Saracens, or the Abbey of San Quirico and Giuditta near Antrodoco. This is the Salt Road, which continued to be used throughout the Middle Ages.



Via Appia, Regina Viarum, Queen of Roads

In 312 BC the Censor Appius Claudius the Blind argued strongly for the construction of a new road to connect Rome to the city seized from the Samnites. It was not to be a simple track, but a carefully organized structure, both solid and efficient. Legend has it that the censor (who was blind by nature as well as by name) went in person to assess the progress of the project, walking on the paving in his bare feet to check that there were no perceptible joins between one basalt slab and another. 120 years later, the Appian Way would reach as far as Brindisi, opening the doors to the East. By then it was considered the Regina Viarum the "Queen of Roads".



Via Aurelia, the Etruscan road

The original route of the Via Aurelia linked the city of Rome to Cerveteri, but after conquering the Etruscan city the Romans extended the road to connect it to the new colonies of Alsium, Cosa, Castrum Novum and Pyrgi. Later it was extended as far as Genoa (109 BC), allowing rapid access to the Ligurian sector from the Tyrrhenian coast. It is said that the road is named after 241 BC censor, Caius Aurelius Cotta. In imperial times the road reached as far as Arles in France.



Via Tiburtina, the transhumance road

The Via Tiburtina was one of the Roman consular roads and connected Rome to Tibur (Tivoli). It was built by the consul Marcus Valerius Maximus around 286 BC. Originally it was the road used by pilgrims visiting the sanctuaries of Tibur. Later it became the route used by the Roman nobility spending their summers in the delightful villas they had built in the surrounding countryside.



Via Cassia and Via Flaminia, the roads to Europe

Via Flaminia and Via Cassia, both begin at the Milvian Bridge in Rome, the site of Constantine's famous battle against Maxentius, which led to the creation of the Holy Roman Empire. Constantine, who had converted to Christianity, had a dream the night before the battle in which the cross of Jesus appeared, urging him on to victory. The original route of Via Flaminia followed the prehistoric tracks for the transhumance of flocks of sheep along the River Tiber. The road was first constructed in around 220 BC by the consul Caius Flaminius to connect Rome with the Ager Gallicus (now the northern Marche and Romagna), which had become a Roman province after the defeat of the Gauls at the Battle of Sentinum in 295 BC. Via Cassia, on the other hand, is said to have been constructed under the Consul Cassius Longinus in 127 BC to link Rome to Florentia (Florence). It followed an intermediate route between Via Flaminia and Via Aurelia, uniting various pre-existing tracks such as the Via Veientana. In medieval times it became part of the great Via Francigena, which crossed the lands of the Franks, taking pilgrims to the major European shrines of Canterbury and Santiago de Compostela, finally reaching, with the Via Appia, the port of Brindisi, from where the ships departed for the Holy Land.



The world into the abyss: WWI in colour

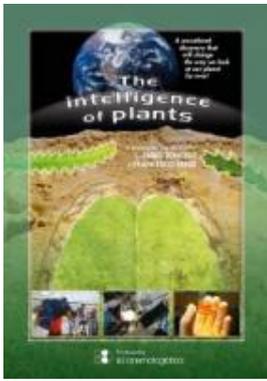
Directed by: Fabio Toncelli
Produced by: SD Cinematografica
Duration: 2 x 52'
Versions:  
Format: HD

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SCIENCE / TECHNOLOGY





The intelligence of plants

Directed by: Fabio Toncelli
Produced by: SD Cinematografica
Duration: 52'
Versions:  
Format: HD

We have always searched for new forms of intelligent life in the universe, driven by the hope of discovering that we are not alone in the apparently infinite time and space of the cosmos. But can we be sure that if this long-awaited encounter ever occurs, we humans will be able to recognise an intelligent life form? The fundamental and rather ironic question is: do we really understand what intelligence is? For the first time, this documentary tells the story of the extraordinary scientific research project that could revolutionise the way we look at the world around us. Perhaps we don't need to explore the far reaches of the galaxy to discover other forms of intelligent life. These "aliens" live in a kind of parallel world. And do you know what the most embarrassing part is? They've been here for quite a while, several millions of years before us! So, what do you say: do you want to meet these beings? Do you want to cross the threshold that separates us from this mysterious dimension? - Ultra-modern microchips capable of revealing the tiniest electrical signals within roots in search of the electroencephalogram of a plant; - Spectacular high altitude parabolic flights on a giant European Space Agency Airbus to study the how plants react to a lack of gravity. - The first moments in the life of a cybernetic "plantoid", an ingenious robot plant designed to colonise space; - The very latest electron microscope used in a "Fantastic Journey" to follow the exchange of chemical substances within plant cells; - The administration of substances active at the human neuron level to test similar reactions in plants; - The proof that plants can do two things that we believed only animals were capable of: remember and rest.



HD





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Duration: 5 x 52 Min
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Duration: 2 x 52'
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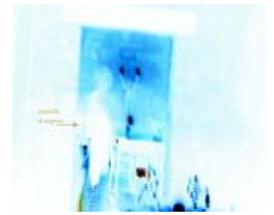




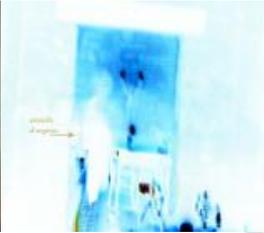
HUNTING FOR GHOSTS

Directed by: Massimiliano Sbrolla
Produced by: SD Cinematografica
Duration: 10 x 25 min.
Versions: 
Format: HD

What can a supermarket cashier, a security guard, a waiter, a web designer, a graduate student in agriculture, a receptionist, a cameraman, and a road sweeper possibly have in common? Eight very different people united by one passion: to investigate paranormal phenomena. The everyday stories of eight young people who live a normal life by day and at night become self-taught “ghostbusters”. The dynamics of the group, the art of getting by with the few available resources, small discoveries and great disappointments, create a cycle of stories and characters outside the usual scheme of things. Their passion for ghosts will surely enthrall the audience. And the results of their more or less accurate research will make us jump out of our chairs... or make us smile.



FACTUAL

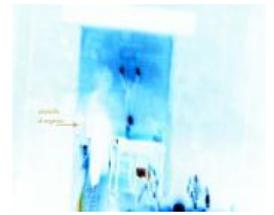




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