

w o m e n

A FILM BY ANASTASIA MIKOVA AND YANN ARTHUS-BERTRAND

RELEASE BE: 11.03.2020

FRANCE /// 104' /// 4K



SYNOPSIS OF THE FILM

WOMEN is a documentary project giving a voice to 2000 women across 40 different countries. Despite its very large scope, the film offers an intimate portrait of these otherwise anonymous half of the human race.

This is an opportunity to shed light on the situations women are subjected to all over the world, but what WOMEN would like to underline most is the major strength of women and their capacity to change the world despite all the difficulties they are facing. In this case we believe women's voices resonate more and more. The aim of the Forum is not only to call for rights or focus on problems, but to find solutions and try to encourage the two genders.

The project study will focus both on individual situations, marriage or financial independence but also on situations of security. Through the film you will discover the stories of women who have never heard them before.

This file, based on first-quarter estimates, puts together hundreds of thousands of responses of very different women, from means of states to beauty queens and the drivers to feminist protesters across concerning a more comprehensive picture of what it means to live a woman's life. Between birthmothers, some reflect on exactly what a woman's identity is by showing other individuals in their daily lives at many different stages throughout a woman's lifetime.

The two questions have also contributed with what the photographer feels length in action scenes such as women's swimming with their own body or with the divers from the Barracuda collective in a theatrical dance illustrating women's strength and beauty in the eye of the boy?

This year, whose proceeds will be donated to the association WOMEN4, and
will possibly bring to the support and commitment of our partners: the
Baudouin Foundation, the CLAUDE AND SOPHIE NABOIS FOUNDATION, the
TOTAL, BOURGEOIS BATIMENT FRANCE GROUP and others as well as the AFD,
the BNP PARIBAS FOUNDATION and CAFOD.

SYNOPSIS

DIRECTORS BRIEF COMMENT ON THE FILM

Some projects just come along. This was the case for WOMAN. As we put our previous film *RE-BIRTH* in 2012/2014, we were profoundly moved by the testimonies of women, although they were often shy or suspicious before each interview, they would let go of everything in front of the camera as if they had been waiting for the moment all their lives. As if the film, it was a question of life or death. Women needed to talk, but above all, they needed to be heard.

Hearing their voices and witnessing their courage, we thought the right moment had come for a film entirely dedicated to women. This is *WOMAN*, a born-free group two years before the Women's film and the rise of the #metoo movement. *WOMAN* is a project that gives a voice to women on an unprecedented scale in order to put together the documentary we conducted 2000 interviews in 80 countries.

It was the women themselves who guided us in what they deemed as really important. They talked about work, education, emancipation or motherhood. But they also talked about very intimate subjects such as their relationship to their bodies or their sex partners. They shared with us funny stories, touching memories, but also terrible ones. In nearly 200 interviews we dug into its intricacies, the intimate person. They needed to confront some of their deepest pain or subjects. They never thought they would be able to talk about that day. And yet they did it.

'What struck us most is the remarkable resilience of women, their ability to stand up against all odds. So it was "In their DNA" as one of them so aptly put it. By trusting us, these women have also given us a great responsibility to ensure that their voices are finally heard, so that tomorrow those who represent half of the humanity will never be seen as "the weaker sex" again.'





WOMEN

DIRECTORS' BIOGRAPHY

ANASTASIA MIKOVA

A Ukrainian film director and journalist whose work has always focused on social and humanist topics.

Among other things, she worked as a journalist for documentaries dealing with issues such as illegal immigration, organ trafficking, or surrogate mothers.

In 2009, she became editor-in-chief of the series of documentaries *Earth from Above*, which marked the beginning of her collaboration with Vittorio Storaro.

Then acting as her director and co-pather, she continued her collaboration with the then Storaro on the documentary film *Humanity*—managed the paternal team and taking himself more than 1000 interviews of the film.

This collaboration is ongoing as the writer-co-directing their new film *WOMEN*.

YANN ARTHUS-BERTRAND

A French photographer, journalist, reporter and environmentalist, he is the President of the GoodPlanet Foundation which he created in 2005.

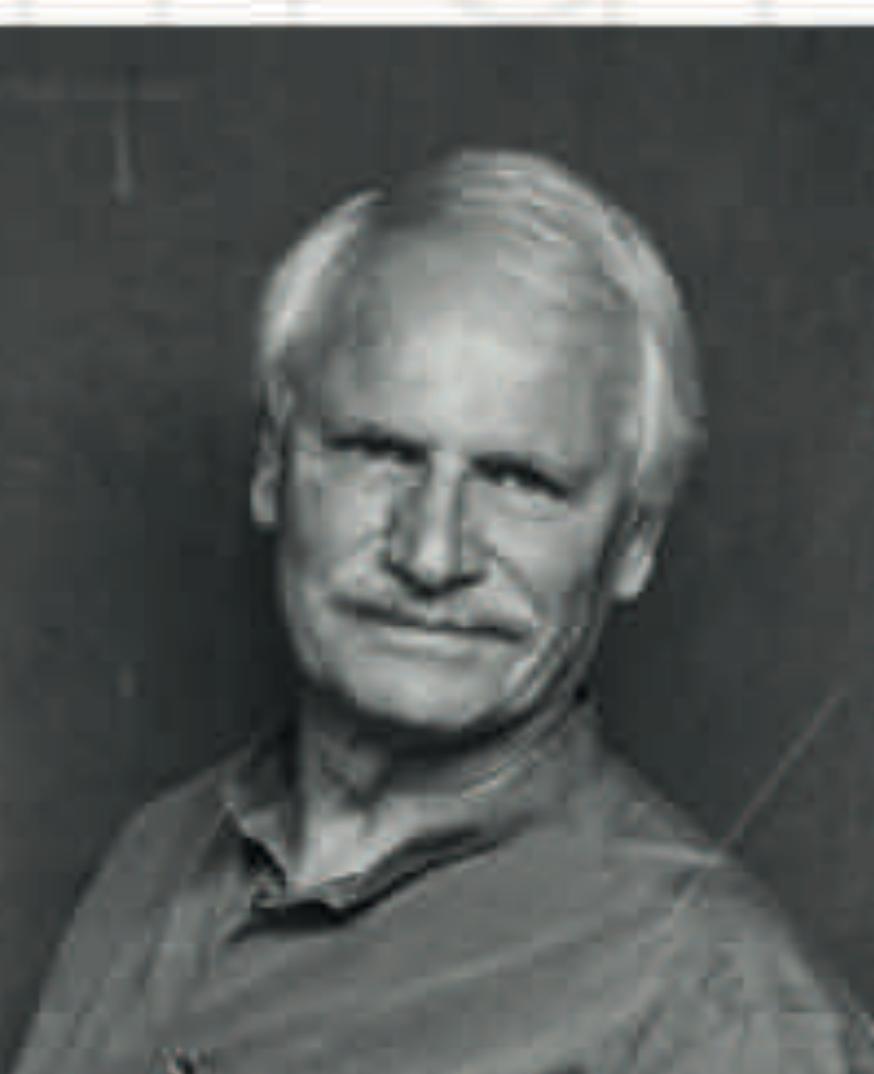
He started his career shooting lions in the Rossi Park in Kenya in the 1980's while studying their behaviour. Upon his return to France, he released his first book *Lions* and created Attache Agency, the world's first press agency and image bank specialising in environmental photography.

In 2001 he carried a thorough study on the state of the Earth sponsored by UNESCO. As part of the study, he made a picture inventory of the world's most beautiful landscapes, taken from hot-air balloons. The book from this project, *Earth from Above* and over 4 million copies sold are translated into 24 languages. Following from this success, he took to the air again and repeated his flight mission, now produced by Icar Reasons: it has now been seen by 400 million people around the globe.

Considered an environmentalist as much as a photographer, he became a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations Environment Programme in 2003. In 2005, he initiated the *One World* exhibition at the United Nations and the Venice Film Festival. At the moment of *Home* and the present *7 billion others*, numerous series of portraits of people of all conditions and backgrounds living in 45 different countries, and aerial images caught throughout the world.

He is currently directing the series of his new film *WORLDS*.

men



2014	Woman	Documentary feature film
2013	Le Planète (The Earth)	The Earth documentary
2012	Terra	TV film
2011	Human	Documentary feature film
2010	La Terre vue du ciel	The Earth from Above documentary
2009	Mediterrée, notre mer à tous	The Mediterranean documentary
2008	Great Ecstasy	Documentary
2007	Planète Océan	Documentary documentary
2005	Fauna and Flora	Documentary about
2004	Parts from Above	The Human documentary
2003	7 billion Others	Documentary
2002	Home	Documentary feature film
2001	Né de l'air	The Earth documentary

PRODUCTION

HOPE PRODUCTION

Hope Production is a production company of documentary and institutional films, created by Yves Arthur-Bertrand and Jean-Prix Robert in September 2008. It produces programs entirely devoted to health, international environmental issues and to the men and women who are committed to such causes.
<http://hopeproduction.com/hope/>

CONTRIBUTORS

PETER LINDBERGH / BODY SCULPTURE

Known for his imperceptible aesthetic images, Peter Lindbergh has emerged as one of the most influential contemporary photographers. Considered a pioneer in photography, he introduced a form of raw realism by redefining the standards of beauty with timeless images. His humanist approach and idealization of women set him apart from the other photographers as he prioritizes the soul and the personality. He gradually changed the standards of fashion photography in terms of aesthetics, introducing something that there is something that makes a human interesting beyond their sex.

BANDALOOP / VERTICAL PERFORMANCE

BANDALOOP explores the human spirit, nature, performance arts through dance that uses climbing technology to expand and challenge what is possible. A pioneer in aerial performance, BANDALOOP expertly weaves dynamic physiognomy and intricate choreography to turn the dance floor on its side. Under the artistic direction of Annette Butzsch, the work, 18 trapezes dance, activate public spaces, and inspire wonder and imagination in audiences around the world. BANDALOOP trains dancers and youth at home and abroad and has performed live for over a million people.



DENIS LAGRANGE // UNDER WATER SEQUENCE

Denis took his first underwater still photography shots, while on holiday with his family in Baaingiroa Atoll, French Polynesia. 20 years later Denis has been credited in major American productions such as Point break, Fifty shades Freed, Dark Tide and in various IMAX movies and TV commercials.

PAUL MIGNOT // HATERHIFI'S SEQUENCE

Paul Mignot is a French director and producer based in Paris. Paul's art and aesthetic style has seen him direct commercials for major brands such as Levi's, Adidas, Mercedes, Armani...

Working increasingly abroad, Paul has moved towards independent and hybrid filmmaking, producing and directing ambitious shorts and features.

He is the co-founder of Frame Doctor a premium postprod platform for creative industries.

ARMAND AHAR // CRITICAL SCORE

French of Moroccan origin born in Toulouse, Armed Ahar spent his childhood in Morocco, trained with the sounds of instruments composed music at the time. He said all that "would spark" early musical life.

Inspired, he set constantly searching for physical experiences, he turned to play boxes, discovered the park and stages, and studied under famous masters of theatrical and classical music.

Armed's discovery of chess in 1979, was another decisive moment, suddenly what had been looking for was right (here in front of him - a direct relationship to music, the power of expression freely. Two decades followed his apprenticeship further his development in Parisian Champs-élysées school and his teaching at the Conservatoire National Supérieur (Higher National Music School). Since then he has worked with several choreographers from different branches of contemporary dance.

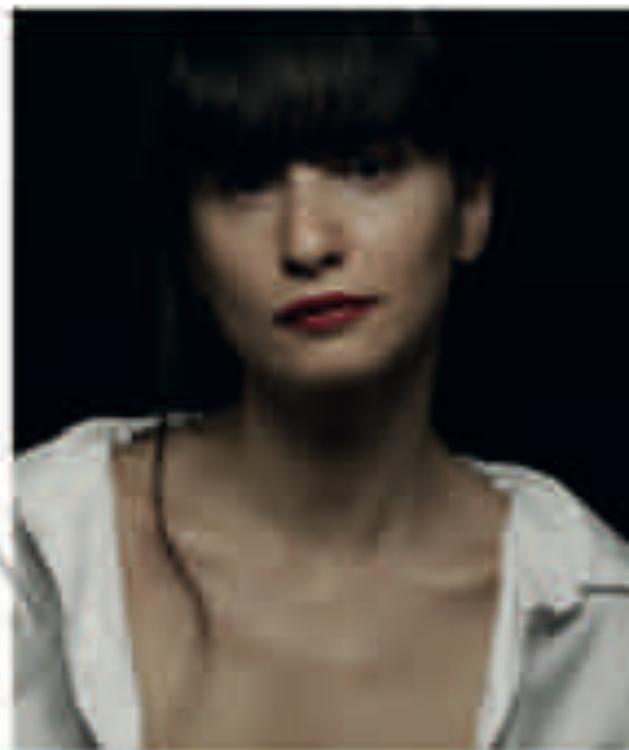
The musical and artistic influences of play chess through 40 yrs film scores, among many others: Eisenstein (1900), and of the following time by Cocteau-Garcia, The Concertmaster of Her Old Bed (Soundtrack of the Year Award 2007), One and Twenty (2008), and other films by Rakh, Inhabitants, Days of Glory (2006) by Rachel Redford, You will be my Sun (2011), by Gates Ledyard, Henry (2008) and Human (2011) by Yann Arthur Bertrand. He composed the score of the Broadway My Sweet Orange Tree by Marcus Bernhart, and the music for the three books and television, too.

He received the Alfred Award/Best soundtrack of the year for the music of the Norwegian director Erik Poppe's movie A Thousand Times Goodnight; he recently wrote the music for Nicolas Vieret's L'Zone Guermes and Gise, in Plante's Rue and the White Line.

In 1994, he founded the record label Long Distance (4 world vinyls); his own work is released through name, Long Distance, Universal, Sony and Warner.

BEING A WOMAN

The Gender question: where did the 'stereos' related to gender representation come from; how do you define what is feminine and what is not; why many women would have preferred to be a man?



LOVE

Universal theme that talks about the complementarity between men and women and what we can share with each other. Beautiful stories of love between opposite sexes or even between the same sex and more specifically testimonies about the essential need, inherent to all of us to be loved.



MOTHERHOOD

How motherhood changes the body/life of a woman; what becoming a mother represents, the moment of delivery told by girls/women around the world; the impact of motherhood on women's life; can one be a fully fulfilled woman without being a mother? But also the need of the society to control women's body dealing with such topics as lack of contraception or abortion.

COUPLE / MARRIAGE

The only institution that crosses all cultures and timelines. Women around the world have told us the day of their marriage; for some the most beautiful moment of their life, for others, the worst. Then they spoke about their place in their marriage, the tasks that accompany their role as married wives. Forced marriage, divorce as a key moment on the path to emancipation in the lives of many women. Then the question of loneliness; many women end up preferring to be alone rather than in a relationship. + The question of child marriage.

BODY AND ITS TABOOS

Periods and sexuality: why do women's bodies have so many taboos and restrictions? Often seen as a burden, an obstacle for many women in the world. Sometimes isolated during the time of their periods, forbidden in places of worship in many countries, the poorest cannot afford the sanitary veil, some do not go to school during their period. Today women are fighting against these taboos + the control of genital mutilation.



WOMEN IN POWER

In order to have a profound change in society, more women need to be represented in key sectors of life and in areas where power is concentrated: more women in politics, but also in decision-making positions in big companies, in the field of science or religion. Women considered as "symbols" tell us about their career and help us understand how they change things at this level.



EMANCIPATION

In some countries being born as a girl is a problem. Limited access to education, unequal remuneration between men and women, from the street to work, women suffer from harassment and all kinds of discrimination. What are the obstacles and keys to women's success? The glass ceiling, invisible work never paid, women most affected by poverty... How can women overcome these problems?



VIOLENCE

One in three women in the world suffer from violence. Domestic violence, harassment at work, on the street, femicide, rape... why? While looking at all these stories, two main axes: domestic violence and rape as a weapon of war will be chosen in the film while other types of violence will be addressed in other parts of the film: incest, forced marriage, genital mutilation...

SEXUALITY

Virginity, free of initiation, orgasm, the discovery of pleasure, orgasm by women and the role of pleasure in their lives. Many funs and unexpected revelations on this issue. A true liberation of women's bodies!

POLITICS

If women want to be part of the change, they need to be active decisions take place. The film will highlight women who have fought for power and have a vision on the world of tomorrow.



WOMAN & THE NGOS

WOMAN(S) OF OUR NGOs

In continuity of the film, director Yann Arthus-Bertrand and Anaisia Wézé will travel the world to meet NGOs - Women On Waves and Hand Eiboghi. The main mission will be to send women and young girls from around the world an encouragingsurrounding message.

Thanks to the film's profits and the support of our partners, they would like to offer women an opportunity to learn the skills of efficient media jobs as they can familiarize themselves the issue of their country and spread it in the name of those who have not been heard.

Thus the message of WOMAN will not go alone and will have a concrete impact on women's lives.

OUR WORK WITH NGOs

In parallel of a movie distribution through movie theaters, we would like to intensively distribute the message of the film via NGOs (especially in countries where a traditional movie in theaters won't be possible). To ensure that the issues they are fighting for are brought to the attention of the broadest possible audience and amplify the message.



CONTACT

sales & bookings:

Katrien Volders

0475-499 838

katrien@akaagency.com

pers/presse:

Thijs Verhaeren

0491-390 957

thijs@akaagency.com

aka
agency

www akaagency.com

0491-390 957





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