

CAVE OF FORGOTTEN DREAMS



A Film by WERNER HERZOG

English Language Version: 90 MINUTES/ USA/ 2010/ ENGLISH/ COLOR/ 3-D/ NOT RATED
International Version: 90 MINUTES/ USA/ 2010/ ENGLISH, FRENCH/ COLOR/ 3-D/ NOT RATED

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SHORT SYNOPSIS

Werner Herzog gains exclusive access to film inside the Chauvet caves of southern France, capturing the oldest known pictorial creations of humankind in their astonishing natural setting. He puts 3-D technology to a profound use, taking us back in time over 30,000 years.

LONG SYNOPSIS

For over 20,000 years, Chauvet Cave has been completely sealed off by a fallen rock face, its crystal-encrusted interior as large as a football field and strewn with the petrified remains of giant ice age mammals. In 1994, scientists discovered the caverns, and found hundreds of pristine paintings within, spectacular artwork dating back over 30,000 years (almost twice as old as any previous finds) to a time when Neanderthals still roamed the earth and cave bears, mammoths, and ice age lions were the dominant populations of Europe. Since then, only a few people have been allowed access into Chauvet Cave, and the true scope of its contents had largely gone unfelt—until Werner Herzog managed to gain access. Filming in 3D, Herzog captures the wonder and beauty of one of the most awe-inspiring sites on earth, all the while musing in his inimitable fashion about its original inhabitants, the birth of art, and the curious people surrounding the caves today.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

My intellectual, my spiritual awakening was in a way connected to Paleolithic cave paintings. At age twelve, I spotted a book in the display window of a bookstore with a picture of a horse from the Lascaux cave on it, and an indescribable excitement took hold of me: I wanted this book, I had to have it. As my pocket money was only one dollar per month, I started to work as a ball boy on tennis courts, and borrowed money from my brothers. At least once a week, I would check, my heart pounding, if the book were still there. Apparently, I believed this was the only one.

It took more than half a year, until I could buy and open the book, and the shudder of awe and wonder has never left me.

– Werner Herzog

PRESS QUOTES

"If you are a member of the human race, you should see this movie."

-- *Slate*

"You could argue that Herzog has succeeded in making the world's first movie in 4D."

-- *New Yorker*

"It's a privilege and a pleasure to be present in a sacred space where the human and the mystical effortlessly intertwine, and we are in Werner Herzog's debt for that great gift."

-- *Los Angeles Times*

FILM FESTIVALS

NEW YORK FILM CRITICS CIRCLE AWARDS – BEST NON-FICTION FILM 2011

TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2010

AFI FEST 2010

DOC NYC – OPENING NIGHT 2010

NEW YORKER FESTIVAL 2010

BERLIN FILM FESTIVAL 2011

SOUTH BY SOUTHWEST 2011

VILNIUS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

GUADALAJARA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

KOSMORAMA TRONDHEIM INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

ISTANBUL INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

BUENOS AIRES INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

JEONJU INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

TRENTO FILM FESTIVAL

BARCELONA INTERNATIONAL AUTEUR FILM FESTIVAL

LUXEMBOURG FILM FESTIVAL

DOCVILLE

DOCUMENTA MADRID

RAVENNA FESTIVAL

DOXA DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL

SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

TRANSYLVANIA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

SANTIAGO INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL

TAIPEI FILM FESTIVAL

JERUSALEM FILM FESTIVAL

MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

RIGA INTERNATIONAL FILM FORUM "ARSENALS"

SPLIT FILM FESTIVAL
SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
ABY DHABI FILM FESTIVAL
BERGEN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
SAO PAULO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
CPH: DOX
WORLD FILM FESTIVAL OF BANKOK
CALI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OF INDIA

AWARDS

WINNER, BEST DOCUMENTARY – The New York Film Critics Circle
WINNER, BEST DOCUMENTARY – The Los Angeles Film Critics Association
WINNER, BEST DOCUMENTARY – The Washington DC Film Critics Association
NOMINEE, BEST DOCUMENTARY – Critics Choice Award
TOP 10 FILMS OF THE YEAR – Time Magazine

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

In CAVE OF FORGOTTEN DREAMS director Werner Herzog gains unprecedented access to take his audience inside the Chauvet Cave to enjoy the sublime works in their three dimensional splendor, a sight previously seen only by a handful of select scientists.

Herzog combines his gifts as a conjurer of unforgettable images, explorer of forbidden landscapes and poetic philosopher to illuminate and celebrate the earliest recorded visions of humanity. The Chauvet Cave, which contains the earliest known cave paintings, was discovered in 1994 and is considered one of the most significant prehistoric art sites. Hundreds of cave paintings depict at least thirteen different species, including horses, cattle, lions, panthers, bears, rhinos and even hyenas. The artists used techniques not often seen in other cave art making the Chauvet Cave an important record of Paleolithic life in all of its savage detail.

In order to preserve the cave paintings, only a small scientific team headed up by archaeologist Jean-Michel Geneste may, for a couple of weeks in spring and autumn, occupy a tiny base camp to access the cave. Curator Dominique Baffier acts as its gatekeeper and is charged by the French government to enforce the strictest protocols for anyone granted access to the highly restricted site. High levels of carbon dioxide and radon make it impossible to work inside for more than a few hours a day.

Many filmmakers have requested permission to create a feature length film inside the Chauvet Cave, but Herzog is the first who has ever succeeded. During a meeting with Frédéric Mitterrand, the French Minister of Culture, Herzog offered to become an employee of the French Government -- for the munificent fee of one Euro -- on which he said he was prepared to pay taxes. Faced with an offer they simply could not refuse, the French cultural authorities allowed Herzog and his stripped down production crew to join the Chauvet team in the spring of 2010 to film the cave's interior and document, in live

action, its art. Embracing the challenges posed by filming in such a hostile environment, Herzog and his team also chose to film in 3D, recognizing the rare opportunity they had to capture the artwork in all its contoured glory.

Filming was permitted only from the narrow metal catwalks that span the cave. Herzog, along with his longtime collaborator, Director of Photography Peter Zeitlinger, ultimately had to rebuild and design radical adaptations to the available 3D cameras, with specialized equipment shipped from both the United States and other parts of Europe. Overcoming other setbacks and complications, including a volcanic eruption, Herzog and his team endured several weeks of intense production in March and April 2010.

CAVE OF FORGOTTEN DREAMS not only captures the greatest leap forward in the chronicle of art, it delivers that art in the very arena it was meant to be experienced. And in a unique science fiction postscript, Herzog conjures up images ~~from~~ of a fanciful and bizarre future.

SCIENTIFIC TEAM & EXPERTS

SCIENTIFIC TEAM OF CHAUVET CAVE

Dominique Baffier - Archaeologist & Curator of the Chauvet Cave, French Ministry of Culture & Communication

Baffier is the curator of the Chauvet Cave, as well as the director of research of another prehistoric art site at Arcy-sur-Cure, France. At Chauvet, she studies the red dots and handprints left by prehistoric artists and the Gallery of Megaloceros with her colleague Valérie Feruglio.

Jean Clottes - Archaeologist & former director of the Chauvet Cave Research Project

Clottes is the former director of the Chauvet Cave Research Project, an expert on Shamanism, and the internationally published author of numerous reference works on Upper Palaeolithic Art. He authenticated most of the recent discoveries in European rock art. At Chauvet, he studies the engravings and drawings of the Hillaire hall and the grand hall at the back of the cave.

Jean-Michel Geneste - Archaeologist & Director of the Chauvet Cave Research Project, French Ministry of Culture & Communication and Laboratory PACEA, University of Bordeaux

Geneste, one of France's foremost archaeologists and expert on rock art, heads the Chauvet Cave Research Project and is director of the Lascaux Cave Research Program – one of the world's most renowned complexes of prehistoric rock paintings. He has excavated numerous Palaeolithic sites in France and Europe and also directs France's National Center for Prehistory.

Carole Fritz – Archaeologist, Laboratory TRACES, University of Toulouse le Mirail (Centre Cartailhac d'Art Préhistorique)

Fritz is a specialist in Upper Paleolithic art. At the Chauvet Cave, Fritz studies the Panel of horses, along with husband Gilles Tosello. In researching symbolic thought of Homo sapiens in cave art, she seeks to understand the links that exist between the artist, his work, and the group as well as the links between different groups that occupied the same geographic and cultural spaces.

Gilles Tosello - Artist & Archaeologist, Laboratory TRACES, University of Toulouse le Mirail (Centre Cartailhac d'Art Préhistorique)

Tosello is an artist turned archaeologist who approaches his work on cave art with both an artist's artistic and scientific eye. His special interest is in diverse forms of art mobilier or "movable" prehistoric art – the engraved stones and rock art of Europe. In the Chauvet Cave, Tosello studies the Panel of Horses. With wife Carole Fritz, he also heads up research in France's Marsoulas cave.

Michel Philippe - Paleontologist, former curator of the Natural History Museum of Lyon, France

Philippe studies the fauna of the Chauvet Cave with his colleague Philippe Fosse. He is a specialist in the study of bears – in particular, the now extinct cave bear.

Julien Monney - Archaeologist, PhD candidate at the University of Paris –Nanterre and member of the scientific team of the Chauvet cave

Monney is an archaeologist and directs the research on cave paintings at France's Grotte des Deux Ouvertures. At Chauvet, he collaborates on different research programs – notably in the dating of rock art.

OTHER EXPERTS

Nicholas Conard - Archaeologist & Professor of Early Prehistory Eberhard-Karls University Tübingen and Scientific Director, Prehistoric Museum of Blaubeuren, Germany

Conard is a specialist in figurative art of the Paleolithic Era. In recent years, his excavations in Germany's Schwabian Jura led to the discovery of the earliest known musical instruments from the Ice Age -- several flutes made from bird bones and mammoth ivory.

Wulf Hein - Experimental Archaeologist

Hein is an experimental archaeologist who uses prehistoric technology to perform prehistoric activities for museum exhibits, television broadcasts and other venues. He is known for his reconstructions of Ice Age flutes and figurines, such as the Lionman from Hohlenstein-Stadel.

Maria Malina - Archaeological Technician Eberhard-Karls University Tübingen

Malina is a key member of Nicholas Conard's team, coordinating Paleolithic excavations in the Schwabian Jura. She is particularly experienced at analyzing and refitting artifacts made from mammoth ivory and has discovered and refitted a number of early examples of figurative art and musical instruments.

Maurice Maurin - Master Perfumer

Maurin has created scents for the great perfume houses of Paris, the US and Japan. He is the former president of France's Association of Perfumers (Société Française des Parfumeurs) and a native of Ardèche, the region in which the Chauvet Cave is located.

PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

CAVE OF FORGOTTEN DREAMS was directed, written and narrated by Werner Herzog; produced by Erik Nelson and Adrienne Ciuffo for Creative Differences and HISTORY Films, in partnership with the French Ministry of Culture and Communication, Department of Cultural Heritage and with the participation of the Conseil General De L'ardeche and La Region Rhone-Alpes. Co-produced by Amy Briamonte, Phil Fairclough, Judith Thurman and Nicolas Zunino; executive producers, Dave Harding, Julian P. Hobbs, David McKillop and Molly Thompson.

Werner Herzog – Director

Werner Herzog (real name Werner H. Stipetic) was born in Munich and grew up removed from technology in a remote Bavarian village. He worked as a welder to fund production of his first film at age nineteen and has since directed more than fifty features. He has also published more than a dozen books—of prose and directed as many operas. His films have won numerous awards, including the special grand jury prize at the Cannes Film Festival for *The Enigma of Kaspar Hauser* (74) and best director at the Cannes Film Festival for *Fitzcarraldo* (82). His other films include: *Aguirre, The Wrath of God* (72), *Nosferatu* (78), *Little Dieter Needs to Fly* (97), *Grizzly Man* (05), *Rescue Dawn* (06), *Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans* (09) and *Cave of Forgotten Dreams* (10).

Erik Nelson – Producer

Erik Nelson is the president of Creative Differences, a production company with offices in Los Angeles, Washington, D.C. and Vancouver. Recent offerings from Creative Differences include the Discovery Channel's upcoming "Reign of the Dinosaurs," "9-11: Science and Conspiracy" for the National Geographic Channel, and Animal Planet's "Blood Dolphins," which features *The Cove's* Ric O'Barry and his son as they rescue exploited dolphins around the world. Nelson also produced Werner Herzog's 2005 feature "Grizzly Man" and his Oscar®-nominated "Encounters at the End of the World." The Sundance Channel

recently broadcast "Dreams with Sharp Teeth," the first documentary feature Nelson directed.

Creative Differences

Creative Differences is a Los Angeles and Vancouver-based production company. Over the past 15 years, Creative Differences has produced over 400 hours non-fiction programming for a wider range of television networks, including: HISTORY, A&E, Animal Planet, Discovery, National Geographic, Fox, CBS, MTV and PBS. The company has produced notable series such as "Unsolved History," "Time Warp," "Blood Dolphins" and "Megadisasters" as well as the feature documentaries "Grizzly Man" and the Academy Award®-nominated "Encounters at the End of the World."

HISTORY Films™

HISTORY Films™ is the feature documentary production arm of HISTORY® and seeks to bring cinematic stories by outstanding independent filmmakers to the widest possible audience. HISTORY Films seeks dramatic non-fiction films about extraordinary people and those singular moments in our past, present and future that stand out forever, demonstrating that History is Made Every Day. The HISTORY Films roster currently includes: Countdown to Zero (2010) (with Magnolia and Participant) and Cave of Forgotten Dreams (2010) (produced with Creative Differences and C4). Visit HISTORY at www.History.com.

Channel 4/MORE 4

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PRODUCTION CREDITS

HISTORY Films presents
a CREATIVE DIFFERENCES Production.

A FILM BY
WERNER HERZOG

Written, Directed and Narrated by
WERNER HERZOG

Produced by
ERIK NELSON
and
ADRIENNE CIUFFO

Edited By
JOE BINI
and
MAYA HAWKE

Director of Photography
PETER ZEITLINGER

Music Composed by
ERNST REIJSEGER

Executive Producer
for Creative Differences
DAVE HARDING

Executive Producers
for HISTORY Films
JULIAN P. HOBBS
DAVID MCKILLOP
MOLLY THOMPSON

Co-Producers
AMY BRIAMONTE
PHIL FAIRCLOUGH

JUDITH THURMAN
and
NICOLAS ZUNINO

Produced in partnership with
THE FRENCH MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND COMMUNICATION,
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE.

And with the participation of
CONSEIL GENERAL DE L'ARDECHE
and
LA REGION RHONE-ALPES

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