

w o m e n

A FILM BY ANASTASIA MIKOVA AND YANN ARTHUS-BERTRAND

FRANCE /// 104' /// 4K



PRODUCTION

Hope Production

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SYNOPSIS OF THE FILM

WOMAN is a worldwide project giving a voice to 2000 women across 50 different countries. Despite its very large scale, the film offers an intimate portrait of those who constitute half of the humanity.

It is an opportunity to shed light on the injustices women are subjected to all over the world, but what WOMAN would like to underline most is the inner strength of women and their capacity to change the world despite all the difficulties they are facing. In this new era where women's voices resonate more and more, the aim of the film is not only to call for rights or focus on problems, but to find solutions and try to reconcile the two genders.

The project deals with topics such as motherhood, education, marriage or financial independence but also menstruations or sexuality. Through the film you will discover the voices of women as you have never heard them before.

The film, based on first-person encounters, puts together hundreds of testimonies of very different women, from Heads of States to beauty queens and bus drivers to farmers from remote areas delivering a more comprehensive picture of what it means to be a woman in today's world. Between testimonies, some artistic will visually extend women's stories whether by showing women individually in their daily lives or in big gatherings bringing thousands of women together.

The two directors have also collaborated with artists like photographer Peter Lindbergh to explore topics such as women's relationship with their own body or with the dancers from the Bandalooop collective in a metaphorical dance illustrating women's strength and capacity to rise up in the sky!

This film, whose proceeds will be donated to our association WOMANS, was made possible thanks to the support and commitment of our partners: BNP PARIBAS (main sponsor), the CLAUDE AND SOFIA MARION FOUNDATION, LVMH, TOTAL, BOUYGUES BÂTIMENT FRANCE EUROPE and ENGIE as well as the AFD, the BOULOGNE-BILLAN COURT CITY HALL and CANON.

DIRECTORS BRIEF COMMENT ON THE FILM

Some projects just come to you. This was the case for WOMAN. As we shot our previous film HUMAN in 2012-2014, we were profoundly stirred 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 this moment all their lives. As if for them, it was a question of life or death. Women needed to talk. But above all, they needed to be heard.

Hearing their stories and witnessing their courage, we thought the right moment had come for a film entirely dedicated to women. This is how WOMAN was born. It was almost two years before the Weinstein affair 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 this documentary we conducted 2000 interviews in 50 countries.

It was the women themselves who guided us in what they deemed was really important. They told us about work, education, emancipation or motherhood. But they also talked about very intimate subjects such as their relationship to their bodies or their first periods. They shared with us funny, surprising, touching memories, but also terrible ones. For many, the interviews also gave way to introspection, like in a therapy session. They needed to confront some of their deepest pain on subjects they never thought they would be able to talk about one day. And yet they did it.

What struck us most is the incredible resilience of women, their ability to stand up against all odds as if 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.

woman



RESUME SHORT VERSION

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© Peter Lindbergh

DIRECTORS' BIOGRAPHY

ANASTASIA MIKOVA

A Ukranian-born 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 Yann Arthus-Bertrand.

Then acting as first director and co-author, she continued her collaboration with Mr Yann Arthus-Bertrand on the documentary film *Human* managing the editorial team and making herself more than 600 interviews of the film.

This collaboration is ongoing as she is now co-directing their new film WOMAN.

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 Masai Mara in Kenya in the 1980's whilst studying their behaviour. Upon his return to France, he released his first book *Lions* and created Altitude Agency, the world's first press agency and image bank specialising in aerial photography.

In 1994 he started 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 helicopters and hot-air balloons. The book from this project, *Earth from Above* sold over 4 million copies and was translated into 24 languages.

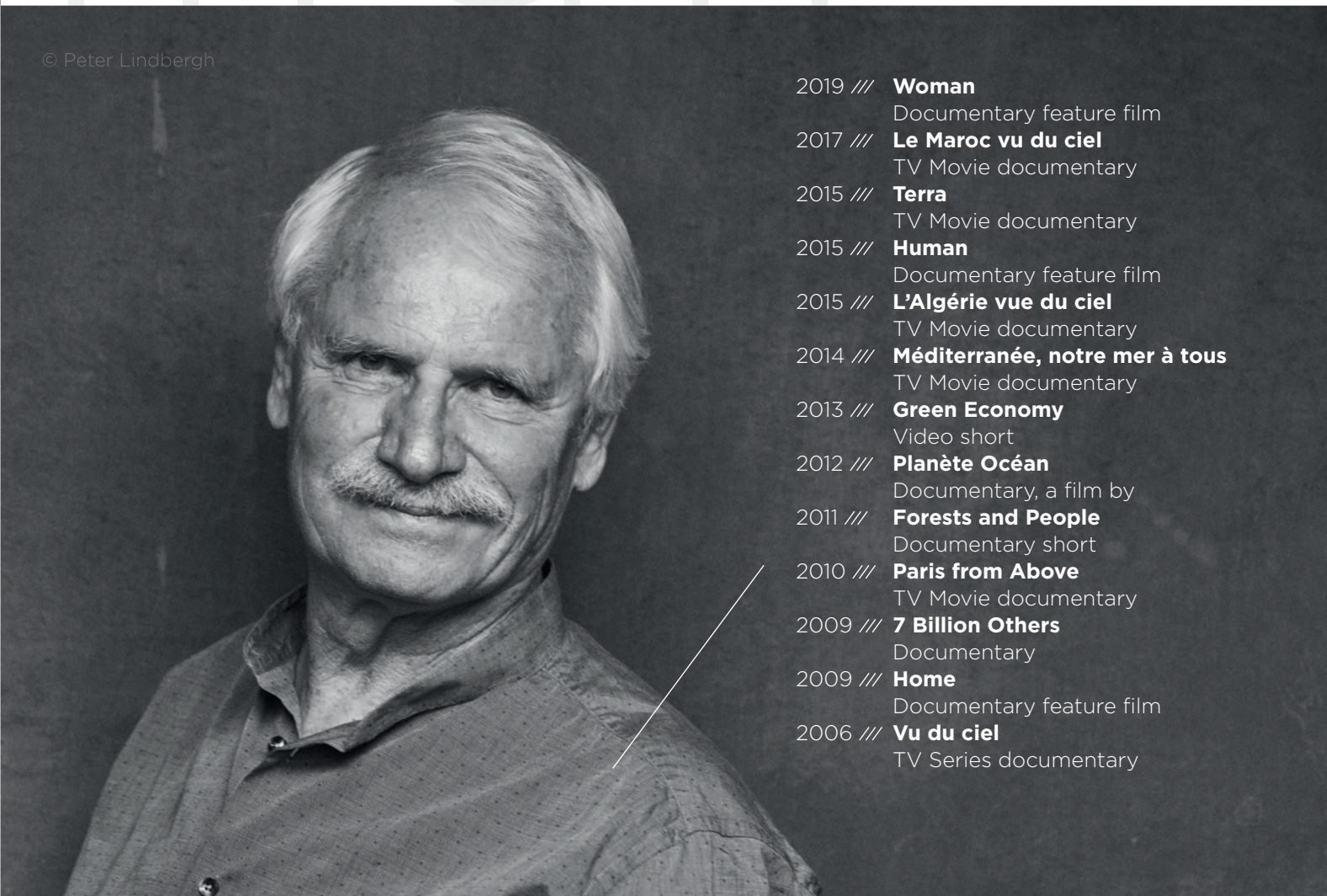
Following from this success, he took to the air again and released his first movie, *Home* produced by Luc Besson. *Home* has now been seen by 600 million people around the globe.

Considered an environmentalist as much as a photographer, he became a goodwill ambassador for the United Nation's Environment Program in 2009. In 2015, he released the film *Human* which premiered at the United Nations and the Venice Film Festival. At the crossroads of *Home* and the project *7 billion others*, *Human* is a mix of interviews of people of all conditions and backgrounds living in 45 different countries, and aerial images sought throughout the world.

He is currently preparing the release of his new film WOMAN.

man

© Peter Lindbergh



- 2019 /// **Woman**
Documentary feature film
- 2017 /// **Le Maroc vu du ciel**
TV Movie documentary
- 2015 /// **Terra**
TV Movie documentary
- 2015 /// **Human**
Documentary feature film
- 2015 /// **L'Algérie vue du ciel**
TV Movie documentary
- 2014 /// **Méditerranée, notre mer à tous**
TV Movie documentary
- 2013 /// **Green Economy**
Video short
- 2012 /// **Planète Océan**
Documentary, a film by
- 2011 /// **Forests and People**
Documentary short
- 2010 /// **Paris from Above**
TV Movie documentary
- 2009 /// **7 Billion Others**
Documentary
- 2009 /// **Home**
Documentary feature film
- 2006 /// **Vu du ciel**
TV Series documentary

PRODUCTION

HOPE PRODUCTION

Hope Production is a production company of documentary and institutional films, created by Yann Arthus-Bertrand and Jean-Yves Robin in September 2011.

It produces programs entirely devoted to major international environmental issues and to the men and women who are committed to such causes.

robinandco.com/hope/

CONTRIBUTORS

PETER LINDBERGH /// BODY SEQUENCE

Known for his memorable cinematic images, Peter Lindbergh is recognized as one of the most influential contemporary photographers.

Considered a pioneer in photography, he introduced a form of new 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 drastically changed the standards of fashion photography in times of excessive retouching, believing that there is something that makes a person interesting beyond their age.

BANDALOOP /// VERTICAL PERFORMANCE

BANDALOOP celebrates the human spirit, nature, and communities through dance that uses climbing technology to expand and challenge what is possible. A pioneer in vertical performance, BANDALOOP seamlessly weaves dynamic physicality and intricate choreography to turn the dance floor on its side.

Under the artistic direction of Amelia Rudolph, the work re-imagines dance, activates public spaces, and inspires wonder and imagination in audiences around the world. BANDALOOP trains dancers and youth at home and on tour, 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 Rangiroa 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 /// MATERNITY SEQUENCE

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

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

He is the co-founder of Frames Dealer, a premium stockshot platform for creative industries.

ARMAND AMAR /// ORIGINAL SCORE

French of Moroccan origin (born in Jerusalem), Armand Amar spent his childhood in Morocco. Imbued with the sounds of instruments considered exotic at the time, the pull of that "world apart" soon fascinated him.

Autodidact, he was constantly searching for physical experiences, he learned to play tablas, discovered the zarb and congas, and studied under various masters of traditional and classical music.

Armand's discovery of dance in 1976, was another decisive moment. Suddenly what he'd been looking for was right there in front of him - a direct relationship to music, the power to improvise freely. Two adventures broadened his scope even further: his involvement in Patrice Chéreau's actors' school and his teaching at the Conservatoire National Supérieur [Higher National Music School]. Since then he has worked with various choreographers from different branches of contemporary dance.

The musical and spiritual influences at play show through in his film scores, among many others: *Eyewitness* (2000), and all the following films by Costa-Gavras. *The Concert* (winner of the César / Best Soundtrack of the Year Award 2009), *Live and Become* (2006), and other films by Radu Mihaileanu. *Days of Glory* (2006), by Rachid Bouchareb, *You will be my Son* (2011), by Gilles Legrand, *Home* (2009) and *Human* (2015) by Yann Arthus-Bertrand. He composed the scores of the Brazilian film *My Sweet Orange Tree* by Marcos Bernstein. And the music for the three *Belle and Sebastien*, films.

He received the Amanda 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 Vanier's *L'École buissonnière* and Gilles de Maistre's *Mia and the White Lion*.

In 1994, he founded the record label Long Distance for world music. His own work is released through naïve, Long Distance, Universal, Sony and Warner.



MAIN TOPICS OF THE FILM

BEING A WOMAN

The Gender question: where do the “clichés” 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 opposites sexes or even between the same sex and more specifically, testimonies about the essential need, visceral to all of us, to be loved.



BODY AND ITS TABOOS

Periods and sexuality: why do women's bodies raise as many taboos and interdiction? 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 pad, some do not go to school during their period. Today women are fighting against this taboo. + the question 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 make us understand how they change things at their 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?

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 traditions. 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.



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, rites of initiation, orgasm... the discovery of pleasure, orgasm by women and the role of pleasure in their lives. Many funny and unexpected testimonies on this topic. A true liberation of women voices !

POLITICS

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

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WOMAN & THE NGOS

WOMAN(s) /// OUR NGO

In continuity of the film, directors Yann Arthus-Bertrand and Anastasia Mikova wish to create the association WOMAN(s) - Women On Media And News (school). Its main mission will be to assist women and young girls from around the world on professions surrounding media.

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 different media jobs so they can become themselves the voice of their country and speak out in the name of those who have not been heard.

Thus the message of WOMAN will last in time and will have a concrete impact on women's lives.

OUR WORK WITH NGOS

In parallel of a classic distribution through movie theaters, we would like to internationally coordinate the release of the film with NGOs (especially in countries where a traditional release in theaters won't be possible) to ensure that the causes they are fighting for are brought to the attention of the largest possible audience and amplify the message.

OUR PARTNERS

WOMAN is a project carried out thanks to the help of our dedicated sponsors.

We would especially like to thank:



BNP PARIBAS



THE CLAUDE & SOFIA MARION
FOUNDATION



LVMH



Canon



MAYER|BROWN





womanlefilm



woman_themovie