

ALL ABOUT



A **3x43'** & **3x52'** documentary series | Directed by **Matthieu Maillet** | Produced by **Haut Et Court Doc** & **ARTE France** | Delivery: October 2027

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DISTRIBUTION

LOGLINE

What is hair really for? From ants to polar bears, from crabs to whales, hair — fur, bristles or baleen — is almost everywhere in the animal kingdom. A masterpiece of natural engineering, scientists reveal the hidden powers of fur and hair. A journey across the animal world to uncover how this essential feature helps animals survive, adapt and thrive.



SYNOPSIS

ALL ABOUT FUR is a natural history journey exploring the extraordinary diversity of animal hair and its often overlooked functions, across the wild landscapes of the animal kingdom worldwide. This 3x52' documentary series examines the role of hair through three fundamental challenges of life: FACING THE CLIMATE – FEEDING – DEFENDING.

Each episode is built around immersive field sequences, where scientists and naturalists reveal the secrets of hair in a specific species, directly in its natural environment. Scientific sequences are interwoven with purely observational wildlife scenes, creating striking parallels between species that appear to have little in common.

The series also explores how humans have long harnessed animal hair: animal furs used for protection, baleen transformed into tools, and traditional know-how passed down through generations. Moving constantly between the infinitely large and the infinitely small, ALL ABOUT FUR takes viewers from one extreme to another for a visually rich and immersive experience. Each episode, by focusing on a key function, reveals a universal truth: without hair, life as we know it would not exist. Whether acting as thermal insulation, camouflage, or a hunting tool, hair emerges as one of nature's most powerful allies.



EPISODE 1 – SURVIVING EXTREME CLIMATES

From polar bears to Namibian elephants, from sloths to Pacific otters, how do animals face ice, heat and humidity? The answer often lies at the surface of life itself — in a seemingly simple material with extraordinary properties, shaped by each species to meet extreme environmental conditions.

MAIN PROTAGONISTS

POLAR BEAR – CANADA

Contributor: Alexandra Langwieder, McGill University, Canada

ELEPHANT – KENYA

Contributor: Giacomo d'Ammando – University of Liverpool / Association Save the Elephants – Kenya

SLOTH – COSTA RICA

Contributor: Max Chavarría, University of Costa Rica

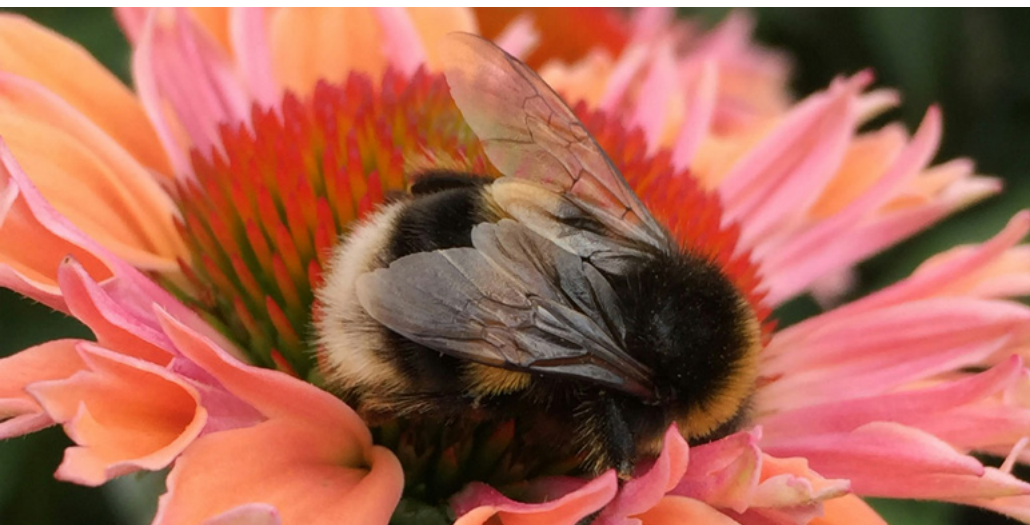
SEA OTTER – CALIFORNIA, USA

Contributor: Sandrine Hazan, Monterey Bay Aquarium

SEWING FUR – FINLAND

Contributor: to be confirmed





EPISODE 2 – FINDING FOOD

Survival does not always rely on powerful jaws or speed. Recent research reveals the surprising role of hair in feeding strategies. From Yucatán lagoons to Pacific depths, from French meadows to Indian forests, whales, manatees, bumblebees and yeti crabs use hair as a key tool in their search for food.

MAIN PROTAGONISTS

RORQUAL - ALASKA, USA

Contributors: Dr. Alexander Werth, Hampden-Sydney College and Dr Heidi Pearson, Professor of Marine Biology, University of Alaska Southeast

BALEEN BASKET - OREGON, USA

Contributor: Don Johnston, baleen basket artist

MANATEE - FLORIDA, USA

Contributor: Monica Ross, Manatee Research and Conservation

THE BUMBLEBEE - FRANCE

Contributor: Prof. Mathieu Lihoreau, CNRS, France

LYNX - FINLAND

Contributor: John Loer, University of Helsinki, Lammi Biological Station

EPISODE 3 – STAYING ALIVE

The struggle for survival is not always fought with teeth or claws. Hair can intimidate, deceive, protect or warn — sometimes preventing conflict before it begins. From gorillas to decorator crabs, tarantulas to spiny rats, the art of keeping danger at bay sometimes comes down to a single filament.

MAIN PROTAGONISTS

GORILLAS – UGANDA

Contributor: Dr. Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka, Conservation Through Public Health (CTPH)

CRESTED RAT – KENYA

Contributors: Dr. Bernard Risky Agwanda, National Museum of Kenya

DECORATOR CRAB – FRIDAY HARBOUR, USA

Contributor: Prof. Kristin Hultgren, Seattle University

TARANTULA – QUINTANA ROO, MEXICO

Contributors: Yann Hénaut and Salima Machkour M'Rabet, ECOSUR, Mexico

TARANTULA / MEDICINE – QUINTANA ROO, MEXICO

Contributor: Local villager



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT – MATTHIEU MAILLET

In the animal world, fur, bristles or baleen cover, protect, capture, filter, feed and defend. Invisible or spectacular, microscopic or abundant, they testify to the diversity of species and their extraordinary capacity for adaptation.

This series is a full immersion in nature, a visual and sensory journey revealing the richness of life. It fully reflects what I strive to tell through my films: life in all its diversity, to better understand it, respect it, and reveal the intelligence of the living world.

ALL ABOUT FUR is an ambitious, joyful and surprising documentary series, where every shot expresses the intimate link between living matter and the world around it. It is deeply contemporary, inviting us to look differently at what usually goes unnoticed. Beyond curiosity, the series invites an emotional response: rediscovering the creativity of life, its beauty and its fragility.

The directing approach combines the pleasure of discovery with scientific rigor. Each episode takes viewers into spectacular landscapes. Alongside researchers, we observe, explore and discover behaviors and adaptations. We feel and we marvel.

Each episode is structured around:

- 5 major immersive field sequences, introducing the animal in its habitat, followed by researchers in action. Scientists are filmed in motion: observing, measuring, climbing, handling, following. Knowledge emerges from gestures and situations — a hand measuring the spacing of hairs on an elephant's skin, a moss sample taken from a sloth's back.
- Short wildlife sequences punctuate the episodes, accompanied by voice-over. They provide breathing space and allow transitions between the major sequences.
- A sequence dedicated to human uses of animal hair, highlighting local traditions and craftsmanship.

Editing will maintain a dynamic, engaging rhythm, interspersed with calmer moments allowing viewers to absorb information and contemplate the beauty of a landscape or species.

The series aims to take viewers on an immersive journey into nature, alternating energy, curiosity, surprise and poetry. To convey the playful and sensory experience of life, the series constantly shifts scales of perception: from wide aerial shots anchoring species in their ecosystems to extreme macro details.

Wide shots reveal the beauty and diversity of environments worldwide: the Namib Desert, Arctic ice floes, South American rainforests. Macro shots plunge viewers into textures: the structure of a single hair, the surface of fur — revealing hidden beauty and the intimate architecture of living matter.

When necessary for understanding, discreet 2D scientific animations will overlay images, using fine, contrasted lines to explain biological mechanisms: the insulating layers of a polar bear, the sparse hairs of an elephant, the unique fur of a sloth.

Great care will be given to cinematography, framing and natural light. The series is sensory, shaped by natural elements that animate fur and hair: blizzards freezing a musk ox's coat, raindrops on a sloth's fur, water flowing over an otter's coat. Light becomes a character, sculpting textures and atmosphere.

Sound design will enhance immersion: wind through fur, wing beats of an insect, friction, breathing. A detailed soundscape will create an almost tactile presence.

Original music will be composed by David Braud, with whom I have collaborated on several films (*Whispers of the Earth*, *World of the wild – Boar*, *On the trail of the Lynx*). His organic and contemporary score will support emotion without overstatement, deepening immersion and narrative flow.

PRODUCTION NOTE

ALL ABOUT FUR is a 3-part documentary series exploring the superpowers of hair in the animal kingdom and its often overlooked functions. The series highlights those who observe and investigate the living world — scientists and researchers, but also empirical knowledge, traditions and practical uses passed down through generations. Through emblematic species, passionate scientists and diverse environments, the series explores hair as a powerful ally of life.

We are convinced of the project's strong international potential: an original and unexpected subject, recent scientific discoveries, spectacular locations, and a field-driven narrative.

We want to produce this series to renew the way we tell stories about the living world: to highlight nature, to inspire wonder at its extraordinary capacity for adaptation, and to reconnect audiences with the wild. Filming nature and conveying emotion and knowledge through documentary storytelling is also a way to encourage greater respect and protection of the natural world.

ALL ABOUT FUR is designed to reach a broad, family audience. Its tone and information are accessible, educational and engaging.

The series is written by Marguerite d'Ollone and Gautier Dubois, we have collaborated before and we know them to be talented, serious and professional. They are both specialists in natural history and discovery documentaries. They have been researching the subject for several months and have already confirmed all contributors.

Matthieu Maillet, with whom we previously collaborated on *Top of the Rocks* (5x43'/52') and *Whispers of the Earth* (90'/52'), distributed by Terranoa, will direct the series. We have complete confidence in his ability to bring both sensitivity and ambition to this series. His work combines striking imagery with knowledge and storytelling. He will be supported by experienced wildlife cinematographers, accustomed to the demands of discovery and natural history filmmaking.

A scientific advisor, Johan Michaux, is also part of the team. Johan is Director of Research at the Belgian National Fund for Scientific Research, Professor of Evolutionary Biology at the University of Liège (Belgium), and scientific advisor for the long-running nature program *Le Jardin Extraordinaire* (RTBF), dedicated to wildlife discovery for over 23 years. He will validate the narration and the films from a scientific standpoint.

ALL ABOUT FUR brings together all the ingredients for a strong documentary series: curiosity, knowledge, wonder, sensitivity, striking imagery and an experienced creative and scientific team.



CONTACT



Joséphine LETANG
Head of International Distribution & Marketing
j-letang@arteFrance.fr



Alec HERRMANN
Head of Acquisitions
a-herrmann@arteFrance.fr



Audrey KAMGA
Sales Manager
a-kamga@arteFrance.fr
Canada, USA, South America & MENA Region



Alexandra MARGUERITE
Sales Manager
a-marguerite@arteFrance.fr
UK, Ireland, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa
Language versions



Franka SCHWABE
Sales Manager
f-schwabe@arteFrance.fr
Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland, Netherlands, Scandinavia,
Iceland, Australia, New Zealand