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DISTRIBUTION



# SEEDS

## NATURE'S SUPERHEROES

A **52' & 90'** documentary film

Directed by **Frédéric Febvre**

Produced by **Les Films en Vrac** for **France Télévisions**

# SYNOPSIS

*Seeds: Nature's Superheroes* takes us on a fascinating journey into the heart of the plant world, where it all begins... with just one little seed.

Like tiny exploration pods, these intrepid travelers use spectacular strategies to conquer new territories and ensure the survival of their species.

Set against breathtaking landscapes — from Europe to Africa, all the way to Australia, South America, and the Great Plains of the United States — the documentary follows their journey, from the moment they detach from their parent plant to their often unpredictable destination.

Led by a team of international scientists who study them and attempt to unravel their mysteries, this film reveals the invisible mechanisms of life: seeds which are carried by the wind, transported by water, scattered or crushed by animals, or even propelled by exploding fruits, are Nature's superheroes.





Each phenomenon depicted in the film is a story of adaptation, patience, and chance. Each strategy shown on screen reveals the obvious need for the plant world to move, to conquer new territories, to maintain genetic coherence, to avoid competition between old and new species, and sometimes to be able to escape a failing ecosystem.

The direction favors long takes, close-ups, and different scales to give these tiny elements a heroic presence. The seed then turns into a character, a traveler, a bearer of memory and the future.

But the film explores more than just beauty; it compels us to reconsider our relationship with the natural world. In a time of habitat fragmentation and disrupted natural cycles, learning about seed dispersal is realizing the profound interdependence of all species and the vulnerability of our planet's delicate ecological balance.



# OUR HEROINES, THEIR JOURNEYS & THEIR DESTINATIONS

To enrich the narrative, we chose stories about seeds that rely on different dispersal methods — or combine several in unique ways — known as dispersal mechanisms. We have also focused on selecting seeds from among these dispersal mechanisms that allow us to travel and discover distant lands and different landscapes.

All these seeds come in thousands of shapes, sizes, and colors, featuring unlikely features and ornaments.

To reveal their full beauty, they will be filmed in a studio, which will allow us to capture them up close, with the aim of highlighting every texture, color, and shade, as well as magnifying their appendages — whenever they have some.





## SEEDS, PICTURED

For each shoot, a portable studio equipped with LED lighting and a motorized micrometric stage will be there to film the seeds. Special lenses will capture an extraordinary level of detail and beauty. The motorized stage will enable us to have camera movements of extreme precision. The film will delve into the very heart of the subject matter, playing with reflections and transparencies, and revealing the seeds as they have never been seen before. The visual presentation of the seeds is intended to be exceptional, poetic, and contemplative, immersing the viewer in the heart of this subject matter through macro-cinematography. An essential shift in scale.

The invisible will be made visible thanks to ultra-high-speed cameras that capture the fastest movements, such as ejection mechanisms, offering spectacular slow-motion footage. 3D modeling will shed light on certain physiological and molecular phenomena, while macro-cinematography and time-lapse photography will reveal spectacles invisible to the naked eye. Underwater footage will follow some seeds on their journey.

Aerial shots will reveal the full majesty of the landscapes we come across. These drone shots will also serve as a backdrop for immersive images, which are essential for us to level with the seeds and experience their epic journeys.

For scenes involving animals, they will be filmed using the same techniques and approaches as in modern wildlife filmmaking. From the animal's perspective, the camera captures their behavior up close and highlights their role in seed dispersal.

The film draws on and explores the insights of experts interviewed while working in their laboratories, conducting experiments, or on field research expeditions. The protagonists are thus filmed in their working, research, or exploration environments.

A voice-over commentary will guide viewers through this epic journey exploring seeds, adopting a lighthearted, often humorous tone while remaining calm and composed. These humorous touches will bring the seeds to life, grounded in scientific knowledge accessible to all — as the film is intended for a broad general audience. The “hard” science, meanwhile, will be presented through the words of the scientists themselves. The film's perspective is intended above all to be curious and surprising, inviting viewers to rediscover seeds.

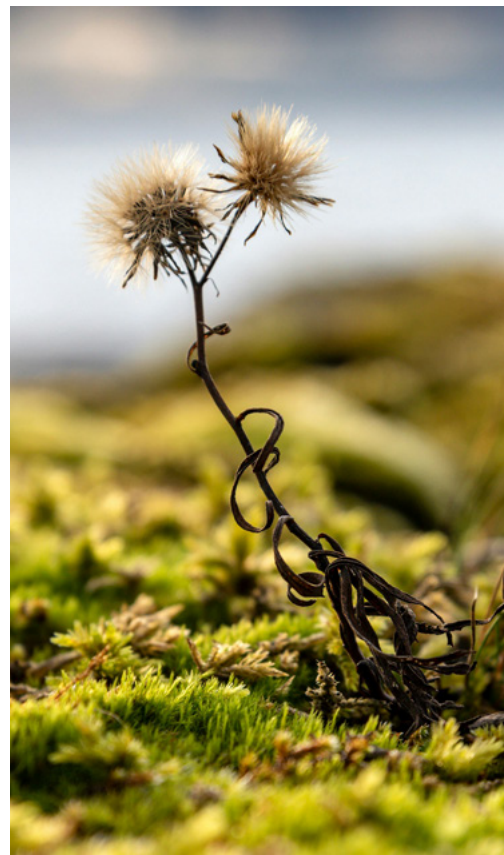
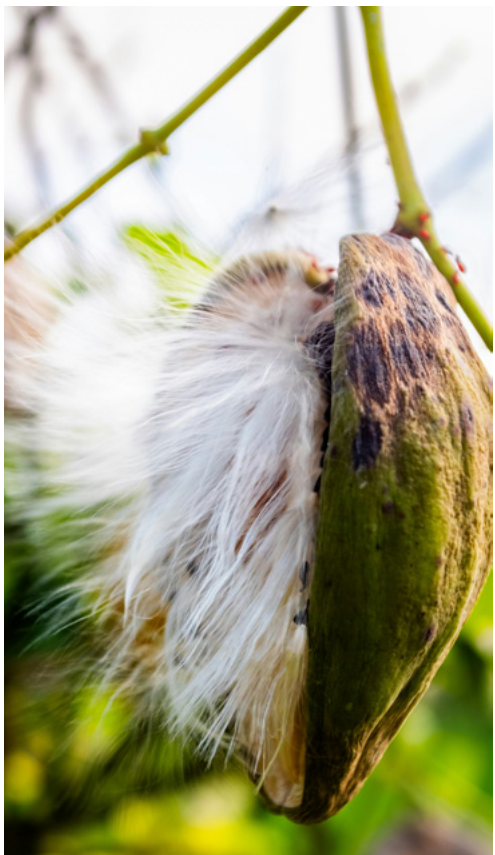


# SPEAKERS

- **Xavier Mathias:** Special consultant, co-author. Journalist, writer & radio commentator at France Inter.
- **Brigitte Ramandimboisoa:** Botanist and orchid specialist at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, USA.
- **David Nelson:** Professor of Genetics in the Department of Botany and Plant Sciences at the University of Western Australia in Crawley and at the University of California, Riverside.
- **Naomi Nakayama:** Professor at the University of Edinburgh, in the Biological Design Unit.
- **Steven Goodman:** An American biologist working at the Field Museum in Chicago and a Madagascar specialist.
- **Roberto Lopez:** Curator of the herbarium at the Joaquín Antonio Uribe Botanical Garden in Medellín (JAUM) since 2010.
- **Judicael Rakotondrazafy:** Botanist specializing in the mangroves of Madagascar and technical manager responsible for coordinating conservation projects in the Menabe region.
- **Mauricio Bernal:** Botanist specializing in *Victoria amazonica* at the Bogotá Botanical Garden (Colombia).
- **Arne Saatkamp:** Lecturer and researcher at the IMBE and Aix-Marseille University. A specialist in plant ecology, he focuses his research on seed ecology in the Mediterranean environment.
- **Marc Jeanson:** Botanist at the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris, former director of the seed library, one of the greatest seed collections in the world.
- **Gwyneth Ingram:** She was awarded the CNRS Silver Medal in 2025. Research Director at the CNRS Plant Reproduction and Development Laboratory (RDP) in Lyon.







# 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*