



BASED ON A TRUE STORY

8x26'

Produced by ARTE FRANCE, EX-NIHILO

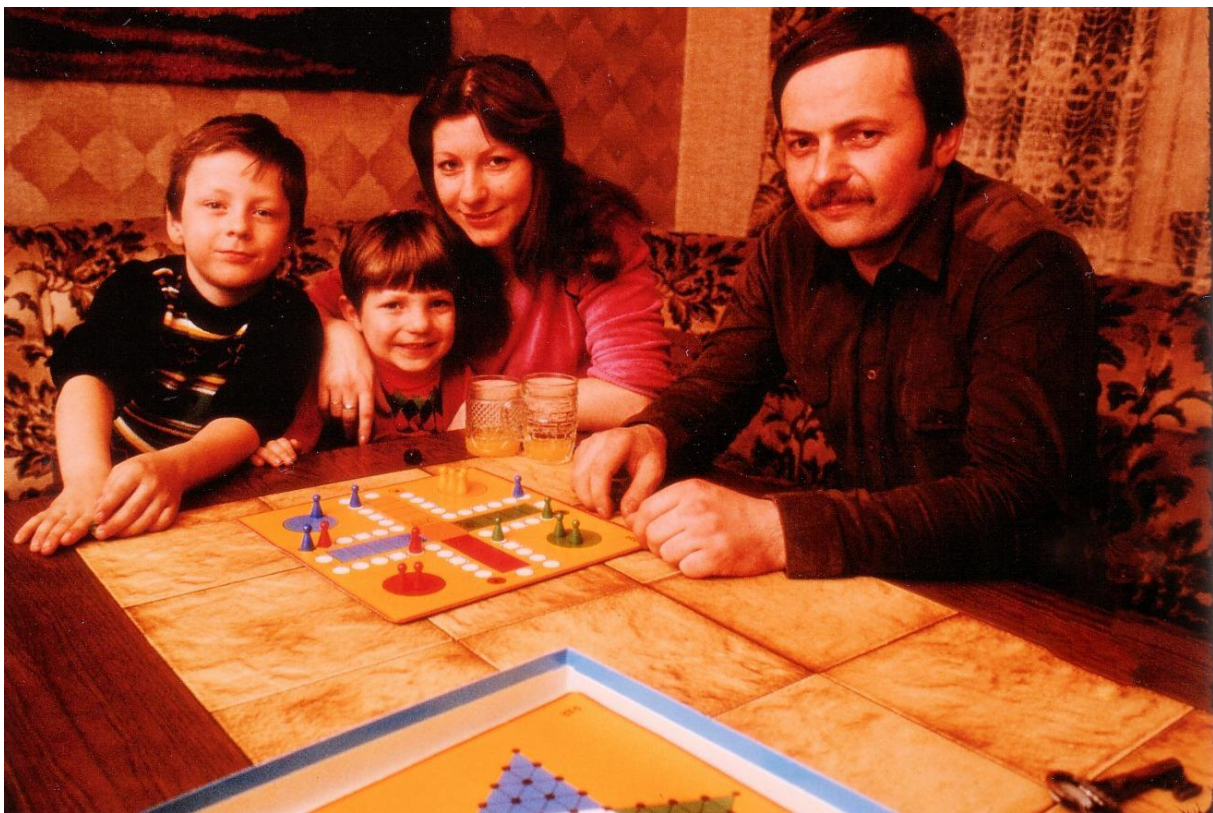
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Based on a true story

There have been countless works of fiction based on true stories.

It seems we can never have enough of them. Everyday folk are all the rage - and they often make excellent fictional characters. **This documentary series takes up where fictional adaptations leave off and tells the real-life stories they are based on, using a wealth of archive material to retrace the extraordinary lives of the ordinary people involved.**

Since the 1990s, our interest in true stories has skyrocketed. The shelves of bookshops are lined with them, and they fuel box-office hits. "Based on a true story" has become a favourite advertising hook, with its promise of strong emotions and dramatic events. Over and above its selling power, our fascination with real-life stories says much about the times we live in and our hunger for authenticity. In a world in which traditional moral criteria are becoming blurred, society is desperately searching for something real to hold onto. And people reason that if a story is true, it could easily have happened to them.





Episode 1 : **Mark Ashton: gays and miners: same fight !**

In 1984, the British miners' strike began.

London gay activist Mark Ashton convinces his community to donate to support their fight against an uncompromising Margaret Thatcher. Between miners and gays, it is the clash of cultures but solidarity ends up erasing the differences.

After his work with LGSM (Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners), Mark Ashton became involved in the Red Wedge collective: a group of musicians intended to sensitize young people to the politics and the theses of the Labor Party. **He was also elected general secretary of the Young Communist League between 1985 and 1986.**

Adapted for the cinema in the **film "Pride" (2014) directed by Matthew Warcus.**



Episode 2 : **Lucie Aubrac, a woman in the resistance (1943)**

On 21 June 1943 in the French town of Caluire, close to Lyon, the Gestapo arrested Resistance leader Jean Moulin and seven others, including Raymond Aubrac. Raymond's wife, Lucie, also a Resistance fighter, would stop at nothing to get her husband released from the German police.

With the help of her network, named "Liberation", Lucie, who was pregnant with the couple's second child, set up a high-risk ambush and ensured Raymond's successful escape. The family then had to go into hiding, moving from place to place, hunted down as they went. Thanks to her contacts, Lucie Aubrac reached London on 8 February 1944 with their son. She gave birth to a daughter a few days later, and her battle could have stopped there. But Lucie Aubrac then took an even more active role in Liberation and sat on the Consultative Assembly. She never stopped fighting, teaching, talking about the dark days of collaboration, and the fraternity of the Resistance. She became an activist for Amnesty International, fighting for the undocumented, and summing up her credo in the words, "The word 'resist' should always be conjugated in the present tense."

In 1997, the prospect of the Barbie trial and the behavior of the former Gestapo leader's defense team convinced her that spoken words were no longer enough and she agreed to write her memoirs. Claude Berry adapted her book for the cinema revealing the heroism and greatness of this exceptional woman and the importance of women in general in the French Resistance. "**Lucie Aubrac**", directed by Claude Berry (1997)



Episode 3 : **Gerry Conlon, from miscarriage of justice to political campaigner** Realization – **Gaillard Alexia**

After the Bloody Sunday massacres, Northern Ireland was in the midst of a civil war and IRA attacks were on the increase. **Gerry Conlon** was the victim of an expeditious justice system that was looking for people to blame, and this 19-year-old Irishman spent 15 years in prison for a crime he did not commit.

When he was eventually released in 1990, Gerry Conlon told his story in his book, "Proved Innocent". He went on to become an active campaigner against miscarriages of justice. He worked for the release of British prisoners held by the Americans at Guantanamo. He died in 2014.

Adapted for the cinema in the film "**In the Name of the Father**" (1993), directed by Jim Sheridan.



Episode 4 : **the freedom balloon (1979)**

During the Cold War, East Germany was under Stasi surveillance.

The **Strelzyk and Wetzel families** lived in East Berlin but dreamed of escaping to the west. They spent two years secretly constructing a hot-air balloon so they could float their way to freedom.

One night in September 1979, the two couples and their children climbed into this makeshift construction, with its corrugated iron floor, iron frame, four bottles of propane, and tent canvases hand-stitched together. They lifted off into the sky leaving everything behind them. Thanks to favorable winds, some 30 minutes later they came down to earth, unsure as to whether they'd succeeded. Then they saw a car drive past with the word "Polizei" on its side. It wasn't an east-German car; it was an Audi 80. The Strelzyks and Wetzels were in the west. Free.

Adapted for the cinema in the film "**Wind of Freedom**" (2018), directed by Michael Bully Herbig.



Episode 5 : **The sewing machinists versus Ford: the gender war** Realization – **Gaillard Alexia**

Released in 2010, the film *We want sex equality*, directed by the Englishman Nigel Cole, is a popular success all across Europe. The film reveals a little-known episode of English social struggles: the Ford sewing machinists' strike of 1968 at the Ford factory in Dagenham.

Downgraded to unskilled workers, paid less than their male colleagues, the strikers would shake the giant Ford and the Labor government of the day. Considered one of the greatest British feminist struggles of the late 1960s, this is the true story of the Dagenham sewing machinists.



Episode 6 : The monks of Tibhirine, for the love of Algeria
Realization – **Cantù Frédérique**

May 2010: Xavier Beauvois' film Des hommes et des dieux wins the Grand Prix du jury at the Cannes Film Festival. Lambert Wilson and Michael Lonsdale portray two of the seven monks kidnapped and murdered near the village of Tibhirine in 1996 during the Algerian civil war.

Because they refused to leave a country and a people they felt bound to, the monks paid for it with their lives. This is the true story of the monks of Tibhirine.



Episode 7 : From the neighborhoods to the Élysée Palace, the long march for equality
Realization – **Ruxandra Annonier**

La Marche, directed by Nabil Ben Yadir in 2013, tells the story of a gang of young people from the Minguettes neighborhood in Vénissieux, who in 1983 organized a peaceful march from Marseille to Paris. They protest against racist crimes and police brutality they experience.

Inspired by what is usually called "La Marche des Beurs" (The March for Equality and Against Racism), this film is a reminder of a forgotten page in French history: the collective adventure of immigrants' children , united around Djamel Atallah, Toumi Djaïdja and Father Christian Delorme, who fought for their rights and proclaimed loud and clear: "we are from here". This is the true story of the Minguettes marchers.



Episode 8 : L' Abbé Pierre, the insurrection of goodness
Realization – Lisarelli Diane

In 1989, Lambert Wilson portrays Abbé Pierre. He embodies the character of this priest, who during the icy and murderous winter of 1954, managed to move and mobilize the whole of France in favor of the homeless.

Directed by Denis Amar, the film Hiver 54, Abbé Pierre is inspired by Abbé Pierre's stories. For behind the cinema there is what really happened and behind the character, behind the Canadian, the cane and the beret, there is the man. Here is the true story of Abbé Pierre.

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