

The background of the poster is a textured, sepia-toned image of prehistoric human figures. On the left, a man with a beard and a headband is visible. On the right, a woman's face is shown in profile, looking towards the left. The overall texture is grainy and aged, resembling a stone relief or a weathered painting.

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# LADIES AND PRINCES OF PREHISTORY

DIRECTED BY PAULINE COSTE

PRODUCED BY ARTE GEIE & ENFANT SAUVAGE

# SYNOPSIS

The exceptional burials of the Paleolithic remain very poorly known to the general public. Dated around -25,000 years for the most part, their study reveals a completely unexpected ornament according to our usual assumptions.

Of great beauty, they also raise a key question: who were these individuals buried with such care and adornment: shamans? Chiefs? Or common individuals with a pronounced taste for ornamentation? Through several burials in France, the Czech Republic, Italy and Russia, all these leads will be explored to better understand one of these exceptional burials: that of the Lady of Cavillon, found in northern Italy, which will serve as a guideline throughout this investigation.



# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Ladies and Princes of Prehistory is a documentary film whose purpose is to make known the exceptional Paleolithic burials in particular those of 25,000 years ago in Europe, starting from one of them as a central point, that of the Lady of Cavillon, in northern Italy.

No film had yet been made on this subject, despite the fact that these incredible burials have been known for many years in the scientific community and that they allow us to change our preconceived ideas about these prehistoric groups because of their opulence in objects and ornaments.

The burial of the Lady of Cavillon puts at the heart of the film the matter of the role of women in prehistory as well as the question of social hierarchy in these Paleolithic societies. These two lines of research are at the heart of current scientific discussions, far removed from the clichés of the past when these humans were seen as "primitive" savages.

The film thus allows us to explore new leads of research to understand who were these rare individuals buried with so much care and ornaments: shamans? Chiefs? Common people with a pronounced taste for ornamentation? Or were they the object of sacrifices?

As for prehistoric women, it allows us to see them in a different perspective, being entirely "part of" these nomadic groups, and perhaps even with more important roles - they too could have been hunters, shamans or group chiefs...

The film also highlights a cave that has never been shown to the general public before, never presented in a documentary, and quite exceptional in many ways: the Grotte de Cussac, in the Dordogne, which combines burials from this same period with sumptuous cave art. It is already considered by specialists as the "Lascaux of engraving".

The film therefore has unique images in several respects: firstly this Grotte de Cussac (discovered since 2000 but never presented in a film), but also these incredible burials from different European countries (France, Czech Republic, Russia, Italy) with sometimes thousands of beads.

In terms of visual treatment: to give the imaginary part to the reconstructions offered in the film, we worked with characters filmed in a green screen, on which a digital treatment was applied to give them the sensation of "painting" and then they were embedded in landscapes painted by our graphic designers.

This process allowed us to take them out of the real world and to offer something new in prehistoric reconstitution, but also to reconstitute the landscape and the environment of the time in a very beautiful aesthetic result, while allowing us to keep the measure on the interpretation part of these reconstitutions.

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