

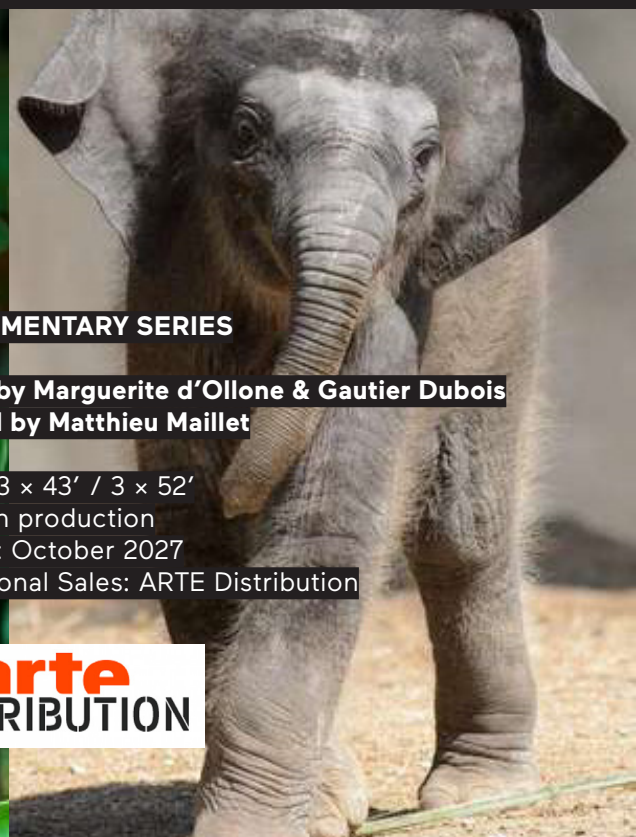


HAUT ET COURT DOC
ARTE France

Present

ALL ABOUT FUR

WHY ANIMALS HAVE FUR ?



A DOCUMENTARY SERIES

Written by Marguerite d'Ollone & Gautier Dubois
Directed by Matthieu Maillet

Length: 3 x 43' / 3 x 52'
Status: In production
Delivery: October 2027
International Sales: ARTE Distribution

arte
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.



SERIES 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 3 × 52' 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.



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.

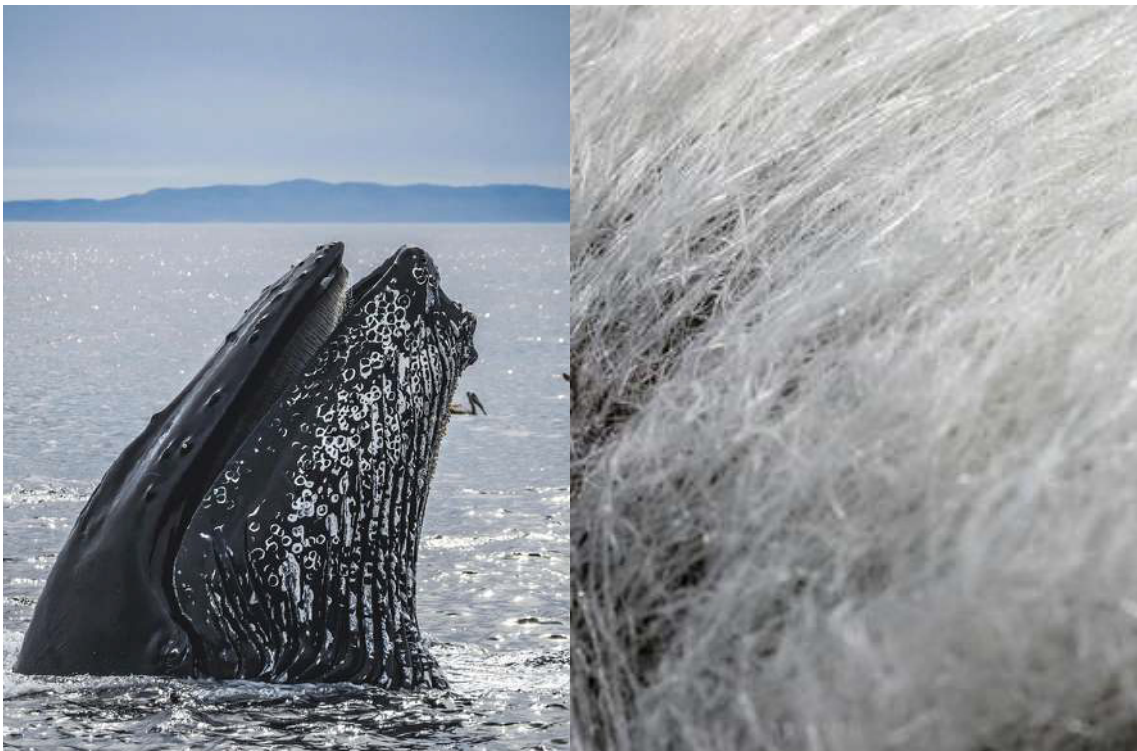
Great care will be given to cinematography, framing and natural light. The series is sensory, shaped by natural elements that animate fur and hair: blizzards freezing a musk ox's coat, raindrops on a sloth's fur, water flowing over an otter's coat. Light becomes a character, sculpting textures and atmosphere.

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.



EPISODES



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.



- 1. THE POLAR BEAR: TRAPPING HEAT – ARCTIC**
Contributor: Peter Van Coeverden de Groot, Queen’s University, Toronto
- 2. THE MUSK OX: THE LONGEST HAIR IN THE ANIMAL KINGDOM – ARCTIC**
- 3. THE BEAR: FUR IN THE SERVICE OF HUMANS – ARCTIC**
Contributor: Ivik, Inuit hunter
- 4. THE SILVER ANT: REFLECTIVE HAIR – NAMIBIA**
- 5. THE ELEPHANT: HEAT-DISSIPATING HAIR – NAMIBIA**
Contributor: Howard Stone, Princeton University, USA
- 6. THE SLOTH: A PROTECTIVE COAT – COSTA RICA**
Contributor: Max Chavarría, University of Costa Rica
- 7. THE OTTER: EXTREME INSULATION – CALIFORNIA, USA**
Contributor: Sandrine Hazan, Monterey Bay Aquarium



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.



1. THE RORQUAL: FILTERING AND TRAPPING FOOD WITH BALEEN – CANADA

Contributor: Dr. Alexander Werth, Hampden–Sydney College, USA

2. KRILL: A HAIRY NET – CANADA

3. BALEEN: A SUSTAINABLE MATERIAL – CANADA

Contributor: Leena, artist

4. THE MANATEE: GRAZING WITH HAIR – MEXICO

Contributor: Prof. Nataly Castelblanco, ECOSUR, Mexico

5. THE BUMBLEBEE: ATTRACTING POLLEN – FRANCE

Contributor: Prof. Mathieu Lihoreau, CNRS, France

6. YETI CRABS: REMARKABLE HAIR – PACIFIC OCEAN

(location added for clarity; can be removed if you prefer)

7. THE TIGER: HAIR ADAPTED TO PREY – INDIA

Contributors: Uma Ramakrishnan and Ashok Tiwari, photographer and naturalist



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.



1. GORILLAS: USING HAIR TO DISPLAY POWER – CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Contributor: Shelly Masi, CNRS / National Museum of Natural History (France)

2. YOUNG CHEETAHS: THE ART OF DISGUISE**3. THE SPINY RAT: TOXIC FUR – KENYA**

Contributors: Dr. Sara Weinstein, Utah State University, and Katrina Nyawira Malanga

4. TO BE CONFIRMED**5. THE DECORATOR CRAB: CHANGING APPEARANCE – CALIFORNIA**

Contributor: Prof. Jay Stachowicz, UC Davis College of Science, USA

6. THE TARANTULA: PROJECTING HAIRS – MEXICO

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

7. TARANTULA HAIRS AS MEDICINE – YUCATÁN

Contributor: Local villager



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. **AL 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* (5 x 43'/52'), *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.

AL 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.



CREATIVE TEAM



Matthieu MAILLET

DIRECTOR

Matthieu Maillet is a renowned French writer and director of documentaries, known for his ability to reflect the beauty and fragility of nature in his films and to invite viewers to contemplate and reflect on the place of the wild in a constantly evolving human world.

Matthieu Maillet pays great attention to natural light and highlights the elements and landscapes in their grandeur and simplicity, offering an immersive experience in each of his films, to bring awareness on the various preservation issues.

ONE-OFF DOCUMENTARIES:

WHISPERS OF THE EARTH (90'/52' – ARTE)

WORLD OF THE WILD - BOAR (52' – ARTE)

PATAGONIA (52' – ARTE)

ON THE TRAIL OF THE LYNX (52' – ARTE)

THE CALL OF THE NORTH (52' – ARTE)

DOCUMENTARY SERIES:

SEEDS OF CHANGE (10x26' – ARTE)

OF TREES AND FORESTS (2x52' – ARTE)

TOP OF THE ROCKS (5x52' – ARTE)



Marguerite D'OLLONE

SCREENWRITER

Trained as an anthropologist, Marguerite became a screenwriter after spending several years traveling the world. Through these journeys, her desire to tell real-life stories grew stronger than anything else. Since then, she has written for Arte, M6, France 3, and France 5, as well as for cinema—always driven by the desire to portray everyday life, the ordinary realities of elsewhere.

LATEST FILMS AND SERIES:

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES: AN EPIC ODYSSEY - 5x52' - ARTE

UN CHEF AU BOUT DU MONDE - 52' - M6

SEEDS OF CHANGE - 10x26' - ARTE

WILD EUROPE - 4x43' - ARTE

A YEAR AMONG WOLVES - 52' - ARTE

AU BOUT C'EST LA MER - 5x52' - FR5

Gautier DUBOIS

SCREENWRITER

Gautier Dubois has been a writer-director since 2012. He specializes in creating documentaries on science, discovery, history, and wildlife. Gautier works with France Télévisions and ARTE on the production of one-off films and documentary series. Gautier is passionate about nature and the environment, a passion he aims to share with as many people as possible.

RECENTLY, HE CO-WROTE :

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES: AN EPIC ODYSSEY - 5x52' - ARTE - Gédéon Programmes

THE KINGDOM OF THE CLOUDS - LIFE OF GELADAS AND HUMANS OF THE SIMIEN MOUNTAIN - 90' - France 5 - Kwanza,

IVOHIBORO - THE FORGOTTEN FOREST - 90' - France 5 - Haut et Court Doc

TOP OF THE ROCKS - 5x52' - ARTE - Haut et Court Doc

A PRAIRIE DOG'S LIFE : ONCE UPON A TIME IN THE PRAIRIE - 52' - France 5 - Kwanza

SEEDS OF CHANGE - 10x26' - ARTE - Haut et Court Doc

Gautier is currently co-directing **ANIMAL CROWDS** (3x43' - ARTE), produced by Bonne Pioche and Blue Ant.

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Emma LEPERS

PRODUCER

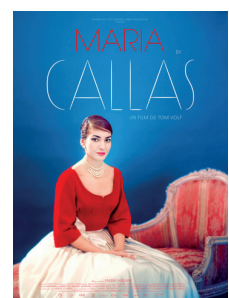
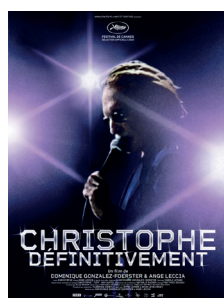
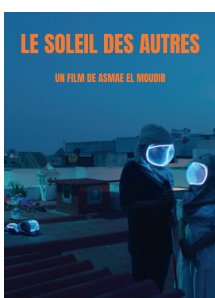
Haut et Court Doc, born in 2019, is the result of a partnership between the independent film production company **Haut et Court**, founded in 1992 by Carole Scotta, and the documentary production company **Petit Dragon**, founded in 2005 by Emmanuelle Lepers. Since its creation, the Haut et Court brand has become a benchmark of quality and high standards for cinephile audiences across all fields, which include feature film and series production, distribution, and exhibition. For over 30 years, the company has been committed to discovering and supporting new talent, both French and international, while upholding values of diversity, gender equality, and environmental responsibility.

Haut et Court Doc develops and produces contemporary and unique documentaries and documentary series for both television and cinema, working with talented and passionate authors and directors. Its productions prioritize themes of society, culture, and discovery, offering insight into and a deeper understanding of today's world.

Haut et Court (and Haut et Court Doc) are founding members of **THE CREATIVES**, an original response to industrial concentration in entertainment, and an opportunity to reaffirm the central role of the creative producer. The group, set to launch in 2026, brings together nine independent international production companies.

Haut et Court Doc pursues an ambitious theatrical production strategy, strongly oriented toward international co-production and the support of author-driven projects with a strong artistic identity. The company is currently involved in several feature-length documentary films intended for theatrical release and international festival circulation. Among the projects in development is **DON'T LET THE SUN GO UP ON ME**, the new film by Asmae El Moudir, currently in financing, co-produced with Norway and Chile, winner of the First Prize at the Atlas Workshops. Haut et Court Doc also coproduced **THE BEAUTY OF THE DONKEY** (2025) by Déa Gjinovci, in co-production with Switzerland and Kosovo, selected at the Zurich Film Festival and the Chicago International Film Festival, as well as **CHRISTOPHE... DEFINITIVELY** (2023), directed by Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster and Ange Leccia, an official selection at the 2022 Cannes Film Festival. The company's theatrical trajectory continues in the tradition of landmark films such as **MARIA BY CALLAS** (2017), an international success distributed in more than 50 countries.

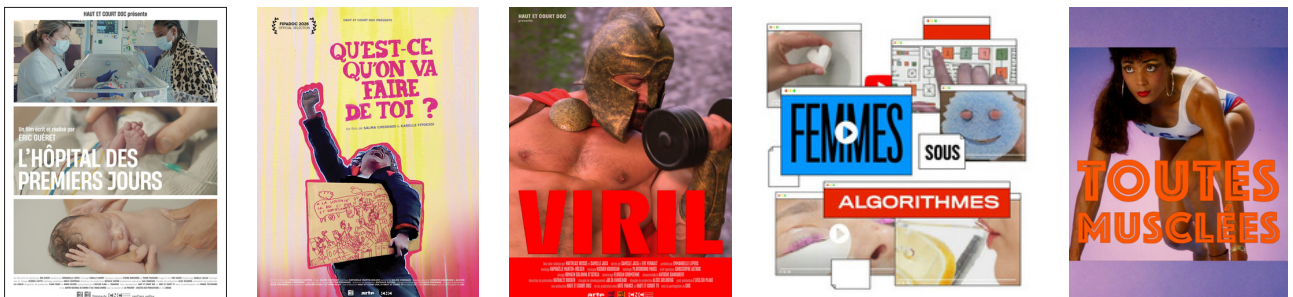
Haut et Court Doc also develops a rich and diverse audiovisual slate, working closely with a wide range of broadcasters, including ARTE France, France Télévisions, and M6. The company produces one-off documentaries and series spanning culture, society, and discovery, combining strong editorial ambition with a constant concern for accessibility to a broad audience.



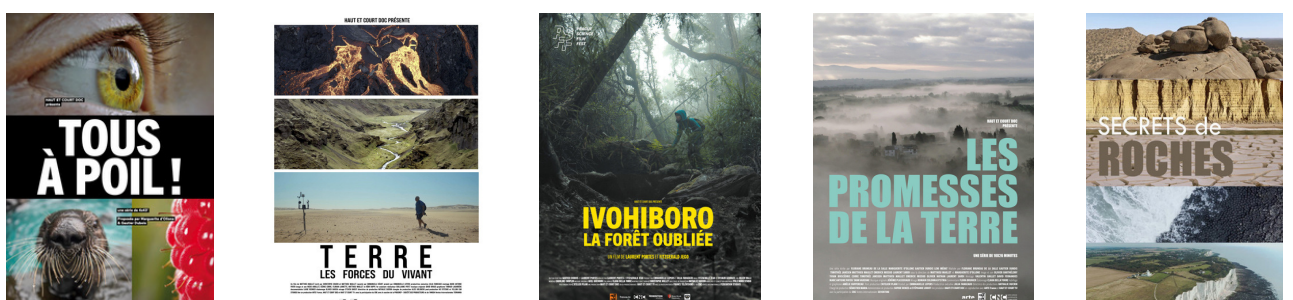
In the cultural field, Haut et Court Doc has produced films with significant international reach, such as **I AM MARTIN PARR** by Lee Shulman, broadcast by France Télévisions, released theatrically in numerous territories, and sold internationally by Dogwoof. The company also develops portraits of major figures in pop culture and cinema, including **ENTER THE DRAGON, THE BRUCE LEE REVOLUTION** by Marc Ball and **TIM BURTON, A MONSTRE OF CINEMA** by Sophie Peyrard, coproduced with ARTE France.



Haut et Court Doc places a strong emphasis on socially engaged films, grounded in reality and driven by an authorial perspective. Recent productions include **THE HOSPITAL OF FIRST DAYS**, a new film by Éric Guéret for France Télévisions; **LITTLE BIG MINDS**, the debut feature by Karelle Fitoussi and Salma Cheddadi, selected in the French competition at FIPADOC 2026; and **ON THE STRAW** by Éric Guéret, selected at FIPADOC 2025. This attention to contemporary issues is also reflected in innovative formats, notably high-impact web series such as **VIRIL** by Camille Juza and Matthias Vaysse, **ALGORITHMIC WOMEN** by Gabrielle Stemmer, and **MUSCLE UP GIRLS** by Camille Juza, selected at more than twenty international festivals.



Finally, Haut et Court Doc develops a dedicated editorial line for science and discovery films, addressing major contemporary environmental and scientific challenges. This activity includes productions such as **WHISPERS OF THE EARTH** by Matthieu Maillet, **IVOHIBORO: THE LOST FOREST** by Laurent Portes and Fitzgerald Jego, as well as the series **SEEDS OF CHANGE** and **TOP OF THE ROCKS** by Christophe Cousin and Matthieu Maillet, which combine scientific rigor, strong visual ambition, and accessible storytelling. The company is currently in production on Matthieu Maillet's new 3x52' series for ARTE France, **ALL ABOUT HAIR!**.



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