

## A SHOWER OF AWARDS FOR UNIVERSUM NATURE

A brilliant conclusion to the festival season for the ORF brand “Universum” Nature: At this year’s International Mountainfilm Festival, four outstanding productions from the renowned nature film series were awarded. Two main prizes, two honorable mentions and the audience award add to the impressive trophy collection of “Universum”.

**GRAZ/VIENNA** – “Universum” Nature has just concluded an exceptionally successful festival season, showcasing their work at festivals around the globe. Their latest triumph at the Mountainfilm Festival in Graz, Austria, solidifies their undeniable success. At this prestigious event, they were honored with two main prizes, two honorable mentions, and the audience award.

### OUTSTANDING IN EVERY WAY.

Patrick Centurioni received the “Kamera Alpin Austria” award for his impressive documentary “**Wildlife 2.0 – Adapting To A New World**” (A co-production by ORF, ARTE GEIE, NDR and Patrick Centurioni in association with ORF-Enterprise). This film examines the impact of human activities and energy transition on rural habitats, highlighting how wildlife adapts to transformed landscapes featuring urban structures and emphasizing conservation efforts like green bridges and habitat revitalization along infrastructure such as railway lines, wind farms, and solar installations.

The “Alpine Camera in Gold - Nature & Environment” award was given to the visually stunning production “**Lions of the Skeleton Coast**” (A co-production by ORF, PBS, ARTE, WDR and Into Nature Productions in association with ORF-Enterprise) by Will and Lianne Steenkamp, which also received the coveted Audience Award. The film tells the inspiring and dramatic story of three orphaned desert lion cubs born in the Namib Desert, following their journey to the Skeleton Coast where they adapt to hunting seals and waterbirds, transforming into true coastal lions. It captivated both the jury and the audience, making it an emotional highlight of the festival.

Commendations in the Nature & Environment category were awarded to two other “Universum” Nature productions, further emphasizing the brand’s diversity and quality: “**The Real Jungle Book**” (A co-production by ORF, ARTE G.E.I.E, NDR, dreiD.at Filmproduktion and Drishyam Films in association with ORF-Enterprise), which depicts the real animals behind the tale by Rudyard Kipling and “**Wild Transylvania – Dracula’s Hidden Kingdom**” (A co-production by ORF, NDR, ARTE, PBS, SVT, RTÉ Ireland, Crossing the Line Films and Skyland Productions, funded by Tax Credit Ireland and Creative Europe, in association with ORF-Enterprise), which explores Dracula’s legendary homeland in the

Carpathian Mountains and Transylvania, depicting a sanctuary for diverse wildlife such as eagles, lynx, bears, and wolves, capturing their lives amidst pristine peaks and medieval villages.

ORF-Enterprise, as the worldwide distributor for these acclaimed shows, plays a crucial role in bringing these exceptional productions to a global audience. By leveraging its expertise in international content sales, ORF-Enterprise ensures that the captivating stories of “Universum” Nature reach viewers around the world.

“My team and I are delighted to be entrusted with the world-wide distribution of these masterpieces. Congratulations to everyone involved and heartfelt thanks to the co-production partners without whom these wonderful productions would not be possible”, says **Armin Luttenberger**, Head of Content Sales International, ORF-Enterprise.

### **WORLD PREMIERE OF A MULTI-AWARDED PRODUCTION.**

The day before the Mountainfilm Festival, the world premiere of “**Lions of the Skeleton Coast**” has taken place in Graz/Austria. South African Filmmakers Will and Lianne Steenkamp presented their multi-award-winning film to an enthusiastic audience for the first time. The premiere not only showcased the extraordinary survival strategies of desert lions in Namibia, but also highlighted the filmmakers’ exceptional ability to bring these powerful stories to life.

“What a remarkable conclusion to an already successful festival year! The fact that a large number of “Universum” productions were honored here in Graz this year, as well as at numerous other major nature film competitions in the USA and Europe, shows once again the outstanding achievements of our filmmakers, even on an international level. The awards are a more than well-deserved reward for the great efforts that each and every one of them put into making a nature and wildlife film. Congratulations from the bottom of our hearts”, says **Gernot Lercher**, Head of ORF “Universum” Nature.

## ABOUT ORF-ENTERPRISE.

ORF-Enterprise's Content Sales International serves as preferred partner for broadcasters and platforms around the world as a one-stop-shop for high quality content offering a wide range of titles from all genres: Blue-Chip Documentaries, TV-Series and Movies, Children's Programs, Music as well as scripted and non-scripted Formats.

ORF-Enterprise is the Austrian Public Broadcaster's exclusive marketer for advertising in all ORF media.

The portfolio comprises four national television stations, three national radio stations, Austria's leading website ORF.at and the On-Demand Service ORF ON as well as the magazine ORF nachlese and ORF TELETEXT.

ORF-Enterprise's activities also include a music library and publishing house.

The program catalog targets the international television and media industry, comprising TV, VOD, DVD and ancillary rights of ORF's documentaries, TV series and movies, children's shows and music programs.

The whole selection of the programs distributed by ORF-Enterprise can be found easily on our website. Here you get detailed information such as cast, synopsis, awards as well as important technical details at any time.

## SUMMARY:

- "Universum" Nature concluded an exceptionally successful festival season.
- At the International Mountainfilm Festival in Graz, four productions from "Universum" Nature were awarded. The awards included two main prizes, two honorable mentions, and the audience award.
- Patrick Centurioni received the "Kamera Alpin Austria" award for "**Wildlife 2.0 – Adapting To A New World**"
- The "Alpine Camera in Gold - Nature & Environment" award and the Audience Award went to "**Lions of the Skeleton Coast**".
- Commendations in the Nature & Environment category were awarded to "**The Real Jungle Book**" and "**Wild Transylvania – Dracula's Hidden Kingdom**".
- The world premiere of "**Lions of the Skeleton Coast**" took place at the Stefaniensaal in Congress Graz.
- All programs are distributed worldwide by ORF-Enterprise (contentsales.ORF.at).