

People of the Rift Valley

Documentary series - 4 x 60 minutes



"Peoples of the Rift Valley" is a four chapter documentary series filmed entirely in Africa which shows the concerns and worries of different African people and their lifestyles, customs and traditions. Through the experience of living together with inhabitants from four different ethnic groups, and by integrating the camera into their daily lives, the series tells several stories: some surprising; others cruel, sad, dramatic, beautiful... in short, African stories. The soul of the 4 documentaries is the spontaneity of the people, their human essence observed and captured by a small film crew thanks to their sustained living alongside the protagonists and the trust that was built up.

a documentary series by PERE HERMS & MARCEL BRAU
produced by ABYSSINIA FILMS & DANAKIL PRODUCCIONS

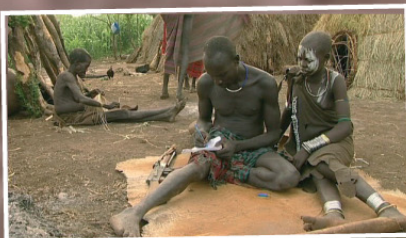
1. Afar, the Danakil nomads

Afar means "the best" or "the first", making it a name that honours the extremely proud nature of this people. They live in a vast rocky, dry and desert-like land. This forces them to move about constantly, like the wind, in search of an element that is essential but very rare in the region where they live: water. Culema and Ali Mohamed are Afar that, like many others, live from the extraction and sale of salt from the Danakil vale -the second deepest in the planet and one of the hottest areas too. Sono and Momima are an Afar married couple that live in the Awash park. Sono learned to drive tractors and now works for an agricultural firm.



2. Nuer, history of a refugee

Pel Kun is 24 years old and like so many other Nuer lives in a Sudanese refugee camp in Ethiopia. His family moved from Sudan to Ethiopia, fleeing the war, and today live on land that has been occupied from another people –the Anuak, with whom they dispute the territory. His dream is to go to Australia to do a degree. His refugee status will possibly enable this dream to come true. Once his studies are over, he would like to return home to be able to help his people acquire the knowledge he has picked up abroad.



3. Mursi, beauty and tradition

The Mursi are an ethnic group in the south east of Ethiopia –within the Mago national park area. They are of an animist tradition and still live primitively. Boncaulo is a Mursi who occasionally goes to the market in Jinka –a town two days walk away through forests. Some of his fellow village inhabitants take advantage of his trips, making orders that he carefully jots down on paper. Boncaulo learned to read and write years ago and is one of the few Mursi who can. His trips have become a great help to his neighbours.



4. Karo, the Omo ethnic group

The river Omo valley has been a life source for one of Africa's richest ethnic cultural groups, which has preserved many ancestral traditions. The Karo is a people made up of only one thousand people. Each day, when the sun rises, the working day starts for Úgumu, a 10-year-old Karo child who helps his parents do their daily chores. The Karo children play a fundamental role in domestic activities and thus in supporting the family. From the earliest age these families can count on the vital help of their children. The families work collectively in a daily struggle to subsist.

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Barcelona (Spain) * Telf. +34.93.452.29.52 * Mail: oriol@slot-tv.com