



NATURE'S MAGIC MOMENTS

- BEHAVIOUR -

Nature's Magic Moments allows us to witness nature through a new lens. Unique animal behaviours, brilliant super slow motion photography, and amazing time lapse imagery immerse the viewer deep inside once unknown worlds.

Every creature has its signature behaviour, a movement in time that the species relies on for survival. In **Nature's Magic Moments**, we cast a visual spotlight on these behaviors with the help of state-of-the-art camera technology and deft editing. These animals that viewers thought they knew are shown to be more complex, more brilliant, more magical than anyone could have ever imagined.

Take the the story of the bitterling fish, which exhibits one of the most remarkable behaviours of the film. These tiny fish “train” mussels to “allow” them to lay their eggs within their shells. We captured the exact moment an egg was released from the female bitterling through her transparent laying tube into a mussel. We then took the story a (difficult) step further, using special microscope camera technology to film the development of the fish eggs *inside* the mussel in time lapse.

We also used extreme macro photography to reveal the complete life cycle of a banded demoiselle. The pond-dwelling dragonfly starts its life as an underwater hunter, then undergoes an amazing metamorphosis to emerge as a flying daredevil...only to return to the water later as an adult to lay its eggs. Extreme macro photography and time-lapses allow us to visualize each stage of this incredible process.

Macro photography was also used to show the stealthy hunting technique of a lone crab spider hiding in a densely flowered meadow. What looks to our eyes as a gentle, idyllic setting is actually a carefully constructed trap. The spider sneaks up to a hummingbird hawk moth and launches an attack, but the moth has a ready defense: a comically long proboscis and the ability to flap its wings a record-breaking 80 beats per second - visible only in super slow motion.

Just as invisible to the human eye is the night time hunting behavior of bats. Using infra-red technology, we shed light onto the darkness to reveal the mystical spectacle of the Daubenton's bat using echolocation to hunt insects over the calm waters of a forest lake.

Better known behaviours like the kingfisher's high-speed hunting dives are visualized in a new and fresh way using super-slow-motion and unusual perspectives. Similarly, the fast-paced mating ritual of hares is filmed with an intensity rarely seen before. Our crew managed to capture a group of eight love-struck hares in a series of impassioned, feral boxing matches on a snowy winter landscape.

Award-winning director, producer, and cameraman Christian Baumeister and his team of passionate wildlife filmmakers succeeded in creating a film that tells the story of fascinating animal behavior in a highly compelling way through the use of modern film technology. Every single moment is a magical feast for the senses.

Format: 1 x 50' UHD
Director: Christian Baumeister
Writer: Patrick Makin
Camera: Christian Baumeister, Alexander Sommer et al.
Production: Light & Shadow GmbH
Executive Producer: Klaus Kunde-Neimöth (WDR)
Britta Kiesewetter (NDR/Doclights)
Christian Cools (arte)
Gernot Lercher (ORF)

