



# TRUTH & LIES

A SEARCH FOR THE TRUTH ABOUT OUR PAST,  
AND FOR THE LIES HIDDEN IN OUR RELIGIONS,  
OUR POLITICS, OUR MEDIA, AND OUR WARS.

AN ORIGINAL DOCUMENTARY SERIES  
6 EPISODES x 1 HOUR

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER CATHERINE BAINBRIDGE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER BERND WILTING

SHOWRUNNER LEWIS COHEN

PRODUCER DANIEL MORIN PRODUCER THOMAS LANGELAGE

WRITTEN BY LEWIS COHEN AND THOMAS LANGELAGE

ORIGINAL MUSIC BY ANAÏS LAROCQUE VISUAL EFFECTS BY A. A. STUDIOS

**zdf** info

**tvo** media  
education  
group

les films  
**re:z**olution  
pictures

 taglicht media

## TRUTH & LIES — SERIES SYNOPSIS

It's tempting to believe that our present age of fake news and alternative facts is unique and unprecedented. But it's not. Since the dawn of civilization, people in power have played with the truth, danced with deception, and altered reality to suit their interests—often with the help of propaganda and disinformation.

**TRUTH & LIES** is an ambitious new documentary series that unearths the most dramatic present-day and historical examples of facts being bent, twisted and reshaped as a means of achieving influence and control.

Through the insights of experts, thought leaders and journalists, **TRUTH & LIES** unpacks all the gory details of history's greatest deceptions—from kings and pharaohs leading their people into false wars, to the brutal witch hunts of the 17th century, to scandalous corruption and intrigue in the name of money and power, to the wild conspiracy theories, wiretapping and forgeries of modern times.

The tools used to spread lies might have changed over time—as word of mouth and ancient engravings give way to the printing press, television, the internet and social media—but the consequences are just as dramatic.

Visually, the series puts forth a potent mix of graphic novel-style animation to reconstruct past events, a rich tapestry of period and contemporary archives, as well as dynamic present-day doc scenes and interviews, shot in the actual settings and milieus where history unfolded.

Through it all, viewers are whisked away, across the ages, on amazing and unexpected journeys, where **TRUTH & LIES** are but inches apart—sometimes seemingly inseparable.



## TRUTH & LIES — EPISODE SUMMARIES

# WEAPONS OF WAR

*" We've entered a world where the speed of information often outruns the truth. "*

— **Emerson T. Brooking**, Digital Forensic Research Lab, Washington D.C.

They say that history is written by the victors; but sometimes, even in defeat, the powerful can control the narrative. No matter when or where the conflict—Ancient Egypt, medieval Sweden, 20th century Vietnam, or contemporary Syria—truth is often the first casualty of war, and propaganda the liar's greatest ally.



In this episode historian **Norbert Finzsch**, whose groundbreaking propaganda studies expose shocking falsehoods in our understanding of war, joins leading Egyptologist **Claudia Maderna-Sieben**, award-winning Vietnam War scholar **Lien Hang-Nguyen**, and disinformation expert **Emerson T. Brooking**, author of 2016's influential cover story for The Atlantic, "War Goes Viral".

# THE POLITICS OF RELIGION

*" The churches were enthusiastic about the residential schools because they really believed they could socially reconstruct us within a couple of generations. That within two generations, they would be able to beat the Indian out of us. "*

— **Winona Wheeler**, Professor of Indigenous Studies, University of Saskatchewan

Who in history has used religion to create and sustain power? How has faith distorted the truth, and to what ends? From the era of the Old Testament to the European witch hunts, to Canada's Residential Schools, and the rise of Creationism among present-day American evangelicals, religion has proven a reliable tool to brandish political power.



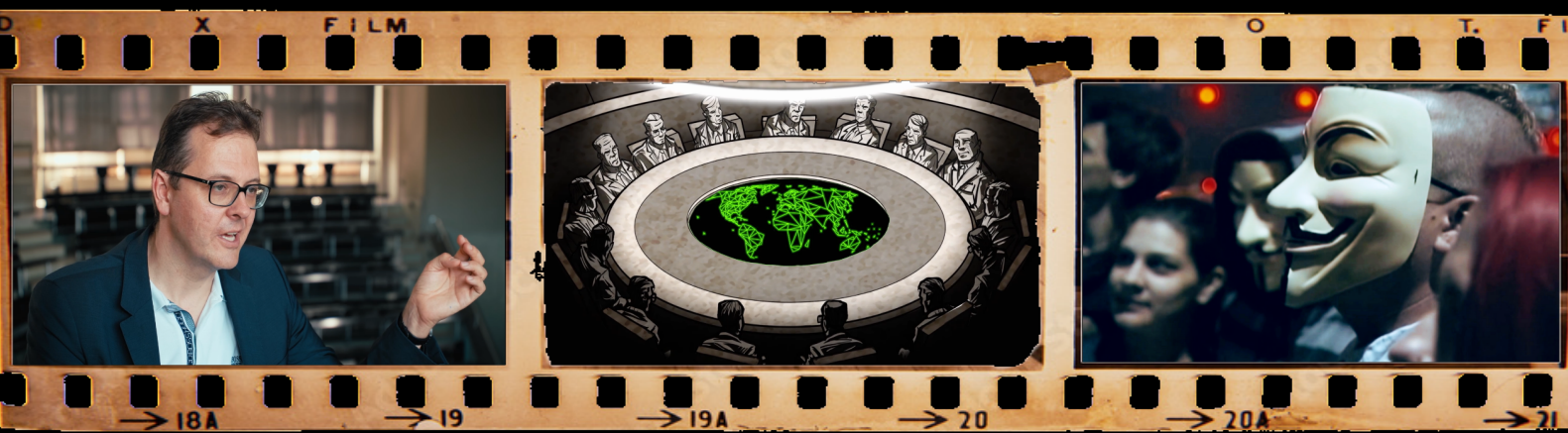
This episode follows prominent pro-science crusader **Eugenie Scott**, Indigenous scholar and activist **Winona Wheeler**, feminist historian **Christa Tuczay** and professor of the American prosperity gospel **Christopher Evans**, as they weave a historical tapestry of religious deception, control and myth-making.

# CONSPIRACY

" Conspiracy theories make the world meaningful, they imagine a world where nothing happens by accident. A world without chaos. A world where everything has been planned and everything is controlled. "

— **Michael Butter**, American Literary & Cultural Historian, University of Tübingen

Conspiracy theories have spanned the ages, feeding on basic human impulses like fear and insecurity. They sometimes grow from a kernel of truth, but they can also sprout from the seed of lies. From Mozart to JFK, Q-Anon to COVID, conspiracies emerge from anywhere at anytime, spread by all means available, with the potential for incredible danger and destruction.



**Michael Butter**, renowned author of *Plots, Designs, and Schemes*, guides viewers through 1,000 years of conspiracy thinking, alongside colleagues **Michael Hagemeister**, a world authority on *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, and Harvard's **Nancy Rosenblum**, co-author of the influential 2020 book, *A Lot of People Are Saying: The New Conspiracism and the Assault on Democracy*.

# SCANDALS

" Scandals are wildly popular with the media and consumers, because they're conflict-driven. People are drawn to conflict for evolutionary reasons: they want to be warned of danger. "

— **André Haller**, Professor of Communications, University of Applied Sciences Kufstein

Every lie comes with the risk of being exposed, and creating a scandal. And if that scandal is big enough, it can send shockwaves through a society, even triggering social upheaval. Out of history's greatest scandals—from ancient Greece to the digital age—emerges a fascinating question: What can scandals tell us about ourselves, and how do they impact the social norms that govern our lives?



Acclaimed legal scholar and **#metoo** analyst **Joan C. Williams** appears alongside Yale University's Marie-Antoinette connoisseur **Pierre Saint-Amand**, German journalist **Michael Seufert** – who had a front-row seat for the 1983 Hitler Diaries scandal – and civil rights attorney **Chase Madar**, author of *The Passion of Bradley Manning: The Story Behind the Wikileaks Whistleblower*.

# THE POWER OF MONEY

" When democracy arose, one of the expectations was that by empowering people, democratic communities would address wealth inequality, but in fact the opposite has been true. "

— **Jeffrey Winters**, Political Scientist, Northwestern University

What helped Julius Caesar seize the throne of ancient Rome? How did the Medici family gain control over Renaissance Florence? What fuelled the Panama Canal Scandal, thwarted black banking in Jim Crow America, or powered the Koch Brothers' Climate-denial machine? Money, plain and simple. With enough of it, anything is possible—even turning outright lies into something that resembles the truth.



Political scientist **Jeffrey Winters**, who has documented the rise of radical income inequality over the last 300 years, leads a stellar lineup of experts, including **Nancy Maclean**, award-winning author of *Democracy in Chains*, **Alessio Assonitis**, director of the Medici Archive in Florence, and Brandon Winford, a leading authority on the role of Black banking in the civil rights movement.

# INFLUENCERS

" At the core of social media is a business model that we call surveillance capitalism . . . which transforms users into raw material for personal data surveillance . . . and turns out to be highly compatible with authoritarianism. "

— **Ron Deibert**, Founder of The Citizen Lab, University of Toronto

In many ways, the struggle for power is the struggle to define the truth. Those who spread their doctrines farthest and fastest are those to whom the facts belong. History has produced a steady stream of "influencers"—from apostles to ad men, doctors to despots—and each, in their own way, is proof of just how fluid and fragile the truth can be.



Duke University's **Douglas Campbell** brings the highly influential Apostle Paul to life, while the bestselling author of *The Father of Spin*, **Larry Tye**, documents Edward Bernays' invention of PR, **Dr. Cristin Kearns** illuminates the outsize power of the American Sugar Lobby, and the Citizen Lab's **Ron Deibert** details the nefarious influence of China's Communist Party via Big Tech.



## TRUTH & LIES — PRODUCTION TEAM

### CATHERINE BAINBRIDGE

#### EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

CEO, executive producer, writer, and creative frontrunner, Catherine Bainbridge's most recent accreditation is as one of the executive producers on the CRAVE Original series *LITTLE BIRD*. Catherine co-founded the award-winning Indigenous production company **Rezolution Pictures**, with Ernest Webb in 2001. Her credits include director of the Sundance, Hot Docs, and Canadian Screen Awards winning feature documentary *Rumble: The Indians Who Rocked the World*, as well as co-director and executive producer of Peabody award and Gemini award winner feature documentary *Reel Injun*.

As a trained journalist, Catherine uses her gift for powerful character-based storytelling, bringing important Indigenous content to the forefront for mainstream media. For more than two decades she has worked tirelessly to build and foster relationships, both in the community and with stakeholders, earning her a richly deserved reputation built on trust and authenticity. Catherine's work transcends several crucial elements of the production process. Her role simultaneously sees her shaping business strategies and bringing together talented creators. Through her work with Rezolution Pictures, Catherine has been instrumental in changing the narrative when it comes to diversity and representation in the entertainment industry and creating a landscape to establish original Indigenous content within mainstream media. Catherine has cultivated a richly deserved reputation as a passionate storyteller, truly gifted in the art of transforming dreams and ideas into vivid, meaningful, award-winning media projects.

### BERND WILTING

#### EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Bernd Wilting is a multi-award winning producer and founder of **taglicht media** Film-und Fernsehproduktion GmbH. Bernd Wilting began his career as a filmmaker in the late 1980s. At the beginning of the new millennium, Wilting founded taglicht media, which rapidly built a reputation for documentaries and docudramas with high production values in the areas of science and nature, history and current affairs. The films Wilting produced have received several awards, such as the EMMY Award, The Panda Award for Best Science Documentary, the IMPACT Award for the best docudrama and the Grimme Award (the most prestigious German TV award). Bernd Wilting is a board member of the "Produzentenallianz" (German producers' association).

## **LEWIS COHEN**

### **SHOWRUNNER & WRITER**

Lewis Cohen is an Emmy Award-winning writer, producer and director.

His documentaries and television series have been broadcast in Canada, the US, UK, Germany, France, Belgium, Australia, South America and China. For the last two years, Lewis has been producing FIGHTING WORDS, a globe-trotting feature doc about three pioneering artists pushing back against political polarization. Prior to that, he was a showrunner at VICE, where he wrote, directed and produced 30 episodes of VICE GUIDE TO FILM (2019 Rockie Award finalist) for broadcast in the US, Canada, Australia and the UK; and THE BEAT, a 20-part doc series with unprecedented access to the police in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside (CSA finalist Best Doc Series).

His feature docs include:

LOVESICK (Gemini Award winner, Best Arts Program), JEWS & MONEY, an investigation into a kidnapping and murder in Paris; and the Gemini-nominated doc ROAD STORIES FOR THE FLESH-EATING FUTURE for CBC's Passionate Eye. Lewis also wrote and directed the 13-part series CIRQUE DU SOLEIL: FIRE WITHIN, the 2003 Primetime Emmy winner for Outstanding Nonfiction Program and Gemini winner for Best Direction and Best Reality-based Series. It was Bravo's highest-ever rated show at that time. Lewis is currently completing an autobiographical documentary investigating his obsessive relationship with his dog.

## **DANIEL MORIN**

### **PRODUCER**

Daniel Morin has worked in the television industry for more than 20 years.

Over this period he developed a strong expertise in character driven documentary series and scripted television and cinema. In the past years, Daniel has produced many hours of content in co-productions with France, Germany, Finland, Sweden and Australia, amongst many domestic productions. His productions have aired internationally on networks including: CBC, Showcase, Bravo, Discovery Channel Canada & USA, Travel Channel, BBC, Current TV (USA), Foxtel (Australia) & France 2.

Daniel worked at Vice Studio Canada for 3 years as VP, Production; during that period he helped produce more than 170 hours of original award winning content that is broadcast across the globe. Daniel has been working at **Rezolution Pictures** for 2 years, and his production of Aging Well Suzuki Style, a documentary on David Suzuki, was nominated for a 2021 Canadian Screen Award.

## **THOMAS LANGELAGE**

### **PRODUCER & WRITER**

After completing a Master's degree in Media Studies, Thomas Langelage began his career as a filmmaker in 2015 at **taglicht media** Film- und Fernsehproduktion GmbH. First, he realized several documentary projects as author and director, and since 2017 he also works as a producer in the areas of current affairs and history, developing, supervising, and realizing films and series for the national and international market.

## **TAGLICHT MEDIA GMBH**

### **COLOGNE, GERMANY**

Founded in 2001, **taglicht media** has earned an excellent reputation for its high-quality factual programming, specializing in history, science and nature. We have extensive relations with major international broadcasters or platforms, such as ZDF, ARD, ARTE, ORF, FranceTelevision, CBC, TVO, Blue Ant Media, PBS, Smithsonian Channel, Discovery + and many others.

#### Catalogue offers:

Rudolph and Werner Herzog's **"LAST EXIT: SPACE"**

(2022, tm, ZDF, ARTE, spring films, Gunpowder&Sky, discovery+);

Larry Weinstein's **"PROPAGANDA. THE ART OF SELLING LIES"**

(tm, Hawkey pict., ZDF, ARTE, TVO) which premiered at the Hotdocs 2019;

Herbert Ostwald's **"THE NAKED MOLE RAT"** (tm, CBC, Blue Ant Media, ARD), which won the Science Panda Award in 2018;

Niobe Thompsons **"EQUUS"** (tm, CBC, ZDF, ARTE);

Emmy-award-winning **"JESSE OWENS"**

(tm, Firelight Prod., PBS, ARD; **"NAZI GAMES"** (tm, PBS, ZDF, ORF).

#### Series catalogue offers:

"CRIME SCENE ANTIQUITY" (6-parts, tm, ZDF, ZDF Studios),

"CRIME SCENE MIDDLE AGES" (6-parts, tm, ZDF), and

"THE POWER OF THE SUPER-RICH" (6-parts, tm, ZDF).

## ANAÏS LAROCQUE

### MUSIC COMPOSER

Anaïs Larocque is a gifted French-Canadian composer, multi-instrumentalist and vocalist, specializing in scoring for Television and Film. Inspired by the complexity of human emotions, and combining this with her diverse musical background, Anaïs creates music which is both heartfelt and refined. She draws influence from many areas of life, especially the wonder and beauty of nature. Her approach aims to be simple, yet cinematographic and evocative.

In 2016, Anaïs won her first prize at the Montreal International Film Scoring Competition. Since then, she has composed for a dozen films, including 4 feature documentaries and a documentary series. Those films are currently touring the world and winning many prestigious awards on the festival circuit. In 2022, Anaïs won a *Gemeaux Award* for Best Original Score in a Documentary.

## A.A. STUDIOS

### VISUAL EFFECTS

A.A. Studios is a boutique-style visual effects and computer animation service house. Based in Montreal, Canada, the company offers a wide range of production services for film, television, and virtual reality. A.A. Studios is built around a strong core team of experienced artists who are able to draw from their deep combined knowledge to ensure that every project is a resounding success.

With clients in Quebec and across the USA, they have contributed to the following documentary series: *Unearthed*, *Lost Treasures of Egypt*, *Lost Beasts of the Ice Age*, and a current BBC production about dinosaurs, *Mission Jurassic*. A.A. Studios has also provided visual effects for *422*, *Portrait Robot*, *Big Little Lies*, *Arlette*, *Cutbank*, and *The Words*. Upcoming projects include the *Tetris* film and the *Mégantic* television series.

## **REZOLUTION PICTURES**

**MONTREAL, CANADA**

A leader in Canada's cultural landscape, **Rezolution Pictures** is an Indigenous-owned, Montreal-based film and television production company. Its acclaimed productions have won numerous honours and entertained audiences across North America and around the world.

Rezolution's Emmy nominated feature documentary, **RUMBLE: The Indians Who Rocked the World**, has won several awards, including Sundance Film Festival's World Cinema Documentary Special Jury Award for Masterful Storytelling and 3 Canadian Screen Awards for Best Feature Length Documentary, Best Cinematography and Best Editing. Another one of Rezolution's award-winning feature documentaries is 2010 Peabody winner **Reel Injun**.

Rezolution's authentic, intentional, and impactfully storytelling spans several genres, including comedies, dramas, TV series and big-budget non-fiction documentary features, creating **over 100 hours** of meaningful content.

Rezolution Pictures' passionate team is led by co-founders/Presidents/executive producers **Ernest Webb** and **Catherine Bainbridge**, Vice-President/executive producer **Christina Fon**, and CFO/executive producer **Linda Ludwick**.

# TRUTH & LIES

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**Canada** 

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S **Knowledge  
Network:**

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