

# GIRAFFES – THE FORGOTTEN GIANTS

A documentary film for CBC's Nature of Things and PBS Distribution

## PRESS KIT

### **MEDIA ALERT**

Nomad Films presents

## GIRAFFES – THE FORGOTTEN GIANTS

**The fight against the silent extinction of Africa's gentle giants**

*"Giraffes are absolutely incredible creatures. They're about as likely as a unicorn"*

– John Doherty, Reticulated Giraffe Project, Samburu, Kenya

*They're beautiful, they're a product of evolutionary history, and they're at the end of their evolutionary tree - so... If we lose giraffes, we've lost that whole branch of biodiversity."*

- Dr. Zoe Muller, Wildlife Biologist in 'Giraffes: The Forgotten Giants'

**World Broadcast Premiere on CBC-TV's The Nature of Things**  
**Thursday, November 5, 2015 – 8 PM (8:30PM NT)**

Nomad Films is pleased to announce the world broadcast premiere of their new documentary, ***Giraffes: The Forgotten Giants***, co-written and directed by award winning Mark Johnston (***To Bee or Not to Bee; The Climb; The Al Qaeda Code*** and ***Empire of the Word***).

Everyone on the planet knows what a giraffe is. "G" is for Giraffe in the alphabet and "Sophie" the Giraffe teething toys can be found in the hands of practically every newborn baby. But, most people don't know much about giraffes, or that these iconic creatures of wild Africa, with their long necks, cinnamon spotted coats, flirty lashes and loping gait are disappearing at an alarming rate. Two hundred years ago there were a million giraffes, in 2000 there were 140,000 roaming Africa's plains and forests. Now, fifteen years later, their numbers have plummeted to less than 80,000.

And, yet there has been a bewildering lack of awareness and recognition of the threat to the survival of these gentle giants, especially compared to the other large mammals of Africa. **Giraffes: The Forgotten**

**Giants** delves into the reasons behind this “silent extinction” and introduces us to the scientists, and biologists who are making remarkable headway gathering new information in labs, universities and in the field, that may stave off their impending demise.

Until the ground breaking work carried out by University of Waterloo’s Dr. Anne Innis Dagg, nothing was known about these silent giraffes. After earning her Master’s Degree at the University of Toronto, she went alone to Africa in 1956–57 to study the behavior of giraffes in the wild – a study which was the first of its kind for any animal in Africa. Her 1976 book, *The Giraffe: its Biology, Behavior and Ecology.* is the bible in the field.

“Anne is the Jane Goodall of giraffe research” says Anne’s friend, co-worker and contemporary, **John Doherty** who is the Coordinator of the Reticulated Giraffe Project in Samburu, Africa where much of **‘Giraffes: The Forgotten Giants** was filmed this past spring.

Doherty, along with other scientists, including wildlife biologist **Dr. Zoe Muller**, is carrying out ground breaking studies in the areas of infrasound (low frequency sound humans can’t hear), and biometrics, using the most current research and state of the art technology. Because they have very little experience of the technical work of recording this low frequency soundscape in the field, **Forgotten Giants’** sound recordist Jason Milligan spent months putting together the necessary equipment to do the delicate recording featured in the film. At Samburu, they made recordings that may prove giraffes use infrasound to communicate. It is potentially a world first that could give a voice to these seemingly silent creatures.

Also using cutting edge, FLIR THERMAL CAMERA TECHNOLOGY, Doherty and Muller are able to observe giraffes at night, in a natural, relaxed manner, without scaring them away. Giraffes are shy, skittish creatures, and DOP Russell Gienapp built platforms on Toyota Land Cruisers, filming behind blinds built by locals in the style of a Samburu home, to keep them running away from his cameras.

**Giraffes: The Forgotten Giants** also introduces us to a number of individual giraffes - both in the wild in Africa and in captivity in Canada.

We learn from Dr. Zoe Muller that giraffes who were previously thought to be bad mothers, in fact have a very strong social bond with their young. They not only take care of their own infants, but also those of other mothers – displaying babysitting behaviours, shared nursing, grieving, and dedicated guarding of their young at night.

**Jason Pootoolal**, a young zookeeper at African Lion Safari in Hamilton, Ontario introduces us to the first giraffe born by artificial insemination. He and his team are developing assisted reproductive techniques for a highly endangered subspecies of giraffe. Their research has garnered them the award for Outstanding Achievement from the Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums and holds great promise towards bolstering the giraffe population.

At African Lion Safari, the crew were able to film with no problem, since the giraffes are used to interacting with Jason and his team, especially during their regular ultrasounds to monitor the pregnancies of the females they have artificially inseminated in their world leading program.

The more that is revealed about their biology and behaviours, the more we can do to help giraffes. We know they are killed for their meat, and are threatened by environment encroachment by the locals. We know they are at risk from the large predators they live amongst. But is there more to the story?

Right now, more than any time in their history, we need to listen to these seemingly silent giants. Through the work of the scientists in ***Giraffes: The Forgotten Giants*** that might soon be possible.

**Giraffes: The Forgotten Giants** was made in association with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and PBS International, with the participation of the Canadian Media Fund, Rogers Documentary Fund, Rogers Telefund and with the assistance of The Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit, The Ontario Film and Video Tax Credit and the cooperation of the Canadian Federation of Musicians.

### **Giraffes: The Forgotten Giants**

Broadcast premieres on November 5, 8pm, 8:30pm (NT) on CBC-TV

Running time: 44 minutes

CBC-TV's *The Nature of Things* Website  
Website: <http://www.cbc.ca/natureofthings/>

#### **Trailer link**

[Click here to view Trailer](#)

#### **Images**

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1v5r3kuo0ot7dhw/AAA2LqAv3fRS7oBa5qTOV\\_Bwa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1v5r3kuo0ot7dhw/AAA2LqAv3fRS7oBa5qTOV_Bwa?dl=0)

#### **Social Media**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/6587143694/?fref=ts>

<https://twitter.com/AmandaTheNomad>

<https://twitter.com/Markuus>

**Vimeo or DVD screeners for media preview – on request**

**For more information and to request interviews and screeners:**

#### **Media Contact:**

Virginia Kelly, Meghan Parnell, V Kelly & Associates

[info@vkpr.ca](mailto:info@vkpr.ca)

O: 416 466-9799, C: 416 839 9239 **LOG LINES:**

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**SHORT “A” (90 CHARACTERS): GIRAFFES – THE FORGOTTEN GIANTS** is an exciting look into the secret life of giraffes.

**LONG “B” (120 CHARACTERS): GIRAFFES – THE FORGOTTEN GIANTS** is a look into the secret life of giraffes and how scientists race to understand them before they disappear.

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#### **SYNOPSIS:**

##### **SHORT SYNOPSIS (200-250 WORDS):**

**Giraffes: The Forgotten Giants** Is a documentary that introduces us to a number of individual giraffes - both in the wild in Africa and in captivity in **Canada, and traces their fascinating life cycle.**

**We also meet the scientists who study giraffes. Canadian, Anne Dagg (the pioneering “Jane Goodall” of giraffes), joins scientists who are carrying out ground breaking studies in the areas of infrasound (sound humans can’t hear), and biometrics, using the most current research and state of the art technology. We will witness an attempt to prove giraffes use infrasound to communicate. It is potentially a world first.**

A deeper scientific understanding of giraffes serves not just biological curiosity. Uncovering the secrets of giraffes can help save the disappearing species, which are among the most threatened of the great mammals in Africa.

##### **LONG SYNOPSIS (800 WORDS):**

It’s early morning and the sun peeks over the horizon. From high up we see a remarkable vista: a handful of giraffes, the tallest terrestrial animals, walking slowly towards a river that snakes across Samburu country in Northern Kenya. We could be fooled into thinking these are simple, primitive beings. However, as we delve into their biology and behaviour, it becomes clear they are incredibly complex creatures. Their biological adaptations include enduring a six foot drop to the ground as they are born, clubbing each other with their massive heads to establish dominance, and controlling their blood pressure in such an innovative way that astronauts have harnessed it. Yet mysteries about them persist. How is it that a bull can travel from miles away directly to a group of females he cannot see? What is it about a mother’s stare from far away that makes her sleeping calf wake up and follow her? How is it that giraffes often react in unison to the threat of a predator?

It has long been thought that giraffes are silent animals that don’t form strong social bonds. However, some scientists now suspect they are communicating using infrasound: low frequency sound waves, inaudible to the human ear used by elephants and rhinos. We will document a group of scientists conducting the first-ever infrasound experiments with giraffes in the wild, attempting to prove infrasound communication by linking behavioural responses to pre-recorded and live infrasound. This work could cause a momentous re-evaluation of our understanding of giraffes and their level of social sophistication.

**Giraffes: The Forgotten Giants** is a documentary journey that will introduce us to a number of giraffes – examining them giraffes in the wild in Africa and those in captivity in zoos. These giraffes are the protagonists of the film, and we will come to know the smallest details about their personal stories as well as their biology. This intimate examination serves to connect the viewer to the individual animals as

well as to the species as a whole. The viewer will be left with a lasting connection to giraffes as they struggle to survive. As we get to know giraffes, we will also meet the scientists who study them. These scientists are the supporting characters in the film; appearing at the moment when their research connects directly to the aspect of giraffe biology that we are observing.

A deeper scientific understanding of giraffe behavior serves not just biological curiosity. Uncovering the secrets of giraffes can help save the disappearing species, which are among the most threatened of the great mammals in Africa. At their present rate of decline, giraffes in the wild will be extinct within a few decades, yet there has been a bewildering lack of awareness and recognition of the threat to their survival. For example, there are roughly five times as many elephants in Africa as a whole than there are giraffes, yet the IUCN red list of endangered species lists elephants as “endangered” and giraffe as “of least concern.” Right now, more than any time in their history, we need to pay attention to these seemingly silent giants. They are speaking to us in ways we are not attuned to hearing. Through the work of the scientists we visit in **Giraffes: The Forgotten Giants**, that is about to change.

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#### **INTERVIEWEE LIST:**

Dr. Anne Innis Dagg – Biologist and Author of the book “Giraffe – Biology, Behaviour and Conservation”.

John Doherty – Coordinator, Reticulated Giraffe Project

Jacob Leaidura – Naturalist, Reticulated Giraffe Project

Jason Pootoolal - Head Giraffe Keeper, African Lion Safari

Dr. Zoe Muller - Wildlife Biologist

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#### **BIOS:**

##### **INTERVIEWEES:**

**DR. ANNE INNIS DAGG** – is a Canadian Biologist, feminist, and author of numerous books. She has made a “significant contribution to giraffes worldwide in an unprecedented way.” Anne Innis earned a master’s degree in genetics from the University of Toronto. She went alone to Africa in 1956–57 to study the behavior of giraffe. On returning to Canada, she earned a PhD at the University of Waterloo, analyzing and comparing the gaits of giraffe and other large mammals. At the time this university did not hire women in the biology department, so she worked in a program where students did the hiring. Today she works in Independent Studies, an evolution of that Program. Her research produced over 60 refereed scientific papers on such subjects as homosexuality, behavior of mammals, sociobiology, feminism, sexism at universities, and the rights of animals. She has also written 20 books and over 100 articles on these topics

**JOHN DOHERTY** - is a member of the Ecology, Evolution, Behaviour and Environmental Economics research cluster in the School of Biological Sciences at Queen's University Belfast. He has degrees from

the Universities of Oxford and Pretoria and a postgraduate certificate of education from the University of Bristol. John has worked, studied and travelled extensively in eastern and southern Africa, the Indian subcontinent, the Iberian peninsula, Britain, Ireland, Norway and the High Arctic, focusing especially on species conservation, the management of protected areas, wildlife conservation within human-dominated landscapes and environmental education. He made his first study of giraffes at the age of 10 and he first worked in northern Kenya (as a carpenter) in 1978.

**JACOB LEAIDURA** – is an experienced observer of northern Kenya's richly diverse flora and fauna and he has an encyclopaedic knowledge of its spectacular birds. He is certified as a naturalist by the Kenya Professional Safari Guides Association and has worked in Samburu, Buffalo Springs and Shaba National Reserves for more than 25 years. Jacob is a keen environmental educator, adept at passing on his enthusiasm for nature to his fellow Kenyans and to visitors to the country alike. As a small child, he was afraid of reticulated giraffes when he came across them in the bush on his long walk to school. Now, he knows hundreds individually and has become an expert on their behaviour and their social interactions. His personal favourite is known as DC10.

**JASON POOTOOLAL** - is supervisor of hoofstock at African Lion Safari in Ontario, Canada, where he also leads the team working with giraffe, white and greater one-horned rhino and tapir training and research. At University of Guelph he studied zoology where obtained his BSc degree in 2001. In 2003 he began working at the African Lion Safari, and here he has worked with many different animals before gravitating towards hoofstock.

Working with a team of collaborators on 4 continents he is developing a program with endangered Rothschild giraffe to help control breeding as well as exchange genetics in more meaningful way. Along with his research partners they have characterized the sonomorphology of pregnant and non-pregnant giraffe as well as correlated reproductive events with endocrine profiles by use of ultrasonography. Currently he is working on developing assisted reproductive techniques in giraffe. Recently accomplished goals have been manual semen collection, development of extending and freezing protocols, as well as both fresh and frozen artificial insemination. The aim of the research is to develop methods for conserving current captive and wild genetics, making the transfer of genetic material to become much possible between distant captive populations, between wild and captive populations as well as populations separated by time. The program he and his fellow staff members carry out with the giraffe herd garnered them the award for Outstanding Achievement from the Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

In addition he has consulted for a variety of zoological facilities around the world as well as being a member of several professional zoological organizations. He has contributed to several published research programs.

**DR. ZOE MULLER** - has been actively involved with giraffe conservation and research in Africa since 2005. In 2010 she set up the Rothschild's Giraffe Project in Kenya, which was the first fully comprehensive, scientific study of this endangered giraffe subspecies to be carried out in the wild. In 2013 she founded the Giraffe Research & Conservation Trust, which was Africa's first charitable organization dedicated to giraffe conservation. Zoe is a member of the IUCN SSC Giraffe & Okapi Specialist Group, a Research Associate of the Giraffe Conservation Foundation and a member of the Kenya Wildlife Service National Giraffe Conservation Task Force for Kenya. Passionate about giraffes and securing a future for them in the wild, Zoe's work focuses on behavior, ecology, education and

community-led approaches to conservation. She has just finished her PhD in giraffe behavior and ecology through the University of Bristol.

#### **PRODUCTION COMPANY, KEY CREATIVES AND CREW:**

**Nomad Films** develops and produces factual programming for film and television that focuses on a wide range of compelling stories about social and political change, adventure, the environment, the arts, indigenous culture and science. Known for its international treaty co-production work, Nomad has successfully produced films such as the award-winning Ken Wiwa's *In the Shadow of a Saint*, an official Canada-UK Co-Production.

Nomad is built on the experience of its Associates who have worked in television environments as diverse as the BBC, Discovery, National Geographic, PBS and the CBC, as well as a plethora of other media outlets. The company has a mandate to produce a broad spectrum of films: social, political, scientific, literary, natural history and performing arts.

Most recently, Nomad Films completed *Disfarmer*, a documentary about the "found" American portrait photographer Mike Disfarmer, and which was broadcast on TVO, AVRO Netherlands, SVT Sweden and SBS Australia. Another recent production was *Empire of the Word*, an ambitious four hour documentary series about the impact of reading and writing on human history for TVO, SBS Australia, TG4 Ireland and several other broadcasters, which was filmed in fifteen countries. *When We Were Boys* was directed by Sarah Goodman whose first documentary was the award-winning *Army of One*. It was officially selected for Hot Docs 2009 and was released theatrically in Canada in October, 2009 through KinoSmith.

In 2008, Nomad completed *The Al Qaeda Code*, and in 2007, *The Climb*. Nomad has also produced the twice Gemini-nominated *The Man Who Became King* for Documentary, National Geographic International and Sundance Channel.

Nomad produced its first theatrical drama with Daniel Irons and Foundry Films (Sarah Polley's *Away From Her* and *Manufactured Landscapes*) Released in 2010 (co-produced with the NFB), the film is set in Afghanistan and written and directed by Nelofer Pazira (*Kandahar* and *Return to Kandahar*) and shot by Paul Sarossy (*The Sweet Hereafter*, *Ararat*, *Chloe*).

Nomad's dramatic film, *Half a Million Heroes*, the story of Nigerian writer and martyr, Ken Saro-Wiwa, is slated for production in 2012 with Oscar-nominated actor Djimon Hounsou playing Saro-Wiwa. Triptych Media (*Emotional Arithmetic*, *The Hanging Garden*) will co-produce.

#### **Mark Johnston: Director, Co-Writer, Executive Producer**

**Mark Johnston** is the founder of **Nomad Films**. Twenty-five years in the factual television business, Mark has worked in a producer or director capacity on over sixty films. He began his television career with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's nightly newscast, *The National*. He was the first team members on **Millennium: Tribal Wisdom and the Modern World**, a massive ten-hour PBS/BBC/Global Television documentary series filmed in fifteen countries around the world (Executive Produced by Adrian Malone, creator of *The Ascent of Man* and *Cosmos* with Carol Sagan).

Some other recent titles produced and/or directed by Mark Johnston include: **The Man Who Became King** (CBC, Sundance Channel and National Geographic International); **The Life and Times of Sarah McLachlan** (CBC); *Jean's Marines* (W Network); **Beetalker** (CBC's *Nature of Things*/ARTE France); **Riddle of the Polar Sky**, (Discovery; WDR/ARTE; National Geographic; WDR); **The Climb** (CBC/National

Geographic/Discovery HD Theater); **The Al Qaeda Code** (CBC and WDR/ARTE); **Empire of the Word** (TVO, TFO, SBS and TG4); The Jungle Prescription (CBC's Nature of Things); **Disfarmer** (TVO, SVT, AVRO, SBS); **To Bee or Not to Bee** (also known as the Mystery of the Disappearing Bees) (CBC's Nature of Things/ARTE France); and **Glenn Anderson's To Russia with Love** (CTV). His recent work included the ten part documentary series, **Fight Xchange** (for Superchannel and Globo's Combate in Brazil). His latest film is **Giraffes: The Forgotten Giants**, for CBC's Nature of Things and PBS International. Mark has worked for partners as diverse as the BBC, ARTE France, Discovery, National Geographic, PBS, the CBC, as well as a plethora of other media outlets.

### **Amanda Handy: Producer**

Nomad Films is an award winning producer of powerful documentaries and exciting factual programming, for broadcasters all over the world.

Amanda joined Nomad Films in 2007 as a Partner and Producer. Successfully leveraging her diverse film and television experience that included running the Business Affairs and Marketing departments for some of Canada's biggest drama and documentary production houses, Amanda has created and implemented a number of initiatives to position Nomad as a leading company in the film and television industry.

Amanda's strengths lie in her passion for seeing projects through from the initial development of creative ideas all the way to the distribution of the final product. Working closely with the creative team and handling the day to day producing of each project. Amanda ensures projects stay on budget and schedule, meet all reporting requirements and broadcast standards.

Since joining Nomad Amanda has worked as a producer on the critically acclaimed documentaries **When We Were Boys** (Official Hot Docs and True False Film Festival Selections and Donald Britain Award Nominee) and **The Al Qaeda Code** (BANFF Award Nominee), as well as the ambitious 4 part documentary series **Empire of the Word** (Worldfest Houston Platinum Award Winner and Banff Award Nominee) and Nomad's first drama feature film with the NFB, the Afghan based **Act of Dishonour** (*Official Selection for the Edinburgh Festival*), Coproduced with Dan Iron of Foundry Films (Away from Her).

Other select credits include **The Jungle Prescription**, a documentary about an ancient Amazonian medicine called ayahuasca, which is being used cure western drug addicts at an astonishing rate and airing on Super Channel, and an exciting 13 part documentary series called **The Fight Xchange**, which is a fascinating look at MMA fighting through a Brazilian, Canadian exchange program.

*Next up are the drama feature In The Shadow of a Saint*, which tells the story of Nigerian writer and martyr, Ken Saro-Wiwa and is, slated for production in 2008 with Oscar-nominated actor Djimon Hounsou playing Saro-Wiwa. Triptych Media (Emotional Arithmetic, The Hanging Garden) will co-produce and **Giraffes - The Forgotten Giants**, a ground breaking natural science documentary project that challenges perceptions of giraffes for the CBC and PBS International.

### **RUSSELL GIENAPP - Director of Photography**

Russell Gienapp has been a professional photographer since he was 21 years old. After transitioning from a promising photojournalism career into cinematography over 20 years ago he has partnered with



many world-class filmmakers all over the world covering a broad spectrum of subjects: natural history, social, political, docudrama, commercial, travel and lifestyle. He is as equally comfortable shooting observational docs on the most sensitive stories as he is filming in the most extreme climates and locations.

Russell has filmed raccoons in Toronto, crows in Seattle, Asian carp on the Mississippi, puffins in Newfoundland and giraffes in Kenya for **The Nature of Things (CBC)**. His extreme cold expertise has taken him numerous times to the high arctic and the mountains of Mongolia. Recently, he was co-director and cinematographer of **March to the Pole (History Channel)** where he followed soldiers suffering from PTSD on a high arctic cross-country skiing expedition to the magnetic north pole. Projects have also taken him to the North Atlantic for **Cold Water Cowboys (Discovery Channel)** and searching for underwater mysteries in Laos, Philippines and Tinian Island **Dive Detectives (History Channel)**. For Russell, “home” is anywhere there is a story to capture.

### **Robert Kennedy: Editor**

Robert Kennedy studied cinema at University of Toronto and has over 20 years of experience editing. In addition to television work, he is editor of twelve feature documentaries and dramas, including 2014's *Altman*, for which he received a Canadian Screen Awards nomination.

### **Michael Hanson: Composer**

Michael Hanson was the founder, drummer, songwriter, and one of the 2 pivotal original members of the Capitol EMI Records band GLASS TIGER from 1985 to 1990.

Michael is best known in the music business as a renowned ‘songwriting hook’ specialist, with a pop sensibility for writing songs that is among the very elite in the world.

Currently he is producing music for film & television, as well as writing and recording for new and established artists.

Alongside manager/businessman Glen Daniel, Michael is currently unveiling a new multifaceted Canadian Entertainment Company, HANSON ENTERTAINMENT which includes a Full Scale Music Production facility / Film Music Division and Film Production House.

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## **PRODUCTION NOTES**

### **ABOUT THE FILM AND ITS HISTORY**

When we heard about how threatened giraffes were in the wild, we thought we should look closer at the study. And as we looked closer, we understood from the scientific community that we didn't really know that much about the animals. There was so much more to understand about them when compared to elephants or rhinos. So we found a group of scientists out on the cutting edge of giraffe biology, and followed them as they went about their work, doing studies that will not just inform us about giraffe biology, but contribute to conservation efforts too. The Nature of Things at CBC also

understood how little we knew, and thought this important story would be great for their audience, so that they would know the animal better, and also understand that urgent conservation action was needed.

## **ABOUT PRODUCTION**

The bulk of the filming happened in Kenya in April of 2015, where the crew visited Samburu National Reserve to trace the work of the Reticulated Giraffe Project. We also visited Soysambu Conservancy to work with Rothschild's Giraffes there. Throughout that month, we put in very long days going out to track animals that are very wary of human beings. Director of Photography Russell Gienapp built platforms on top of each Toyota Land Cruiser, from which he could film behind a blind built by local Samburu (and in the style of a Samburu home, using strong branches and leaves of local plants). It was a long month of chasing giraffes, getting intimate with them as much as we could and observing their fascinating behaviour.

In African Lion Safari, we were able to get much closer since the giraffes are used to interacting with their zookeepers there. It allowed us to film very intimately with the animals and their keepers, especially during the ultrasounds that the team there performs to monitor the pregnancies of the females they have artificially inseminated in their world leading program.

When we were planning the film, we knew that early infrasound work being done by John Doherty would be of interest, but the scientists in the field had very little experience of doing the technical work of recordings and playback of this low frequency soundscape. Our sound recordist, Jason Milligan, worked months putting together the equipment needed to do the delicate recording and playback of infrasound in the field, something that has never been done before. Working with John Doherty in Samburu National Reserve, Jason was able to make recordings that may hint at possible infrasound communication between giraffes. But John will need to continue the work that Jason began there, and after Jason trained him in how the equipment worked. We await the further studies and publications that may reveal exciting new discoveries.

## **SCIENCE STORIES:**

- **INFRASOUND** – Other animals have been shown to use infrasound (communicating below 20 Hz). We know there's a huge field of excellent research on infrasonic communication in elephants. There's been much more limited research in giraffes, but scientists have persuaded themselves that giraffes generate infrasound. So although all that previous work has been done in zoos, where the conditions are much easier to control, we did the first recordings and playbacks in the wild for the film using an equipment package researched and designed by our team. It is the exciting beginning of the exploration of that as a possibility.
- **ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION** – The African Lion Safari's Giraffe Reproductive Team, working with a team of collaborators on 4 continents is developing a program with endangered Rothschild giraffes to help control breeding as well as exchange genetics in more meaningful way. Along with their research partners they have characterized the sonomorphology of pregnant and non-

pregnant giraffe as well as correlated reproductive events with endocrine profiles by use of ultrasonography. Currently they are working on developing assisted reproductive techniques in giraffe. Recently accomplished goals have been manual semen collection, development of extending and freezing protocols, as well as both fresh and frozen artificial insemination. The aim of the research is to develop methods for conserving current captive and wild genetics, making the transfer of genetic material to become much possible between distant captive populations, between wild and captive populations as well as populations separated by time. The program they carry out with the giraffe herd garnered them the award for Outstanding Achievement from the Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

- **FLIR THERMAL CAMERA TECHNOLOGY** - Thermography is an accurate, quantifiable, non-contact diagnostic technique used to visualize and quantify changes in surface temperatures. Applications include vascular evaluation, tissue condition, muscle strain assessment, and bleed point detection. We used it in the film observe giraffe behavior at night as well as to monitor heat transference between mothers and babies in captivity. It gave the biologists access to 12 more hours of observational time during the nighttime. Traditionally if you did find giraffes at night, you shine a big spotlight in their face, and then you don't get to observe natural behaviour. So to go out with a thermal camera was really an amazing opportunity, and you can observe the giraffes and see what they're doing in a very natural, relaxed manner, without intruding on them whatsoever. Thermal imaging is going to be a fantastic avenue for research into the future. It can tell researchers all sorts of things about what giraffes do at night, how they spend their time, are they foraging and taking on energy, are they resting, we just don't know. There's also huge applications for learning about sleep in giraffe in the wild, because when the giraffe goes into a deep state of sleep, they're obviously in a very vulnerable position, because they have to be lying on the ground with their head round and resting on their rump. In the daytime, if a giraffe is doing that in the bush, your chances of seeing it are very slim. However, with the thermal imaging cameras, it's clear as day on the screen and you can see exactly what they're doing. There's a huge amount of applications that this new technology can bring to research, and it's really exciting.

#### **CANADIAN STORIES:**

**DR. ANN INNIS DAGG** - is a Canadian Biologist, feminist, and author of numerous books known as the Jane Goodall of Giraffes. She has made a "significant contribution to giraffes worldwide in an unprecedented way." Anne Innis earned a master's degree in genetics from the University of Toronto. She went alone to Africa in 1956–57 to study the behavior of giraffe. On returning to Canada, she earned a PhD at the University of Waterloo, analyzing and comparing the gaits of giraffe and other large mammals

AFRICAN LION SAFARI – AI PROGRAM. SEE ABOVE.

## **TECHNICAL INFORMATION**

PRODUCTION YEAR:	2015
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:	CANADA
FILMED ON LOCATION IN:	CANADA AND KENYA
RUNNING LENGTH:	44:02 MINS
PRODUCTION COMPANY:	NOMAD FILMS INC. <a href="http://www.nomadfilms.ca">www.nomadfilms.ca</a>
SHOOTING FORMAT:	CANON 5D AND 7D
AVAILABLE FORMATS:	HD/Digibeta
ASPECT RATIO:	16:9
COLOUR OR BLACK AND WHITE:	COLOUR
LANGUAGES:	AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH (WITH MATERIALS TO ALLOW FOR VERSIONING)

## **PREMIERE STATUS**

FILM TO PREMIERE ON NOVEMBER 5<sup>th</sup> 2015 ON CBC'S NATURE OF THINGS.

**CREDITS:**

**Giraffes: The Forgotten Giants**

**1.**

The Nature of Things

With David Suzuki

**2.**

Giraffes - The Forgotten Giants

executive producer

Mark Johnston

produced by

Amanda Handy

producer

Alison Reid

**3.**

director

Mark Johnston

written by

Mark Johnston

Alison Reid

**4.**

director of photography

Russell Gienapp

additional camera

Michael Morrow

camera assistants

Jomba Lemasian

Michael Lesoipa

**5.**

editor

Robert Kennedy

music by

Michael Hanson

sound recordist  
Jason Milligan

**6.**  
production manager  
Amanda Handy

production coordinator  
Stacia Neale

associate producer  
Russell Gienapp

technical engineer  
Keith Barrow

production accountant  
Linda Stregger

**7.**  
post production supervisor  
Amanda Handy

online editor  
Kyle Smith

workflow and dailies processing  
Joseph Murnaghan

senior colourist  
Mark Driver

art director, animation  
Peter Auld

creative director, animation  
Sam Javanrouh

digital versioning technician  
Tim Camilleri

**8.**  
post producer  
Bianca Santos

animation producer  
Candice McHugh

video post executive producer  
Paul Moyer

sound design and re-recording mix supervisor  
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