



A FILM BY
WHITE SPARK PICTURES
BANOVICH STUDIOS &
CROSS BORDER PRODUCTIONS

THE LAST
HORNS
OF AFRICA

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SYNOPSIS With unprecedented access, THE LAST HORNS OF AFRICA is a gripping and intimate look at the current rhino poaching war raging across Africa. We follow the journeys of two heroes who put their lives on the line to protect the rhino in their care, all the while a top-secret, covert operation endeavours to bring down South Africa's most notorious rhino poaching syndicates.

Hidden away in South Africa, is the World's largest rhino orphanage, run by Petronel Nieuwoudt, who deals with the aftermath - the orphaned rhino calves knowingly left for dead by poachers. Through her eyes, the viewer gets an insight into the incredible bonds that are formed and the heart wrenching reality of where these calves have come from.

Meanwhile, in Kruger National Park - ground zero for rhino poaching, Don English, a Veteran Ranger commands his brave team on the front line of the rhino horn war as they set out on an almost insurmountable task of protecting the rhinoceros in an area the size of Israel.

From never before seen footage of South Africa's largest undercover wildlife investigation and interviews with poachers, the filmmakers risk their lives as they are thrust into the underground world of illicit rhino horn deals organised by South Africa's ruthless rhino poaching Kingpins. THE LAST HORNS OF AFRICA is a first hand look at the complexities and moral debates of contemporary conservation, which has found itself entangled in the dark web of corruption and the illegal wildlife trade.

FORMAT 90 Minute Feature Documentary

PRODUCTION SCHEDULE Commenced 2016 through to 2019

PRODUCTION COMPANY	White Spark Pictures	Cross Border Productions	Banovich Studios
	80 Birdwood Parade	Unit B, 42 Minora Road	2 Pine Creek Road
	Dalkeith, WA, 6009	Dalkeith, WA, 6009	Livingston, MT 59047

DISTRIBUTION BY Off The Fence
Herengracht 105-107
1015 BE, Amsterdam, Netherlands

CAST The cast consists of world orphan rhino expert Petronel Nieuwoudt, African Ranger Don English, Members of the South African HAWKS undercover unit as well as interviews with experts on rhino poaching.

THE RHINO:

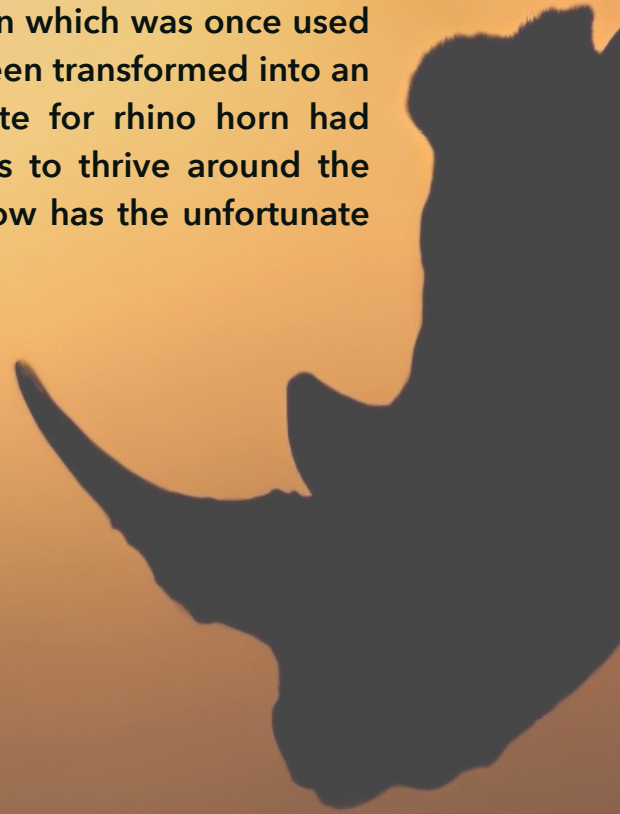
A SPECIES ON THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION

For over 2,000 years humans have desired the horn from a rhino as the legend of its curative properties traveled the ancient Silk Road, but after relentless persecution their populations have plummeted from over 1 million in the early 1800's to less than 20,000 today.

Of the 5 species that remain, 80% of those rhinos are located in South Africa of which the majority are then found in the world famous Kruger National Park. However, with prices of rhino horn reportedly fetching upwards of \$60,000 USD per kilogram (\$1,700 per ounce) on the black market, it has sparked a new poaching wave that has swept the African continent pushing an already endangered animal closer to the impending cliff of extinction.

The current demand for rhino horn is coming from a burgeoning middle class in Vietnam and China, where the symbol of rhino horn which was once used primarily in Traditional Chinese Medicine, had now been transformed into an object of wealth and power. The insatiable appetite for rhino horn had created an avenue for organised criminal syndicates to thrive around the porous border of the Kruger National Park, which now has the unfortunate title of being ground zero for rhino poaching.

Some conservationists say that a 40 year old ban on the international trade of rhino horn is leading this poaching crisis, while other environmental experts believe the ban is the only thing between the rhino and its complete extermination. With the conservation world divided on how to save this iconic specie, the only united front seem to be the criminal syndicates as they thrive on corruption and chaos to condemn 3 rhino every day for nothing but its horn.



UNPRECEDENTED ACCESS

CARE FOR WILD RHINO SANCTUARY, SOUTH AFRICA

Due to our close connections with the founder, we were given unparalleled access to the world's largest rhino orphanage and its owner Petronel Nieuwoudt. The orphanage receives all its rhino calves from Kruger National Park and is not open to the public - its location in South Africa is also a heavily guarded secret to protect it from poachers.

KRUGER NATIONAL PARK, SOUTH AFRICA

Never before has a film crew had access to the behind the scenes of Kruger National Park than throughout our filming for this documentary. From live chases of poachers to undercover operations being carried out in the middle of the night, our look at Section Ranger Don English and his team in Kruger National Park is a world first.

SOUTH AFRICAN HAWKS POLICE

The Hawks are the USA equivalent of the FBI and are responsible for targeting organised crime, economic crime and corruption. We were given unprecedented access from January 2017 to follow 'Project Broadbill' and the top secret intelligence group "Erebus" which became South Africa's largest ever undercover wildlife operation, with the goal of collecting evidence to arrest the South Africa's top rhino poaching Kingpins. The operation concluded in September 2018 with the takedown of the 2 rhino horn Kingpins 'Mshengu' and 'Big Joe,' as well as a range of corrupt police officials.



MAIN CHARACTER - PETRONEL NIEUWOUDT

Petronel was a former Police Captain in the Endangered Species Protection Unit (ESPU), but after witnessing the death of thousands of animals in the illegal wildlife trade she made it her mission to save them, hence the Care for Wild Rhino Sanctuary was founded with the sole intention of rescuing wildlife and rehabilitating them so they can be released back into the wild.

Little did Petronel know, that this rhino poaching crisis would push her to the very limits. A very young, critically endangered Black Rhino is brought in from Kruger National Park after his Mom was poached for her horns. Petronel names this orphan rhino 'Thor' and begins the long journey of rehabilitating him, however after an unexpected accident the fight to keep Thor alive proves to be Petronel's hardest battle yet.



MAIN CHARACTER - DON ENGLISH

Don English is one of the most famous game rangers in all of Africa and commands respect where ever he goes. As Section Ranger in Kruger National Park, Don's team single handedly protect the largest population of rhinos on the planet. We follow Don and bare witness to the militarisation of conservation in Africa as he is likened to a hardened soldier instead of a humble ranger. The audience is also given an insight in to how his job has impacted his family and the constant stress they're under, wondering each day whether he will make it home alive.

Don also plays a crucial role in 'Project Broadbill,' as he helps the The South African HAWKS Police team gain access to Kruger National Park under the cover of dark to catch corrupt police who are responsible for poaching rhino. He has a close connection to Petronel and the Care for Wild Rhino Sanctuary, for he is the one who rescues orphaned rhino in the national park and flies them to safety.



"PROJECT BROADBILL" - UNDERCOVER OPERATION

The South African Hawks, under the command of Colonel. Johan Jooste launched a top secret operation code named 'Project Broadbill' in January 2017. A select group of undercover agents and informants was then created to conduct the tasks needed to gather evidence - this secretive group was dubbed 'Erebus,' the name coming from the Greek God of deep darkness and shadows. The goal of Erebus was singular, dismantle South Africa's rhino poaching syndicates so as to disrupt the supply chain of rhino horn to Asia.

The viewer also dives into the reality of the poacher's world putting them face to face with the people that pull the trigger. First hand interviews with active poachers and informants describe how, where and why they turn to rhino poaching. A member of Erebus narrates the complexities of the case they are building, all the while the evidence accumulates and then concludes in the special operation takedown of South Africa's two biggest rhino poaching kingpins.



A) Money paid to the undercover agent.



B) Rhino horn used in the covert operation.



C) Prepping rhino horn for sale.



D) Interview with a leader from a poaching gang.

THE TEAM



EXECUTIVE PRODUCER - BRIÈGE WHITEHEAD

Briège is an experienced producer, director and writer, based in Perth, Western Australia. She established her own company, White Spark Pictures, in 2017, focused on producing both factual programming for the international television market as well as Virtual Reality (VR), immersive and interactive productions.



EXECUTIVE PRODUCER - JOHN BANOVICH

John Banovich is a world-renowned artist and one of the foremost conservationists of our era. Creating award-winning oil paintings for decades, his work is exhibited in museums and noteworthy collections across the globe. His deep passion, unwavering commitment and knowledge of wildlife continues to inspire. Banovich has been showcased on The Outdoor Channel, The Great American Country Channel, Orion Entertainment and PBS and his award winning book BEAST has been showcased on CBS Entertainment Tonight and he has been named an NBC Cause Celebrity for his dedication to his conservation work.



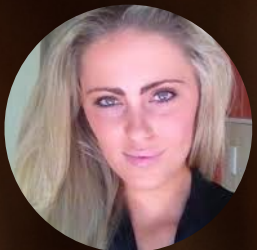
DIRECTOR & DOP - GARTH DE BRUNO AUSTIN

Garth is an experienced Director and Cinematographer and has worked on shows such as the BBC's 'How To Grow A Planet' and 'Nature's Miracle Orphans,' as well as the award winning film 'Greenfields' based in Western Australia.



CAMERA OPERATOR & WRITER - SEAN VILJOEN

Sean Viljoen is a cinematographer and photographer whose heart lies deeply rooted in nature and wildlife conservation. His introduction to photography was through his father by spending countless family holidays in the African bush.



PRODUCER - MORGAN PELT

Morgan is an Environmental Scientist and Producer who has worked as an orphan rhino caretaker at the world renowned Care for Wild Rhino Sanctuary in South Africa. She has also worked as a location producer on the tv show "Impossible Planet" and "Poisonous Liaisons."

CALL TO ACTION

The rhino poaching crisis is one of the most significant conservation challenges of this century. This documentary has the potential to inform viewers, which will allow for a much more educated discussion about the right course of action to save such an iconic species.

Awareness and funding can be brought to the people who put their lives on the line to protect the rhino. Lastly, this film has the potential to make the audience feel as though they can play a real part in taking action to save the rhino.

"If we can't save the rhino, we can't save anything"

- Petronel Nieuwoudt, Founder of the Care for Wild Rhino Sanctuary



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