



EXITUS

EXITUS A SERIES BY **MAXIMILIAAN DIERICKX, BOB THISSEN, JEROEN SWYNGEDOUW, TOON LOENDERS**
PRODUCTION **OFF WORLD** IN COPRODUCTION WITH **SLAMMER!, MOLLYWOOD, VRT-CANVAS, SUBMARINE (NL) & NTR(NL)**
WITH THE SUPPORT OF **VAF | MEDIA, CoBO-FONDS** GENRE **DOCUMENTARY SERIES** LENGTH **8 x '26**





EXITUS

In Exitus 2 filmmakers Bob and Jeroen travel around the world, looking for fascinating abandoned buildings. This is what urban explorers do according to the definition: often illegally visiting, photographing and documenting abandoned buildings or not publicly accessible locations.

But because of their passion for animation film, Bob and Jeroen go further than the average urban explorer. With stopmotion-animation they bring the peculiar places back to life after years of neglect.

Bob and Jeroen show us a mysterious world we otherwise would have never known. Abandoned castles, warships, theatres, factories, prisons, monasteries and even complete abandoned villages in Abkhazia get a new life in this 8-part series.



THE CHARACTERS

BOB THISSEN

Bob Thissen is next to stopmotion-filmmaker, a passionate urban explorer. Every free moment he hits the road to discover abandoned places all over the world. Bob is hyper-excited, busy, never tired, and would do anything to reach his goal. He is a real discoverer, always looking for new places to explore. Bob doesn't shun any risks and has an enormous urbex network throughout Europe and the rest of the world.



JEROEN SWYNGEDOUW

Jeroen Swyngedouw is a friend of Bob's and his inseparable companion during their adventures.

He is also a stopmotion-filmmaker. Jeroen is passionate by architecture and history and tries to see the beauty in everything. He has an interesting passion for urban exploring. Jeroen is a bit more laid back than Bob. Which is why he mostly leaves the initiative to Bob and he can easily adapt to the circumstances. He has an eye for detail, however.



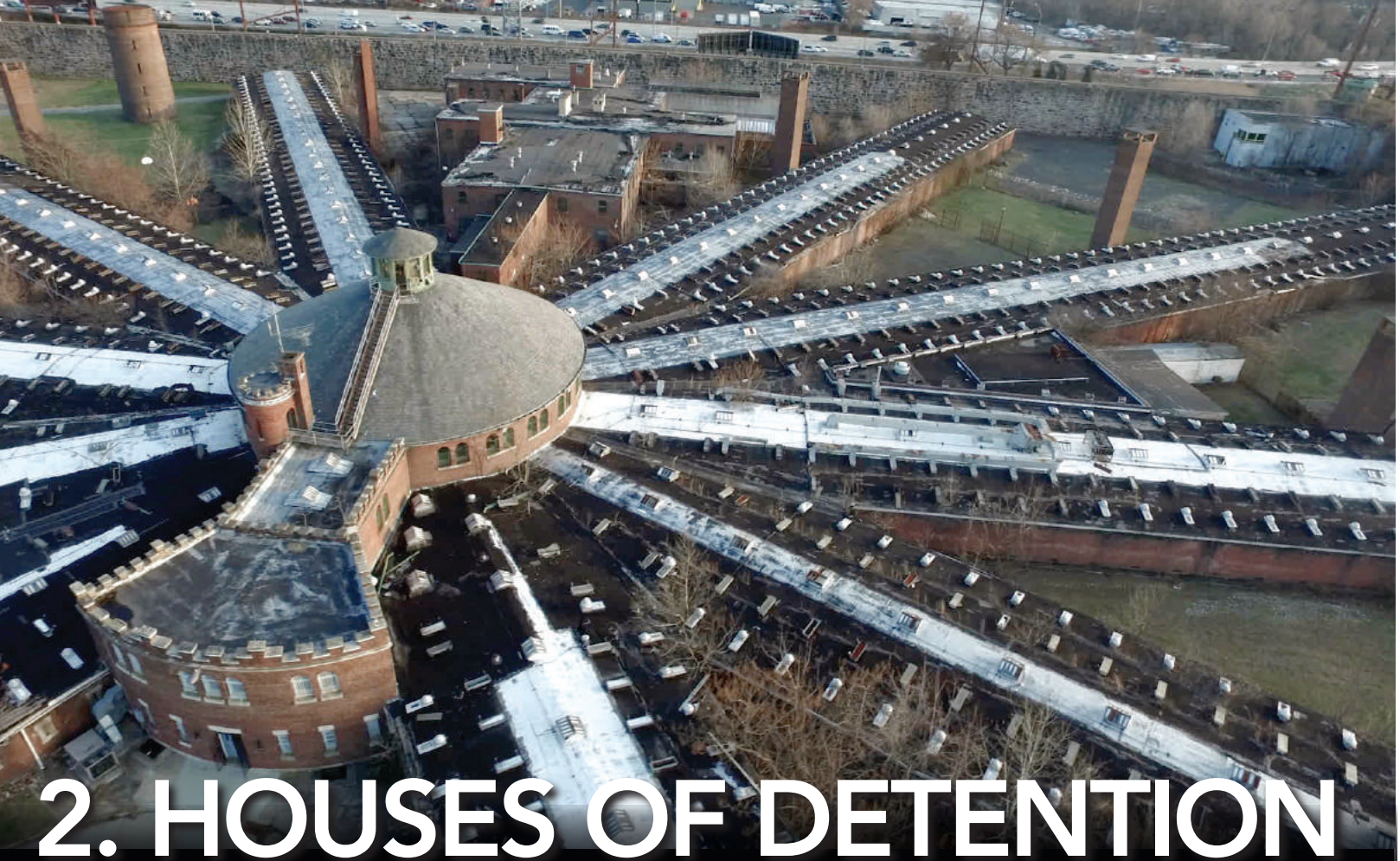


8 EPISODES

1. NOBLE HOUSES

In the first episode Bob and Jeroen journey to the Loire region in France. This region is dotted with hundreds of castles from the era that the French court and its noble entourage switched Paris for the Loire valley. Nowadays it is barely possible to maintain these kinds of castles. Some castles get their maintenance from the many tourists who visit them, others were abandoned and gradually succumb to the forces of nature. Bob and Jeroen discover a very peculiar abandoned castle: the interior brings us back to the glory days of the noble way of life, with time to own interesting collections...





2. HOUSES OF DETENTION

In the second episode Bob and Jeroen are held hostage by Snowzilla, a snowstorm that paralyzed the entire East coast of the USA at the beginning of 2016. They will just have to look for abandoned buildings in the city before they can continue their trip to the prison in a distant suburb. But the waiting is rewarded: 'Holmesburg Prison' brings the eerie isolation of mentally disturbed prisoners ever so close...





3. THEATRE

The golden era of theatres seems long over. Nowadays we see the financial support melting like snow in the sun. Still the reduced attention for theatre is not a contemporary syndrome. Bob and Jeroen visit 'Loew's Theater', a cabaret and movie theatre north of New York that was forced to close in 1975. The rise of television proved harmful for this illustrious theatre. In this impressive scenery Bob and Jeroen bring the theatre back to life as if time has stopped only momentarily...

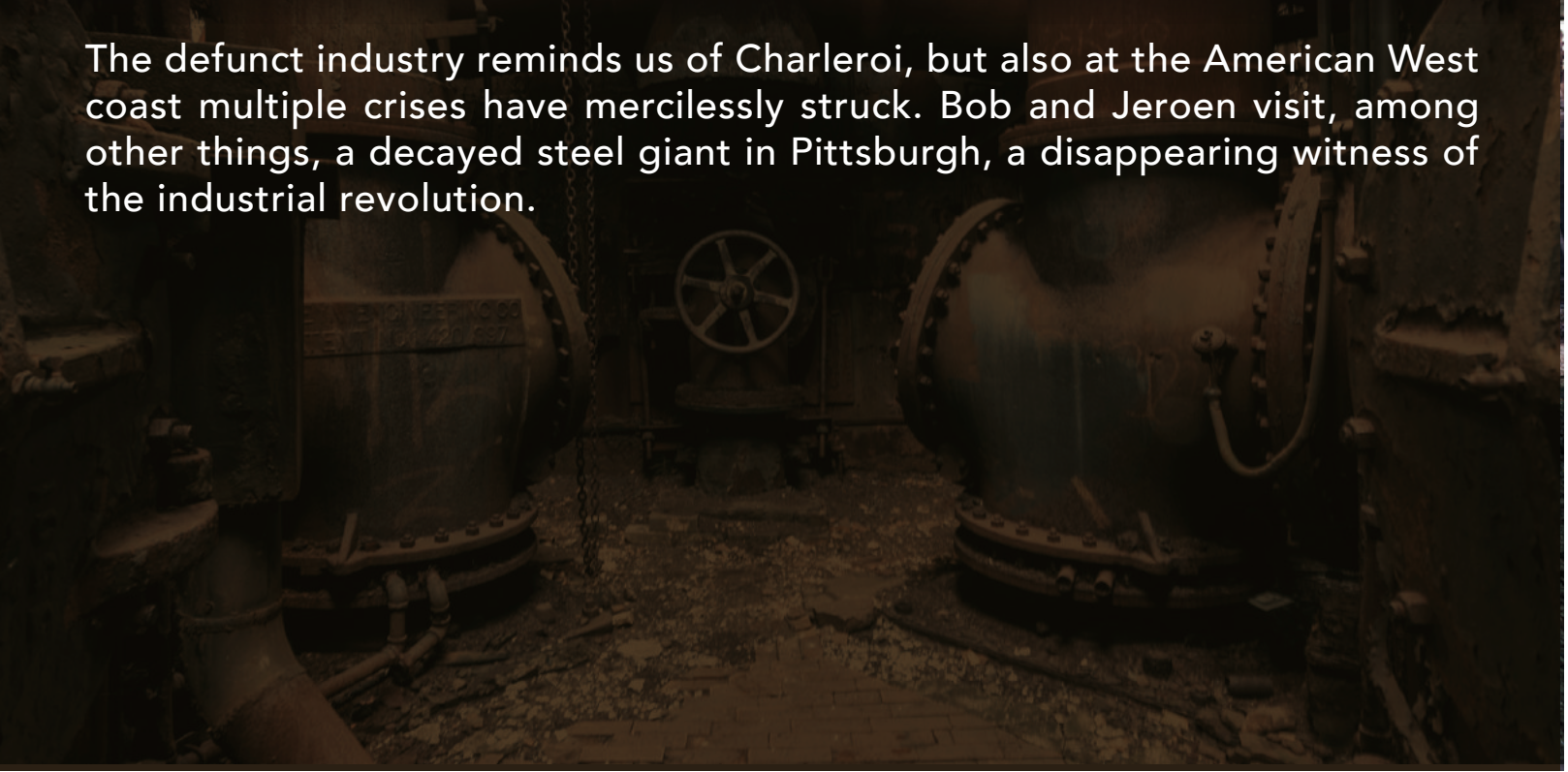




4. STEEL GIANTS

Steelworks, power plants and blast furnaces are usually gigantic buildings. It is incredible that mankind has been able to design and build them to provide the world with energy and resources. They are masterpieces of human ingenuity and providence. With the social evolution that the steel giants brought about, came on the one hand the often disastrous consequences for the environment, and on the other hand the social massacres that arose from their closure.

The defunct industry reminds us of Charleroi, but also at the American West coast multiple crises have mercilessly struck. Bob and Jeroen visit, among other things, a decayed steel giant in Pittsburgh, a disappearing witness of the industrial revolution.





5. WARSHIPS

The whole of Europe is still dotted with traces from the First and Second World War. Buildings, constructions and areas that at the time served nations, nowadays often escape our attention. The history is too complex to keep all the details alive, and most of the time even local residents don't know about their existence. Bob and Jeroen travel to the Landévennec region, looking for a ship graveyard of the French marine. A warship is not accessible for visitors and most people will never set foot on a ship like that. But on a ship graveyard we don't have to defy soldiers.



6. SOVIET RIVIERA

Few will be able to point out Abkhazia on a map. Abkhazia calls itself an independent republic, but with the exception of Russia, Venezuela and some mini-states, the international community does not recognize its independence and for them Abkhazia is a rebellious province of Georgia bordering the Black Sea. When Georgia, including Abkhazia, was still a part of the USSR it was a favourite resort for the party bosses of the USSR. Also Stalin had his country house there. The pleasantly warm coast region was crammed with villas, sanatoria and resorts. After the collapse of the USSR and the bloody civil war, the luxury and recreation were reduced to vacancy and chaos. Bob and Jeroen go in search of the remnants of the Soviet architecture of the luxury and they discover the differences between poor and rich, even during times of communistic principles...





7. GHOST TOWNS

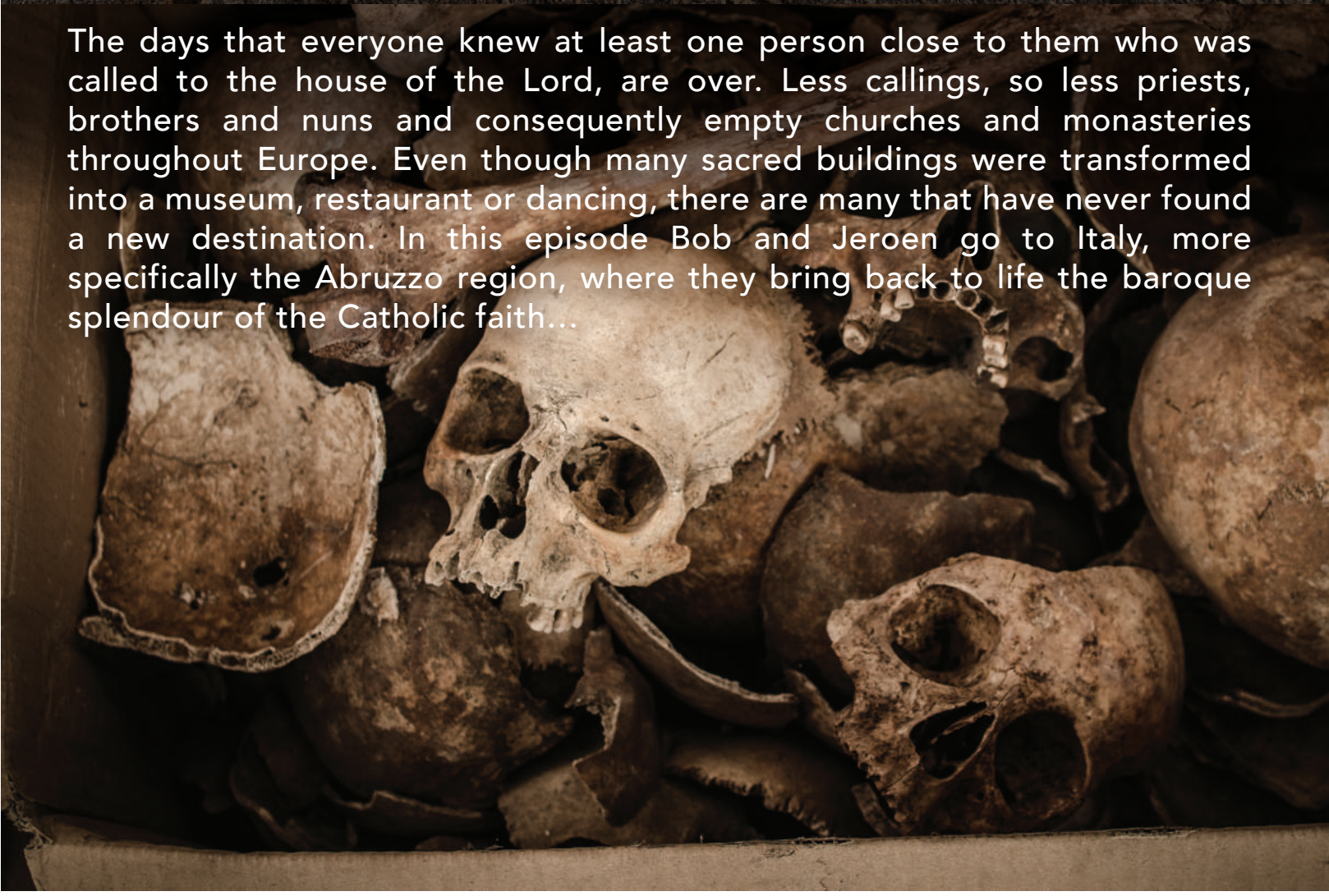
Bob and Jeroen travel through the mountainous hinterland of Abkhazia. At the time of the USSR many villages and small cities prospered thanks to the support from Moscow to the mining and industry. With the collapse of the USSR the industry stalled. The villages and cities became abandoned and because of the mountainous landscape the residents left most of their possessions. Bob and Jeroen bring the villages back to life and have some interesting encounters with the last remaining residents...





8. CHURCHES & MONASTERIES

The days that everyone knew at least one person close to them who was called to the house of the Lord, are over. Less callings, so less priests, brothers and nuns and consequently empty churches and monasteries throughout Europe. Even though many sacred buildings were transformed into a museum, restaurant or dancing, there are many that have never found a new destination. In this episode Bob and Jeroen go to Italy, more specifically the Abruzzo region, where they bring back to life the baroque splendour of the Catholic faith...



CREDITS

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Produced by
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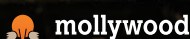
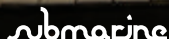
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Submarine**

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