



Press release

German documentaries are valued for their stylistic quality – ranging from investigative reporting to glossy reenactments

united docs presents multi-faceted history at MIPCOM 2009

Cologne/Cannes, **14 September 2009** – At the international TV trade fair in Cannes, united docs is presenting a broad spectrum of history documentaries featuring a wide variety of film styles. These high-quality HD productions relate moving stories, capture unforgettable moments and provide new impulses for the future. The best example is “The Picture of the Napalm Girl” (52’), an investigative one-off based on archive footage about the Vietnam War and the famous photo of then-nine-year-old Kim Phuc screaming and running for her life during a napalm bomb attack. “Louise” (also 52’) on the other hand, features a high proportion of reenactments, portraying the unconventional queen of Prussia. Many years before the advent of Princess Diana, Louise was revered as the “Queen of Hearts.” “Comrade Couture” (90’/52’) is a charming and amusing documentary about creativity as a life-sustaining quality under socialism, and examines the *avant-garde* of East Berlin’s fashion scene. The two-part “Yunnan Railway” (2 x 45’) focuses on an engineering marvel now in danger of collapse – the legendary railroad connection between Vietnam and China. In addition, united docs is presenting the glossy doc project “Cathedrals” (90’), a film that will bring history to life, taking viewers on a tour of the mediaeval stonemasons’ workshops that built Europe’s great cathedrals.

“We have put together an impressive, stylistically multi-faceted package of history programming, of interest not only from a historical and cultural point of view,” said Bettina Oebel, Head of Sales. She is looking forward to a successful MIPCOM 2009, adding that, “In addition to telling moving stories, our films exhibit a high degree of creativity in terms of story-telling. The authors rely on a variety of narrative styles and have taken advantage of the latest developments in cinema technology.” Even before MIPCOM gets underway, international programming buyers can visit the new website www.united-docs.com to gain an overview of united docs’ extensive catalog. Current new releases and recent program highlights are featured here. Searching the site by category, format, language and other parameters, buyers can find the stories that are relevant for their individual programming needs.

united docs, Bavaria Media Television and Studio Hamburg Distribution & Marketing comprise german united distributors, operating worldwide. The company has experienced its strongest growth in the area of international co-productions and format sales. Its high-quality programs are sold to the world’s leading television markets. united docs has been specialized in international distribution of documentaries since 2001, and joined the WDR mediagroup in 2009. In addition to programming produced by the NDR, SWR, WDR, HR and Radio Bremen broadcasting companies, the distribution team also holds the rights for many independently produced documentaries. united docs sees itself as more than a conventional distribution company, promoting the development of young talent, new ideas and creative formats. The united docs team has a reputation as a competent consultant in the areas of content development, project planning and financing, and as a highly professional cooperation partner when it comes to negotiating international funding. For more information, please visit www.united-docs.com

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