

FACTUAL ENTERTAINMENT



HARNAS WILDLIFE RESCUE CAMP

26 x 26 min. Written and directed by Harald Pokieser

HD, Stereo Executive producer: Eva Schmidt



TERRA MATER
Factual Studios

Wild animals, young volunteers, charismatic experts and the beautiful landscapes of Namibia — take a walk on the wild side in this series.

Animals are often housed in cheerless places. But there is another type of animal refuge: a paradise in Namibia, southern Africa, created by the Harnas Wildlife Foundation. Its residents are as varied as the countryside: lions, baboons, wild dogs, cheetahs, mongooses and antelope.

Two-dozen wardens and rangers feed, protect and provide veterinary care and young people from all over the world offer to work as volunteers for a matter of weeks or months, while paying for their stay. They feed, monitor and study around 400 types of animals.

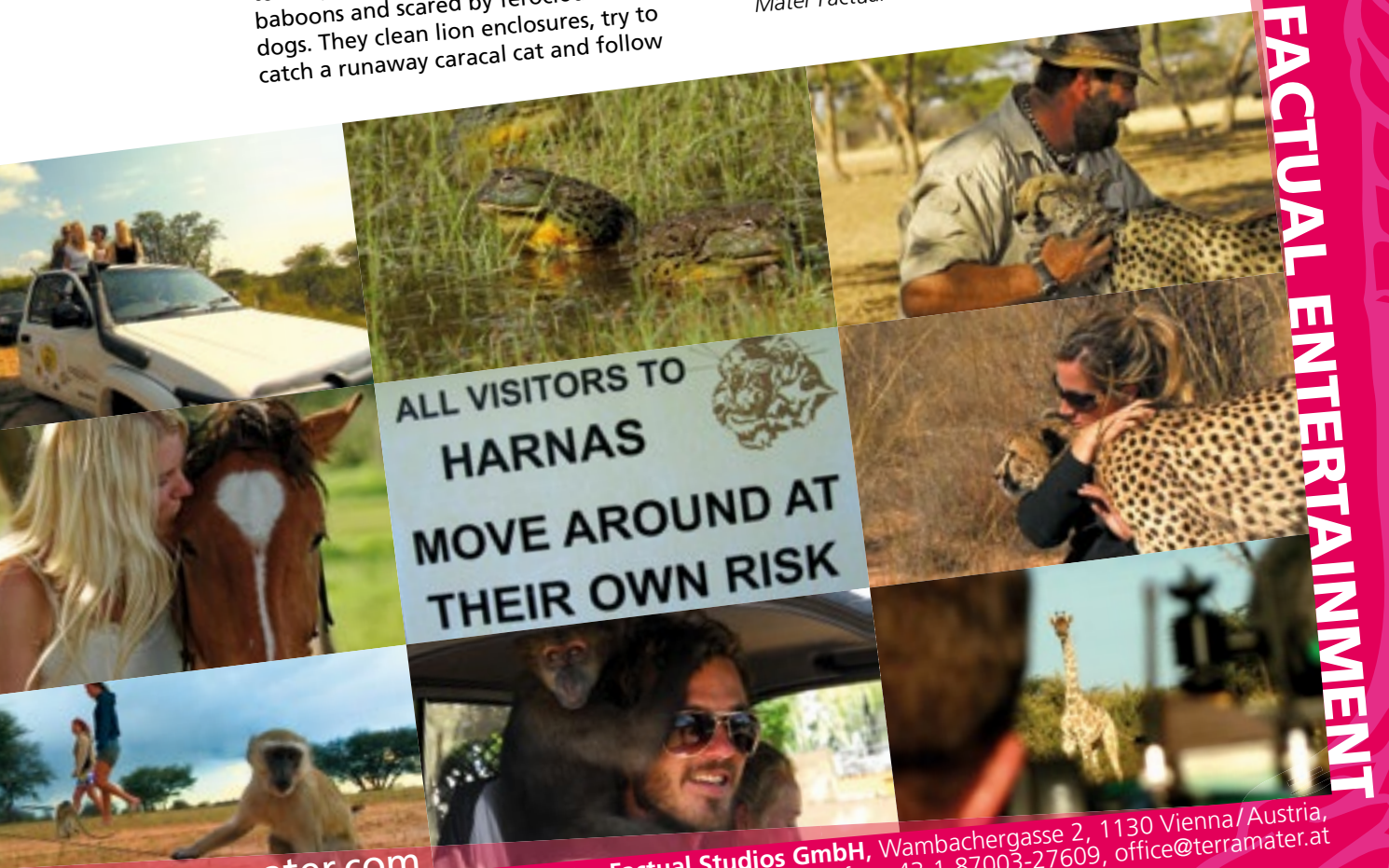
The core of the series is following the young volunteers' relationship with wild animals; their stories of love, passion and hate; their adventures with creatures as small as a meerkat and as big as a lion. City slickers from London, New York and Frankfurt suddenly become foster parents to baby leopards. They get bitten by baboons and scared by ferocious wild dogs. They clean lion enclosures, try to catch a runaway caracal cat and follow

scientists who track newly-released cheetahs in the Life Line, a vast fenced wilderness within the Wildlife Rescue Camp. But they are safe, protected by characters like Frikkie, the hard-boiled Namibian cowboy who gives the kids a hard time; by Hermann, the gentle giant who has spent most of his life in the bush; and by Schalk van der Merwe, former football pro and manager of Harnas who has an almost eerie ability to talk and walk with lions.

As the series develops we live through an exciting year in Namibia's Kalahari in front of an incredibly beautiful natural backdrop, leaving powerful scenic impressions. We watch kittens becoming fully-grown predators. We are overwhelmed by giant thunderstorms in the rainy season; we see amazing creatures like giant bull frogs swimming in the flood pools; and we experience how the land quickly dries out and turns into a desert during the southern winter.

Young people from all over the world come and go, many start as pale, sceptical and timid characters, but leave the Wildlife Rescue Camp happy, tired and tanned with experiences that will last them a lifetime.

A Cosmos Factory Film/EIKON Südwest co-production, in association with Terra Mater Factual Studios.



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