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EYES OF THE ATACAMA

1 x 53 min. Written and directed by **Annette and Klaus Scheurich**
HD, 5.1 and Stereo Executive producers: **Ivo Filatsch, Sabine Holzer**



TERRA MATER
Factual Studios

Where do we come from? How did life evolve? Are we alone in the universe?

Scientists try to answer these fundamental questions, monitoring the night sky with telescopes, looking up to the stars and peeking at celestial objects like galaxies and quasars, nebulae and dust clouds.

Their quest for the origins of life often leads them to the most hostile regions of our planet. The Atacama desert in Chile is the driest place on earth. Here, the biggest space observatory ever constructed by man is being built: ALMA—the Atacama Large Millimeter/Submillimeter Array—takes space observation to new heights.

Equipped with the most advanced technology, astronomers can investigate the origins of the universe, the birth of stars and planets, mysterious dark molecular clouds, and many other astronomical enigmas.

ALMA consists of 66 enormous parabolic antennae, trapping electromagnetic signals in the long-wave range from celestial objects such as black holes and exoplanets, regions of star formation and galaxies at the edge of the observable universe.

At an altitude of 5,000 metres above sea level, far away from bright cities and their light pollution of the night sky, characterised by low humidity and thin air, the conditions at the Chajnantor plateau in the Chilean Andes are truly extreme—and so perfect for astronomical observations.

This international project, costing a total of approximately 1 billion Euro and funded by Europe, the US and Japan, has been a gigantic challenge for engineers and scientists alike.

But all their endeavours have been worth it: ALMA is designed to solve puzzles that have bothered scientists for decades. Through the 'Eyes of the Atacama' they will establish new milestones in astronomy.

Research results are depicted in elaborate animated sequences, creating genuine works of art out of the assembled mass of data. This will bring us closer to understanding the creation of life, the origin of the universe and the nature of infinity ...

In large-scale images combined with an eye for detail, we bring to life the adventure of space research.

In addition, we get insights into the fascinating region where ALMA is located—the breathtaking landscape and environment in one of the remotest corners of the earth.



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