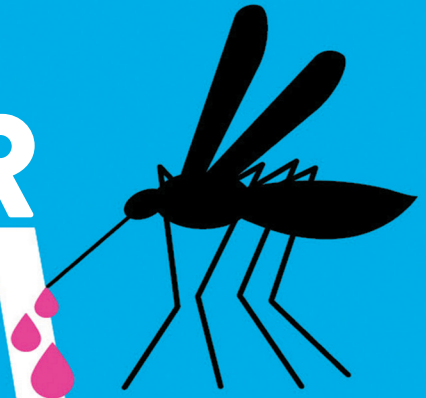




# WORLD WAR ZIKA



P A P R I K <sup>A</sup> • SERIOUSLY TV • arte coproduction 1x52'

**HD**



When thousands of people in Brazil were infected with a disease called zika in 2015, few experts were concerned. The disease had been thought for decades to be harmless and most people affected by the epidemic didn't even know they had the disease. Then... hundreds of babies began to be born with appalling defects to their brains and skulls, or microcephaly.

This is the untold story of the disease that captured headlines and shocked the world and the worldwide scientific struggle against it. At its heart is the battle to solve an enigma. At the beginning of the epidemic no one could be certain that the zika virus really was causing the birth defects. Conspiracy theories abounded; and suspicion was widespread.

But one team of scientists would painstakingly and forensically show it was the virus that devastated the brains of the unborn... using techniques which sound like science fiction: creating their own living, miniature baby brains from scratch. It's just one of many astonishing **ways in which scientists are attempting to consign zika to history, including the world's biggest mosquito factory** where 60 million mosquitoes are released every week.

World War Zika explores the past, present and future of zika; tracking its strange journey from Africa in the 1940s to its explosion across Brazil, revealing the latest theories about why it suddenly became a killer, as well as shocking new evidence that suggests microcephaly is merely the tip of the iceberg. Up to 47% of all children born to mothers with zika are now showing signs of neurological damage.



Producers and Broadcasters:  
**Paprika Films/ Seriously TV/  
Arte**  
Director:  
**Malcom Clark**

**52'**