

Mai-Juin Productions

Meet my

WILD

friend



Directed by  
Gilles de Maistre



4 x 52 minutes



Worldwide  
sales

Boréales  
and  
Terraonoa

# CONCEPT

Meet  
my  
WILD  
Friend

The director of *The First Cry*, Gilles de Maistre has traveled the world in search of children who maintain unusual and special relationships with wild animals.

Meet with children who have established unique relationships with wild animals. With the strength of innocence, the power of raw faith and the magic of respect, they have found the balance between two worlds in harmony with one another, where child and animal learn to know one another, developing trust and care while living together.

This is the true story of friendship between kids and wild animals around the world, where the boldness and innocence of children meet the power and instinct of animals to create a genuine bond and a common language.

4 x 1-hour

HD SERIES



*Each episode sees the children guiding us through extraordinary stories of friendship with wild animals.*

### ***Episode 1: Happy Few***

A hyena in Kenya, an elephant in South Africa, a wolf in Canada: on one special day all three made a unique encounter, that of a child. Jack, Michaela and Neal were the chosen ones. It marked the beginning of an extraordinary tale between an animal and their chosen ones. Adamantine bonds were forged between these wild animals and these children in which each became responsible for the one they tamed, and this forever.

### ***Episode 2: Ambassadors***

Endangered big cats in South Africa, wounded marsupials in Australia, abandoned alligators in the United States: Caitlin, Shania and Samantha have already dedicated their young lives to saving animals under threat, then became their friends. It is beyond the shadow of a doubt that Caitlin, Samantha and Shania are human goodwill ambassadors in the animal kingdom, ambassadors conveying love and respect.

### ***Episode 3: Allies***

They have inherited the unique knowledge possessed by their fathers. Tleujan, Arjun and Camille had already formed special strong bonds with wild animals that eventually became their sidekicks: an eagle in Mongolia, snakes in India and a she-wolf in France. Their fathers have passed on to their children a wealth that is theirs alone. They have taught them how to create a magical, mysterious complicity with their animal friends that they renew every day.

### ***Episode 4: Rescuers***

In developing an intangible bond with the animal, nurtured on trust and tenderness, these children accompany their protected friends as they re-insert them back into their natural settings.

## EPISODE 1 / HAPPY FEW

### **1) Jack's hyena - Kenya**

In Kenya's Amboseli reserve, Jack's father has rescued a hyena cub whose mother was shot by hunters. The youngest son of the family became very fond of the animal. He feeds him and takes care of him. He falls asleep every night between the paws of his little hyena, enjoying some last moments of intimacy before she finally catches up with wildlife.

### **2) Michaela and the elephants - South Africa**

Every morning, Michaela pays a visit to the 27 elephants that live at Knysna Park. During weekends and holidays, she takes part in every chore and treatment regarding the pachyderms. She edits a blog where she describes how poachers threaten the herds of elephants.

### **3) Neal and the wolves - Canada**

Neal's family is in charge of an « eco-adventure » camp in Northern Quebec. Neal bottle-fed the cubs when they were born and took care of their minor health problems. Nowadays, the adult wolves regularly play with Neal, who is learning to deal with large grey and white wolf packs.

## EPISODE 2 / AMBASSADORS

### **4) Kathleen and the big cats – South Africa**

Kathleen grew up in a big cat reserve. She has shared her bed with lion cubs, leopards and jaguars and raised several of them on milk bottles. She gets up every morning at 5:30 to spend time with them before heading off to school. She feeds, nurtures and strokes them tenderly without ever losing sight of the fact that these big cats are and remain predators. It's as if Kathleen, the girl of the big cats, has secretly learned to speak their language.

### **5) Shania, mini vet - Australia**

Shania's nickname in the region is "Animal Girl"; because she sets her heart on nature's creatures. She assists a vet who treats animals in her grand mother's sanctuary. Every time, it's the same process and the same feeling of joy: she feeds and treats pythons, lizards, and marsupials before setting them free.

### **6) Samantha and the alligators - Colorado, USA**

Since she was a little girl, Samantha has lived surrounded by 350 crocodiles. Today she is 10 years old and she spends most of her time playing with them. Especially with Piwi her favourite crocodile, who she has been training since she is 2 years old. He is now bigger than her, weighs 27 kilos and measures 5 feet but she taught him not to bite. Therefore she can cuddle him, kiss him and look after him.



around the  
WORLD



## EPISODE 3 / ALLIES

### **7) Camille and her she-wolf - France**

14-year-old Camille takes part in Medieval shows put on by her falconer father. She is mad for horses and hopes one day to create her own equestrian show. Yet for the past year she has shared her daily life with a young she-wolf. She feeds her, cares for her and is training her to take part in the family show. Her dearest wish is to show the general public that wolves are far from the dangerous creatures portrayed in popular tales.

### **8) Tleujan and his eagle - Mongolia**

Tleujan is 9 years old and lives in far west Mongolia. Over the past two years the young boy has been learning the ancestral Kazakhs handling techniques. Tleujan is very skilled and this year he is going to compete at the “Olgii Eagle Festival” for the first time. Dressed in the traditional costume, he throws the raptor himself while his brother catches him. Their talent and efforts have paid off: their eagle is declared winner of the festival.

### **9) The snake charmer – India**

Arjun and Kishan were born in the snake charmer caste. Although converted to modern medicine, they receive knowledge from the elders and manipulate, play and even sleep with the reptiles with no fear. Throughout the Thar desert, they learn how to heal snake and scorpion bites.

## EPISODE 4 / RESCUERS

### **10) Quentin and the chimps - Democratic Republic of Congo**

He devotes his time hosting abandoned chimpanzees from the nearby great forests and personally invests himself in the survival of these monkeys, threatened of extinction.

### **11) Joshua and his baby kangaroo - Australia**

The young boy has set his heart on a young kangaroo he took under his wing when he was born. For the animal's own good he is going to have to part with him.

### **12) Ondine and the sharks - Tahiti, France**

She is really concerned about the future of this endangered specie and she is going to fulfil her dream in front of our cameras: her first shark dive in the wild waters of Tahiti.

### **13) Berndt and the lions - South Africa**

He takes care of the cubs in the middle of a reserve, being their friend while they wait to reach adulthood and join big lions, cheetahs, tigers and genets.

### **14) Aakash and his elephant friend – India**

He spends all his time with a 45-year-old elephant: he plays with him, bathes with him, sleeps with him...The pachyderm is happy to fulfill the child's wishes.



around the  
WORLD



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