



VERSAILLES

THE SUN KING'S SECRET MAPPING

arte



CuriosityStream

GEDEON
programmes



TERRANOVA

VERSAILLES

THE SUN KING'S SECRET MAPPING

SYNOPSIS

As the Palace of Versailles undergoes unprecedented restoration work and an extensive digitalization campaign of the many maps relating to it (over 10,000), this film reveals the story of how the royal château evolved to reflect the Sun king's growing ambitions and power over his 70-year reign. Shaped over 40 years of ceaseless construction additions, from its initial conception to the architectural masterpiece we know today through, Versailles hides the Sun King's most fanciful ideas – including a vegetal maze, a cave full of special effects, a menagerie with exotic animals, marble baths and the private royal art gallery. Based on unique scanning technologies and new excavations this film offers fresh insight into the world's most visited Palace and the life of the Sun King. Using high end Drama and top end CGI and 3D modeling to embody the story of a metamorphosis.

SEARCHING FOR LOUIS THE XIV'S HIDDEN FANCIES



NEW EXCAVATIONS



SCANNING TECHNOLOGIES



3D MODELLING

The Chateau de Versailles has been in perpetual transformation by successive occupants, up to this very day. The monument hardly resembles the one designed by the Sun King. Quite recently, access to thousands of documents uncovered using the latest technology, allows us to reexamine the history of this legendary site. The film follows the scientists who are using these new techniques to visualize the long demolished original structure, and to virtually reconstruct the Palace as it was first built and subsequent stages of transformation. This unprecedented exploration of the architectural history of Versailles brings to light the complex history of its construction and the various lost chapters of its past.

FIELD INVESTIGATION, REENACTMENTS & CGI

Throughout the film, the central quest is the search for the lost Versailles of Louis XIV. We will follow historians and scientists in their field research to discover the traces of missing buildings. New maps and drawings are the gateway to the investigation. Thanks to their restoration, digitization, and 3D modeling, they bring life to the most luxurious apartments of the King. Reenactment scenes punctuate the investigation, to reveal Louis XIV closest intimates such as Colbert, his prime minister, Charles Perrault the author of the tales, or the Marquis de Dangeau his confidant, who enlighten us on the decisions of the King. In the reconstructed 3D sets, lavish drama scenes depict the King and his court, from the beginning of his reign to his last hours.

FILM STRUCTURE

The film opens on spectacular aerial images of the Chateau of Versailles. Inside the palace, we are introduced to **Mathieu da Vinha**, scientific director of **Versailles Research Center**. Mr. Vinha surprises us with the fact that much of the original chateau from the day of Louis XIV has disappeared, or has been buried under the multiple reconstructions carried out by his successors.



MATHIEU DAVINHA



THE KING'S MENAGERIE

THE EARLY BAROQUE FOLLIES

What exactly was “Versailles” when Louis XIV inherited it from his father, Louis XIII? And what fascinated the Sun King about this minor castle? Even his courtiers were baffled by his captivation! Alexander Maral, curator of the Chateau museum, guides us into the archives where the surviving artifacts are preserved. Based on maps and engravings of the era, he is working on the reconstruction of the first Versailles: an amusement park with an artificial Grotto, a zoo with exotic animals!

THE LITTLE CASTLE OF LOUIS THE XIII

In 1668, King Louis XIV suddenly decides to enlarge his father's Palace. But what can be done to gain space? Should they expand around the old palace, or destroy the original edifice and erect something new? Thanks to new archeological findings, **Jean-Claude le Guillou**, architect and historian goes to Stockholm to investigate new maps. Both with **Martin Ollin**, curator of **Stockholm National Museum**, they are about to understand why Louis the XIV finally decided not to destroy his father castle and transform it into an Italian villa called the «Enveloppe de Le Vau».



MARTIN OLLIN

THE HALL OF MIRRORS GENESIS

Seven years later, the Hall of Mirrors, is built under the direction of Jules Hardouin-Mansart, the king's new architect. This new place is meant as a sign of power to impress guests. What does it tell us about the image the king wanted to portray to the world? **Gerard Sabatier**, historian of the Versailles Research Center, is investigating about the genesis of the Gallery. He has uncovered original sketches by Le Brun, commissioned and reviewed by the King himself. For the very first time, Gérard Sabatier unveils the secret meaning of the Gallery's paintings.



THE HOUSING CRISIS

In 1682, the queen is about to give birth to a potential successor to the King. The decision is made to bring her to Versailles. The entire court follows her, leading to a problematic housing crisis. The palace simply couldn't accommodate 3000 courtiers. How did the move take place? Who was moving where and why? How did the housing become an instrument of domination ruled by the King and his valet Alexandre Bontemps? **William Richey Newton** is the world expert on housing at the Chateau of Versailles. Thanks to the VERSPERA computer program, Newton is now able to answer this question on-line from his home in North Carolina.



SOPHIE MOUQUIN

THE ROUND OF MISTRESSES

The housing reflect the king's favoring of one courtesan or another. And those who suffer the most are the king's mistresses. First, Louise de Vallière, then Madame de Montespan, whose falling out of the king's grace led to the loss of one of the most luxurious apartments in the palace: the "Appartement des Bains", first royal marble jacuzzi in in history! **Sophie Mouquin, specialist in marble decoration**, is looking for the remains of this fantastic apartment. Throughout a fascinating investigation, she will manage to reconstitute the lost apartment dedicated to the pleasures of the King and the Marquise.

THE KING'S PRIVATE PAINTINGS COLLECTION

After the disgrace of the Marquise de Montespan, the king repossesses her private quarters and converts it into an art gallery. There he exhibits his private paintings including the Mona Lisa. But what did the gallery look like and how were the paintings exhibited ? Thanks to a hyper-realistic 3D visual rendition of the room, **Mathieu Lett, art Historian and specialist of royal collections** will experiment with the positioning of the paintings in Virtual Reality. The 3D images slowly reveal the King and some of his notable guests evolve in the gallery and reveal the artistic vision of the king.



THE LAST BEDROOM

Having depleted the royal finances on the war, Louis XIV gets bogged down in the Battle of Augsburg until 1697. At Versailles though, construction continues. While the country is in a state of despair, the king decides to move his bedroom at the very center of the Palace. What motivated the King to change bedrooms once again at the age of sixty-three? **Vivien Richard, a young researcher**, has been studying the seven successive bedrooms of Louis XIV. Using the new 3D program, VERSPERA, Vivien Richard will unveil the hidden reasons of this last bedroom change.

THE CHAPEL'S SECRETS

The royal chapel is a rather strange building, which breaks with the architectural tradition of Versailles. During the massive restoration of the building, Head Architect Frédéric Didier will search for the true meaning of this final work of the king and his architect. New archives discoveries mixed with aerial drone images, will reveal the chapel as King Louis XIV had originally commissioned it, only a couple of years before Louis XIV's death.



LOUIS XIV & HIS COURT



COLBERT
MINISTER OF FINANCES



MADAME DE
MONTESPAN
«MAITRESSE-EN-TITRE»



HARDOIN-MANSART
ROYAL ARCHITECT



PERRAULT
AUTHOR

SHOOTING PLACES



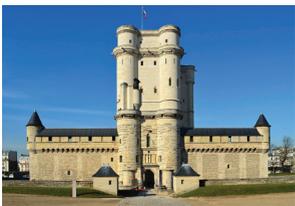
HERRENCHEMSEE PALACE
BAVARIA



NATIONAL MUSEUM
STOCKHOLM



MR NEWTON'S HOME
NORTH CAROLINA



VINCENNES CASTLE



MAINTENON CASTLE



VAUX LE VICOMTE CASTLE

DIRECTOR MARC JAMPOLSKY

Director and author of more than thirty documentary films, Marc Jampolsky has followed numerous archaeological expeditions (China Sea, Russia, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan...) devoted to the discovery and analysis of the remains dating from proto-urban times, the Middle Ages or more recent times. The use of submarine scanning and advanced modeling techniques allowed him to reconstruct the sunken fleet of the June 1944 landing on the Normandy coasts. More recently, in co-writing with Marie Thiry, he directed a documentary serie about the secrets of the great monuments unveiled thanks to the performance of digitization systems, geo-prospecting and field investigation (Cathedral of Strasbourg, Castle of Chambord, Mont St Michel, Versailles, Vatican in project...). Most of his films have won prizes at major international festivals.

3D MODELING & CGI : ARISTEAS & 7EME BUREAU

Founded in 2005 in Arles, ARISTEAS is a pioneer company in the field of 3D modeling, specialized in the scientific reconstruction of missing monuments.. Part of the film will be shot in Arles, in the studios of the company, to show the work of ARISTEAS 3D graphic designers and architects in collaboration with the historians specialists of Versailles.

The 7EME BUREAU is a CGI animation studio based in Paris that operates as a production and postproduction company in advertising and fiction.



FORMATS: 90', 52' - 4K - HDR

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