

France 2  
Film Avenir Production  
present

# The animal symphony

The sound war



EPISODE 1 - 52'

The sound of romance



EPISODE 2 - 52'

Word and music



EPISODE 3 - 52'

The animal symphony



THE MOVIE - 90'

A documentary series by  
Stéphane Quinson and Antonio Fischetti

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Film Avenir Production

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## A documentary series by Stéphane Quinson and Antonio Fischetti

About 10 years ago, a young professor in acoustics decided to dedicate his knowledge to audiovisual in order to explain, in a popular speech, what sound is. The first idea of Antonio Fischetti was to explain the mechanism of production and propagation of sounds in several environments. The use of cartoon seemed that time to correspond best to his ambition of scientific popularization. It only remained for him to find a subject whose richness and universality would make it possible to convey the concepts of acoustics to the largest audience.

After having worked many years as assembler chief and assistant director on the animal series of Jean-Pierre Cuny «The Inventions of Life» (produced by Jacques Antoine for Antenne 2, Canal+ and sold in more than 30 countries), Stéphane Quinson produced and carried out several documentaries of different kinds. Producing an animal film was still part of his projects, because of the personal interest that he had for the world of animals and the modest knowledge he acquired on this matter. But he was not interested in the technological competition which seems to be the sinews of the animal documentary films and which, it must be said, is only accessible to a minority of producers. So he had to find a new or rarely dealt subject which would allow him to tackle the animal kingdom in an original and popular way.

From their encounter, in 1999, the project of a film, then of a documentary series on the sound communication between animals, was born. Its title was inspired by one of the many scientific articles written by Antonio, «The Symphony of the Animals». The musics and sounds of nature bring back familiar emotions to everyone, but few people know how it works. The first version of the three 52-minutes episodes directly aroused the interest of many French and international broadcasters. Then started a long work of development which consisted in convincing scientific, technical, artistic and financial partners.



Nowadays, CNRS Image/media, France 2, France Télévision Distribution (France), RTBF (Belgium), Glacialis Productions, CBC and Télé Québec (Canada), MBC production (South Korea) are the main «shareholders» and the team is composed of experienced specialists as Laurent Charbonnier, Jean Lemire and Adam Schmedes for image or Philippe Barbeau and Martine Todisco for sound.

Then, the project undergoes a second and fundamental evolution which we had not been able to foresee 4 years earlier : adapting the requirements and knowledge of everyone (broadcasters, co-producers and technicians), either on the form or the content. Thus a mini series of 3 X 52 minutes and a unit 90 minutes will be directed in parallel, in which similar images will be able to serve two completely different approaches : firstly, the scientific one follows the thread of the evolution of animal sound communications, trying to provide to the audience a meaning of what he can or cannot hear in nature and thus understanding the role of sound in animal habits. The second approach, which will not be led by any scientific logic, will encourage the public «to walk» in nature in order to observe the slides of a work in perpetual evolution and whose first notes go up with more than 500 Million years : *The animal symphony*.



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## The authors



### Antonio Fischetti

At the same time as his work as a teacher and research worker (PhD in Acoustics in 1990), Antonio Fischetti contributes to the scientific magazine "Science and Future" (outstandings) as editor-in-chief assistant. He also writes topics for the scientific broadcast of Arte Channel "Archimède". Staff reporter, since 1997, for the weekly magazine "Charlie Hebdo", he is specialized in the "Science and Ecology" column. In 2001, he publishes a didactic work titled "Initiation with acoustics" (published by Belin) and produces the CD-Rom which complements the book. 1500 copies of his last book, "Anguish of the crabs-louse before the coitus : 36 questions you have never asked yourself about sex", published by Albin Michel, have been printed since June 2002.



### Stéphane Quinson

Stéphane Quinson began his carrier in 1983 as film editor, chief film editor, and director assistant for the series "The Adventure of Plants" (rewarded for a "7 d'Or" for best documentary) and Jean-Pierre Cuny's "Inventions of Life". More than 50 documentary films on the whole, broadcasted over about thirty countries. Since 1994, he produced, wrote and directed several documentaries broadcasted in Europe. Since 2001, he has been developing and producing within Film Avenir Production several projects of documentaries (for television and cinema) including "The Animal Symphony".

# Discovering an unknown world... And sometimes imperceptible

## The fascinating sound world of animals

Did you know that the elephants communicate through infrasounds they can hear from dozens of miles away? That spider males must play harp on the female's net in order not to be eaten when he wants to go close to her? That a pack of wolves modulate their howling so that one might believe they are in greater numbers?

The sound world of animals is neglected... But extraordinarily rich and amazing nevertheless. The animal symphony leads us to its discovery. From the trout to the howler monkey, you will meet, through the series, percussions and wind instruments, stars and supporting parts...

We will decipher the relentless acoustic fights of stags, languorous gibbon duos and the mysterious rules of frog choruses...

For the first time in the history of wildlife documentaries, animals' language is revealed.

# An original series

In 3 episodes of 52' and a movie of 90'

Episode 1 - 52'

## The sound war



with a very powerful sound, termites hammer with their mandibles in order to warn their fellows...

The first episode is dedicated to the role of sound in hunting. We will discover the cunning and strategies used within predator and prey relationships : bats detect insects through their sonar, dolphins knock their prey

In the third episode, the richness of social relations is going about the sound aspects. The most one has to say, the most one need to communicate :



Episode 3 - 52'

## Word and music

dolphins recognize each other thanks to their whistles, vervet monkeys utter various alarm signals depending on the enemy's kind, tits elaborate dozens of different sequences with only a few notes...

The second episode deals with the use of sound in sexual relations : crickets tirelessly stridulate to appeal the females, stags commit sound battles and trouts purr when spawning...

## The sound of romance



Episode 2 - 52'

Apart from the series, the single episode of 90 mn gives more importance to musical aspects of animal communication. Phenomenal description is less explained in favor of a show which is more an instrumental ballet where animals are the protagonists.

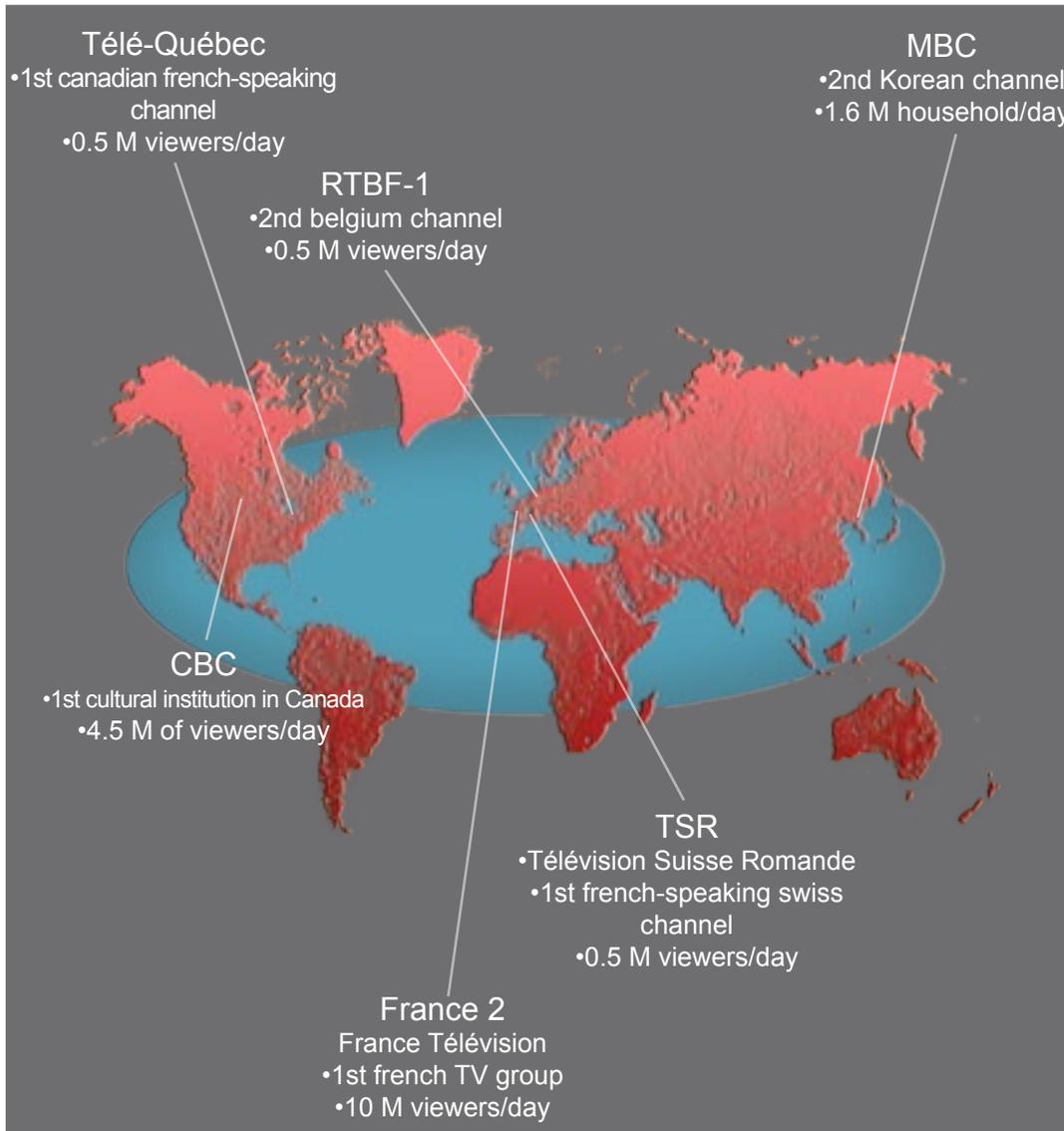


The movie - 90'

## The animal symphony

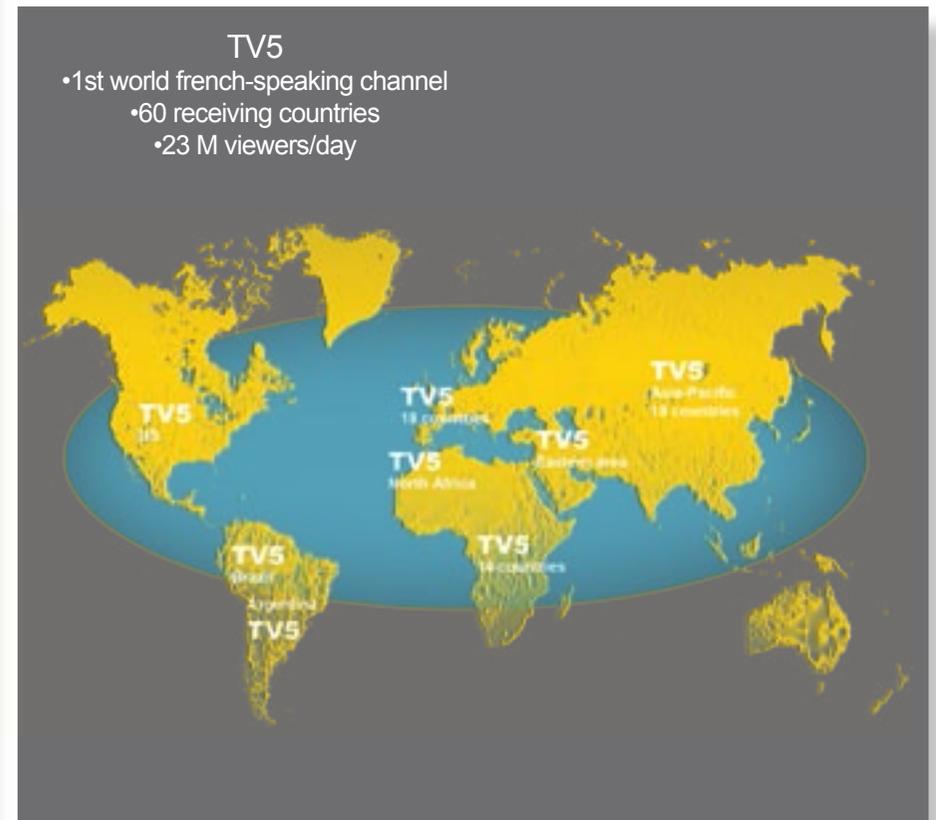
# An international broadcast...

## Television channels among the most watched...



## Cable and satellite...

### Millions of subscribers worldwide



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## Technical details

**Genre :**

Wildlife documentary

**Total duration :**

246 minutes

**Duration per episod :**

3 x 52 minutes and 1 x 90 minutes

**Shooting format :**

Digital Betacam color 16/9 and HDTV

**Cost :**

€ 1.5 Million

**Original version :**

French

**Available versions :**

Digital betacam color 16/9 and 4/3 international version

Digital betacam color 16/9 english version

HDTV 16/9 english version

**Making of :**

60 minutes

**Audio :**

Stereo



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## The team

### Production :

Stéphane Quinson  
Executive producer - Film Avenir Production

Emmanuel Soler  
Delegate producer - Film Avenir Production

Jean Lemire  
Co-producer / Canada - Glacialis Productions

Yves Jeanneau  
Manager of France 2 documentary unit

Annick Demeule  
Manager of CNRS Image/media

Jean Hur  
Overseas sales and acquisition manager - MBC Production

Marc Jousset  
Executive producer of special effects and animation - JSBC

Carole Soler  
Production manager - Film Avenir Production

Géraldine Restani  
Production assistant - Film Avenir Production

Christel Roynette  
Production administrator - Film Avenir Production

Delphine Dalla-Costa  
Heads of communication - Film Avenir Production

Muriel Pezzotta  
Production secretary - Film Avenir Production

### Conception :

Antonio Fischetti  
Designer – author

Stéphane Quinson  
Co-author

Jean Lemire  
Co-author / Canada

Philippe Barbeau  
Sound designer - Gorilla Sound

Serge Elissalde  
Cartoon designer



## Direction :

Stéphane Quinson  
Director

Jean Lemire  
Co-director / Canada

Jean-Paul Guigue  
3D / special effects director - JSBC

Stéphane Roche  
3D / special effects director - JSBC

Denis Vautrin  
2D director - JSBC

Guillaume Grosse  
Director assistant

Laurent Charbonnier  
Lighting cameraman - LPC

Adam Schmedes  
Lighting cameraman - Loke Film

Philippe Barbeau  
Recording supervisor

Martine Todisco  
Recording supervisor - Gorilla Sound

Michel Tardy  
Cameraman and director of the «Making Of»

Sébastien de Monchy  
Sound recordist

Julien Lombard  
Editor

Florent Fournier-sicre  
Mixer - Flobipo



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## Film Avenir Production

Our company is located in Marseille since it was born in 1991. We are nowadays divided into two departments. One is devoted to documentary and fiction productions (2 production studios), the other to production-related services (equipment renting, post-production provision).

### In distribution this year...

Gnaouas, the Shout of Chains

Art and Society Documentary / 52 minutes

A film by Anne Alix – written by Anne Alix and Saïd Bekkali

Broadcasters : Beur TV – 2M

“At the heart of oppression, there is often nothing else to do but sing. Freedom exists only in those music and lyrics - and they make great use of them”.

Station Lumière

Society Documentary / 83 minutes

A film by Frédérique Pollet Rouyer

Selected at the “Cinema du Réel” Festival in Paris

“This documentary recounts the life of “Station Lumière”, a small emergency housing located in the city of La Ciotat, south of France, where homelesses can find a bed. We show their fights with the local government in order to bring assistance to the helplessnesses”.

Quichott, the Algerian

Society Documentary / 83 min

A film by Frédérique Pollet Rouyer

Broadcasters : ENTV (National Algerian Television) – Beur TV

“This documentary recounts the unusual adventures of a French itinerant theatre company which went to represent its play in Algeria. “Quichott, the Algerian” is the story of a dynamic and generous adventure where the art of living together is combined with the will to resist inertia, to the fold on oneself and the amnesia which hold Art in line of sight”.

## Previous years...

### Abraham and Felecity

Society Documentary / 52 minutes

A film by François-Marie Lapchine

Broadcaster : France 3

“It’s the story of 2 young South-African coming in training course to Burgundy to discover our viticulture but also to recover force and confidence and, once on their premises, be able to share and put into practice their experience”.

### Scratch Culture

Art and Society Documentary / 26 minutes

A film by Eric Pio

Broadcaster : AB 1

“Genesis of a Hip Hop movement, which goes beyond pure entertainment; between high technology and art”.

### La Victorine

History Documentenary / 52 minutes

A film by Stéphane Quinson

Broadcaster : Ciné-cinéma and Planète

“This documentary recounts the story of the most prestigious French studio, “La Victorine” ” .

### A Race Circuit in the City

Society Documentary / 52 minutes

A film by Stéphane Quinson

Broadcasters : Planète, TMC, CBC, Sat 1

“The story of the most popular Formula 1’s circuit in the world, which is been gathered every year like a toy”.

## Developping...

My Castle, My Home

Society Documentary / 6x52 minutes

A series by Bruno Evenou

“A series of 6 documentaries dealing with castelers theme, featuring 6 different kinds of men and women. All in their own singular way toy with the same project : perpetuate the inheritance and pass it on to the next generations”.

## Writting...

Brasil Bossa Nova

Musical Documentary / 90 min

Script by Jean-Paul Delfino

Produced by Stéphane Quinson (France) and Cosme Coelho (Brazil)

“A docu/fiction that tells the story of Bossa Nova. The discovery of this music through its heroes, landscapes and anecdotes since its birth until today”.



Film Avenir Production - +33 (0) 4 91 03 82 82 - www.filmavenir.com

Stéphane Quinson - Producer - stephane.quinson@filmavenir.com - +33 (0) 4 91 09 15 65 - +33 (0) 6 20 18 24 42

Géraldine Restani - Production Assistant - geraldine@filmavenir.fr - +33 (0) 4 91 09 15 64

