



# NEWS

## NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC'S STAR-STUDED EVENING OF VISUAL STORYTELLING TO TAKE VIEWERS FURTHER

**Network Announces 2017-2018 Premium Content with Creative Partners and Talent; including Morgan Freeman, Brian Grazer, Ron Howard, Geoffrey Rush, Emily Watson, Johnny Flynn, Jane Lynch, Kate Bosworth, Michael Kelly And Harvey Weinstein**

### KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS INCLUDE:

**New Series *Race*;**  
**New Series *The Story of Us with Morgan Freeman*;**  
***Genius* Season Two Official Greenlight;**  
**20-Episode Season Orders for *Explorer* and *StarTalk*;**

[Link to NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC UPFRONT 2017-2018 photos](#)

**SYDNEY, April 21, 2017:** National Geographic touted its slate of premium content with the best creative producers and talent in the industry, hosting an evening of storytelling overlooking Central Park at New York's Lincoln Centre, on April 19. The presentation titled **Our FURTHER Front** reflects not only the brand's new mindset but also the desire to take audiences further, showcasing exciting new and returning series, specials and events plus offerings from the entire portfolio throughout the 2017-2018 Upfront season.

21st Century Fox CEO James Murdoch delivered the opening remarks: "We at 21st Century Fox are passionate about National Geographic and our commitment to driving the brand's mission." He continued, "we are all in the business of ideas and storytelling. We believe Nat Geo's distinction in the media landscape of storytellers is that its stories are driven by purpose. Fueled by the authenticity and excellence of our partners, photographers and explorers who work tirelessly to challenge our perspectives, Nat Geo inspires and connects people, and opens our eyes wide to science and the natural world."

Creatives and talent who were part of the presentation included: **The Story of Us** executive producer and host **Morgan Freeman**; **The Long Road Home** executive producers and cast **Martha Raddatz, Kate Bosworth, Jeremy Sisto, Jason Ritter** and **Michael Kelly**; **Genius** and **MARS** executive producers **Brian Grazer** and **Ron Howard**; **Genius** cast **Geoffrey Rush, Emily Watson** and **Johnny Flynn**; "Untitled Jane Goodall Project executive producer, writer and director **Brett Morgen**; **Earth Live** host **Jane Lynch**; **Dr. Robert Ballard** (National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence); **Bertie Gregory** (National Geographic photographer);

**Boone Smith** (Nat Geo WILD personality, **Big Cat Week**); **Erika Bergman** (National Geographic Young Explorer); **Claudia Kalb** (author, “Andy Warhol Was a Hoarder: Inside the Minds of History’s Greatest Personalities”); and **Race** executive producer **Harvey Weinstein**. They were joined by NASA astronauts **Chris Hadfield, Nicole Stott, Mike Massimino** and **Leland Melvin** and Nat Geo photographers **Aaron Huey, David Guttenfelder, Erika Larsen, Amy Toensing, Renan Ozturk, Steve Winter** and **Paul Nicklen**.

National Geographic Global Networks CEO Courteney Monroe announced the networks’ 2017-2018 Upfront slate, which features bold and distinctive global programming that solidifies the network as a premier destination for science, adventure and exploration content. In addition, Grazer and Howard announced the official season two order for the anthology series **Genius**, with the genius to be unveiled in the season one finale June 19.

From a local perspective, Australia and New Zealand’s Managing Director, Jacqui Feeney, said “it’s an exciting time for National Geographic, as the brand continues to innovate on the storytelling frontier, we are looking forward to delivering stories that matter to local audiences, and stories that consumers are connecting with across devices and platforms. National Geographic has become a port-of-call for the world’s best creative talent, who share our passion for entertainment with purpose”.

**2017-2018 Upfront Slate for Australia includes:** *(all are working titles and subject to change.)*

### **NEW UNSCRIPTED SERIES**

#### **Race (The Weinstein Company)**

The stakes have never been higher. Today, America stands at a crossroads. As the recent presidential election made abundantly clear, race is the most pressing issue facing our nation. But just as it threatens to pull our country apart, it also continues to bind many of us together. At the moment when strong voices are most needed, this series delivers a groundbreaking premium documentary series to reach a global audience.

#### **The Story of Us with Morgan Freeman (Revelations Entertainment)**

**The Story of Us with Morgan Freeman** uncovers the fundamental forces that keep our societies together and reveals the common humanity that lies inside each one of us. Freeman goes on a global journal to meet people from all cultures whose lives are shaped in surprising ways by different primal forces: love, belief and power to war and peace, rebellion and freedom.

#### **One Strange Rock (Nutopia and Protozoa Pictures) *Previously Announced***

National Geographic Channel & filmmaker **Darren Aronofsky** join forces on an epic, cinematic event series, **One Strange Rock**, a mind-bending thrilling journey that explores the fragility and wonder of planet Earth, one of the strangest, most unique places in the entire universe. This 10-part series boasts 100 weeks of filming around the world and from outer space, using innovative micro- and macro-photography technology to bring cameras where they’ve never been before.

#### **Chain of Command (National Geographic Studios) *Previously Announced***

In this new eight-part documentary series, **Chain of Command** records the global fight against extremism in every corner of the world as it unfolds over one full year. With groundbreaking and unprecedented access granted by the Pentagon, cameras witness in real time the global fight. This series captures Gen. Joe Dunford and the Joint Chiefs of Staff creating policy that implements strategy and is then executed on the front lines of the battlefield.

**Dian Fossey: Secrets in the Mist (Tigress Productions)** *Previously Announced*

From Academy Award-winning executive producer James Marsh (“Man on Wire,” “Project Nim”) and Tigress Productions, part of Endemol Shine Group, the three-part special **Dian Fossey: Secrets in the Mist** will honor the life and groundbreaking legacy of gorilla researcher Dian Fossey. Sigourney Weaver, nominated for an Academy Award and winner of the Golden Globe for her portrayal of Fossey in the 1988 film “Gorillas in the Mist,” will narrate. With exclusive access to over 40 hours of rare and previously unseen film footage of Fossey and her pioneering research with gorillas, the series will reveal new insights into her life and work.

**NEW SCRIPTED SERIES**

**The Long Road Home (Fuzzy Door Productions)** *Previously Announced*

Starring **Kate Bosworth**, **The Long Road Home** relives a heroic fight for survival during the Iraq War when the 1st Cavalry Division from Fort Hood was ferociously ambushed on April 4 2004, in Sadr City, Baghdad — a day that came to be known in military annals as “Black Sunday.” The event series cuts between the action on the ground in Iraq and that of the home front back in Texas, where wives and families await news for 48 hellish hours, expecting the worst. The incident, which took place 11 months after President George W. Bush’s famous “Mission Accomplished” speech, changed the American military’s view of Iraq from a peacekeeping mission to a fight against domestic insurgents.

**FEATURE DOCS**

**Okavango (National Geographic Society)**

Like a beating heart, the flow of the Okavango River pumps life into southern Africa. The annual great flood carries water from the distant highlands of Angola, through Namibia and into the Okavango Delta, bringing a migration of Africa’s most iconic species along with it. However, this untouched water is under siege from increasing pressures put on it by human activity to its north. **Okavango** takes an intimate look at a group of individuals who are taking the very pulse of Africa’s last remaining wetland wilderness. Follow Explorer Steve Boyes as he leads a 1,500-mile expedition, tracing the water in Botswana’s Okavango Delta from its source in the Angolan highlands in hopes to get an understanding of the state of health of the river — and of what we can do to protect this pristine wilderness for future generations.

**Princess Diana: The Lost Tapes (1895 Films)**

Princess Diana lived her life in front of the cameras. Now, on the 20th anniversary of her untimely death in 1997, revisit her emotional journey from childhood through her rocky marriage to Prince Charles and subsequent emergence as the popular “People’s Princess.” From Peabody award-winning producer Tom Jennings, this touching tribute relies solely on archival footage and recordings to explore her profound impact on the world and on the future of Britain’s monarchy.

**Jane (National Geographic Studios & Public Road Productions)** *Previously Announced*

Brett Morgen, “the leading revolutionary of American documentary film,” according to the Wall Street Journal, will direct, produce and write the untitled feature biopic about the world’s most beloved primatologist — Dr. Jane Goodall. Known for the Emmy-nominated documentary “Kurt Cobain: Montage of Heck” and the Academy Award-nominated movie “On the Ropes,” the visionary director will draw on recently re-discovered archive film from Dr. Goodall’s early research at Gombe National Park in Tanzania during the 1960s. More than 250 hours of 16 mm film have been uncovered to create a compelling and intimate story about how revolutionary research turned this maverick into one of the legends of modern science.

## **RETURNING SERIES**

### **Genius Season 2 (Imagine Entertainment, OddLot Entertainment, Fox 21 TV Studios)**

*Scripted*

Season 1 of the scripted anthology series **Genius** focused on the life of the 20<sup>th</sup> century icon Albert Einstein. The global event series explores both the brilliant scientist's professional achievements and the complex untold narrative of his personal life. And now, the global anthology series has been officially renewed for a second season, with the season two genius set to be unveiled in the season one finale on June 19.

### **MARS Season 2 (Imagine Entertainment and RadicalMedia) *Previously Announced***

Of all the planets in our solar system, none has captured our collective imagination like Mars. Last season, viewers followed the first human mission to Mars, set in 2033, as the crew struggled to safely land on and create an initial settlement. In season two, we return to Mars years later, after the astronauts have established a full-fledged colony. But by this point, the International Mars Science Foundation, a multi-government-sponsored space agency, cannot continue to solely finance the Mars expedition, so doors of opportunity have swung wide open to the private sector. Tensions rise among original mission-driven scientists and miners sent by a for-profit corporation. Throughout six intriguing episodes, **MARS** examines the impact humans have on the Red Planet — and the impact it has on us. Tracing the thrilling quest to make Mars home, National Geographic blends cinema-quality scripted drama set in the future with documentary sequences that features current space-technology pioneers.

### **Explorer (National Geographic Studios)**

National Geographic's long-running, critically acclaimed series **EXPLORER** has represented the best of the network for more than three decades. In 2016, **EXPLORER** returned as a weekly series in a newly reimagined format, mixing intrepid field pieces, roundtable discussions and in-depth interviews in a continuation of the series' legacy of pushing the boundaries of journalism. The series opens a window on hidden parts of the world, unlocking mysteries both ancient and modern, to investigate stories of science, nature and culture.

### **StarTalk Season 3 (Curved Light Productions & National Geographic Studios)**

*Unscripted – Previously Announced*

National Geographic's two-time Emmy-nominated series **StarTalk with Neil deGrasse Tyson** (#StarTalkTV) returns this fall with 20 all-new episodes. **StarTalk** the hourlong, weekly, science-driven talk-show series derives from Tyson's popular podcast of the same name. Each episode features an intimate interview between Tyson and a guest hewn from pop culture, politics or news, discussing how science and technology have affected their lives and careers. The new season will include "Hidden Figures" star Janelle Monae and director Ted Melfi, cyclist Lance Armstrong, basketball legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and conservationist Fabien Cousteau.

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### **About National Geographic Partners LLC:**

National Geographic Partners LLC (NGP), a joint venture between National Geographic and 21st Century Fox, is committed to bringing the world premium science, adventure and exploration content across an unrivaled portfolio of media assets. NGP combines the global National Geographic television channels (National Geographic Channel, Nat Geo WILD, Nat Geo MUNDO, Nat Geo PEOPLE) with National Geographic's media and consumer-oriented assets, including National Geographic magazines; National Geographic studios; related digital and social media platforms; books; maps; children's media; and ancillary activities that include travel, global experiences and events, archival sales, licensing and e-

commerce businesses. Furthering knowledge and understanding of our world has been the core purpose of National Geographic for 128 years, and now we are committed to going deeper, pushing boundaries, going further for our consumers ... and reaching over 730 million people around the world in 171 countries and 45 languages every month as we do it. NGP returns 27 percent of our proceeds to the nonprofit National Geographic Society to fund work in the areas of science, exploration, conservation and education. For more information visit [natgeotv.com](http://natgeotv.com) or [nationalgeographic.com](http://nationalgeographic.com), or find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Google+](#), [YouTube](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Pinterest](#).

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