

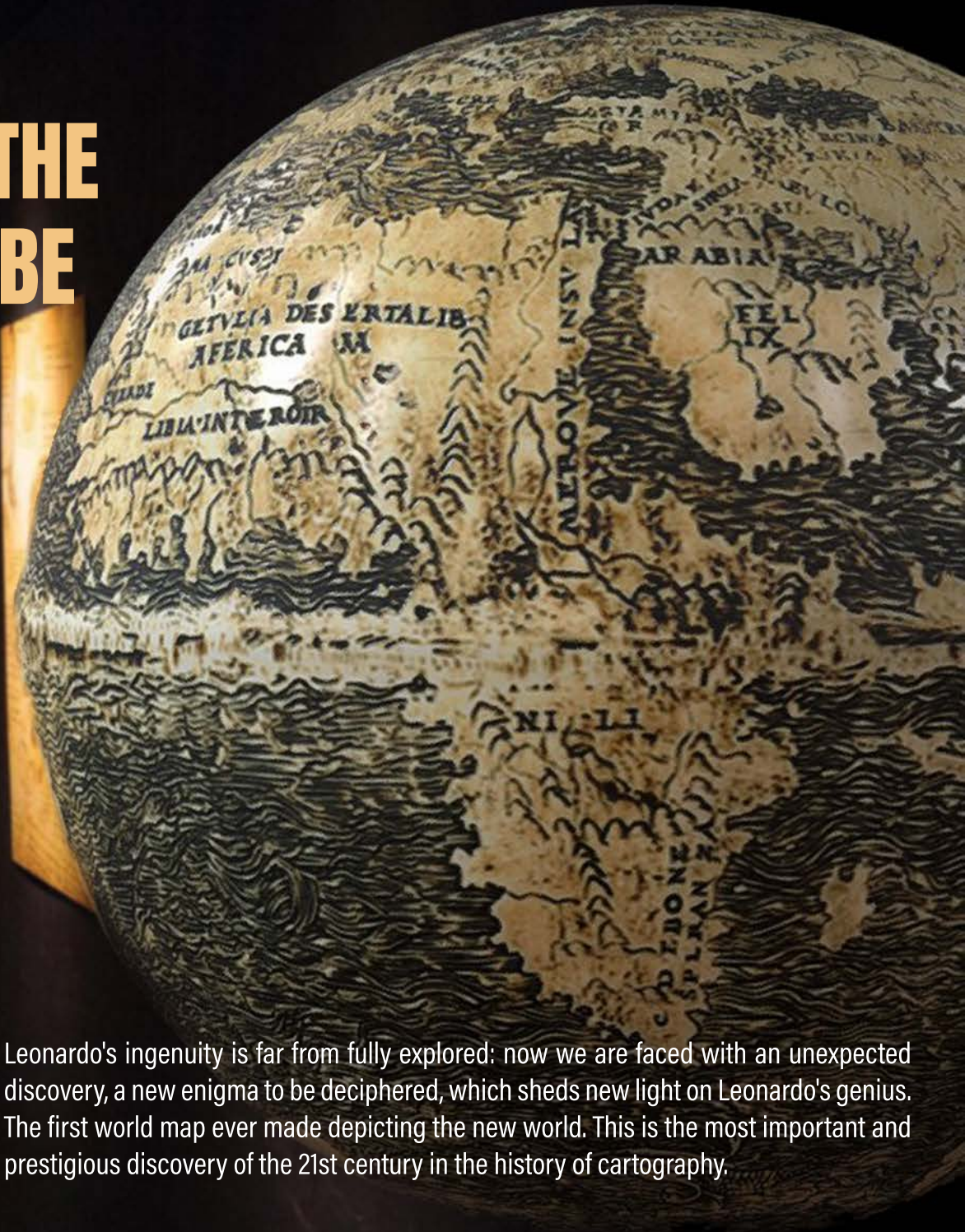
PICASSO<sup>film</sup>  
Presents

# THE SECRET OF THE DA VINCI'S GLOBE



A 90 min. Docu-film  
Directed by  
**MAX SERIO**

Leonardo's ingenuity is far from fully explored: now we are faced with an unexpected discovery, a new enigma to be deciphered, which sheds new light on Leonardo's genius. The first world map ever made depicting the new world. This is the most important and prestigious discovery of the 21st century in the history of cartography.



# OUR QUESTIONS

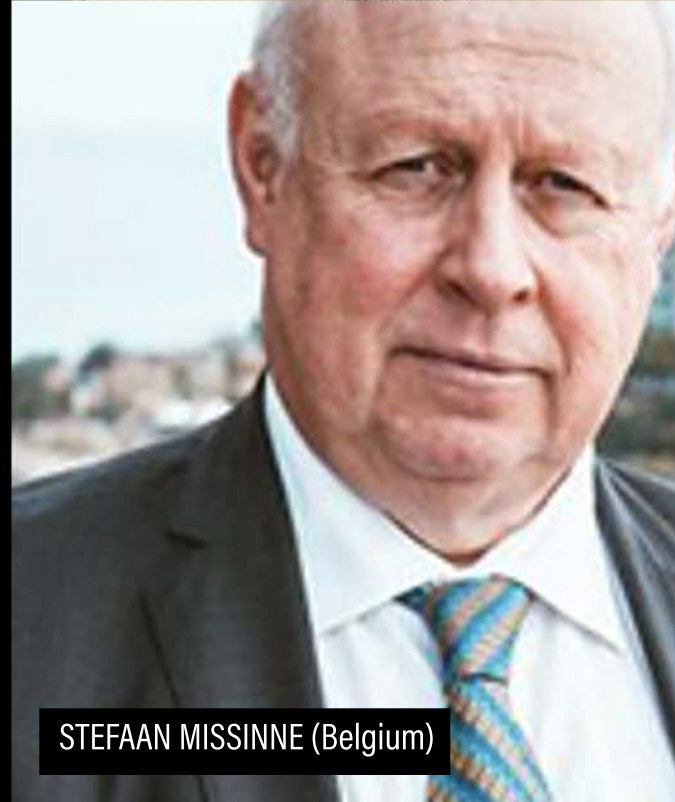
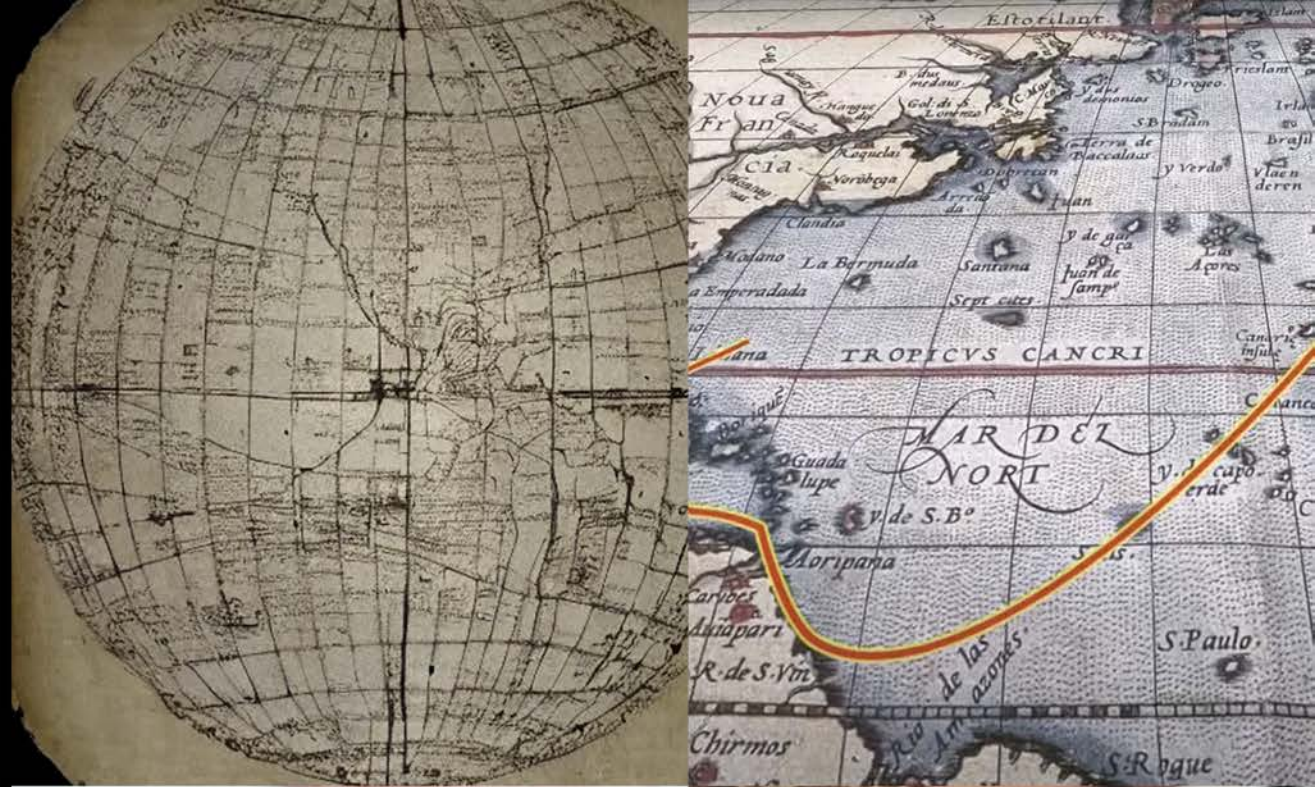
- What is the provenance of the da Vinci Globe?
- Was it really made by Leonardo da Vinci?
- Where and why was it created using ostrich egg shells?
- What secrets are contained in it?
- What is its importance?
- It came to light after 500 years. Where has it been preserved until now?
- Why would Leonardo have made such an object?
- Is it really the world's first globe depicting the New World?
- What is its relationship to the Lenox Globe preserved at the New York Public Library?

**We will answer all these questions with the help of our experts, the science and history.  
The answers will be shocking and revealing.**



# NARRATIVE STYLE

The narrative of our film wants to generate the previous questions in the audience and then slowly unravel them. This is why the style of the film is dynamic and suspenseful, as it befits a production that wants to investigate a mysterious object studied, created, and realized by one of humankind's greatest geniuses. To do this, we rely on special guests who will accompany us throughout the film. Leading international experts on Leonardo da Vinci will be with us to explore and decipher the enigmas of the globe. Leonardo is almost a symbol of perfection, and for this reason, we will investigate every scientific detail of the globe and its mysterious engravings; because very often it is in the details, sometimes hidden, that Leonardo da Vinci's secrets are still hidden, and our task is to unveil them.



STEFAN MISSINNE (Belgium)



SARA TAGLIAGAMBA (Italy)

# 1. RE-ENACTMENT

Used for the staging of the most characteristic sequences, through the sets, costumes, and various non-acting actors, the Renaissance atmosphere of Leonardo's time will be re-created; or the historical and scientific facts revealing new facts about the life of the Genius. Picasso Film will be the producer of the series and has previously made several television series using re-enactment and has enviable expertise in recreating precise, detailed and unequivocal scenes.

**DIRECTOR'S VIEW**





## DIRECTOR'S VIEW

## 2. INTERVIEWS

We interview the world's leading experts on Leonardo Da Vinci. There are Renaissance historians, scientists, academics, restorers, chemists, cartographers, geographers, engineers, geologists. Internationally renowned experts who have dedicated their lives as scholars to reconstructing and decoding Leonardo da Vinci.

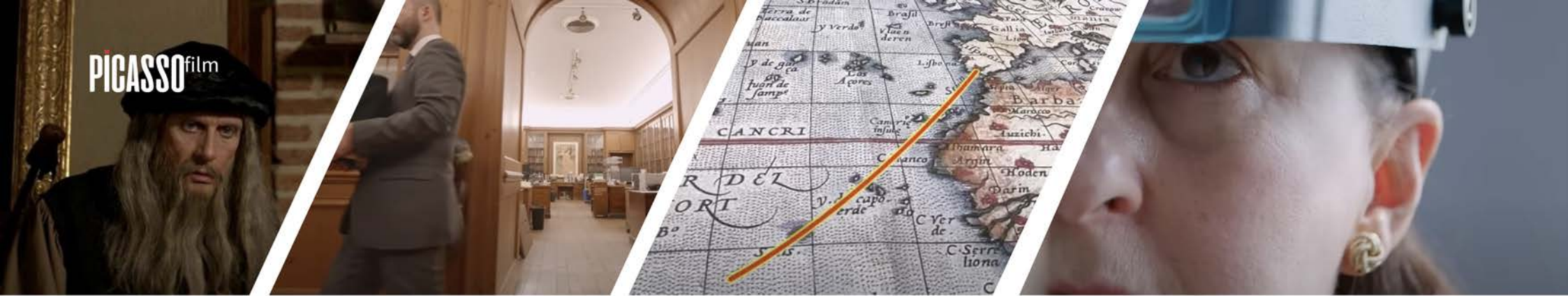
We will use two different interview styles to engage the audience:

**1. Immersive style:** We will follow our experts on location, immersing the viewer in Leonardo's sites. Our experts will not speak in front of the camera like presenters but will interact with it, accompanying us in the narration. We will see them walking around Florence, Milan or through the rooms of the French castle Le Clos Lucè, where the master spent his last years. Our experts will leaf through the parchments where Leonardo wrote his studies, hold his Globe, interact with the audience and step by step decode the mysterious and enigmatic object.

**2. Talking Heads:** They will be used sparingly and where necessary and this type of interview will be supported by images, CGI and VFX relevant to their contributions.



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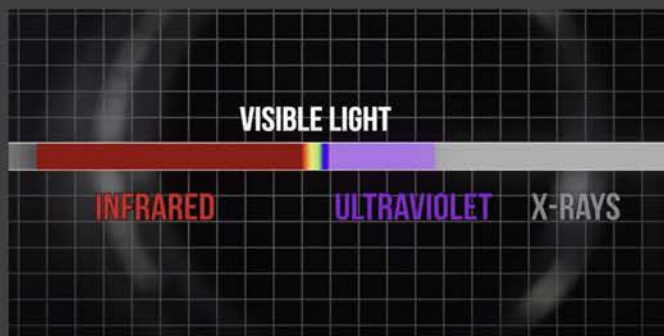


## DIRECTOR'S VIEW

**3. EDITING** We will provide quick transitions, consisting of modern images of the places where the events took place, to anchor our story also in the present. We will use different filming techniques, drone shots, day and night shots, time-lapse and b-roll.

**4. CGI** Using 3D graphics, we will reconstruct the globe, the places, and maps where the mysteries will be decoded.

**5. SOURCES** Finding sources on this subject is certainly not easy, because the works that have been written about Leonardo da Vinci are almost endless. This is why we relied on the most important international experts to guide us in the realization of the series; this allows us to achieve the maximum in terms of results, accuracy and credibility.



# OUR KEY EXPERTS

## **SARA TAGLIALAGAMBA (Italy)**

An art historian, PhD and Post PhD (Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Sorbonne, Paris), she was the historical collaborator of Prof. Carlo Pedretti, the world's leading Leonardo da Vinci scholar. She has taught in prestigious institutes in Italy and abroad, published monographs and articles and received top prizes.



## **STEFAAN MISSINNE (Belgium)**

The discoverer and owner of the globe. Cartographer and Leonardo da Vinci scholar. Member of the Royal Geographical Society and the Leonardo da Vinci Society. Professor Missinne will tell us about his incredible discovery of Leonardo's Globe and his painstaking research lasting years that finally attributed the Globe's paternity to Leonardo.



## **Carmen C. Bambach (USA)**

Art historian and curator of Italian and Spanish drawings at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. She is considered one of the world's leading specialists on Leonardo da Vinci, and was among the very few people in the world to be able to study Leonardo's paintings.



## **PASCAL COTTE (France)**

Pascal Cotte of Lumière Technologies is an engineer optician and the inventor of the first multi-spectral high definition camera. The real revolution that Pascal Cotte offers is to be able to study artworks in depth.



# OUR KEY EXPERTS

## **ANTHONY MARX, (USA)**

is an American academic. He became the current president and CEO of the New York Public Library in July 2011.



## **BRUNO MOTTIN, (France)**

Scientist at the Centre de Recherche et de Restauration des Musées de France



## **H. ANNA SUH, (USA)**

H. Anna Suh has a master's degree in art and archaeology from Princeton University. She was on the curatorial staff of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and has worked on projects for scholarly publications at the Met, New York University's Institute of Fine Arts, the Princeton University Art Museum, and Harvard University.



## **CÉCILE SCAILLIÈREZ (France)**

Art historian and general curator of the painting department of the Louvre Museum. She is a specialist in 16th-century painting and the author of numerous publications on this subject as well as on Leonardo's painting.



## **MARK MONMONIER (USA)**

Professor of Geography and Cartography at the Maxwell School of Syracuse University. Author of numerous publications; has collaborated with radio and television stations.



# AMAZING NEW DISCOVERIES !

"This is the most important and prestigious discovery of the 21st century, in the field of the history of cartography; a c. 11 cm diameter globe made of two halves of similar ostrich eggs glued together and engraved by da Vinci himself around 1504..."

*Professor W. Brake, Royal Library of Belgium;  
Former Director of the Academia Belgica, Rome*

**WHAT'S NEW ?**

**WHY NOW ?**

"This discovery greatly broadens our view of European art history and illuminates new paths of knowledge."

*J. Constable  
Italian Renaissance Expert, Cambridge*

"The OEG was evaluated and examined by more than 100 experts in cartography, history and science. To prove its authenticity, the globe was tested in at least nine scientific laboratories across Europe... The globe was hand-engraved in great detail on two halves of ostrich eggshells from Pavia, Italy, where there was an ostrich farm (Struzzeria) near the garden of the Visconti family of Milan. An extraordinary object with a very mysterious history."

*Professor Vivian Louis Forbes  
University of Western Australia;*

"This astonishing object has been analyzed from a historical, physical, chemical, iconographic, stylistic, and symbolic point of view: all the results clearly show that this globe is his, and furthermore that it is the model from which the famous Lenox Globe was cast. The story of the globe is more intriguing than a novel."

*Marisa Addomine  
Horological researcher and historian*

# PRODUCER & DIRECTOR

I am a television and film producer, director, and founder of [www.picassofilm.net](http://www.picassofilm.net). My work as executive producer, director, and creator includes popular series on Netflix, National Geographic, Curiosity Stream, ZDF, Discovery Channel, History Channel, RAI, FRANCE TELEVISION, RTL Germany, RMC, ITV, BBC, A&E, History channel.

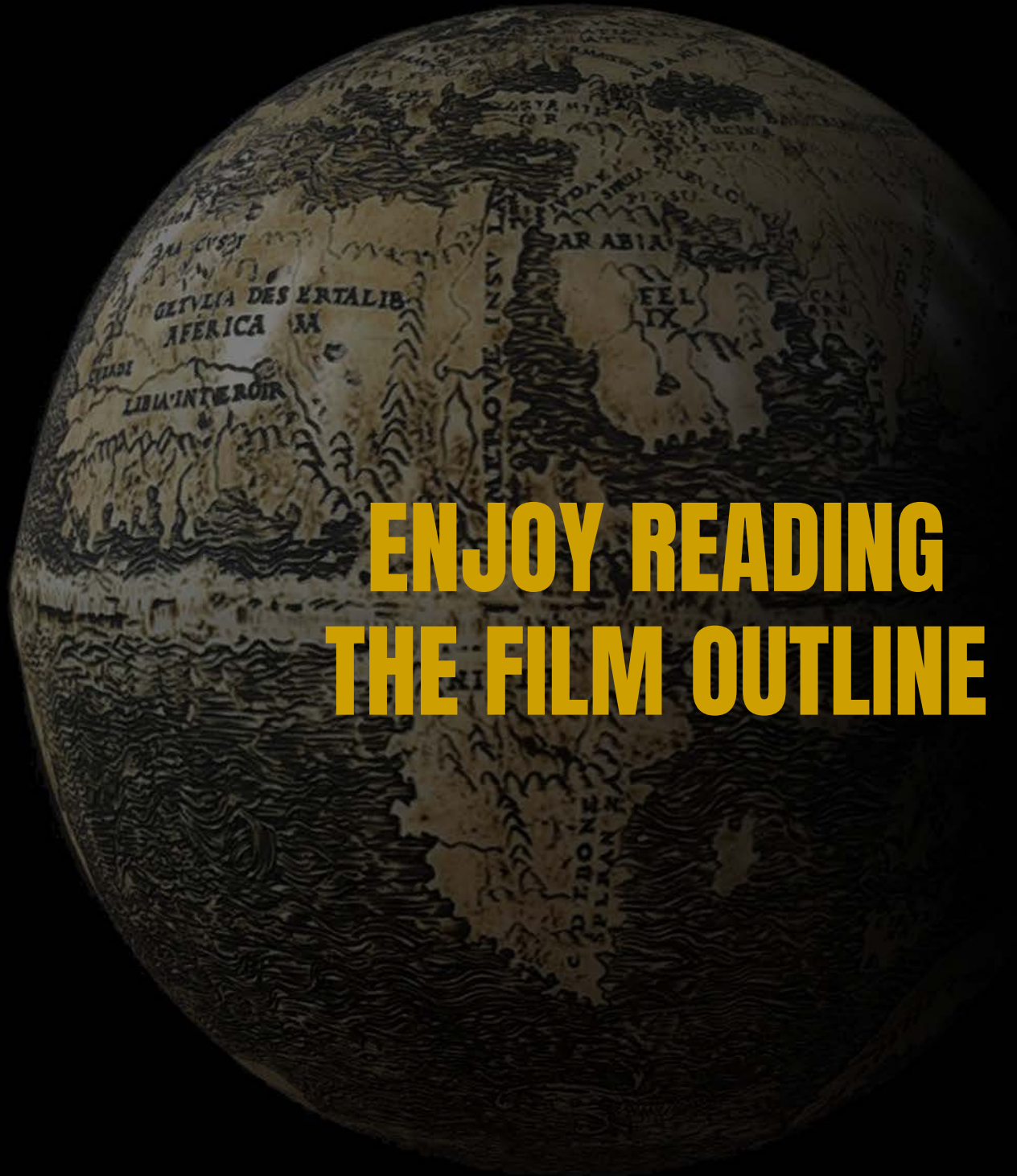
In collaboration with [www.bigmedia.tv](http://www.bigmedia.tv), I have been an associate producer of over 250 hours of documentary series distributed and broadcast worldwide over the past 13 years. My credits include psychological thrillers such as Cult of Personality, Inside the Criminal Mind, Serial Psyche, and historical series such as The Secret of the Templar's Knights, Hitler's Gold, The Cost of War, The Untold Celts, Footprints of Civilization, and Warrior's Way.

My latest production is "The Pope and the Devil", which tells, in four episodes, the controversial story of Pope Pius XII during World War II and his relationship with Hitler and the Nazis. Erroneously called "The Nazi Pope."



I am currently the founder and director of the production company Picasso Film and co-founder and director of the distribution company So What media.

[www.picassofilm.net](http://www.picassofilm.net)  
[www.sowhatmedia.tv](http://www.sowhatmedia.tv)



**ENJOY READING  
THE FILM OUTLINE**

## London, 2012. International Map Fair



The story of our film begins at an illustrious London map fair with the chance discovery of a Belgian globe collector, Prof. Dr. Stefaan Missinne. Stefaan is offered the purchase, by a mysterious antique dealer, of a very singular product.

The most singular of finds: a world map with mysterious images, ships and sailors, a volcano, a sea monster, mountains, rivers, vigorous coastlines, chiaroscuro, and an unsolved triangular anagram, which has all the appearance of an enigma to be solved. The seller, in that circumstance, only attaches a little importance or value to the object; his aim is to sell it and make a modest sum of money from it.

From the start, Stefaan realizes that it is undoubtedly an extraordinary object worthy of great attention, not unimportant. The professor buys it at a very affordable price (a few thousand euros), then Stefaan returns home to Vienna, where he lives.

## Rome, Paris, New York City, Florence

The film begins to run on the thread of emotions. We will listen to some of our experts, who have already been introduced earlier, quickly in the opening, just with a few "soundbites," they will introduce us to the subject of cartography, and in particular, they will talk to us about a specific historical period.

The period after the discovery of Christopher Columbus and Amerigo Vespucci. The New World, The Renaissance. In this period, the capital of world cartography is in Italy in the city of Florence.

## Vienna



We return to Stefaan and his feelings about the strange and mysterious object.

Together with the professor, we analyze the strange and unique Globe. We use a 3D reconstruction for this.

Stefaan is wholly subjugated to it, fascinated; he cannot divert his attention for even a moment. The Globe draws him magnetically and intellectually. The phrases and figures engraved in it haunt him, make him sleep little, chase him, draw him in. The Globe is slow-acting, releasing unsuspected and unstoppable energy.

Here, then, is the moment when the film addresses the audience by asking precise questions:

"Who could have created such a peculiar object?"

"Why on such a fragile surface?"

"A globe?"

"The person who sold it told Stefaan that it was made around the end of the 19th century. Is that true?"

Stefaan doesn't think so; he thinks the date should be correct. The Globe is much, much older. In his experience, it dates back 500 years.

All these questions will obviously be answered, and viewers will discover minute-by-minute the truths and incredible revelations about the Globe.

The investigative phase of the film begins.

## Italy, Florence



We will go to Florence, where we will interview distinguished experts on the cartography of the Renaissance world. We will ask them precise questions about the exciting Renaissance period. Why did Florence become the principal capital for map-making?

Expert: "Those who possessed the right maps at that time could certainly count on wealth because they contained vital information for travelers who ventured on trading expeditions in search of hoped-for fortunes in the newly discovered world. Without the correct maps, they would certainly have failed."

## Vienna

Back to the analysis of the Globe, together with Stefaan.

What do those enigmatic phrases mean? "Here are the dragons ... or that sailor who seems to drown in the ocean waves?"

What kind of technique did the sculptor use to achieve this incredible result?

At this stage, we describe the exhausting and tenacious research by Professor Missinne.

The places where the search took place are very varied. We will examine Florence, Paris, Zurich laboratory, Rome, Rimini, and other sites.

All these questions, the attraction for that mysterious object, and the certainty he has: this is a unique and rare object and deserves all his efforts. He knows it; he feels it deep in his heart; that object speaks to him.... so it is up to him to decode the language contained in it, and then everything will become apparent to everyone. Stefaan pursues a very meticulous and precise observation and study. As we will describe to viewers, Stefaan finances the costly search.

## Zurich, Switzerland, 2015

Another defeat:

Radiocarbon dating to discover the actual age of the Globe is done for the third time. He does this several times and in several laboratories. After Mannheim and Zürich, it is now Vienna. Ultimately, he was right. Experts tell him that the dating of the Globe using carbon dating is not possible. Not enough material from the fragile ostrich eggshells can be extracted for the C 14 Test without risking its complete destruction.



One of our experts will explain how radiocarbon dating works and how reliable it can be. Viewers will be thrilled to realize that Stefaan was right and his hunch was correct.

The film follows Stefaan's investigations, absorbing the difficulties, surprises, defeats, and victories.

Analyses of various kinds follow one another. We will visit some of the most famous laboratories where the examinations of the Globe took place, and we will interview those who carried them out. We will follow the discovery step by step, in all its details. Each result is added to the previous one, and slowly the truth emerges following the film's narrative.

The Globe is engraved in incredible detail on two ostrich eggshells. The Globe shows a profound and secret knowledge of the cartographic world; Prof. Stefaan Missinne is an emeritus expert in cartography and understands perfectly that the world depicted in the Globe refers to the era of Columbus, Cabral, Amerigo Vespucci, and Leonardo da Vinci. At the same time, Central and North America are still covered by a vast ocean.



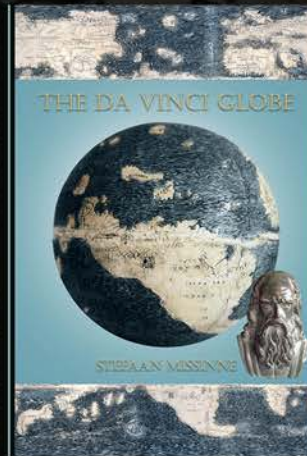
His search and study approach with other scholars lasted for six years. At a certain point in his investigative journey, Stefaan asked for an audience with the man considered the most excellent expert on the Renaissance and Leonardo Da Vinci in particular. Professor Carlo Pedretti.

At first, Pedretti does not give him much attention, considering Stefaan is a visionary who sees things where science does not confirm them. His pleas for a meeting in Rome, through very polite letters, go unanswered for a long time. Stefaan is encouraged and continues undaunted. Finally, after countless requests, Professor Pedretti granted a meeting, and Stefaan could take the Globe with him to Rome and show the fruit of his search to the emeritus professor.

On 5 April 2014, Professor Carlo Pedretti examined the entire search, congratulating Professor Missinne on how it had been conducted. On 1 October 2017, the results of the multi-year globe study were presented at the International Maps Collectors' Society (IMCOS) conference in Hamburg. This was followed by a lecture for members of the Austrian Society for the History of Science in April 2018, a presentation at the ISHMap conference in June 2018, another at the International Cartography Conference in Oxford in September 2018, and one at the University of Vienna on 3 April 2019.

## **Everything changes after this meeting. Everything becomes clearer.**

With the support and help of Professor, Pedretti Stefaan manages to achieve extraordinary results; we are unique and unconventional. Stefaan makes an exceptional effort in terms of research. He continues to finance all his searches, demonstrating outstanding dedication and incredible passion. The academic world, which had previously snubbed him, believing him to be nothing more than some 'learned charlatan' or crazy visionary, begins to pay attention to him.



Stefaan has the Globe analyzed from every angle. Historically, physically, chemically, iconographically, stylistically, and symbolically; all the results clearly demonstrate an irrefutable truth.

The academic world agrees with him!

Cambridge endorses the search in a publication by Professor Stefaan Missinne and announces a sensational and incredible discovery.

Professor Stefaan Missinne has no more doubts, and the world has no more doubts:  
The Globe was made by LEONARDO da VINCI!



Stefaan also discovers that it is the intermodel from which the famous copper Lenox Globe, preserved at the New York Public Library, was made. The Lenox until then was considered the oldest extant Globe in the history of humankind depicting the New World. This is no longer the case today as the da Vinci globe made from conjoined ostrich egg shells, as Computer Tomography shows and confirmed by Raman Spectroscopy precedes the casting of the Lenox globe. The da Vinci's globe was engraved in Florence in 1504 sometime before the Lenox, its identical twin, was cast.

## New York City

We interview the head of the New York Public Library to determine the reactions to such a discovery.

Are there any conflicting points? Do they all agree? How do they judge this discovery?



At this point, the film's plot becomes more and more compelling. Minute by minute, new secrets are revealed, puzzles are solved, and new truths come to light. Our emeritus experts inform us in great detail and accompany the viewer, sequence after sequence. We discover that this little treasure, made from two ostrich eggshells that appeared unnoticed on an international map and globe fair at the venue of the Royal Geographical Society in London a few years ago, comes from the hands and minds of the most famous geniuses of the Renaissance. It is an extraordinary discovery for the cartographic world and, more generally, for history itself.

One of our questions to our hosts :  
"Why make it on an ostrich eggshell?"

Expert: "The egg symbolizes birth, life, the world beyond the common view. Leonardo already uses this symbol in one of his famous paintings and some of his drawings".

At this point, a perfect, high-resolution 3D reproduction will allow the viewer to carefully observe the most minor details of the Globe. Our experts will explain the complicated technique with which it was created. A job that must have taken years and the use of knowledge that is still unknown today.

We will show that this Globe comes from Florence, and after years of searching, it has been established with certainty that it is the oldest Globe showing the New World.



We will reveal to the public how for the first time in the history of universal cartography, the names of countries such as Brazil, Germany, China, and Judea appear on a world map. Judea seems precisely where the state of Israel is located today ... unbelievable. This state was only born in 1948! Another pre-vision of Leonardo da Vinci?

Our experts will take us through years of incredible searches and scientific evidence. They will explain the specific pictographic details and engraving techniques used by the Renaissance Genius and how the engravings were applied (by a left-handed hand, moreover).

Prof. Missinne established the authenticity and paternity of the da Vinci Globe. The international academic and scientific reviews of the discovery of the da Vinci Globe published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing are unanimously positive.

Who possibly might have commissioned Leonardo da Vinci to make this globe?

Stefaan tells us a fundamental fact to answer this question correctly. In 1504, Leonardo wrote a note on the Codex Atlanticus during his stay in Florence.

Here we go on a brief excursion into Renaissance history with one of our guests:

## Paris

Expert 1: 'Giovanni Benci was a politician and wealthy Italian patron of the arts, known as a friend of Leonardo da Vinci and brother of Ginevra Benci, immortalized by Leonardo himself in a famous portrait. The Lady with an Ermine.

## Rome

Expert 2: 'Between Giovanni Benci and Leonardo da Vinci, who frequented the Benci family palace, a friendship was born, given their shared passions and the fact that they were almost the same age, with Leonardo being only four years older than Giovanni. The relationship of trust established between the two is confirmed by the fact that there was also an exchange of objects between them, as can be seen in some of Leonardo's writings. Leonardo mentions this in some of his memos concerning Giovanni's possession of his Globe, his books, his work tools, and some precious stones.

## New York City

Expert 3: "Concerning the globe, Leonardo wrote on the recto of page 331 of his Codex Atlanticus: "el mio mappemonde con Giovanni Benci" Again, the "mappemonde de' Benci" returns on the recto of page 191 of his Arundel Codex. The objects that Leonardo left in Giovanni's hands were delivered while the former was traveling, but, in particular, why Giovanni had the mappemonde as mentioned above must be hypothesized in Giovanni's own interest in studying it, although probably not yet completed,

So could Giovanni Benci be the one who commissioned the Globe from Leonardo?

We continue the narration of the film by discovering that in Leonardo's Globe, cartographic fidelity, representation of the phenomenology of the elements, and imaginary details are integrated into a three-dimensional object; such an artifact fully expresses the culture of the early 16th century, of cartographic knowledge and cosmological search of the time.

## Paris

Expert: Leonardo considered himself a scientist; for him, art was just another way to explore nature. Besides his mechanical and anatomical experiments, he was particularly interested in geography and drew several maps himself.'

## London

We visit the British Library in London, where Leonardo's Arundel Codex is kept. We film it and, consulting it with one of our experts, we discover a preparatory drawing for the world map, dating from 1503, relating to the coasts of the New World and Africa. This is irrefutable proof that Leonardo was informed of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus and, more consciously, by his fellow citizen Amerigo Vespucci. In the past, the drawing in question has been misinterpreted as a representation of the Moon's surface.

The narrative emphasizes that the newly discovered Globe is already shedding new light on Leonardo's other mysterious drawings and designs.





## Milan



We move to the Ambrosiana library in Milan, where the Codex Atlanticus is kept. By consulting the codex, we will make the viewers understand that during his stay in Florence in 1504, the Da Vinci genius wrote about his Globe in the Codex Atlanticus, mentioning his wish to return the object to his friend Giovanni Benci, who had it with him.

The Globe, made by a left-handed artist, as we know Leonardo to have been, is studded with images: we find ships, a volcano, sailors, a sea monster, representations of waves, mountains, rivers, coastlines, the line of the Treaty of Tordesillas between Spain and Portugal (dating back to 1494) and a triangular anagram. These are all messages, enigmas to be solved that, in the film, appear clear and logically explained. Leonardo Da Vinci, as we know, loved to speak in riddles and prophetically. He also does so in his Globe.

Before concluding, we will give our viewers one last informative pearl from the discovery of Leonardo da Vinci's Globe.

Undoubtedly, the inviting open sea passage to the west depicted on Leonardo's Globe convinced French king Francois I to finance a French expedition under the command of the Italian expatriate Giovanni da Verrazano in 1524. This courageous decision was made only five years after Leonardo died in 1519.

Thanks to this expedition, Verrazano first touched the lands, the islands, that would later become the world's most famous and prolific tasting grounds. The American state is known as New York City.



How much more can be said, and how much more will we discover about this mysterious object?

## Conclusion

This documentary film takes viewers on a fabulous journey through scholars, maps, riddles, iconographic symbols, and enigmatic phrases such as 'HIC SVNT DRACONES' (HERE ARE THE DRAGONS) to illuminate Leonardo da Vinci's map of the world.

We conclude that we consider it a privilege to tell the world about a discovery attributed to Leonardo Da Vinci for the first time. An honor and a challenge that, through the film, we will try to make even more precious.



A close-up, low-key photograph of a person's hands writing on a document with a quill pen. The scene is dimly lit, with the light source highlighting the texture of the paper and the fine details of the quill. The person's hands are positioned over an open book or a large sheet of paper, with the quill held in a firm grip, ready to write. The background is dark, creating a sense of mystery and focus on the act of writing.

## THE SECRET OF THE DA VINCI'S GLOBE

Written by Max Serio, Paolo Nigro

Directed by Max Serio

Produced by Radek Houška, Picasso Film

[www.picassofilm.net](http://www.picassofilm.net)

### Contact us

MAX SERIO: [maxserio@picassofilm.com](mailto:maxserio@picassofilm.com)

LADISLAV ŠVESTKA: [ladislav@sowhatmedia.tv](mailto:ladislav@sowhatmedia.tv)

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SO WHAT MEDIA