



ICE WOMEN

1 x 90 min feature documentary,
3 x 45 min Mini Series



**The history of Arctic exploration has been written by men.
Until now
This documentary unveils empowering stories of
adventurous women, honors their scientific achievements
and shows their struggle with packed ice and men.**

ICE WOMEN: Reclaiming the frozen narrative

Logline:

ICE WOMEN shatters the male-dominated history of Arctic research. Through the gripping stories of Ada Blackjack, Louise Arner Boyd, and Josephine Peary, ICE WOMEN ventures into the heart of Arctic. Follow their journeys of survival, empowerment, and cultural reclamation, intertwined with the inspiring narratives of Maddy Kiminaq Alvanna-Stimpfle, Prof. Angelika Humbert, and Kaalannguaq Eipe Uvdloriaq, as they continue the legacy of these remarkable women.

Synopsis:

ICE WOMEN is a groundbreaking documentary that challenges the frozen stereotypes of Arctic exploration. For too long, the history of the North has been penned by men, and this film seeks to thaw those biases. Through empowering narratives, scientific triumphs, and the relentless struggle against both the unforgiving ice and societal norms, we rewrite the history books. Join us as we unveil empowering stories of adventurous women, celebrating their scientific achievements and revealing the formidable struggle against packed ice and societal expectations.



Storytelling

- **Narrative Disruption:** Through immersive storytelling, the documentary challenges conventional narratives, offering a fresh perspective.

- **Archival Revelations:** Rarely seen archival materials reveal the untold stories of these women, making their contributions to science and exploration impossible to ignore.

- **Emotional Resonance:** The film strikes a balance between scientific exploration and emotional storytelling, connecting audiences to the personal triumphs and struggles of these Arctic heroines.

- **Indigenous Voices:** ICE WOMEN provides a platform for the Arctic's original inhabitants to share their perspectives on the impact of exploration and colonization.

Conclusion: Through the gripping stories of Ada Blackjack, Louise Arner Boyd, and Josephine Peary, ICE WOMEN venture into the heart of Arctic. Follow their journeys of survival, adventure, empowerment, and cultural reclamation, intertwined with the inspiring narratives of Maddy Kiminaq Alvanna-Stimpfle, Prof. Angelika Humbert, and Kaalannguaq Eipe Uvdloriaq, as they continue the legacy of these remarkable women. Join us on a journey that melts away the biases, honors the scientific accomplishments of these remarkable women, and confronts the icy challenges they faced in both nature and societal expectations. It's time to rewrite the history of Arctic exploration with the empowering stories of the women who dared to break the ice.



Then: 1898-1983 Ada Blackjack

A Story of Survival and Silence:

We delve into Ada's early life, marked by the loss of her beloved father, her language and culture leading to her journey of survival in a violent marriage and later in the icy desolation of Wrangel Island. We discover how Ada developed a keen sense of adaptability, learning how to utilize available resources, cope with the harsh climate, and make the most of her surroundings. We ask for her motivation to not give herself up confronted with dead and devastation. The love between a parent and a child can be an extraordinary source of resilience, offering both emotional and psychological strength in the face of adversity. In Ada's story, we go to tell the about profound bond with her child which likely played a pivotal role in her survival and determination in the harsh Arctic conditions.



Now: Maddy Kiminaq Alvanna-Stimpfle

Preserving Heritage Through Language:

Meet Maddy, a passionate Inupiaq teacher determined to combat the loss of language and culture. ICE WOMEN follows Maddy's journey as she carries the torch ignited by Ada, teaching Inupiaq language and fighting for cultural acceptance in the very same Nome, Alaska, where Ada spent her youth. Maddy's commitment mirrors Ada's legacy, illustrating the enduring impact of reclaiming heritage.



Then: 1887 – 1972 Louise Arner Boyd

From Riches to the Arctic Abyss:

A captivating exploration of her life as a pioneering figure in Arctic research. Born into wealth in California, Boyd defied societal norms, becoming the first woman to independently finance 14 Arctic expeditions, a feat that sets her apart in history. Unveiling her multifaceted contributions to science, cultural preservation, and secret wartime missions, the film underscores her lasting impact on Arctic exploration. Boyd's journey, was not solely about defying gender expectations but also about leveraging her passion for film and photography. She was a trailblazer in using visual media to document, map and share the wonders of the Arctic. Notably, she honed her skills as the first female scholar at Kodak, a pioneering role that laid the foundation for her later achievements in visual storytelling during her expeditions.

A key aspect of Boyd's modus operandi was her strategic decision to always hire men to carry her technical equipment on the expeditions. This deliberate choice allowed her to focus on her role as a photographer and expedition leader, challenging the conventional roles assigned to women in her time. The documentary delves into this aspect of her journey, shedding light on the complexities of navigating a male-dominated field while carving out a niche for herself.



Now: Prof. Angelika Humbert

Navigating the Ice of Today:

Journey with Prof. Angelika Humbert, a glaciologist decoding climate change in the footsteps of Louise Arner Boyd. „ICE WOMEN“ accompanies Angelika to the Arctic research camp, comparing landscapes captured by Boyd in the 1920s to today. Discussions touch upon the openness of today's scientific community for female scientists, bridging past and present.

Then: 1863 – 1944 Josephine Peary

A Woman Amidst Ethnography and Betrayal:

Delve into Josephine Peary's pioneering ethnographic work, her loyalty to Robert E. Peary, and the complexities of Arctic relationships. „ICE WOMEN“ confronts the unexplored territory of how Josephine navigated the male-dominated Arctic expeditions and her blind eye to the mistreatment of Inuit women. The documentary examines the dual facets of loyalty and ignorance that shaped her Arctic journey.



Now: Kaalannguaq Eipe Uvdloriaq

From Dysfunction to Resilience:

Witness the resilience of Kaalannguaq, a modern Inuk navigating the challenges of family, work, and cultural identity. ICE WOMEN unveil her journey from a tumultuous past to a present where she works to empower others at the „Family House.“ Kaalannguaq's story reflects the enduring legacy of Arctic exploration in the lives of those in Qaanaaq, where the Pearys once had set their Base Camp to reach the North Pole first.



Directors Vision

At the heart of our endeavor is a belief in togetherness. We see ICE WOMEN as more than a film; it is a shared experience, a collective journey where together we grow, learn, and expand our knowledge and ways of understanding the world. Our motivation is to resurrect these extraordinary stories and breathe life into them once more. Through ICE WOMEN, we aim to open doors and build bridges of understanding and empowerment.

As we learned from a Greenlandic shaman, »birds need two wings to fly. Needs to be balanced.« This wisdom holds a profound meaning for our film. It serves as a metaphor for the balanced storytelling we aspire to achieve in ICEWOMEN. Just as a bird need both wings to soar, our narrative aims to provide a comprehensive and harmonious portrayal of the Arctic, blending the majestic landscapes with the untold stories of these remarkable women.

The journey of ICEWOMEN takes us not only through icy landscapes but also deep into the archives of history. We have embarked on a cinematic exploration to unearth forgotten records, letters, and photographs documenting the legacy of these extraordinary women. It is our mission to bring their stories to life, fostering a deeper understanding of their contributions and paving the way for empowerment.



Distribution Strategy

2020 - 2022

Development

Research in USA (Eastcoast, Alaska)

2023

2023.01 - 2023.07

Preproduction and Financing

2023.02 Financing Strategies at Berlinale EFM and part of Doc Toolbox

2023.03 Part of EuroDoc Workshop

2023.05 Nominated for British Pathé Archive Award
Funded by Hessen Film, Filmfonds Meck-Vopo, ÖFI (Austrian Film Institut)

Contract with German broadcaster NDR

Contracting First Hand Film, Zürich (CH) and bsx Hans-Jürgen Schmolzer, Graz (AT)

2023.08 Shooting Eastgreenland

2023.09 Shooting USA - Eastcoast

beg, 2023.11 Prep. Edit, Sorting out in Germany

2024 - 2025

2024.01 Editing, Archival Research and Acquiring
Roughcut part 1 Ada Blackjack

2024.01+02 Shooting Northwest-Greenland

2024.03+ Roughcut part 2 and 3 - Josephine Peary,
Louise Arner Boyd

2024.05+ Editing all 3 parts, Layouting long version

2024 - following months

Final editing, Rights clearing

Audiopost, Videopost, Documentation

Lab, Finishing

Exploitation

Autumn 2024 Premiere

Winter 2024 Theatrical release

tba Worldsales, Streaming, DVD, Educational



Production details

ICEWOMEN is to be produced as 90 min. feature documentary, 52 minutes linear TV-format and 3x30 min. mini-series to appeal to different target groups (e.g. the series format is aimed at mainly female audiences). (4K, color+bw, including unknown archive-material and special animation) In addition to that a radio podcast is in development.

Teaser: <https://vimeo.com/786564141> - pw: Eis

Dorothea Braun, producer, writer, director

Founded her production house DOOR+BRIDGE Film in 2019.

ICEWOMEN will be her first feature documentary.

Dorothea Braun studied cultural and social anthropology with focus on visual anthropology, film directing and story development.

She has been working as producer, writer and director for documentaries since 2015.

Jens Becker, director, writer

Since 1986 more than 70 screenplays, feature films, series episodes and documentaries in film and television, as well as non-fiction books. Freelance author/director/script consultant since 1991. 2004 appointed professor for screenwriting at KONRAD WOLF Film University Babelsberg. Participated in selection and funding committees. Many years of experience as advising dramatist for documentaries and feature films.

Kurt Otterbacher, producer strandfilm

Founder (1977) and producer (since 1986), involved in more than 70 productions für Cinema and TV, author and filmcritic.

Contact

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Esther van Messel, First Hand Films, esther.van.messel@firsthandfilms.com



Creative Team



Dorothea Braun
Producer, Writer/Director

Born in Eberbach, Germany, Dorothea Braun is an emerging producer passionate about crafting unique stories with a strong visual flair. With a background in tourism and degrees in cultural anthropology, she honed her skills in directing and story development at ZeLIG documentary film school in Bolzano, Italy. She has contributed to various feature documentaries, including the acclaimed WEATHERMAKERS, which she co-wrote and was shortlisted for the German Film Prize 2023. Since 2018, she has been a producer at strandfilm in Frankfurt and founded her own production company, DOOR+BRIDGE Film, in 2019.



Kurt Otterbacher
strandfilm, Producer

Graduated economist. Works mainly as producer, production manager, line producer, financing. He is also author and film critic. CEO and Founder of strandfilm. strandfilm has been involved in more than 70 film projects since 1983. We have produced and executed own productions, commissioned productions and third-party productions.

Hansjürgen Schmölzer
bsx Film, Service Producer Austria

Esther van Messel
First Hand Films, Executive Producer & World Sales, Switzerland



Jens Becker, Director/Writer

Since 1986 more than 70 screenplays, feature films, series episodes and documentaries in film and television, as well as non-fiction books. Freelance author/director/script consultant since 1991. 2004 appointed professor for screenwriting at KONRAD WOLF Film University Babelsberg. Participated in selection and funding committees. Many years of experience as advising dramatist for documentaries and feature films.

Susanna Salonen, DOP

Born 1966 in Finland. Worked as Diving instructor in Australia, Thailand, Egypt and Mexico, was Electrician and Camera-Assistant (a.o.) with Mika Kaurismäki, Rudolf Thomé, Jan de Bont, J.-M. Ribes, Tom Tykwer. - and since 1997 as Director, Writer and DOP.

Tobias Müller, Sound Engineer
Lotta Sahlstedt, Sound Engineer

Annett Ilijew, Editor

Born and raised in East Berlin (birth name: Schütze). From 2000 to 2007 studied film editing at the Film University „Konrad Wolf“. Works as a director, editor and film lecturer. Her award-winning films have screened at numerous national and international festivals.

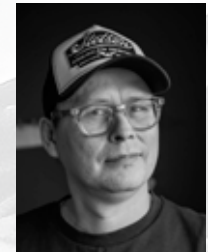
Mikisoq H. Lynge, Co-Director
Josephine Peary Episode

Mikisoq has worked within the film industry for almost two decades, with a focus on feature film, short film, art film, PSA campaigns and documentaries in and about Greenland. Started as producer and Unit Production Manager, and now works also as writer/director.

Isabella Scholz, Associate Producer

After several years in public relations for film and television, Isabella Scholz founded her own production company AGRIPPINA FILM in Erfurt/Central Germany at the end of 2020. The company stands for high-quality fictional programmes with an interest in extraordinary female characters, especially historical figures. Isabella Scholz is responsible for press coordination.

Sarah Legron, Prod. assistant





IÑUPIAQ

SIBERIAN YUPIK

ST. LAWRENCE ISLAND YUPIK

ALASKA

ATHABASCAN
UPPER KUSKOKWIM

YUP'IK

SUGPIAQ (ALUTIIQ)

