

## Extra: Filming starts on ZDF's "Africa From Above"; Vice launches FAST channel on Roku

By Andrew Jeffrey



### ZDF Enterprises begins filming *Africa From Above*

ZDF Enterprises has begun filming on its 10-part series *Africa From Above*.

Produced by Off the Fence Productions, the series (pictured) looks at the continent's people, places and wildlife. ZDF Enterprises is the lead partner and global distributor. Additional partners include ARTE, Austrian public broadcaster ORF and broadcaster UKTV.

The series will explore Africa's history, architecture, industry, cultures and wildlife, as well as cities and towns across the continent, revealing how people survive in more extreme locations.

"This production will capture Africa in a way that has never been seen before, using the latest technology, airborne and on the ground. We are delighted to offer this beautiful series to our clients shortly – these are the kind of pictures audiences are longing to see in the current times," said [Ralf Rueckauer](#), vice president of ZDF Enterprises.

### Vice launches FAST channel on Roku

Vice Media Group has launched its first FAST (free ad-supported streaming television) channel on the Roku platform today (May 11).

The channel will feature premium series and documentaries on culture, entertainment, food, technology, sports and news from across Vice Media Group.

Programming will include TV library content, longer-length digital content adapted for TV and a selection of Vice World News titles. Vice Distribution also sold more than 200 hours of the company's content to Roku to air on the Roku Channel.

The new channel marks the next growth milestone for Vice Media Group, the company said, by increasing the number of ways audiences can find their content. This news comes after Vice reported its biggest year-over-year growth ever.

### WaZabi lands int'l sales rights to *My Tree* after Hot Docs premier

Sales outfit WaZabi Films has picked up global rights, excluding Canada, to *My Tree*, a documentary that recently had its world premiere at the Hot Docs Festival in Toronto.

The documentary comes from director and writer Jason Sherman, and follows his journey to Israel to find the origins of a tree that was planted in his name 40 years earlier. [Matt Code](#) is the executive producer on the film.

"*My Tree* is a profoundly emotional and revelatory film that does what the best documentaries do: it keeps you completely engaged as it tells you things you never knew," said WaZabi co-president [Lorne Price](#).

The distributor will introduce *My Tree* to buyers at the upcoming virtual Cannes market.

*My Tree* is produced by Some Canadian Inc. and Hawkeye Pictures, with support from the Canada Council For the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council and the Toronto Arts Council.

Sherman's past work includes the Governor General's Award winning play *Three in the Back*, *Two in the Head*, and the celebrated documentary *We Were Children*.