

CZECH TELEVISION PRESENTS JAN SVATOŠ'S FILM

THE ARK OF LIGHTS & SHADOWS



FORGOTTEN STORY OF MARTIN AND OSA JOHNSONS,
REBEL FILMMAKERS WHO MADE FIRST FILMS IN AFRICA
IN TIMES WHEN FILMING ITSELF WAS MORE DANGEROUS
THEN LIONS OR MALARIA...

 **Česká televize**



The Ark of Lights and Shadows (Archa světla a stínů)

The story about the birth of cinematic wildlife and its disappearing archetypes...

They met on Friday, getting married secretly on Sunday. They had to run away from home due to their parents' wrath, so they rather spent their honeymoons among the cannibals. There they lost their illusions, camera and almost their lives. When many people would have abandoned filming, Martin and Osa Johnson risked their lives to give the testimony of diminishing wildlife. Although they were celebrities once admired by Ch. Chaplin or British Royal Family, they are forgotten nowadays. It is an authentic footprint of an era when filming itself was more dangerous than just lions or malaria; when to photograph meant to risk at best failure, at worst your life...

Feature documentary debut by internationally awarded director Jan Svatoš. He has been working 10 years on it making research in various film archives including the Library of Congress in Washington D. C. The movie is presenting some of the unique archive footage captured in Africa in 1920s or 1930s for the first time in the context with temporary Africa. The story of Martin and Osa is not only about love at first sight, adventure and bravery but also about breaking stereotypes and defending the artistic freedom against the Hollywood dictatorship.

HD, 90', m/e track, © 2018



Directed by: Jan Svatoš
Screenplay by: Jan Svatoš
Director of Photography: Romi Straková
Editor: Katarína Geyerová Buchanan, Václav Trčka
Sound: Ladislav Krýsl
Producers: Czech television, Art Francesco s.r.o.
Storytelling: hosted technique combined
with voices of Martin and Osa Johnson



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