Sydonia Production was born from the experience and passion of a team of professionals in the audiovisual and documentary field, led by director Luca Trovellesi Cesana. Specialized in documentary and docu-fiction production, it places itself in the international television market with products of prestige and global reach, awarded in worldwide exhibitions and festivals.

The constant presence to the main fairs of the audiovisual market (eg. Mip TV and Mip COM in Cannes) enriches the expertise of the company that has developed a branch of international distribution of documentaries, TV shows and animation: Sydonia Entertainment. Discovery Channel, The History Channel, RAI and ARTE are among the networks with whom Sydonia has been collaborating in the last few years.

Since 2010 Sydonia has been also operating also in Buenos Aires as Studio3 TV, administered by executive producer Diego Corvaro, who has always worked with Trovellesi Cesana in all his video production works. In Argentina, it established itself as leading producer of content for South American television market and consultant of the Argentine Government in the ideation of new channels and TV formats.

In 2015 Luca Trovellesi Cesana has founded a new branch of Sydonia Production with headquarters in Erbil, Kurdistan (north Iraq), managed by Trovellesi’s partner Darwin Ways, CEO. From this branch the Sydonia team is developing new ambitious projects for the whole Middle East territory (documentaries, formats, game shows, tv channels, etc.).

An international commitment which has enabled the Sydonia team to acquire a high-level know-how and professionalism in order to be able to take on new and exciting challenges and further expand its horizons.
In 2008 the discovery in the South of Italy of a 16th century portrait takes the art world by storm. Could this be an unknown self-portrait by Leonardo da Vinci?

Controversy erupts among the experts. The implications of such a discovery have far-reaching consequences for our understanding of the work of this great Renaissance master. Leonardo is not just the most famous and most admired of all painters - he is an icon, a superstar. Yet, the man himself remains elusive. We’re all familiar with his drawings, his paintings, his inventions, his writings. But we still don’t know what Leonardo really looked like.

A CSI of art, The Portrait of Leonardo da Vinci brings us to the heart of an extensive investigation involving world-renowned experts, art historians, scientists and even police detectives, using the most innovative scientific techniques to solve one of the great art mysteries of this century. There will be amazing discoveries - like the trace of a thumb embedded in the paint, the same fingerprint found in «Lady with an Ermine», another of Leonardo’s paintings.

In this documentary, we reconstruct this exciting journey around the genius of Leonardo and go back into the past of the brilliant and decadent Florence of the Quattrocento, a city living its last hours of artistic grandeur.

Have we finally discovered the true face of Leonardo?
THE MONA LISA IDENTITY

4K / 1 x 90' / Eng - Ita
DELIVERY: NOVEMBER 2018

All the different “identities” hidden behind the Joconda portrait are finally explained in a new compelling docufiction. Four women, four leads that we will follow to shed light on the real name of the figure that inspired Leonardo da Vinci.
A wonderful journey through the Renaissance of Italy that will touch the hometowns of the four ladies: Florence, Milan, Urbino and finally the region of Basilicata, where we will discover the never-seen site where the Monalisa was buried.
With the support of scholars and researchers, we will analyze exclusive materials and recent excavations to outline the features of the figure who still fascinates millions of people.

For the first time the masterpiece of the Renaissance is explored simultaneously from different perspectives.

THE ORACLE

4K / 1 x 45' - 1 x 52'/ Ita - Eng
DELIVERY: JUNE 2018

Amid the peaks of Central Apennines in Italy, there is a cave that holds one of the most fascinating secrets of history. It is the cave of the Sibyl, the ancient prophetess who has inspired poets of every age. In this documentary we will retrace the story of the Apennine Sibyl, a world famous legend that still survives in the traditional sacredness of Central Italy lands.
A brief incipit will lead us to her “kingdom”, to the places linked to legend. The images will span the mountain side dwelling on the unspoiled nature, the wild gorges, the river beds cutting through the path, leading the viewer to the top of the mountain, at the entrance of the legendary Cave.
With the collaboration of the University of Camerino we will reproduce part of the geological studies carried out in 2000. They actually proved the existence of a place, beyond the fateful entrance, very similar to the one described for centuries by the legend and other written sources.
We will reconstruct the journey of Antoine De La Salle, the French traveler who first entered the cave in 1420. At the same time, reenactments and interviews to experts will make us relive the stories of the Sibyls in ancient tradition (Persian, Libyan, Delphic, Hellespontine, etc.). We will see the ancient prophetesses while prophesying in the darkness of their caves, entrusting to the tree leaves the answers that changed the course of history. Archaic symbols of never revealed mysteries, custodians of metaphysical, universal, sacred and profane secrets. The Sibyl oracle... a story between truth and legend.
MAFIA HUNTERS is an eye-opening new docu-fiction series featuring exclusive interviews with Mafia dons and hitmen – and with cops and prosecutors who hunt them down. As the two worlds of hunted and hunter collide, we zoom in on the climax of the hunt – the moments before the boss is finally cornered and captured.

Each of the eight episodes traces a never-before-told story in this unique in-depth voyage inside the Italian mafias and their vast empires in the United States, South America, Germany, Italy, and Canada.

THE SICILIAN MAFIA “COSA NOSTRA”
“The Joker”: Lucio Liggio
“The Beast”: Toto Riina
“The Accountant”: Bernardo Provenzano

THE RETURN OF THE CLASSIC PALERMO “COSA NOSTRA”
“The Baron”: Salvatore Lo Piccolo

THE AMERICAN CONNECTION
“The Rothschilds of the Mafia”: Alfonso Caruana

THE NEAPOLITAN “NEW ORGANIZED CAMORRA”
“The Mad Professor”: Raffaele Cutolo

THE CALABRIAN ‘NDRANGHETA
“Mr. Supreme”: Pasquale Condello
“The king of drug traffickers”: Giuseppe Coluccio
The TEAM

FREDERICK II HOHENSTAUFEN
4K / 1 x 45’ - 1 x 52’ / Ita - Eng

Jesi, December 26, 1194, the Market Square. From behind a tent assembled in great haste, the Empress Costanza d’Altavilla gave birth to one of the most enlightened rulers in the European history: Frederick II of Swabia. Nephew of Frederick Barbarossa, Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, King of Sicily, Germany and Jerusalem. A pioneering and innovator man of the modern state, tolerant and open-minded to the Islamic world. A patron by scientific, artistic, esoteric interests. Engaging reenactments will be alternated to the contribution of scholar experts to accompany us to the discovery of his incredible and mysterious life. A new and compelling docufiction about Frederick II, an extraordinary figure born in the Marche and acclaimed as “Stupor Mundi” until his death.

THE QUMRAN KEEPERS
4K / 1 x 45’ - 1 x 52’ / Eng - Ita

The archaeological discovery of the twentieth century. The most ancient Biblical texts in the world.

Seventy years after their recovery, the Dead Sea Scrolls are still a thought-provoking matter of debate. Who wrote those scrolls? Where have they been realized? And how?

From the stratigraphic excavations to the chemical analysis of the inks, up to the studies performed with the use of particle accelerators: a journey into science, to the discovery of the most interesting investigations carried out on this intriguing archaeological puzzle.

A fascinating path that will finally unveil all the mysteries of the “Qumran keepers”. 

HISTORY
**HISTORY & MYSTERY**

### RS33
**THE FLYING SAUCERS OF MUSSOLINI**

4K / 1 x 45’ - 1 x 52’ / Ita - Eng

North of Italy, 1933. An unidentified flying object crashes in a town not far from the city of Milan, upsetting the local population and forcing the Fascist regime to intervene with the creation of the Cabinet RS/33. No historiographical research is made on such controversial event until 1996, when a mysterious package sent by an anonymous sender is delivered at the Italian CUN (National Ufological Center): it contains original unpublished documents which prove the existence of that secret body. But what discovery has been made, so important to disappear from historical archives? How has the cover-up system been changing up to the present day? Thanks to the contribution of historians and ufologists, this compelling docu-fiction, will reconstruct the story of the first extraterrestrial contact of modern times, showing how Governments and military forces have always been aware of the U.F.O phenomenon.

### DIE TO BORN

4K / 1 x 45’ / Eng - Kurd

Mossul, North Iraq, 1903. A child is imprisoned with his mother because of his ethnic belonging. This is the beginning of the long and brave path of Mustafa Barzani, the peshmerga who gave all his life to the birth of the Kurdish State.

We’ll embark a compelling journey in the universe of this tireless political leader, almost forty years after his death. This documentary will reconstruct the events and the thinking of one of the major 1900s Middle-Eastern figures, through unpublished material that will alternate with the testimony of people who have known him from near.

World renowned historians and researchers will help to relive the complex and legendary life of the man who became the eternal symbol of freedom for all the Kurdish people.
There are places in Italy where nothing is as it seems. Where everything that is visible still holds the memories of unsettling facts and secret messages, unknown even to inhabitants themselves.

Esoteric Turin, steeped in symbols and obscure meanings, in a constant opposition between good and evil. The hidden tomb of Vlad, the legendary Count Dracula, researched for years and maybe concealed by an enigmatic gravestone in Naples.

Science and magic at the Gonzaga court. A jump back in time in Renaissance Mantua, imagining the alchemical laboratories of duke Ferdinand I.

Nails fixed within the skulls, cut-off legs and tortured bodies. A disquieting necropolis emerged during excavations for the high-speed train station in Bologna.

In Florence of ‘800 an eclectic character disrupted science of the time. Girolamo Segato, the man who petrified bodies.

From science to religion, from history to archaeology: all areas of mystery are involved in this intriguing series.

Each episode (10 in total) will talk about 3 cases. From Lombardy to Apulia, from big cities to smaller and charming towns, “Mysterious cities” (original title, “Città misteriose”) will reveal the most secret and never seen face of Italy.

A past full of secrets, mysteries and deceits waiting to be revealed.
A journey to the four corners of the Earth amid ancient beliefs and ancestral rites questing after the deep roots of faith.
MARY MAGDALENE

Full HD / 1 x 45’ / Ita - Eng
Production Year: 2018
Broadcasters: Discovery Channel, History Channel

Mary Magdalene, the faithful disciple of Jesus. She is one of the most important female figures in the Bible, resigned for centuries to the role of a repentant prostitute. According to an ancient tradition she died in France, yet her story began in Magdala, where recent discoveries have revealed unforeseen truths.

A journey into the life of the first witness of Resurrection, “the apostle of the Apostles”, the one whose strength has brought to light the importance of women in Jesus’ life.

A fascinating path to the discovery of the real story of Mary Magdalene, the most misunderstood and slandered figure in Christianity.

REBEL SPIRITS

Full HD / 5 x 45’ / Esp - Ita
Production Year: 2017
Broadcasters: History Channel, Discovery Channel

The history of Christianity has been characterised since its origin, by extraordinary experiences of people chosen by God to show to mankind his project of love. Men and women who devote themselves to the others, courageously accepting the supernatural gifts that will change their lives forever.

Like Catherine of Siena, who received the gift of the stigmata that became miraculously visible only after her death. Father Pio of Pietrelcina, who experienced the gift of bilocation and healing, surrounded by skepticism and devotion. Saint Joseph of Cupertino, so attracted by Heaven that he experienced the levitation off the ground. Caterina Emmerick, who had so detailed visions of the Gospels events to make possible the discovery of Mary’s house in Ephesus. Or Saint Francis of Assisi, who with his telepathy could talk with animals, with his mystique could talk to the Sufis world and with his ecstasies recognized the real face of God, the Holy Poverty.

We will investigate the life of these incredible figures from new perspectives, discovering never-seen and very topical details. Historians and theologians will alternate with priests and mystic people, leading us in a journey “out of the ordinary”, where science and religion combine together in the universe of Mystery.
The TEAM

The TEAM

THE STORY OF MARY OF NAZARETH
Full HD / 2016 / 1 x 44' / Ita - Eng - Esp
Production Year: 2016
Broadcaster: Discovery Channel

Catholics, Orthodox Christians and Muslims consider her as a central figure in the journey of faith. Thousands of shrines have been built in her name in the four corners of the world.

Young Jewish girl visited by an angel announcing that she’ll conceive and give birth to a divine being; mother struck by such terrible fate of witnessing the death of her own creature after atrocious sufferings. Conceived without sin, ascended into Heaven with her whole body at time of death.

A life marked by wonders and unexplainable events that even today continue to take place, with apparitions and miracles related to her all over the world.

But what do we really know about Jesus’ mother? Are there concrete historical proofs of her existence? When and how was the Marian cult born?

In this thrilling investigation, through the analysis of the historical and literary sources and the archaeological finds, along with theological studies and dogmas of faith, we will explore the immense, fascinating universe that surrounds the incredible figure of Mary of Nazareth.

THE THREE WISE MEN
Full HD / 1 x 44' / Ita - Eng - Esp
Production Year: 2017
Broadcaster: Discovery Channel

Noble pilgrims in sumptuous gowns, shamans dedicated to the cult of stars, priests of the Zoroastrian God. Protagonists of one of the most bare and controversial Gospel episodes which has always been hotly debated between skeptics and religious men and fascinating the minds of writer of every age.

A story that begins in the mythical lands of Persia and tells about a priestly caste, of stars that announced a miraculous birth and of three persons who started walking to worship him.

But who were the Magi and where did they come from? Were they really based in Judaea by the time of Jesus’ birth? And what about the mysterious star that may have guided their path? Where is the border between historical truth and legend?

The only official Biblical source that tells about them is the Gospel of St. Matthew. Story goes that, guided by a star, they arrived to Bethlehem and reached the place where Jesus was born, bowing down in adoration and offering gold, frankincense and myrrh. We find more mentions to the three noble men in other ancient texts, from the Apocrypha and Marco Polo.

Through historical sources and legends, plausible assumptions and imaginative theories, we retrace their steps left in history and sacred or profane literature, by the mysterious “Kings coming from the Orient.”
SEARCHING FOR THE FACE OF JESUS
Full HD / 2013 / 1 x 52’ / Ita - Eng

The face of Christ. Among the most venerated images in human history.

A point of reference for millions of believers, an object of study for scientists and researchers who have been always questioning about his historicity. Among all the "acheiropoietia" (miraculous) images of his face, the most famous is undoubtedly the Shroud of Turin. But before it, another relic has been adored for centuries by the whole Christendom. It was known as the Veil of Veronica and is at the centre of a real historical and theological whodunnit.

Kept in St. Peter’s Basilica since the twelfth century, it is said that it was stolen in 1527 during the Sack of Rome. Some argue that it is the Holy Face kept at Manoppello (Abruzzo region, Italy) by the Capuchin Fathers. The veil presents unique features, such as the transparency, the visibility from both sides, the absence of color residues. But an even more intriguing aspect is that superimposing it to the Holy Shroud, they fit perfectly. Repeating the experiment with another important relic, the Sudarium of Oviedo, again the result is a perfect correspondence. This documentary is the most comprehensive investigation of the Face of Jesus. A gripping story of faith, intrigues and coups de théâtre, where many questions remain open.

THE MYSTERIES OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE
Full HD / 2013 / 1 x 52’ / Ita - Eng

The historicity of Jesus Christ has always been subject of intense debate. The issue of the Resurrection of his body is even more hotly debated. Is it just a mystery of faith or could it have rather been an historical fact, thus leaving some physical traces? As many believe, one trace does exist. It is an extraordinary remnant that even the most sceptical ones regard with interest and respect: the Holy Shroud of Turin. It is supposedly the cloth that would have wrapped the body of Jesus when he was buried. But is it not the only one: more clothes could have reached us straight from that tragic day of two thousand years ago, such as the Sudarium of Oviedo.

Are they the evidence of the historical existence of Jesus doubted by a few people? Above all, could they reveal us what really happened in that sepulchre? In this fascinating investigation where Science and Faith meet, we will try to shed light on the mysteries of the Holy Sepulchre.
December 1531, Mexico. The Virgin Mary appears to an Indian humble peasant, but nobody believes in him. On Her request the Indian wraps in his “tilma” some Castilian roses, mysteriously flowered on a bared scree. In front of the Bishop he opens the cap discovering the miracle: the image of the Virgin is impressed upon it.

The image is extraordinarily real. The results of analysis are amazing. In the Virgin’s eyes the 13 figures who witnessed the miracle are visible. The stars on her cloak are positioned exactly as they were in the miracle’s day.

And that’s not all: an extraordinary discovery reveals the Spanish origin (region of Extremadura) of the name of Guadalupe and its incredible connection with the Evangelist Saint Lucas.
There are cities around the world where nothing has been left to chance. Where everything that is visible, actually hides occult meanings and incredible stories, unknown to inhabitants themselves.

Towns designed and located following specific esoteric principles. Monuments and squares imbued with initiatic and masonic symbols. Buildings and streets which still hold the memories of unsettling facts and even the ghosts of an occult past.

La Plata in Argentina and Piriapólis in Uruguay are the first stages of this exciting travel that will lead us to discover the secret face of eight towns in the world.

La Plata (Argentina) was founded in 1882 by Dardo Rocha and its designer Pedro Benoit. Both being freemasons, they left around the whole city deep traces of the Institution they belonged to.

They thought to the future capital of the province as the ideal city, where laicism, experimental and superior education, the training of future free-thinking citizens, would have been the distinguishing marks of the rising “urbe”.

There is an official story of La Plata, but also a secret one, sparkling with silences, lacks and mysteries that combine with legend.

Piriapólis

This beautiful city of Uruguay, that signs the border between the banks of La Plata river and the sea ones, was created by a pioneer who, along its shores, saw the path of spiritual evolution and energetic connection with the Universe.

He was Francisco Piria, an Uruguayan business man, son of Genoese immigrants. Piria was auctioneer, landowner, politician and tourist entrepreneur, but also a master of the great esoteric science: the Alchemy.

For that reason his “Resort of the Future”, as he used to call Piriapólis, was the perfect combination of the lust for a good business and the esoteric basis of this occult science.

LIST OF THE OTHER EPISODES IN PROJECT:

- ASTANA, Kazakhstan
- TOMAR, Portugal
- TURIN, Italy
- RENNES-LE-CHÂTEAU, France
- ROSARIO, Argentina
- BARCELONA, Spain
BUILDING LOVE
Full HD / 2013 / 14 x 30’/ Esp
1 episode with English subtitles
2 episodes in Italian version

A travel to places where every day is a challenge to survive among people who spend their own life working for the others. Stories of self-denial and altruism, of suffering and faith, that will make you cry, smile, hope and think...

From the hard work of psychologists and educators in Remand homes of Uruguay, to the extraordinary experience of Madre Ines, an eighty years-old nun who assists everyday hundreds of children affected by physical and mental handicap, in Mexico. From the construction of hospitals and health centres for the poorest in Ethiopia, to missions against the criminal corruption (“mafia”) in Italy and for the ecosystem protection in Ecuador. These are some of the real stories that we will tell you in this series, through the touching account of their protagonists.

Real stories of everyday life

HUMAN STORIES & SOCIAL ISSUES

2 Ep. Ecuador
3 Ep. Guatemala
2 Ep. Romania
2 Ep. Uruguay
2 Ep. Ethiopia
2 Ep. Mexico
1 Ep. Italy

Winner at A FILM FOR PEACE
Gorizia Italy
Special Award for the best short film
31/10/2014

Winner at A FILM FOR PEACE
Venice Italy
Special Award for the best film
Water Rights

BUILDING LOVE Ethiopia: Education and work are the hope of change
BUILDING LOVE Ethiopia: Butterfly that brings water and hope
The award-winning photographer Pierpaolo Mittica, along with his collaborators Alessandro Tesei and Michele Marcolin, take us into this journey into one of the most infernal places in the world. They will reveal to us the unknown “behind-the-scenes” of a dramatic environmental disaster that has been devastating the Russian region of Chelyabinsk.

The territory south-east of Russia, on the borderline with Kazakhstan, has been always used as the Soviet “nuclear garbage”. An area affected by acid rains caused by the strong concentration of polluting elements, such as dioxin and various chemical materials, far exceeding those identified up to now in Chernobyl and Fukushima.

From the abandoned villages to the treatment zones, such as the Chelyabinsk sanatorium and the Muslyumovo hospital, the protagonists passed through those infernal lands together with Nadezhda Kutepova, Lawyer and President of NGO “The Planet of Hopes”. They collected the touching testimonies of inhabitants and interview researchers; among them, doctor Yury Bandazhevsky, the greatest living expert in radioactive contamination.
An exciting quest among the gigantic megaliths of Sacsayhuaman, perfectly chiselled and fitted without any mortar; the rocks and stairs positioned in an absurd way at X Zone; the mysterious underground tunnel found out under the famous church of Santo Domingo.

You will see the most known Peruvian sites as you have never seen them...

EXPLORER I: DISCOVERING PERU
HDV / 2005 / 1 x 52' / Eng - Ita

- CUZCO
- MACHU PICCHU
- SACSAHUAMAN
- SAMANA WASI
- KENKO
- CORICANCHA
- OLLANTAYTAMBO

EXPLORER II: DISCOVERING PERU
HDV / 2006 / 1 x 52' / Eng - Ita

What links the gigantic figure carved in the sand known as the Candelabrum to the old Paracas tradition of deforming the skulls? Where is the connection with the famous engraved Ica stones, such a bizarre culture and the incredibly shaped megaliths of Marcahuasi? Moreover, which was the function of the underground tunnel filmed in exclusive at Chavin de Huantar? A travel between myth and truth, in a land where traces of very ancient civilizations still survive.

- PARACAS
- ICA
- NAZCA
- PALPA
- MARCAHUASI
- CHAVIN DE HUANTAR
Alone or in small groups, in pairs or in groups of thousands, beside incredible snake-shaped structures or next to huge metallic disks, mysterious "flying spheres" keep on appearing in the sky or in space. They avoid radar survey by turning into transparency and even provoke diseases to the board terrestrial instrumentation. They have been sighted while crossing the air routes, joining Shuttle missions, flying over the International Spaceship. Is their origin extraterrestrial? Despite all their efforts, researchers couldn’t manage yet to discover their secret. The Flying spheres remain a real enigma.

An extraordinary Italian case of alien contact with humans, kept secret for half a century, has finally come to light. In Pescara, in 50/70’s, a group of extraterrestrials contacted directly an unsuspected number of people. The project was called “Friendship”. The humans were carried on their bases, even on board of UFOs. Almost all of the involved people belong to Italian high society. Among them, the famous consul Alberto Perego. The witnesses of such incredible experience are finally determined to speak.

1700 UFO sightings filmed in about eight years. Since 2000 Antonio Urzi and his girlfriend Simona, based in the north of Italy near Milan, have been living an absolutely unique experience. Metallic ships, spheres of light, flotillas, Ebanis, etc. fly just over their head. Antonio has been filming almost all kinds of UFOs, from a small window in the top of the attic where he lives with Simona. An incredible case that arouses much interest among the scholars all over the world: the Urzi case, a mystery in the skies of Italy.

The enigma of Flying Spheres
Award winner for “Best UFO short film”
EBE AWARDS - Laughlin, Nevada - USA

Mayan Prophecies and Crop Circles
Award winner for “Best documentary”
IMPERIA VIDEO FESTIVAL - Imperia - Italy

The Urzi Case
Award winner for “Best UFO footage within a documentary”
EBE AWARDS - Laughlin, Nevada - USA

The mystery of the Crop Circles
Award winner for “Best documentary in a UFO related theme”
EBE AWARDS - Laughlin, Nevada - USA

The most complete report on the increasing UFO wave in Mexico. For the first time in a documentary, you will see the Ebanis, gigantic biological structures of mysterious origin. With the exclusive interviews to the so-called Vigilantes, an equipe of researchers who started up a project never thought before in the modern ufology...

Are the crop circles human made? And what is the meaning of their complex symbolism? After watching this doc, you will be definitely able to reply to such questions. Journalists, astronomers, architects and researchers from all over the world lead us through the discovery of the extraordinary connection between crops and Mayan prophecies.

The disclosure of secret UFO files in Ecuador ordered by President Correa himself. A secret governmental Operation (“Plato”) in Brazil, abruptly stopped further an encounter between military people and the E.T. A mass UFO sighting in Peru, with thousand of bright spheres sealing the skies over Lima. These are some of the cases treated in the most updated and exclusive dossier on UFO’s presence in South America.

An in-depth overview on the unexplainable phenomenon of the crop circles. Extremely complex figures appear from one day to the next on the crop fields all over the world and nobody has been able to prove their human origin yet. A valid report made by experts who relate the results of chemical, physical and mathematical analysis realized on the crop formations.