

PRESSRELEASE

The Tiger Mafia on Amazon Prime as of August 14th 2021

We are thrilled to announce that our documentary 'The Tiger Mafia' by Karl Amman and Laurin Merz will be featured as an Amazon exclusive (in Europe) as of August 14th on the Amazon Prime platform. This is the conclusion of a ten year undercover investigation by conservationist and documentary filmmaker Karl Amman. Karl's extensive field research involved dozens of trips throughout Asia, often into regions controlled by warlords and triads in Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, where he investigated the supply chain of tiger products that often end up in the hands of consumers in China.

The so called Special Economic Zones along the Mekong in the Golden Triangle region are dark holes where pretty much anything goes, and criminal syndicates use them as a base of operations to conduct all manner of illicit activities, including gambling, prostitution, and the trafficking of drugs and endangered animal parts.

Over the course of his investigation, Ammann managed to accomplish what no elite law enforcement agency had achieved in the past : infiltrate the criminal syndicates with the help of local operatives and document their operations with hidden cameras.

The end result of Karl's research is the shocking revelation that the world's most admired creature being speed-bred, factory-farmed and then butchered for its body parts which are then trafficked and marketed throughout Asia. The supply chain often starts in seemingly above-board petting zoos where the cats disappear out the backdoor once they reach sexual maturity . In addition to these pseudo zoos and tourist entertainment venues laundering tigers, Karl also uncovered massive secret commercial factory farm operations containing hundreds of tigers in compounds sometimes concealed beneath the canopy of the jungle. Ultimately, tigers bred through both channels end up in the same places: tiger banquets, special tiger wine, status oriented jewelry items, traditional medicine including potency enhancing products. With gift-giving being a huge part of Asian culture, many of the tiger products end up as novelty items in the hands of business clients or government officials.

The final cut of the film, which was developed with the collaboration of co-director and producer Laurin Merz, features hidden camera footage from the undercover black-market operations as well as additional footage shot across Africa and Asia. The end result is a film that offers viewers an uncompromising, look inside the criminal networks driving the end of wildlife as we know it.

In partnering with Laurin Merz, Karl found a strategic partner who could help turn the film into a thrilling narrative-driven film that will attract a wide audience and hopefully inspire more in-depth conversations and debates about this shadowy issue that has been shrouded in secrecy until now.

The ultimate goal of the film is to make it so policy makers, law enforcement, and other individuals will no longer have the excuse, "But I didn't know." And then perhaps society will no longer tolerate the breeding and commodifying of endangered wildlife. Especially when we look at the staggering price humanity is already paying for the ways we are exploiting nature.

Doc 90'

A Film by: [Karl Ammann and Laurin Merz](#)

Narration: [Natasha Mago](#)

Camera: [Jean Schablin](#), [Karl Ammann](#), [Sergey Vasiliev](#)

Writers: [Laurin Merz](#), [Christoph Senn](#), [Will Staples](#)

Editor: [Christoph Senn](#)

Original Score: [Nils Kacirek](#), [Milan Meyer-Kaya](#)

Musicians: [Dirk Dhonau](#) (Percussion), [Sven Kacirek](#) (Marimba), [Cordula Rohde](#) (Violoncello)

Color Grading: [Jürgen Kupka](#)

Production: [HOOK Film & Kultur Produktion GmbH 2021](#)

Streaming: [Amazon Prime Video](#)

International Sales: [Mediawan Rights](#)

Impact Campaign: [Four Paws](#)



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