

Gesäuse – The Roaring Mountains

1 x 49'

A Film by Rita and Michael Schlamberger

STEREO, 16:9

The Gesäuse – the “Roaring Mountains” – a wild, mountainous region of the Alps, a dramatic landscape of sheer, vertical rock faces, raging torrents of water and dark, secretive forest. Nowhere else in the Alps are rock, forest and river arranged in such a steep vertical alignment. The sound of the thundering water against the naked rock gives the area its name, the roar of the mountains echoing around the imposing peaks.

Generations of mountaineers have tried to conquer these mountains, often paying with their lives, but they weren't the first. One hundred and fifty years ago, the monks of the Benedictine monastery of Admont reached the summits. They were exploring, studying and cataloguing the flora and fauna of the region, and fearless as they set out on their expeditions – “scientists in habits and hobnailed boots”.

Hidden behind the walls of the Admont monastery, a jewel of baroque architecture contains the greatest monastery library in the world, with thousands of books and countless documents. Some of these ancient documents have only recently been re-discovered, giving insights into a world that seems lost in time.

With breath-taking images, prize-winning film maker Michael Schlamberger tells the extraordinary story of the Roaring Mountains. From a time when few dared enter the shadowy forests, through the 16th century when trees were felled to provide fuel for the iron industry, to its classification as Austria's newest national park, this is a fascinating tale.

Animals that prowl the forest such as the lynx and bear, chamois that survive on the sheer rock faces above the timber line, the secret world under the surface of the river and insects hiding in fallen logs all feature in this stunningly beautiful film that brings the Roaring Mountains to life as never before.