

Deep Space LIVE

Deep Fault: The Rift Valley in East Africa

Thursday, February 10, 2011 / 8-9 PM / Ars Electronica Center

(Linz, February 7, 2011) Filmmaker Erich Pröll visited the Rift Valley to make a three-part documentary for Universum, the ORF – Austrian Broadcasting Company’s popular nature show. He filmed chimpanzees on the slopes surrounding Lake Tanganyika and whale sharks off the coast of Djibouti, salt deserts and savannas. At the next Deep Space LIVE on Thursday, February 10, 2011, Erich Pröll will present never-before-screened footage of one the world’s most amazing regions!

Formed 20 million years ago ...

East Africa’s Rift Valley is a massive crack in the Earth’s crust. Created about 20 million years ago by enormous volcanic eruptions, it is now as much as 1,000 meters deep and 300 kilometers wide and gets about an inch wider every year. It begins in the highlands of Ethiopia and runs southward across East Africa all the way to Mozambique. The Rift Valley is rimmed by countless volcanoes, among them Kilimanjaro at almost 6,000 meters and the Mount Kenya Massif approaching 5,200 meters. At the base of the fault—primarily in the western branch of the Rift—there’s a chain of lakes that includes some of the largest and deepest on Earth.

... the Rift Valley will be inundated by the ocean 10 million years from now

The Rift Valley is steadily growing, getting deeper and wider. And it will continue to do so until the entire fault system is flooded by sea water and all of East Africa becomes a separate landmass drifting further and further away from the rest of the continent.

Deep Space LIVE with Erich Pröll

Linz native Erich Pröll is one of the world’s most successful producers of nature films. He has almost 90 documentaries to his credit, including several for the ORF’s Universum series. Erich Pröll has filmed just about everywhere on the Seven Seas. His footage of giant whale sharks in the Pacific and of the wreck of the Umbria that has turned into a reef off the coast of Port Sudan have made him a legend.

Deep Space LIVE

The Ars Electronica Center is now hosting a Deep Space LIVE event every Thursday (except holidays) at 8 PM. Each presentation will feature ultra-high-definition imagery in 16x9-meter format and will be accompanied by expert commentary, entertaining stand-up repartee, and musical improvisation. Whether great works from the history of art, space travel, journeys of discovery in the Nanoworld, or a live concert is what you’ve come to behold, Deep Space LIVE stands for enlightening entertainment amidst breathtaking worlds of imagery. Admission (including an accompanying person) is €2. Holders of a valid Museum ticket are admitted free of charge.

Great Rift Valley: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Rift_Valley
Rift Valley Province of Kenya: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rift_Valley_Province
Erich Pröll: www.proellfilm.com
Ars Electronica Center: <http://new.aec.at/center/about/>

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