

ATLAS

OF MICRONATIONS



CATEGORY: DOCUMENTARY SERIES
DIRECTION: PAOLO BARBERI, GRAZIANO GRAZIANI
SCRIPT: GRAZIANO GRAZIANI
LENGTH: 52' X 8 EPISODES
FORMAT: 4K
PRODUCTION: ESPLORE LA METROPOLI
LANGUAGE: ENGLISH
BUDGET: IN DEVELOPMENT
STATUS: IN DEVELOPMENT



www.nacne.it
Phone: 0039 328 59.95.253
E-mail: nacnesas@gmail.com



www.esplorarelametropoli.it
Phone: 0039 347 42.30.644
E-mail: info@esplorarelametropoli.it

SUBJECT

There are many reasons for founding a nation: idealism, goliardery, politics, even tax evasion. Here are the most strange and evocative cases of a much wider practice than one can imagine: to declare the independence of a microscopic part of a territory and to proclaim oneself a king or a president, even if only in your own home.

Few people know, for example, that in addition to San Marino and the Vatican, there are in Italy a country and an island that have absolute sovereignty over their territories, based on rights acquired before the unification of Italy; or that a nation has been founded in Australia to protect the rights of homosexuals, while in Africa and South America some “non-existent states” have declared independence for the sole purpose of issuing counterfeit treasury bonds.

This series of documentaries wants to be an atlas of stories and characters, a geography of places halfway between reality and imagination. Places that often dissolve themselves with the disappearance of their founder. Small epics that, for better or for worse, lead to paroxysm the irreducible desire for independence and autonomy of human beings.

ATLAS OF MICRONATION is articulated as a series of 8 self-conclusive episodes, each dedicated to the story of a single micronation. In each episode the public will explore the places coming into contact with the King, the President or charismatic leader of the visited micronation, and he will tell its history and customs.

Each episode is a journey consisting of an initial approach (physical displacement, history documentation), a real encounter and finally an epilogue.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

The narration must be informal and generally ironic, in line with the spirit of the stories being told. But irony does not have to be too explicit: the stories will already have a surreal character that shouldn't be exaggerated. Telling some absurd stories in a very serious tone is already an ironic mechanism in itself. In this way every King, Prince, or President will be taken seriously during the encounter with him and with the story of



www.nacne.it
Phone: 0039 328 59.95.253
E-mail: nacnesas@gmail.com



www.esplorarelametropoli.it
Phone: 0039 347 42.30.644
E-mail: info@esplorarelametropoli.it

his small nation.

The series will be structured as travels series, with the aim of discovering amazing unknown places. But our journey won't be guided by the exotic element, but by the eccentricity of the characters we'll meet. It will also be a way of playing ironically with the mainstream codes of the classical travel series, both the finest ones with a well identifiable language (such as National Geographic) or the most mainstream or ramshackle ones. In every episode we will see imaginary territories or tell stories of astonishing places that have disappeared. But the "fantastic" of these places is not given by exotic beauty, but by the strangeness of the spaces and stories.

The viewer must bear in mind that s/he is moving in an imaginary atlas, visiting places of which he did not suspect the existence. Even if the place is insignificant and not particularly alluring: the attraction must be in the eccentricity of the nations and in their uniqueness.

Our protagonist is a collector, a travel fetishist, who wants to visit countries where only a few people have gone before him. Even if this means traveling to invented nations. The invitation offered to viewers is to discover places with an imaginary geography, at the same time real and fantastic.



1. Christiania (Denmark)
1. Christiania (Denmark)
2. Liberland (Croatia/Czech Republic)
3. Kalakuta (Nigeria)
4. Redonda (Antilles/Spain)
5. Sealand (England)
6. Isola delle Rose (Italy)
7. Minerva Island (Pacific)



1. CHRISTIANIA – Copenhagen, 1971. A group of hippies and libertarians occupy a space not far from the city centre and found one of the most famous community in the world, Christiania. But the experiment is not just restricted to sharing everyday life: Christiania wants to dictate its own rules, liberalize the use of soft drugs, allow a different lifestyle. The community mints its own coins, taking cues from the standard amount of marijuana for personal use, draws a flag, and writes on the exit ways “You are about to join the European Union”.

2. LIBERLAND – If two States don't agree on the criterion for defining the borders that separate them, it may happen that they end up in controversy over territories. But for the same reason, although it is a rare case, it may happen that both of them may disown some territories. This way, nullius terraes appear. It happened near the Danube, between Serbia and Croatia, two States that follow different criteria to establish their own borders. As soon as a young Czech entrepreneur came to know this, he didn't think twice: he ran to the spot and planted a flag, claiming possession of a small portion of land. The purpose? Create Liberland, a state where taxes are not paid, or very few are.

3. KALAKUTA – Nigeria, 70's of the twentieth century. The brilliant musician Fela Kuti decides to close his compound, where he lives with his family, musicians and his many brides, to maintain his autonomy from a regime that is increasingly restrictive against him. The Republic of Kalakuta, a free (and besieged) outpost, is born: its existence will last for a little while and its parable will end in blood: no less than the army will be sent to sweep away this incredible anomaly.

4. REDONDA – The Kingdom of Redonda has been defined as a literary kingdom. Probably also because his current king is a famous writer such as Xavier Marias, who inherited the title from two other writers. The founder of this bizarre dynasty is M.P. Shiel, a science fiction English writer (and who knows if the royal title granted by the Queen of England, of which there's no longer a written trace, is also a literary hypothesis). John Gasworth, in turn, due to his poverty, created a great dynasty confusion, giving titles left and right in return for a few pounds or a few beers. Be that as it may, this reign between fiction and reality remains an extraordinary literary epic.

5. SEALAND – North Sea, 1967. From the platform of an abandoned military fort, built by the English navy during World War II, a pirate radio broadcasts. A few months later, the radio experiment being closed, the platform declares its independence from England. The Principality of Sealand was born, with its flag, passport and stamps that have legal status only in the 500 square meters of the artificial island.

6. ISOLA DELLE ROSE – 1968, in front of the coasts of Rimini, Italy an artificial island built patiently by an engineer and some of his friends is born. On the first of May of that year Rose Island declared its independence, drafted a constitution in Esperanto and tried to start a tourist economy to become completely independent from neighbouring Italy. The experiment will fail, as Italy, feeling the threat, decides to evacuate this island large as much as an apartment.

7. MINERVA ISLAND – 1972, Pacific Ocean. An American billionaire, in order not to pay taxes, buys a large amount of sand from neighbouring Australia and carries it to a rock bank near Tonga Islands. The rock, covered by sand, emerges as a virgin island, though tiny, and that's good enough to declare the existence (and independence) of the Island of Minerva. The King of Tonga, feeling threatened, decides for the invasion.

8. MOLOSSIA – It is the most eccentric of the tiny states that populate the galaxy of the micronations. It extends over a very small territory, which includes only a house with its backyard, it has relationships with many other micronations (reported in the one and only road sign of the microstate) and, above all, it is an enclave within the United States, in the middle of Nevada. The State even boasts a communist past. Molossia wants to be so much different from its bulky neighbour, that it mints coins - which look like chips of the nearest casinos - stamps visitors' passports and adopted a different time zone, that differ by just 19 minutes from the Nevada one.



ATLAS OF MICRONATIONS (THE BOOK)

The stories told in the series represent a selection taken from the book **ATLAS OF MICRONATIONS** by Graziano Graziani (Quod Libet, 2015) in which numerous examples of the most disparate micronational worlds are collected and very well documented: from the by now historical micronations to artistic communities, from anarchoid self-proclaimed groups to dystopias.

Such a work, accumulated over years of research, allows the series to take advantage of an accurate work that has merged into the pre-production phase in which archival materials have already been collected (audio, video, photos, documents). Above all, have been already selected and interviewed the protagonists of the stories and therefore, also identified and “verified” the main characters of each episode.



www.nacne.it
Phone: 0039 328 59.95.253
E-mail: nacnesas@gmail.com



www.esplorarelametropoli.it
Phone: 0039 347 42.30.644
E-mail: info@esplorarelametropoli.it

AUTHORS

Paolo Barberi

Paolo Barberi (Ravenna, 1968) is one of the founders of “Esplorare la Metropoli”, an association of researchers and filmmakers, and author, together with Riccardo Russo, of the documentaries *The Well, Voices of Water from Ethiopia* (Italy, 2011) and *The Remnants* (Italy-Switzerland, 2017) realized for RAI CINEMA.

Recently he produced, in collaboration with Nacne, the film *I'm in Love With Pip-pa Bacca* by Simone Manetti, Italy, 2020 (Golden Clog awards for Best Round Table Pitch at IDFA Forum, Amsterdam 2018, and Deal Maker Official selection at Hot Docs Market , Toronto, 2019), distributed in Italy by Wanted and abroad by Widehouse.

Graziano Graziani

Graziano Graziani was born in Rome. He is among the host of the radio show “Fahrenheit” (RAI Radio 3) and he has made several documentaries and TV programs for Rai 5 as author and director.

He collaborates with “Lo Straniero”, “Il Tascabile” and “Minima & Moralia” magazines. He writes also, as a critic, about contemporary theatre or at least he tries. He published the novel *Esperia* (Gaffi, 2008), *I sonetti der Corvaccio* (La camera Verde, 2011), a sort of local Spoon River set in Rome and, for Quodlibet, *Atlas of micronations* (2015) and *Catalog of the Newest Religions* (2018).



www.nacne.it
Phone: 0039 328 59.95.253
E-mail: nacnesas@gmail.com



www.esplorarelametropoli.it
Phone: 0039 347 42.30.644
E-mail: info@esplorarelametropoli.it