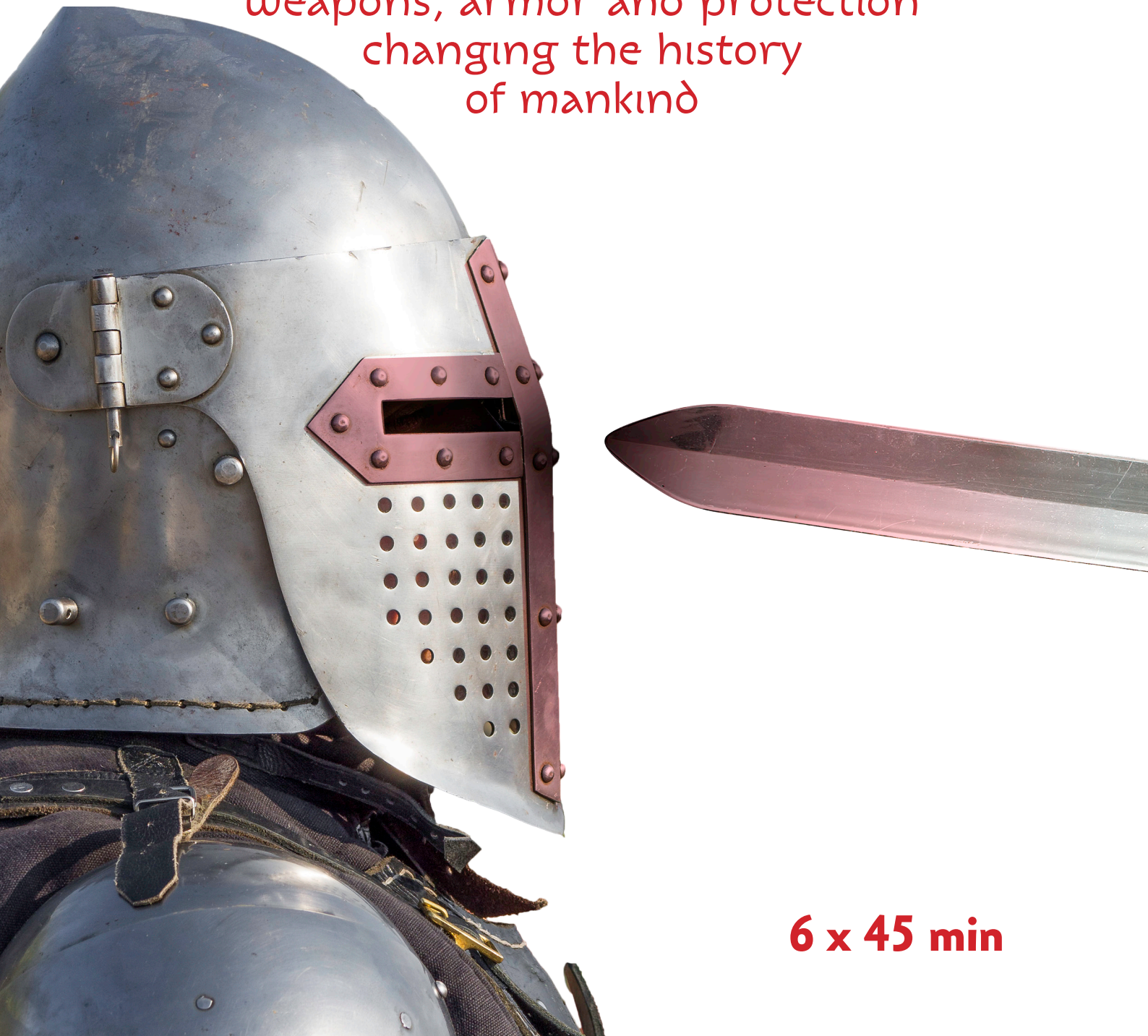
The competition between a revolutionary weaponry and our ability to defend against it is never-ending

the Art of DEFENSE

Weapons, armor and protection changing the history of mankind



6 x 45 min

the Art of DEFENSE

In the beginning, there was only nature standing against and between us. Tens of thousands of years have passed since man raised the stone as a weapon and used it against man. But just as fast as our desire to create destructive weapons evolved, so did our ability to protect ourselves against them. Across this series we will walk you through this story of innovation and invention, a story in which man, driven by fear for his own life and property, began to develop ingenious ways to defend against attack..

In this six part series, we will look at the revolutionary ways in which armies and civilisations have chosen to defend themselves and how these directly correspond to the development of certain weapons in various historical periods. From the Stone Age, through the High Middle Ages and up until the First World War, The Art of Defense will take an an original and historically accurate look at our military history and by doing so bring the past to life. To do this we will demonstrate the practical use of these weapons, with faithful, replicas built specifically for this series. Taking inspiration from the historical and archeological record as we will build and display not only offensive weapons but more interestingly and key to the series; the tools of defense; armor, shields and clothing that were developed as a response

THE STRUCTURE OF EPISODE

In each part of The Art of Defense, we will present to the viewer the key offensive weapon for that particular period that predicated the development of an effective defense. From the invention of the basic shield and armor to the organization of defensive tactics, that were often deployed to execute an offensive strategy from a defensive position.

In each historical period, there will be a re-enactment of an event or battle in which this particular weapon was used which led to a completely new way of defense or protection. There are many myths and untruths about the effectiveness of some weapons in history. This series will use experts in their fields to confirm or disprove each one and along the way we will be surprised that the historical reality can often be more interesting and engaging than the widespread myths of the victors

We will invite over 30 teams of the best reenactors, all experienced in the nature of combat across different times and places. We have sourced the best experimental archaeologists in their field. To do this subject justice we will bring together experts for 16 historical periods all coming from many disciplines; renowned archaeologists, specialists in the field of weapons and their manufacture, military historians, metallurgists, armorers, and ex-military personnel who will bring the past to life in every episode.

Historians and re-enactors will contextualize, demonstrate and test the effectiveness of individual weapons and their destructive capabilities. But more importantly we will look at the corresponding and prevailing defensive equipment of the period and it's ability to repel or reduce the ferocity of this attack.

Archeologists and collectors will bring originals and we will match materials to the time and place (steel, iron, copper, raw leather, tanned leather, etc.). To demonstrate the process armorers and metallurgists will manufacture replicas which can then be directly compared to their historical forebears.

SOME OF THE REVELATIONS…

- **Rome and its legions, the first long steel swords were not made by the Romans. They bought them from the skilled metallurgists in the Celtic culture across the alps, who became their enemies later on!**
- **The history tells us that worn armor declined after the introduction of the longbow and cross bow, that saw great success against iron armor but instead it innovated with the use of over-lapping iron armor and eventually the manufacture of Steel armor, lighter, more resistant (and much more expensive!). We will see that even the spear pierces the iron armor. But what will happen when these weapons face real steel armor – the effect is shocking!**
- **The musketeer was not a perfect swordsman as A. Dumas would have us believe but most importantly, he was able to perfectly operate his musket, one of the first 'firing' weapons and able to fire up to 5 times in a minute? But how did that fair against a bow and arrow that could be fired repeatedly with no loading time?**
- **The colorful uniforms of the Napoleon Wars were the very height of regimental pageantry. The French soldiers backpack is an iconic image but it also protected the one who was wearing it, especially during a retreat!**

1. WOOD AND STONE

Where: Gaul
When: 30,000 years BC

The first episode is opening a serial story ... of a man as a skilled producer processing wood and stone into the shape of the first weapons primarily for hunting. Metal processing in the Bronze Age brings a revolutionary development in the production of weapons.One is already forced to invent the first protective equipment and the shield is born. An ingenious device that developed especially for defense but with many uses, the shield has been accompanying man until the modern day, employing only the most modern materials but for the same protective purpose. From the ancient times we will then relocate directly into the heart of the first professional army...Roman Legion !! The first army looking after its own soldiers and equipping everyone with the appropriate armor that correspond to the type of a unit or specialization. In the south of those days Europe, a new kind of warrior appears - a legionnaire, a professional soldier. He is well trained, uniformly armed, using combat tactics. He conquers the most of then known world. And together with them we will introduce the Celts as the best metallurgists of their time. As the first they were able to create the most perfect weapon of their time, the long iron sword. At the times when Roman metallurgists were unable to forge a sword of appropriate length, they asked for help the Celts, their future enemies.

TEST: resistance of the Roman legionary armor Lorica segmentata against the Celtic weapons. Why did the Roman legions lost with the less armed barbarians? Was the Roman shield Scutum able to stop an enemy arrow or spear?

2. SWORD - A SYMBOL OF LAW AND HONOR

Where: England, France
When: the Middle Ages

Following the example of the auxiliary corps of the Roman legions, they are protected in the form of a shield, chainmail, armor and one-handed sword on the European battlefield. The sword is becoming a significant symbol of this time. The main force of the then army was the cavalry, which was the unlimited ruler of battlefields. We will be confronting chain and wire armor and it's effectiveness against long bow and crossbow. As a result of this interplay between bow and chain, there appears steel plate armor making the knight more secure to arrow attack.

TEST: The speed of dressing up the complete Norman rider's equipment, including horse equipment. His mobility and riding art of the time. Has the bow the ability of shooting through (piercing) the ring armor as everyone has been telling us? What is the difference between the iron armor and the steel armor?

3. IRON LORDS - THE STRUGGLE FOR FAITH

Where: Europe
When: late Middle Ages

A knight in complete armor on a war horse becomes the fearless lord of the battlefield. It seems there is no defense against him. Infantry, which had worked more as a supporting element until than needs to protect itself. The disadvantage of different elevation was solved by the usage of the carriage wall and the massive use of firearms and shooting weapons (introduction of individual weapons - howitzers, terraces, rifles, etc., which at this time were used as defensive only)

TEST: charging speed of the first firearms. What protection did the shooter have when charging a crossbow during a frontal cavalry charge? How many times can he charge and shoot at the opposing riders who are armed with crossbow, does it increase killing capacity or is the innovation hampered by its lack of accuracy?

4. LABORERS OF WAR

Where: Germany, Belgium, Italy
When: 16th century - 17th century

The period of the early Renaissance, the infantry took the initiative on the battlefield thanks to the wide and coordinated use of firearms. At this time the rider also begins to protect himself not only with the perfect all-plate armor, but also with a pair of riding pistols. Tactics of infantry and its coordination with other types of troops rewrites military textbooks of tactics. The infantry is becoming more and more professional and its effective defense is long musket with an effective range of 300 steps. The rider, on the other hand, reacts with lighter armor for better mobility.

TEST: Sword as protection? The two-handed sword was able to head off the tips of the enemy pike. In the chronicles we can read about the Landsknechts cutting the wooden parts of pike with this sword. Were these huge double-handed broadswords wielded by men of extra-ordinary power sword fighting battle or were they a specialized defensive weapon employed for a single battlefield task? Is this the reality or just a legend?

5. DRILL AND UNIFORM

Where: Austria, Prussia
When: 18th century

Infantry tactics reach their peak in the 18th century. The musket is becoming the weapon number one. The Bayonet is taking over the protective function of the pike. Defensive protection such as helmets and plate armor disappear and only their attributes remain as a military symbol of rank. The whole army is uniformed and constant. The first ingenious fortifications and defense complexes are created. At the end of the 18th century, a revolutionary change took place in military tactics. Emphasis is put on the defensive deployment of troops, the terrain is being explored and used. We are noticing the first attempts to use the color of the uniform as security feature.

TEST: How effective were the whole unit in shooting at a distance of 50m? Did the bayonets really protect infantry from a cavalry charge? How quickly could the well-coordinated cannon crew charge, fireand re-charge grapeshot against a fast-approaching rider? Did the musket pierce the steel armor of the cuirassier?

6. THE END OF OLD TIMES

Where: America, Europe
When: 19th - 20th century

In the 19th century, as the main defense of a soldier is becoming the firepower and the accuracy of shooting due to the massive introduction of grooved barrels. Later, with the arrival of breach-loading and repeating weapons, the possibility of defense become charging and shooting while lying down and its significant acceleration. The color of the uniforms lasted until the first World War II, when all armies switched to colors corresponding with terrain. The first types of camouflage inspired by nature are appearing. Due to massive introduction of heavy automatic weapons and artillery the armies returning to the use of helmets and other steel protective equipment. Infantry is using field fortification - trench. The total end of cavalry as offensive forces.

TEST: the speed of shooting and the position of the shooter determines the loss of lives and victories in battles. Was the revolutionary and so-called 'needle rifle' really the miraculous weapon that won the war? Can several layers of woolen cloth uniform protect the body from a shot from behind or a saber cut? Why did the soldiers enter the battle with a "backpack" on their backs? Some soldiers in steel armor enter the trenches of the Great War. What quality protection provided those against the machine gun at a distance of about 300m?

KM+BM MEDIA
www.kmplusmedia.com
www.bigmedia.tv