

## **From Moscow to Magadan 7 x 50'**

**In this entertaining series author and host Jelle Brandt Corstius travels around modern Russia and its satellite states in a quest for authentic and interesting stories that dominate the lives of ordinary Russians today. In the first series he travels from the west to the east part of Russia and visits the endless Russian countryside and villages.**

The first series has been succeeded by a second series titled From Moscow to Murmansk. In the second series, Jelle Brandt Corstius travels from north to south, along Russia's biggest river, the Wolga. A journey that carries us through unknown cities such as Murmansk, Volgograd, Nizjni Novgorod. This series is brought from the Russian perspective and the ideological vacuum, in which again Jelle manages to highlight an unknown side of Russia. Jelle for example visits the city Dzerzhinsk, one of the most polluted cities of the world. The factories are causing a high degree of pollution and the average life expectancy is forty-two years.

### **Episode 1: Survival of the Fittest**

Jelle visits the Altai Mountain region. In the village of Korgon he meets locals, complaining about space debris falling down in the environment and on their houses. The villagers accept their faith without any resistance, one might even say, with apathy. In the same episode Jelle visits a shaman who heals his problem with cold feet.

### **Episode 2: Russia's Long Arm**

Every year on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September, Abkhazia has Independence Day festivities. Abkhazia separated from Georgia in a bloody conflict in the early nineties. This time they are really having a party, because of the recent Russian recognition. Jelle joins in and visits Stalin's Dacha on the way.

### **Episode 3: The Land of the Blind**

Illumzhinov is president of the Calmukian republic, one of the poorest countries in the Russian Federation. He's also the chairman of FIDE, the international chess league. So everybody has to learn chess. Jelle also meets Nina, who's been the victim of abuse by skinheads in Moscow.

### **Episode 4: Forgotten past.**

Jelle stays overnight (-25 Celsius) in the remains of a Russian Gulag. He also meets an old survivors' couple from the camps. During a visit to a high school, pupils demonstrate the art of disassembling and assembling an AK 47.

### **Episode 5: The promise of Siberia.**

The Siberian town of Khanti Masiysk is an oil boomtown. Around the central square there's a lot of brand-new high-rise glass palaces. At the same time their inhabitants, looking for jobs in the cities, leave thousands of small Siberian villages. Jelle visits such a village and meets the few that have not yet left.

### **Episode 6: Mountains of violence**

The Caucasian people are proud and brave. Fighting is in their blood. Though they have the reputation of being the most hospitable people in the region, violence and terrorism is all around them. Jelle visits survivors of the Beslan massacre. He also gets acquainted with bride abduction, a local custom still going strong.

### **Episode 7: The train back home**

Travelling by train in Russia is a microcosm of its own. Co- travellers tend to produce their best food and share it with you on the train. After this has been done they usually share their deepest emotions with you as well. What is life leading to? Is love still worthwhile? What has to become of Russia? Last but not least: what is the mystery of the Russian soul?