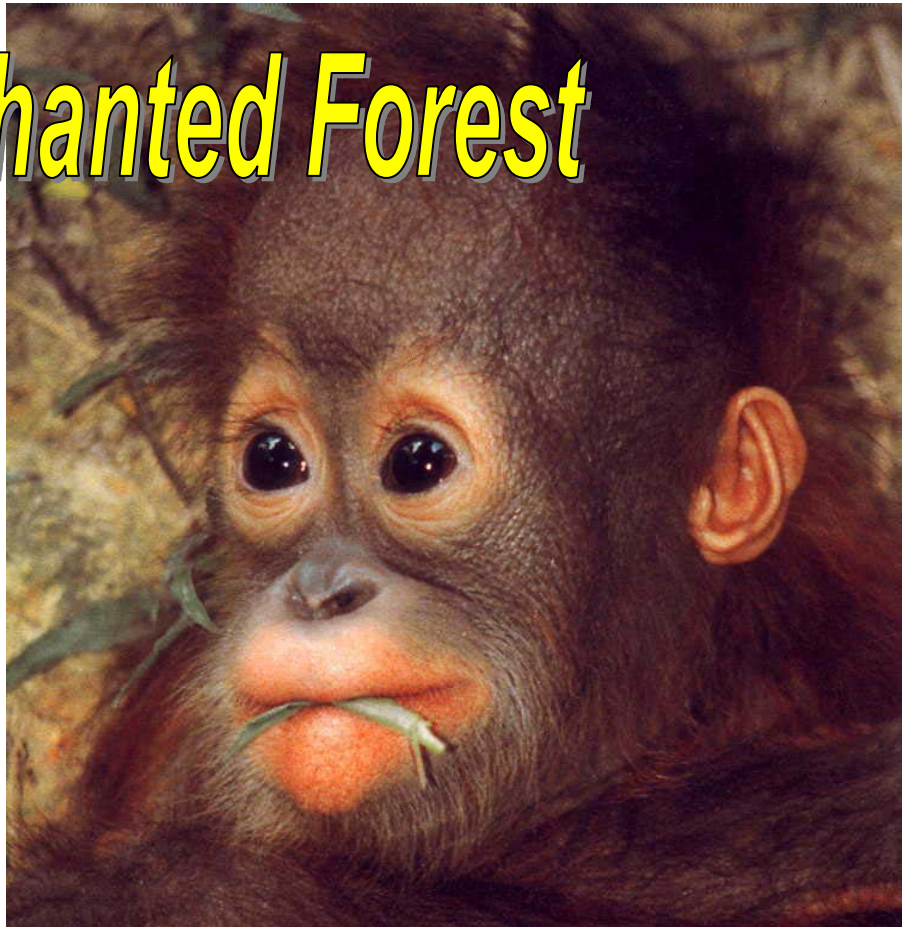


The Disenchanted Forest

One-Hour Television Special

Narrated by Brooke Shields

We call them o-rang-u-tans, which literally means “forest persons” in the Malay and Indonesian languages. They are the only great apes native to Asia. Of all the apes, they are the closest to man in genetic makeup. And they face imminent extinction.



Two years in the making, THE DISENCHANTED FOREST is an intimate portrayal of the world of orangutans, the threats to their survival and the people committed to help them thrive. But it is even more than that, since it focuses on a recent discovery that orangutans do not rely on animal instinct for survival, but, instead, have a culture that they have preserved from generation to generation.



As an example of the extraordinary nature and intelligence of these animals, a touching incident is shared by Dr. Willie Smits, who, in 1999, rescued a dying infant female orangutan from the animal market in Borneo. He named her Uce and struggled to keep her alive. After rehabilitation, Uce became the very first orangutan to be released back into the wild, where she soon disappeared. Then, after two years she was spotted again, now with a baby of her own. Uce recognized Dr. Smits immediately and swung down through the trees to place her infant into his arms.

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