

## PRESS RELEASE

28/01/2025

**CO-PRODUCED BY FACTSTORY, A SUBSIDIARY OF AFP, THE DOCUMENTARY MERCKX IN THE SPOTLIGHT AT THE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ROTTERDAM**

Directed by Boris Tilquin and Christophe Hermans, the new documentary *Merckx* dedicated to cycling champion Eddy Merckx, will be presented on Friday 31 January 2025 as a world premiere at the International Film Festival Rotterdam. This is a co-production of FACTSTORY, a subsidiary of AFP, in collaboration with the Belgian production companies Ka Visuel and Watertower in co-production with RTBF, ARTE G.E.I.E. and VRT.



Combining rich archives with interviews with great champions, friends and biographers, the film takes us into the fascinating story of the greatest cyclist in history.

From 1967 to 1975, Eddy Merckx dominated cycling, winning five Tours de France, five Giros, three World Championships... A total of 625 victories. Nicknamed "The Cannibal," he is a complex figure, both admired and controversial. This documentary explores his triumphs and the personal challenges that marked his career.

Criticised for his ruthless determination, he would become both the hero and the "man to beat" of cycling. But also, a symbol of national unity in a Belgium torn between Flemish and Walloon communities at a pivotal time in cycling.

**Practical information:**

Out in cinemas on February 7th in the Netherlands, February 27th in Belgium.

Later broadcast on RTBF, ART, VRT.

Directed by Christophe Hermans and Boris Tilquin

Edited by Aurélie Redoute, John Pirard

Running time: 84 minutes

Languages: French, Dutch, Italian

**Contacts:**

FACTSTORY Docs Documentary Unit: Yann Ollivier - [yann.ollivier@factstory.agency](mailto:yann.ollivier@factstory.agency)

Ka Visuel: Patrick Lauber - [patrick@kaos-films.com](mailto:patrick@kaos-films.com)

International Sales: CLPB Rights - Véronique Commelin - [veronique.commelin@clpbrights.com](mailto:veronique.commelin@clpbrights.com)

Produced with the support of the Centre du Cinéma et de l'Audiovisuel de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles, the Tax Shelter of the Belgian federal government, La Loterie Nationale, Sabam for Culture, with the participation of the CNC and Procirep-Angoa, as well as the Uhoda Group.

**About FACTSTORY**

FACTSTORY is a creative audiovisual production agency, an integral part of the AFP group. Thanks to our international network, local teams are able to meet any video, photo and text expectations. Choosing FACTSTORY also means reducing production costs and carbon footprint. FACTSTORY Docs is the company's documentary film production unit, launched in 2021 with film productions with international broadcasters such as ARTE, BBC, RTBF, SVT and RTS.

**About AFP**

AFP is a leading global news agency providing fast, comprehensive and verified coverage of the events shaping our world and of the issues affecting our daily lives. Drawing from an unparalleled news gathering network across 150 countries, AFP is also a world leader in digital investigations. With 2,600 staff representing 100 different nationalities, AFP covers the world in six languages, with a unique quality of multimedia storytelling spanning video, text, photos and graphics.

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**Press Contact:** Coline Sallois - Tel: +33 (0)6 63 48 80 04 - [coline.sallois@afp.com](mailto:coline.sallois@afp.com)