

DOCUMENTARY TO WATCH

# The Salt of the Earth (2014)

IMDb

8.4/10



The Salt of the Earth documents the extraordinary career of Sebastião Salgado, whose photography confronts war, famine, genocide, and exploitation with both unflinching honesty and breathtaking artistry.

Co-directed by Wim Wenders and Salgado's son, Juliano Ribeiro Salgado, the film traces his journey from an economics student to a world-renowned photographer drawn to remote corners of the globe. Iconic series include the haunting Brazilian gold mine photographs and devastating depictions of Rwandan and Bosnian atrocities, as well as African famine.

The accumulation of such images builds a profound sense of sorrow and outrage, ultimately leading Salgado to shift focus toward nature's beauty and environmental restoration in Brazil.

While the film is visually stunning, it offers limited insight into Salgado's technical process or personal interactions with subjects. Despite some stylistic distractions, it stands as a testament to his unmatched ability to capture both human suffering and resilience.

This documentary is essential viewing for anyone who values the power of photography to bear witness. Salgado's images are not just pictures—they are moral documents, demanding empathy and reflection. The Salt of the Earth is a rare chance to experience his monumental vision in motion, on a cinematic scale.

**1 HOUR 50 MINUTES**

**DIRECTORS:**

JULIANO RIBEIRO SALGADO  
WIM WENDERS

**WRITERS:**

WIM WENDERS  
JULIANO RIBEIRO SALGADO  
DAVID ROSIER

**STARS:**

SEBASTIÃO SALGADO  
WIM WENDERS  
LÉLIA WANICK SALGADO

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You'll study 100 remarkable works from MoMA's renowned collection, going behind the scenes at the Museum and into artists' studios through videos and interviews. These encounters reveal not only the creative process but also the cultural, historical, and personal contexts that shape each image.

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