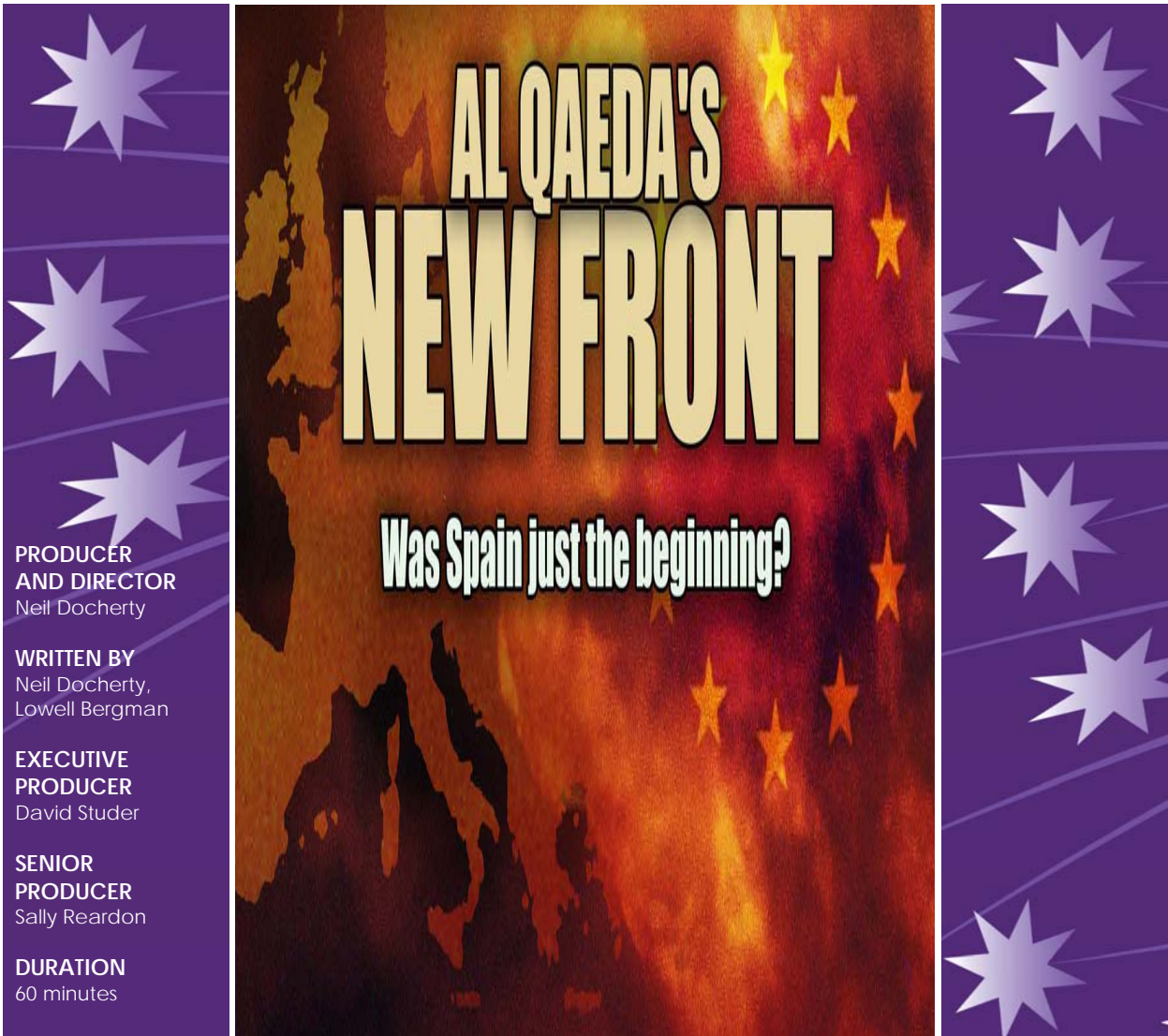


FIFTH ESTATE: AL QAEDA NEW FRONT

FACTUAL



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DURATION
60 minutes

Since 9/11, there have been no terrorist attacks in the US. But in Madrid, Berlin and London, there is a growing threat.

SYNOPSIS

In collaboration with The New York Times and the PBS programme *Frontline*, *The Fifth Estate's* Linden MacIntyre shows how Salafist jihadists have made Europe their new battleground in the war of terror.

European police have thwarted all but one of 36 Islamist terrorist plots since Sept. 11. The one they missed in Madrid on March 11, 2004, was the worst terrorist attack in European history. And it was a reminder that, despite the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and even with Osama

bin Laden apparently on the run, followers of al Qaeda are very much alive and well.

The belief driving these jihadists is that violence and terrorism are justified in order to free the Muslim world from corrupt governments and the influence of the United States and Europe, and return a united Muslim empire to glory. AL QAEDA'S NEW FRONT establishes how al Qaeda has evolved from a hierarchical organisation to a powerful ideological movement. And as it has become more difficult to

launch an attack on U.S. cities and institutions, their focus has turned to local targets in Europe.

This programme follows the travels of one of the alleged masterminds of the Madrid attack, Rabei Osman El Sayed Ahmed, an Egyptian who was arrested in Milan. Rabei exemplifies the new generation of al Qaeda operatives, who have no apparent connection to the old al Qaeda network set up by Osama bin Laden. He is an example of Europe's big new problem, the next generation of Islamist terrorists.



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