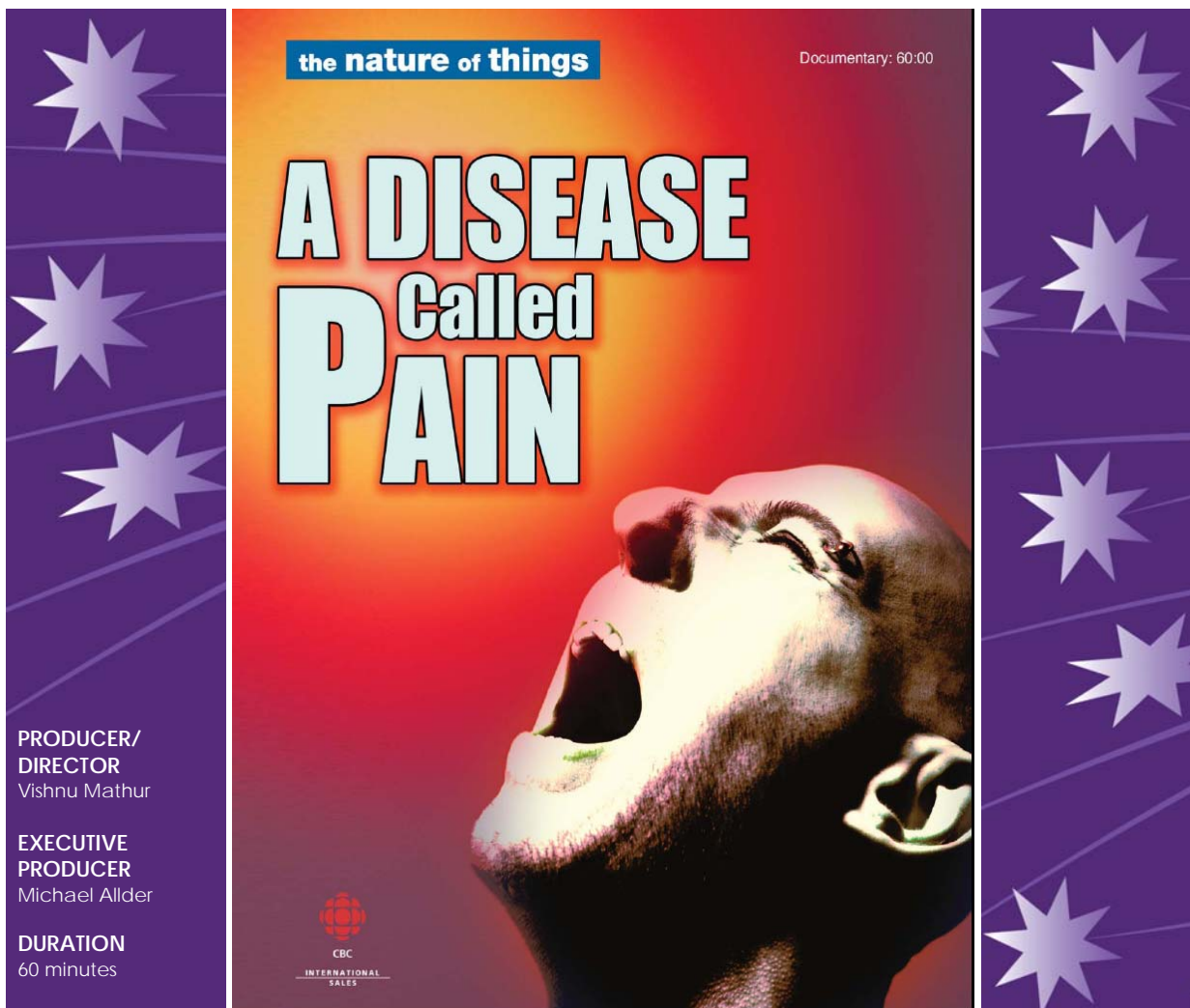


THE NATURE OF THINGS: A DISEASE CALLED PAIN

FACTUAL



**PRODUCER/
DIRECTOR**
Vishnu Mathur

**EXECUTIVE
PRODUCER**
Michael Alder

DURATION
60 minutes

A Disease Called Pain examines the dark and deeply complex experience we call chronic pain.

SYNOPSIS

Faced with someone suffering, it's hard not to want to turn away. Pain is too intense a place to stay for too long. But for some people the pain NEVER goes away, even long after the original injury has healed. Why does pain turn into chronic pain in some people and not others? And why do we know so little about it?

For a long time, it was misread as merely a symptom. Something to put up with. Pain is the body's alarm system. Today, some hospitals treat pain as one of the vital signs, managing it as they would blood pressure or breathing.

A DISEASE CALLED PAIN looks at the complex condition of chronic pain. It's only recently that chronic pain has been considered a complicated multi-dimensional illness.

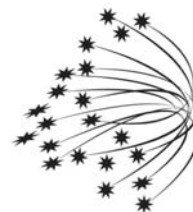
Historically, pain has been a physical affliction, something to rise above and suffer silently. To be strong and transcend pain is what is expected.

A DISEASE CALLED PAIN examines four case studies. Catherine was in an accident while driving to work. The car behind her failed to stop, hit her, and slammed her into the car in front of her. Nathan was born with slipped vertebrae in his back and suffers from nerve injury or neuropathic pain. David was a heavy equipment specialist who owned and operated tractor-trailers, until he fell backwards and injured his back, shoulder, arm and left leg.

The fourth story explores the question of pain, as experienced by newborns and infants.

Unlike ordinary or acute pain, produced by a healthy nervous system, chronic pain is a disease - caused by abnormal changes in the brain and spinal cord. It's now understood that if pain isn't properly treated at an early stage, it can take hold and change the body's physical make up.

Cutting-edge scientists in pain research include Dr. Angela Mails, an expert in neuropathic injuries; Dr. Clifford Woolfe, mapping the DNA of pain to discover how and why it changes; Dr. Allen Findley and Dr. Patrick McGrath, looking at how pain affects the ability to process information and alters behavior and Dr. Celeste Johnston, whose study of facial expressions in a baby clinic confirms what mothers know instinctively - comfort and tenderness help soothe the pain.



FIREWORKS
A CONTENTFILM COMPANY

Fireworks International
19 Heddon Street, London,
UK, W1B 4BG
T: +44 (0)20 7851 6500
F: +44 (0)20 7851 6504
E: info@contentfilm.com
www.contentfilm.com