



# CLOSE TO HEAVEN - THE RICE TERRACES OF THE PHILIPPINES

by Antje Christ



## SYNOPSIS

Over 2,000 years ago, the Ifugao mountain people began building a unique natural landscape: the world-famous rice terraces in the Philippine Cordilleras. Through a sophisticated system of bamboo shoots, canals, dams and sluices, water is routed downwards through the terraces from field to field. This unique rice-growing concept was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1995. However, working high up in the fields is arduous and brings little financial reward. Many of the younger Ifugao no longer wish to pursue this backbreaking way of life and leave their villages for tourism jobs in neighbouring towns. People come from all over the world to see the very thing that the young Ifugao want to leave behind: the rice terraces and traditional Ifugao way of life. But if the fields are not cultivated constantly, they soon fall into disrepair. Will it be possible to maintain the terraces while also doing right by the young generation of Ifugao? Apart from the breathtaking landscapes of...

## FESTIVALS

Terraced Landscapes Venice-Padua  
IFF Ekotopfilm Bratislava  
Natur Vision Ludwigsburg

## CAST AND CREW

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Steven Altig · DOP Marcel Schmitz

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45 min

### ORIGINAL TITLE

Dem Himmel nah – Die  
Reisterrassen auf den  
Philippinen

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