



Web of Stories  
Middlesex House  
34-42 Cleveland Street  
London W1T 4LB

T +44(0)20 7323 0323  
E [press@webofstories.com](mailto:press@webofstories.com)  
[www.webofstories.com](http://www.webofstories.com)

 [www.twitter.com/webofstories](https://www.twitter.com/webofstories)  
 [www.facebook.com/webofstories](https://www.facebook.com/webofstories)

## DESMOND MORRIS

London, UK | Wednesday 19 November 2014  
For immediate release

**Web of Stories is delighted to announce the availability of a unique series of videos of Desmond Morris talking candidly about his life and career from childhood to the present day. The recordings, which were made in June 2014, are free to view on the Web of Stories website ([www.webofstories.com](http://www.webofstories.com)).**

Zoologist, writer and surrealist painter, Desmond Morris, has many 'firsts' to his name. In 1950, he shared his first London exhibition of surrealist paintings with the acclaimed Spanish artist, Joan Miró. He, Morris, was the first person to observe artistic abilities in a chimpanzee called Congo and later, rather controversially, held an exhibition of Congo's paintings at London's Institute of Contemporary Arts. And in 1967, he published his first best-seller, *The Naked Ape*, which was also the first book in a series of works he wrote on the subject of human behaviour.

Recalling how he was inspired to write *The Naked Ape*, Desmond Morris says, "Previously, all studies of human behaviour had been done by sociologists, psychiatrists, psychoanalysts, anthropologists... But zoologists had never really tackled human behaviour before. So I thought, why not? One day I'm going to write this book called *The Naked Ape* about human beings, and I'm going to write it as if I'm an alien landing on this planet and looking at this strange primate, clearly related to apes and monkeys, but it's a bit odd because it has a naked skin, it

*doesn't have a coat of fur and it stands on its hind legs and it talks; it's a very strange monkey, very strange ape."*

One form of human behaviour that receives particular attention from Morris, is tribal behaviour especially in the context of team games such as football. He says, "*People have called [football] warfare, symbolic warfare, but I think it's more symbolic hunting because when you score that goal, that moment of triumph when you've made your kill, eventually what happens – you win a cup and you have a feast and you go feast and you parade around with this cup. And it's... the whole thing is a symbolic hunt.*"

All of Desmond Morris's inspirational and fascinating recordings can be watched as a number of short clips ranging in length between one and several minutes, with a fully searchable transcript. All Web of Stories videos are easy to share with friends and colleagues, and may be embedded into personal blogs and websites.

<http://www.webofstories.com/play/desmond.morris/1>

## NOTES FOR EDITORS ABOUT WEB OF STORIES

Everyone has a story to tell. Over time many stories become forgotten, but now Web of Stories offers members of the public the chance to tell their stories for future generations to enjoy. The project is built on the belief that we all have wonderful stories to share, and have family and friends whose tales we would like to hear.

Web of Stories began as an archive of life stories told by some of the great scientists, writers and artists of our time. As the number of stories grew, it became obvious that some were on related topics and that a web was slowly being created of connected stories.

We welcome anyone to come and talk about virtually anything they like. Just like our famous speakers, we hope you will record your stories for others to enjoy.

## CONTACT

For more information on Web of Stories or any of our videos please contact the Press Desk on +44(0)20 7323 0323 or [press@webofstories.com](mailto:press@webofstories.com)

Should you wish to refer to Web of Stories and our video interviews please ensure that a link to Web of Stories is clearly viewable on your site.