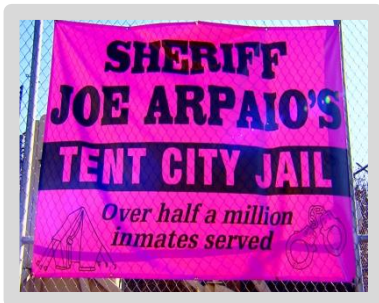




Behind Bars - The World's Toughest Prisons -

This series takes the viewer to the world's most notorious or extraordinary prisons. What the viewer will discover is a lifestyle, which few will ever experience but which is a brutal everyday reality for many.










'The world's toughest prisons' reveals what it really means to be part of this very special world - from different angles. At each visited prison, the audience will be immersed into daily prison life. The viewer will experience first-hand the challenges each guard faces on a daily basis; likewise, he or she will learn about the prisoner's struggles to develop strategies for survival.



The series provides the unique chance to get to know the personalities who live behind bars, to understand why they are there and what kind of contact they have with the outside world. However, the deep insights in this series will also allow the audience to

experience the other side of the story: Why was the prison built like this? What kind of rules and security measures exist here? And how are the prisoners monitored and, if they break the rules, punished?

'The world's toughest prisons' is an unprecedented insight into an unbelievable world, a world which exists within the realms of law and justice but with its own definitions of right and wrong. This is a story audiences will love to experience, while simultaneously being thankful that it is not their own.

-  Production Year: 2016
-  6 x 60', HD
-  All media rights, worldwide
-  Screener: Links on Request
-  Broadcasters: Discovery, A&E, n-tv, Foxtel AUS, TVNZ, Nippon TV,...
-  Distributor:
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Production house:





Episode Structure

Each episode starts with a general introduction, so the viewer understands how the building has been constructed, which security precautions are in place and which myths, legends and prejudices surround each prison. An inmate, a visitor or a guard, acts as a gatekeeper to the viewer. Through him, the viewer learns how the prison's daily routine is structured.



This routine involves meals, work, roll call, leisure time, visitation opportunities and so on. The soundbites are emotional and allow a sincere glimpse into the human element of each of these processes. The off-text is objective and factual. It helps to explain the background.

Then the episode reports on an upcoming event within the prison - an event which is special or not part of the daily routine. This might be a judicial review or inmate evaluation, a long-anticipated visit, a prisoner's release, a raid within the prison, or something similar. Rivals and mentors, failure and success all play a role here; the focus will be on each of these, thus creating a dramatic but organic cliff-hanger.



Then the focus switches from the prisoner's point of view to a guard's perspective – or vice versa – and immerses the viewer in this other position. The camera uncovers opposing emotions, arguments and challenges, which, when justified, suddenly seem reasonable. The situation comes to an end or is resolved. The elusive events are recapped, showing that what counts as a success or failure in Prison, depends entirely on the perspective taken.



The viewer is left stunned and fascinated at the same time.

Featured Prisons:

Episode 1: San Pedro – La Paz, Bolivia

Episode 2: Dallas County Jail – Dallas, Texas

Episode 3: Antanimora Prison – Madagascar

Episode 4: Tent City – Phoenix, Arizona

Episode 5: Sofia Central – Sofia, Bulgaria

Episode 6: Miami Dade County Jail Boot Camp – Miami, Florida