



2017 Environmental Film Festival: 25 Years of Films for the Planet

contact: Helen Strong, helen@dceff.org 202-342-2564

WASHINGTON, DC – The Environmental Film Festival in the Nation’s Capital, the world’s premier showcase of environmental films and the largest and longest-running festival of its kind in the US, will celebrate its 25th anniversary this March. The 2017 Festival, March 14-26, will focus its lens on a planet in transition, exploring what has happened over the past 25 years and what lies ahead. The Festival will present 180+ films from 32 countries, including 64 Washington, DC, US, and World premieres. Most screenings include discussion with filmmakers, environmental experts, and cultural leaders and many are free. The complete Festival schedule is at www.dceff.org.

The Festival kicks off on Opening Night with a 2017 Sundance selection, Oscar-winning documentary filmmaker Alex Gibney’s ***Water & Power: A California Heist***, exposing the corruption behind California’s water crisis. Closing the Festival, the film ***Seasons*** showcases the diverse, wild, and wonderful animal life in Europe’s forests, directed by Oscar-nominated French filmmaker Jacques Perrin, who will receive the Festival’s Polly Krakora Award for Artistry in Film. Oscar-winning director Fisher Stevens’ ***Before the Flood***, spotlighting the climate activism of actor and environmentalist Leonardo DiCaprio, will receive the Festival’s Documentary Award for Environmental Advocacy. Director James Gray’s new film, ***The Lost City of Z***, shown in a special advance screening, is the winner of the William W. Warner Beautiful Swimmers Award. For ***Kokota: Islet of Hope***, a story of resiliency and adaptation on a Tanzanian island, director Craig Norris will receive the Eric Moe Award for Best Short on Sustainability.

Festival highlights include special advance screenings of the new DisneyNature film, ***Born in China***, with rare footage of three animal families – the panda, the golden monkey, and the snow leopard – and the ground-breaking BBC filmmaking team’s “***Planet Earth II***”: ***Cities***, exploring how to build cities where people and wildlife can coexist. Through a special Virtual Reality experience, festival-goers can journey to the Amazon and dive into an Indonesian coral reef. Two films presented with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the National Academy of Sciences, ***Food Evolution*** and ***Spillover: Zika, Ebola, and Beyond***, examine the controversy surrounding GMOs and how to contain pandemics.

The connections between environmental and social justice are explored in many Festival films. ***Flint***, a work-in-progress, documents one of the worst mass poisonings in American history. ***RISE: Sacred Water*** captures the Standing Rock Sioux’s resistance to the Dakota Access pipeline. ***Riverblue: Can Fashion Save the Planet?*** reveals how the fashion industry is polluting rivers around the world that people depend on for survival.

The impact of climate change on Arctic cultures and ecosystems is the subject of the films: ***Between Earth and Sky: Climate Change on the Last Frontier***, ***Kivalina***, and ***Ice Edge: Wild Canada***. The effects of global warming on earth’s opposite pole are treated in ***Antarctica: In the Footsteps of the Emperor***. ***The Age of Consequences*** investigates the implications of climate change for national security and global stability.

Threats to earth's oceans are investigated in ***A Plastic Ocean*** and ***Smog of the Sea***, which show the consequences of our disposable lifestyle, while ***Vamizi: Cradle of Coral*** explores efforts to protect an important coral reef in East Africa.

Featured among local films and filmmakers are DC director Robert Nixon's ***Sea of Hope: America's Underwater Treasures***, following ocean legend Sylvia Earle and her team as they establish blue parks in the ocean; DC-based filmmaker Ryan Patrick Killackey's ***Yasuni Man***, about threats to the Yasuni Biosphere Reserve in Ecuador's Amazon; and Roger Sorkin's ***Tidewater***, exploring sea level rise in Hampton Roads, Va., a region whose vulnerability most affects national security.

Wildlife films include ***Naledi: A Baby Elephant's Tale***, the story of saving a baby elephant whose mother was killed; ***Last of the Longnecks***, about threats to the African giraffe; ***Pristine Seas: Wild Galapagos***, exploring the rich underwater life in the Galapagos Islands; ***Gorongosa Park: Rebirth of Paradise***, tracking the lions of this revitalized preserve in Mozambique; and ***Sacred Cod***, investigating the decline of New England's cod fishery.

Colombia's rich wildlife and vast biological diversity are on display in ***Colombia: Wild Magic***, a US premiere. Additional Latin American films include two presented with the Dominican Republic Environmental Film Festival: ***Death by a Thousand Cuts***, showing the fatal friction between Haiti and the Dominican Republic over charcoal exploitation, and ***Site of Sites***, exploring the intersection of race, class, and environment at a Caribbean resort.

Films examining the connections between energy and the environment include Jamie Redford's ***Happening***, a work-in-progress capturing the dawn of the clean energy era across the US. ***Voices from Chernobyl***, Luxembourg's foreign language submission to the Oscars, offers eyewitness reports from the survivors of the nuclear disaster while ***City 40*** visits a contaminated Russian city that is home to the country's largest stockpile of nuclear weapons and ***Return of the Atom*** portrays the stressful life in a small town in Finland where a new nuclear power plant is under construction.

The World premiere of ***Behold the Earth*** explores how science and religion are collaborating to protect the creation. ***The Colorado*** pays tribute to the majestic and vital Colorado River. ***You've Been Trumped Too*** looks at the consequences of Trump's actions. ***Havarie*** spotlights encounters with refugee boats in the Mediterranean. The story of Gertrude Bell, "the female Lawrence of Arabia," is told in ***Letters from Baghdad***. The cats of Istanbul are profiled in ***Kedi***. Outdoor adventure shorts that travel from the Yukon to French Polynesia are a new Festival feature this year.

Female filmmakers are well represented in the Festival, with 40 women directors of Festival films, including the opening night feature. Julie Dash's ***Daughters of the Dust***, which served as inspiration for Beyoncé's visual album, ***Lemonade***, is shown in a new digital restoration as part of the ***Women of the Rebellion*** series at the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Presented in collaboration with over 100 local, national, and global organizations, the Festival is the largest film festival in Washington, DC and one of the largest collaborative cultural events in the city. Films are screened at 40 venues throughout the Washington metro area, including museums, embassies, libraries, universities, and local theaters across the city and in nearby Maryland and Virginia. Over 60 percent of screenings are free.

For reservations and ticket information, visit the Festival website, www.dceff.org and find us @dcenvirofilm on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Photographs are available on our website under the press section or by email from info@dceff.org

SPONSORS

LEAD SPONSORS



MAJOR SPONSORS



Kaempfer Family Fund

FEATURE SPONSORS



Boatwright Foundation
Elva and Lawrence O'Brien Family Trust
Vervane Foundation

CONTRIBUTING SPONSORS



Armand Erpf Foundation



The Curtis & Edith Munson Foundation



Booz | Allen | Hamilton

SUPPORTING SPONSORS



MEDIA SPONSORS

