

PLEASE
PASS ME ON!

ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL

IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

25+ VENUES | 160+ FILMS | 45 WORLD PREMIERES | 200+ FILMMAKERS & SPECIAL GUESTS



MARCH 12-22, 2020

TICKETS & UPDATES AT DCEFF.ORG

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WELCOME TO THE 28TH ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL

In her “Letter to a Young Climate Activist on the First Day of the New Decade,” Rebecca Solnit writes, “Climate chaos is the worst thing human beings have brought upon themselves and the earth, and we are just beginning to see its impact.” She continues, however, “If you look harder at the natural world you can see that human beings are capable of change, and that environmental victories are all around us.”

It is in this spirit of resolve, hopefulness, and ingenuity that we present the 28th Environmental Film Festival in the Nation’s Capital. Our planet faces enormous challenges, and the Festival is committed to continuing to showcase the work of filmmakers around the world who are documenting endless crises, but also seeking out solutions and building communities.

More than 160 films at over 25 venues add up to a varied and fascinating landscape available nowhere else and to one of our strongest and most compelling programs yet. With such a wide variety of films at the Festival, including more than 40 world premieres, it is easy to be inspired by so many who are working every day to effect change all around the world and across so many crucial sectors. With stories ranging from the intimate to the global and each with a compelling vision, film continues to offer a unique access point to these singular perspectives and shared concerns.

The Festival opens with Beverly and Dereck Joubert’s *Okavango: River of Dreams*, a hymn to biodiversity and the recipient of the 2020 Shared Earth Foundation Award for Advocacy. This year’s Partner Showcases offer a galvanizing array of storytelling, consistently reinforced by a fierce commitment to the planet. Our Closing Night presentation celebrates one of the world’s most beloved primatologists and anthropologists, Jane Goodall. As our world premiere screening of *Jane Goodall: The Hope* eloquently attests, she remains a tireless and undaunted activist.

The Board, staff, and I deeply appreciate the volunteers, sponsors, donors, and venue partners who make the Festival an unforgettable experience, year after year. We are grateful to every one of you in this dynamic and determined community. Thank you for being part of the Environmental Film Festival in the Nation’s Capital!



Christopher Head
Executive Director

P.S. I encourage you to become a Friend of the Festival or to make an outright gift today. Visit dceff.org/donate to find out how supporters like you make a difference.

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160+ FILMS | 130+ PREMIERES | 35+ COUNTRIES | 25+ VENUES



THE LARGEST GREEN FILM FESTIVAL IN THE WORLD
& THE LONGEST-RUNNING IN THE UNITED STATES

We are the world’s premier showcase of environmentally themed films. Since 1993 our mission has been to celebrate Earth and inspire understanding and stewardship of the environment through the power of film. Each March in Washington, D.C., we present 100+ films to audiences throughout the city, along with filmmaker and topical discussions.

- 2017 D.C. Mayor's Arts Award for Excellence in the Creative Industries
- 2019 Best Film Festival in D.C., *Washington City Paper* (Readers' Pick)

DCEFF.ORG dceff_org dceff_org dceff.org

RESERVATIONS & SEATING POLICY

All seats must be reserved in advance, unless otherwise noted, at dceff.org. This includes all patrons who are members of our Friends of the Festival program. A name badge does not guarantee a seat.

You MUST arrive 15 minutes before the posted show time to guarantee your seat. Patrons with tickets/reservations will be asked to join the RESERVED line, which is prioritized. All empty seats are released at the discretion of staff.

Patrons without reservations will be asked to join the STANDBY line. Once the Reserved line has entered the theater, remaining seats will be awarded to patrons in the Standby line on a space-available basis.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

OPENING NIGHT

AWARD WINNER: SHARED EARTH FOUNDATION AWARD FOR ADVOCACY

Established for the 2014 Festival, the Shared Earth Foundation Award for Advocacy recognizes a film that inspires advocacy in response to a compelling environmental challenge. The award includes a \$10,000 cash prize.

Okavango: River of Dreams

(Botswana, 2020, 94 min.) ●

Directed by Beverly Joubert, Dereck Joubert

The Okavango in Southern Africa's Botswana is one of the greatest rivers on Earth. It starts in the mountains of Angola, but unlike normal rivers, its waters don't run toward the ocean. Instead, the Okavango flows inland through Angola and into Botswana—only to vanish completely in the Kalahari desert, after a journey of 1,500 kilometers. Lions and leopards, elephants and hippos, warthogs and crocodiles, painted dogs, bush babies, and many more, all thrive and survive here. Filmmakers and National Geographic Explorers at Large Dereck and Beverly Joubert have created an utterly breathtaking example of visual storytelling with rich clarity. Each dazzling closeup of the exotic flora and fauna is truly remarkable, as is the narration by Dereck Joubert himself, accompanying the stunning images.

D.C. Premiere | Thurs., March 12, 7:00 p.m. | National Geographic Society

\$35 | Post-screening discussion with Beverly Joubert (co-director) and Dereck Joubert (co-director) | Opening night party follows | VR available

Tickets limited. Please visit [DCEFF.ORG](https://dceff.org) for availability and more information.

Encore Presentation | Sun., March 22, 6:00 p.m. | The Naval Heritage Center

\$10

AWARD WINNER: HAUSMAN FOUNDATION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AWARD FOR BEST INTERNATIONAL FILM

This award from the Hausman Foundation for the Environment highlights an internationally produced film that focuses on an environmental issue relevant to our times. The award includes a \$5,000 cash prize.

Sea of Shadows (Austria, 2019, 104 min.)

Directed by Richard Ladkani

Co-presented with the Austrian Cultural Forum Washington, the Embassy of Italy and the Italian Cultural Institute in Washington, D.C.

A looming disaster in one of the most spectacular environments on Earth sparks a rescue mission unlike any other. When Mexican drug cartels and Chinese traffickers join forces to poach the rare totoaba fish in the Sea of Cortez, their deadly methods threaten to destroy virtually all marine life in the region, including the most elusive and endangered whale species on Earth, the vaquita porpoise. *Sea of Shadows* follows a team of dedicated scientists, high-tech conservationists, investigative journalists, and courageous undercover agents as well as the Mexican Navy as they put their lives on the line to save the last remaining vaquitas and bring the vicious international crime syndicate to justice. This riveting new documentary from National Geographic Documentary Films won the Sundance Audience Award for World Cinema Documentary.

Fri., March 13, 7:00 p.m. | Carnegie Institution for Science

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion

Encore Presentation | Sun., March 22, 4:00 p.m. | The Naval Heritage Center

Free, reservations required



AWARD WINNER: WILLIAM W. WARNER BEAUTIFUL SWIMMERS AWARD

Established in memory of William Warner by the Warner/Kaempfer family for the 2015 Festival, the William W. Warner Beautiful Swimmers Award recognizes a film that reflects a spirit of reverence for the natural world. William Warner was the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Beautiful Swimmers*, a study of crabs and watermen in the Chesapeake Bay. The award includes a \$10,000 cash prize.

The Cordillera of Dreams

(France/Chile, 2019, 85 min.)

Directed by Patricio Guzmán

Winner of the Best Documentary award at the Cannes Film Festival, master filmmaker Patricio Guzmán’s *The Cordillera of Dreams* completes his trilogy (with *Nostalgia for the Light* and *The Pearl Button*) investigating the relationship between historical memory, political trauma, and geography in his native country of Chile. This film centers on the imposing landscape of the Andes that runs the length of the country’s eastern border. At once protective and isolating, magisterial and indifferent, the Cordillera serves as an enigmatic focal point around which Guzmán contemplates the enduring legacy of the 1973 military coup d’état.

This film is part of a three-film retrospective along with the two earlier films in the trilogy: *Nostalgia for the Light* (p. 21) and *The Pearl Button* (p. 23).

Weds., March 18, 7:00 p.m. | National Geographic Society

\$10 | Post-screening discussion | Reception follows

Encore Presentation | Co-presented with the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center | Sat., March 21, 3:00 p.m. | AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center

\$13

AWARD WINNER: THE ERIC MOE AWARD FOR BEST SHORT ON SUSTAINABILITY

Established for the 2014 Festival by Julia and Richard Moe in memory of their son, Eric, to honor his strong interest in film and his commitment to sustainability, the Eric Moe Award for Best Short on Sustainability recognizes a short film for its inventive solutions to balancing the needs of humans and nature. The award includes a \$5,000 cash prize.

Uniontown

(USA, 2019, 16 min.)

Directed by Fraser Jones

This film weaves together the unheard individual narratives of grassroots organizers in Uniontown, Alabama, as they fight to take the town back from the hands of industrial polluters and complacent politicians in the midst of a high-stakes local election.

D.C. Premiere | Mon., March 16, 7:00 p.m. | National Geographic Society

\$10 | Post-screening discussion with Fraser Jones (director, Uniontown), Katie Schuler (director, Where Life Begins), Allison Otto (co-director, The Love Bugs), Max Lowe (director, Bare Existence), Esther Calhoun (Former President, Black Belt Citizens)

Encore Presentation | Sun., March 22, 2:00 p.m. | The Naval Heritage Center

\$10

CLOSING NIGHT

Presented by the Reva and David Logan Foundation

Jane Goodall: The Hope

(USA, 2020, 88 min.) ●

Directed by Elizabeth Leiter, Kim Woodard

Jane Goodall: The Hope celebrates the vast legacy of Dr. Jane Goodall’s four decades of advocacy work for chimpanzees and depicts the next chapter for generations to come. Picking up where National Geographic Documentary Films’ 2017 award-winning *Jane* left off, the special follows Dr. Goodall throughout her robust travels, capturing her relentless commitment and determination to spread a message of hope. The film offers an intimate perspective of Dr. Goodall’s pivotal transformation from scientist to inspirational activist and shows the harrowing obstacles she has faced throughout her remarkable career. Featuring an extensive collection of photographs and footage that spans over seven decades, the documentary illustrates how Dr. Goodall’s passion for wildlife and unshakable drive have persevered, making her one of the most important figures in wildlife conservation and galvanizing a future generation to create lasting change.

World Premiere | Sat., March 21, 7:00 p.m. | National Geographic Society

\$35 | Post-screening discussion | Closing Night party follows—VR available



28TH ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL

FEATURE FILMS



Anbessa (Italy/Ethiopia, 2019, 86 min.) ●

Directed by Mo Scarpelli
Co-presented with the New African Film Festival and the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center
A young boy displaced by a massive condominium complex creates his own reality in which, as a lion (*anbessa*), he can face the forces beyond his control.
D.C. Premiere | Mon., March 16, 7:15 p.m. | AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center
\$13



Artifishal (USA, 2019, 79 min.)

Directed by Josh Murphy
Focusing on people, rivers, and the fight for the future of wild fish and the environment that supports them, *Artifishal* explores wild salmon’s slide towards extinction, threats posed by hatcheries and fish farms, and our continued loss of faith in nature. Salmon have long been an icon of wild, but in our rush to meet demand and mask the larger root environmental issues, we’ve forgotten the true value of wild. Ultimately, the film sets two ideologies at odds: those who embrace the power of nature to heal and those who believe in a world that requires our continued attempts to control nature. Wild salmon have been an integral part of the northern coastal ecosystem for thousands of years, but due to the impacts of human development, they have been extirpated in 40 percent of their historical range in just the last 150 years. They have been extensively listed under the federal Endangered Species Act, but despite billions of dollars spent on recovery, they continue to decline.
D.C. Premiere | Sat., March 14, 4:00 p.m. | The Naval Heritage Center
\$10



Barefoot: The Mark Baumer Story (USA, 2019, 87 min.) ●

Directed by Julie Sokolow
Writer and activist Mark Baumer walked barefoot for over 100 days to protest climate change. In a voice *The New Yorker* praised as “reminiscent of Andy Kaufman,” Baumer narrates his walk in self-recorded videos, sharing his offbeat take on life and how we all can make a difference.
D.C. Premiere | Sun., March 15, 7:00 p.m. | E Street Cinema
\$10 | Post-screening discussion

Breaking Their Silence: Women on the Frontline of the Poaching War (USA, 2019, 110 min.) ●

Directed by Kerry David
Co-presented with the Smithsonian National Zoological Park
The complex world of wildlife trafficking is viewed through a feminine lens in this thorough exploration of the emotional toll that poaching and wildlife crime are having on the courageous women fighting on the front lines. Filmmaker Kerry David and her dedicated crew pursue a passion that takes them from the United States to Africa and Asia. *Breaking Their Silence* shines a bright and inspiring light on their intelligence, compassion, strength, and tenacity as these women face and conquer seemingly insurmountable odds.
D.C. Premiere | Sat., March 14, 1:00 p.m. | National Zoo
Free, reservations required



Collodion: The Process of Preservation (USA, 2020, 76 min.)

Directed by Eric Overton
Co-presented with the U.S. Department of the Interior
The lens of photographer and physician Eric Overton captures a fearless and uncommonly vulnerable self-portrait of American wilderness, our relationship to each other, and the possibility that nature itself may be all we need to find common ground. Following a series of conversations and interviews, the film asks, “What happens when all we are left with is a photograph?” It is a reminder of the fragility of art, of nature, and the need to ask ourselves questions. *Collodion* ends as Overton’s son begins to photograph landscapes with an innate sense of wonder and exploration. This is where self-discovery becomes legacy. It is a transformation not of political achievements, or battles won (though they must be fought), but an achievement of what wilderness offers so effortlessly: simplicity, connection, curiosity, and presence.
World Premiere | Fri., March 20, 6:30 p.m. | U.S. Department of the Interior
Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion





The Condor & The Eagle (USA, 2019, 82 min.) ●

Directed by Clement Guerra, Sophie Guerra

Four Indigenous environmental leaders embark on an extraordinary transcontinental adventure from the Canadian plains to deep in the heart of the Amazonian jungle to unite the peoples of North and South America and deepen the meaning of “climate justice.” *The Condor & The Eagle* offers a glimpse into a developing spiritual renaissance as the film’s four protagonists learn from each other’s long legacy of resistance to colonialism and its extractive economy. Their path through the jungle takes them on an unexpectedly challenging and liberating journey, which will forever change their attachment to the Earth and one another.



PRECEDED BY

L'Eau Est La Vie: From Standing Rock to the Swamp (USA, 2019, 24 min.)

Directed by Sam Vinal

On the banks of Louisiana, fierce Indigenous women are ready to fight—to stop the corporate blacksnake and preserve their way of life. They are risking everything to protect Mother Earth from the predatory fossil fuel companies that seek to poison it.

D.C. Premiere

Sat., March 21, 3:00 p.m. | Eaton DC

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Clement Guerra (co-director)



The Cordillera of Dreams (France/Chile, 2019, 85 min.)

Directed by Patricio Guzmán

AWARD WINNER: William W. Warner Beautiful Swimmers Award

Winner of the Best Documentary award at the Cannes Film Festival, master filmmaker Patricio Guzmán’s *The Cordillera of Dreams* completes his trilogy (with *Nostalgia for the Light* and *The Pearl Button*) investigating the relationship between historical memory, political trauma, and geography in his native country of Chile. This film centers on the imposing landscape of the Andes that runs the length of the country’s eastern border. At once protective and isolating, magisterial and indifferent, the Cordillera serves as an enigmatic focal point around which Guzmán contemplates the enduring legacy of the 1973 military coup d’état.

This film is part of a three-film retrospective along with the two earlier films in the trilogy: *Nostalgia for the Light* (p. 21) and *The Pearl Button* (p. 23).

Weds., March 18, 7:00 p.m. | National Geographic Society

\$10 | Post-screening discussion | Reception follows

Encore Presentation | Co-presented with the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center | Sat., March 21, 3:00 p.m. | AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center

\$13

Current Sea (USA/Cambodia/Malaysia, 2020, 87 min.)

Directed by Christopher Smith

Presented by the Reva and David Logan Foundation

This environmental thriller follows investigative journalist Matt Blomberg and ocean activist Paul Ferber in their dangerous efforts to create a marine conservation area and combat the relentless tide of illegal fishing. Along the way a new generation of Cambodian environmentalists are inspired to create a better life for their people.

D.C. Premiere | Sun., March 15, 7:00 p.m. | The Naval Heritage Center

\$10 | Post-screening discussion with Christopher Smith (director)



Dark Waters (USA, 2019, 126 min.)

Directed by Todd Haynes

In this feature film based on a true story, an attorney risks his career and family to uncover a dark secret hidden by one of the world’s largest corporations and to bring justice to a community dangerously exposed for decades to deadly chemicals. Corporate environmental defense attorney Rob Bilott (Mark Ruffalo) has just made partner at his prestigious Cincinnati law firm in large part due to his work defending Big Chem companies. He finds himself conflicted after he’s contacted by two West Virginia farmers who believe that the local DuPont plant is dumping toxic waste in the area landfill that is destroying their fields and killing their cattle. Hoping to learn the truth about just what is happening, Bilott, with help from his supervising partner (Tim Robbins), files a complaint that marks the beginning of an epic 15-year fight—one that will not only test his relationship with his wife, Sarah (Anne Hathaway), but also his reputation, his health, and his livelihood.

Thurs., March 19, 7:00 p.m. | The Naval Heritage Center

\$10 | Post-screening discussion with Rob Bilott (litigator, advocate, and author)



Deer 139 (USA, 2019, 55 min.) ●

Directed by Jayme Dittmar, Morgan Heim

Three women follow the 85-mile-long migration path of a scruffy, pregnant mule deer doe and learn to see the world differently in the process.

D.C. Premiere | Sun., March 15, 4:00 p.m. | E Street Cinema

\$10





Dinosaurs of Antarctica (USA, 2019, 42 min.)

Directed by David Clark
Co-presented with Smithsonian Theaters

From the Permian through the Jurassic, journey to the south polar landscapes of Antarctica hundreds of millions of years ago. Roam the primitive forest and thick swamps with bizarre dinosaurs and colossal amphibians. Enter a surreal world of bug-eyed giants and egg-laying mammals—where survival means enduring the sunless, six-month polar winter surrounded by meat-eaters with night vision. Join intrepid Antarctic scientists on a quest to understand the ice continent’s profound transformation—and to predict the future as humans drive dramatic change.

D.C. Premiere | Sat., March 21, 4:00 p.m. | National Air and Space Museum
\$10, reservations required



Dispatches from the Gulf 3: Ten Years after the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill (USA, 2020, 56 min.)

Directed by Marilyn Weiner, Hal Weiner
Co-presented with the National Museum of Natural History and the Gulf of Mexico Research Institute

Has the Gulf of Mexico recovered from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill? As the 10th anniversary of the disaster approaches, an international team of scientists—which has spent nearly that long studying the environmental impact on humans, wildlife, and the ecosystem—assesses the current state of the Gulf, but lingering questions challenge their ability to predict long-term impacts.

World Premiere



PRECEDED BY

The Dolphins of Barataria Bay (USA, 2020, 13 min.)

Directed by Hal Weiner, Marilyn Weiner
The salt marshes and mangroves of Louisiana’s Barataria Bay are fertile nesting grounds and nurseries for birds and fish. Despite being hit hard by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon blowout, these waters teem with hundreds of species of marine animals. The bay is also the permanent home for 1,300 bottlenose dolphins. Unfortunately, they are still suffering health effects from the oil spill. A team of veterinarians, biologists, and wildlife epidemiologists participate in a 10-day mission to evaluate this dolphin community. Their goal is to discover any chronic health issues linked to oil exposure.

World Premiere | Fri., March 20, 7:00 p.m. | National Museum of Natural History
Free, Reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Hal Weiner (co-director), Marilyn Weiner (co-director)

The Dog Doc (USA, 2019, 90 min.)

Directed by Cindy Meehl
Co-presented with the Avalon Theater

As a pioneer of integrative medicine, veterinarian Dr. Marty Goldstein has been called everything from “maverick” to “miracle worker.” Attracting four-legged patients from around the world, Dr. Goldstein’s practice, Smith Ridge Veterinary Center, provides holistic treatment for animals after other vets have given up hope. In *The Dog Doc*, director Cindy Meehl (*Buck*) goes behind the scenes at Smith Ridge to capture the full drama of “Dr. Marty” and his colleagues’ life-changing commitment to wellness and the astounding results they achieve. Filming over a two-and-a-half year period, Meehl’s unobtrusive camera highlights the vulnerability of her subjects—canine and human—while tracking each animal’s progress. *The Dog Doc* combines the touching stories of families with the hard science of integrative care. By casting an intimate lens over this unique world, *The Dog Doc* shows the healing powers of integrative wellness, compassion, and hope.

D.C. Premiere | Sat., March 14, 7:00 p.m. | E Street Cinema
\$10 | Post-screening discussion
Encore Presentation | Sat., March 21, 1:00 p.m. | Avalon Theater
\$13



Dwelling in the Fuchun Mountains (China, 2019, 152 min.)

Directed by Gu Xiaogang
Co-presented with the Freer Gallery of Art

Inspired by the eponymous landscape painting by the Yuan Dynasty master Huang Gongwang, Gu Xiaogang’s debut film—which was given the prestigious closing slot during Critics Week at last year’s Cannes Film Festival—is as ambitious as it is beautiful. Struck by the immense changes that development brought to both the natural environment and the people of his hometown of Fuyang (recently renamed Hangzhou City), Gu shot the film over the course of two years in order to capture the changing of the seasons in the same area that Huang depicts in his painting. Using gorgeously composed shots echoing the perspective and compositions of traditional Chinese art, it tells the story of an extended family adapting to and struggling with the rapid changes affecting their lives. Clarence Tsui raves in *The Hollywood Reporter*, it is “as mesmerizing and immersive as the legendary 14th century landscape painting that inspired it....[i]t’s a vast canvas that stands up to close scrutiny both as a series of snapshots of its characters’ personalities and as the panorama of a society undergoing radical change.”

D.C. Premiere | Sun., March 15, 2:00 p.m. | Freer Gallery of Art
Free, no reservations required



Earth (Austria, 2019, 115 min.)

Directed by Nikolaus Geyrhalter
Co-presented with the Austrian Cultural Forum Washington

Several billion tons of earth are moved annually by humans—with shovels, excavators, or dynamite. Nikolaus Geyrhalter observes people in mines, in quarries, and at large construction sites, engaged in a constant struggle to take possession of the planet.
D.C. Premiere | Tues., March 17, 7:00 p.m. | The Naval Heritage Center
Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Sophia Laggner (producer)
Encore Presentation | Wed., March 18, 7:00 p.m. | Embassy of Austria
Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Sophia Laggner (producer)





Etched in Bone (Australia, 2018, 73 min.) ●

Directed by Martin Thomas, Béatrice Bijon

Co-presented with the National Museum of Natural History

Jacob Nayinggul, an Aboriginal elder from Arnhem Land in northern Australia, knows that bones of his ancestors were stolen by scientists in 1948. For 60 years they were held by the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., as part of a large collection of human anatomy. When the Smithsonian finally agrees to repatriate the bones, Nayinggul creates a new form of ceremony. Wrapped in paperbark, the stolen bones—and with them the ancestors' spirits—are welcomed home and put to sleep in the land where they were born.

U.S. Premiere | Sat., March 14, 4:00 p.m. | National Museum of Natural History

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Martin Thomas (co-director), Joshua Bell (Curator of Globalization, Director of Recovering Voices Program, and Acting Director of the National Anthropological Archives, National Museum of Natural History), and Laurie Burgess (Associate Chair of Anthropology, National Museum of Natural History)



The Falconer (USA, 2020, 75 min.) ●

Directed by Annie Kaempfer

This intimate portrait film follows master falconer Rodney Stotts on his mission to build a bird sanctuary and to provide access to nature for his stressed community. *The Falconer* weaves his present-day mission with the story of his past, both of which are deeply rooted in issues of social and environmental injustice. Stotts's worldview in a nutshell: nature heals. In an oft-forgotten corner of our nation's capital, he takes the time to break through to those too often dismissed as "hard to reach." This is a story of second chances: for injured birds of prey, for an abandoned plot of land, for a group of teenagers who have dropped out of high school, and for the falconer himself.

Sneak Preview | Fri., March 20, 7:00 p.m. | Carnegie Institution for Science

\$10 | Post-screening discussion with Annie Kaempfer (director)



Fantastic Fungi (USA, 2019, 81 min.)

Directed by Louis Schwartzberg

This consciousness-shifting film takes us on an immersive journey through time and scale into the magical earth beneath our feet, which houses an underground network that can heal and save our planet. Through the eyes of renowned scientists and mycologists like Paul Stamets, best-selling authors Michael Pollan, Eugenia Bone, Andrew Weil, and others, we become aware of the beauty, intelligence, and solutions the fungi kingdom offers us in response to some of our most pressing medical, therapeutic, and environmental challenges.

Co-presented with the National Museum of Natural History

Sat., March 14, 7:00 p.m. | National Museum of Natural History

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Kathryn Picard (evolutionary biologist, National Museum of Natural History)

Encore Presentation | Co-presented with the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center

Tues., March 17, 7:15 p.m. | AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center

\$13

Flint (USA/U.K., 2020, 120 min.)

Directed by Anthony Baxter

Trapped in a dystopian nightmare and lied to for years by the very officials who were supposed to protect them, the residents of Flint, Michigan, are victims of the worst man-made disaster in U.S. history. Narrated by Alec Baldwin, *Flint* is the devastating and cautionary story of what happens when a community loses all faith in authority, in science, and in truth itself. In a post-truth world, whom do you turn to when there's no one left to trust?

U.S. Premiere | Presented by the Reva and David Logan Foundation | Sat., March 14, 7:00 p.m. | National Geographic Society

\$10 | Post-screening discussion

Encore Presentation | Co-presented with THEARC Theater, a project of Building Bridges Across The River (BBAR). Panel curated and supported by 11th Street Bridge Park, a project of BBAR

Mon., March 16, 7:00 p.m. | Town Hall Education Arts Recreation Campus (THEARC)

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion



Generation Green New Deal (USA, 2020, 24 min.)

Directed by Sam Eilertsen

Amidst fierce opposition, a youth-led movement fights to tackle the climate crisis and economic inequality. Created by a diverse group of award-winning filmmakers and storytellers with unparalleled behind-the-scenes access to the driving forces behind what many view as greatest political movement in a generation, this documentary digs deep into the Green New Deal, a proposed package of sweeping social and economic reforms aimed at tackling climate change and economic inequality in one fell swoop.

Work in Progress | Sun., March 15, 4:00 p.m. | Carnegie Institution for Science

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion



The Game Changers (USA, 2019, 85 min.)

Directed by Louie Psihoyos

The world of an Ultimate Fighting Championship competitor is turned upside down when a group of world-renowned athletes and scientists demonstrate that most of what he had been taught about protein was a lie. *The Game Changers* was executive produced by James Cameron, Arnold Schwarzenegger, and Jackie Chan.

Sat., March 14, 7:00 p.m. | The Naval Heritage Center

\$10 | Post-screening discussion





The Great Green Wall (U.K., 2019, 90 min.)

Directed by Jared P. Scott

Presented by the Hollomon Price Foundation

Executive Producer Fernando Meirelles (Academy Award-nominated director of *City of God* and *The Constant Gardener*) and Malian musician Inna Modja take us on an epic journey along Africa’s Great Green Wall—an ambitious vision to grow an 8,000-kilometer “wall” of trees stretching across the entire continent to fight back against climate change.

D.C. Premiere | Sat., March 14, 7:00 p.m. | Carnegie Institution for Science

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Jared P. Scott (director)



Haida Modern: The Art and Activism of Robert Davidson (Canada, 2019, 79 min.)

Directed by Charles Wilkinson

Indigenous artist Robert Davidson has become one of the foremost modern artists and cultural activists of the age. In this film, the artist plus art historians, politicians, rock stars, and family members reveal how Robert carved the first totem pole raised in 100 years, sparking a revival of coastal Indigenous culture. We’ll see people from California to Alaska wearing the art on their backs, their homes, and their skins. The film also shows how non-Indigenous citizens are flocking to political rallies led by Indigenous activists fighting the crucial battles of our time. That is the power of Davidson’s 14,000-year-old Haida culture, a culture that just might give Western culture a much needed rethink.

D.C. Premiere | Fri., March 13, 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. | Eaton DC

Free, reservations required



The Hidden Kingdoms of China (U.K., 2020, 88 min.)

Directed by Patrick Morris, Ben Wallis, Emma Fraser, Jess Tombs

Co-presented with the Avalon Theater

China is the world’s most populated country with more than 1.4 billion people inhabiting its vast and extreme wild lands alongside creatures seen nowhere else in the world. Some of its secrets are still undiscovered...until now. Hosted by BAFTA Award-nominated actress Michelle Yeoh (*Crazy Rich Asians*, *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* and *Star Trek: Discovery*), National Geographic’s *The Hidden Kingdoms of China* highlights the nation’s beauty and grandeur, from the highest of mountains and plateaus to its thickest jungles and bamboo forests. With unparalleled access, the epic natural history special introduces viewers to the real-life drama surrounding the snub-nosed monkey, Tibetan fox, snow leopard, and a kaleidoscope of jungle creatures and reveals never-before-seen behavior from the nation’s most iconic animal—the giant panda.

World Premiere | Sat., March 21, 10:00 a.m. | Avalon Theater

\$13

Honeyland (Republic of Macedonia, 2019, 90 min.)

Directed by Ljubomir Stefanov, Tamara Kotevska

Co-presented with the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center

Nestled in an isolated mountain region deep within the Balkans, Hatidze Muratova lives with her ailing mother in a village without roads, electricity, or running water. She’s the last in a long line of wild beekeepers, eking out a living farming honey in small batches to be sold in the closest city—a mere four hours’ walk away. Hatidze’s peaceful existence is thrown into upheaval by the arrival of an itinerant family, with their roaring engines, seven rambunctious children, and herd of cattle. Hatidze optimistically meets the promise of change with an open heart, but it doesn’t take long before a conflict evolves that exposes the fundamental tensions between nature and humanity, harmony and discord, exploitation and sustainability.

Wed., March 18, 7:15 p.m. | AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center

\$13



The Hottest August (Canada, 2019, 95 min.)

Directed by Brett Story

This complex portrait of a city and its inhabitants gives us a window into the collective consciousness of the present. The film’s point of departure is one city over one month: New York City, including its outer boroughs, during August 2017. It’s a month heavy with the tension of a new president, growing anxiety over everything from rising rents to marching white nationalists, and unrelenting news of either wildfires or hurricanes on every coast. The film pivots on the question of futurity: what does the future look like from where we are standing? And what if we are not all standing in the same place? *The Hottest August* offers a mirror onto a society on the verge of catastrophe, registering the anxieties, distractions, and survival strategies that preoccupy ordinary lives.

D.C. Premiere | Co-presented with the National Gallery of Art | Sun., March 15, 4:00 p.m. | National Gallery of Art

Free, no reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Brett Story (director)

Encore Presentation | Co-presented with the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center

Thurs., March 19, 7:15 p.m. | AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center

\$13





Inland Sea (Minatomachi) (Japan, 2018, 122 min.) ●

Directed by Kazuhiro Soda

Co-presented with the Japan Information and Culture Center and the Embassy of Japan

In Ushimado, a small village in Seto Inland Sea, Japan, Wai-chan, at the age of 86, still fishes alone on a small boat to make his living, dreaming about retirement. Kumi-san is an 84-year-old villager who wanders around the shore everyday. She believes a social welfare facility “stole” her disabled son to receive subsidy from the government. A “late-stage elderly” Koso-san runs a small seafood store left by her deceased husband. She sells fish to local villagers and provides leftovers to stray cats. Forsaken by the era of modernization of post-war Japan, Ushimado is rapidly aging and declining. This observational, black-and-white documentary by Kazuhiro Soda (*Campaign, Mental, Oyster Factory*) poetically depicts the twilight days of a village and its people by the dreamlike Inland Sea.

D.C. Premiere | Fri., March 13, 6:30 p.m. | Japan Information and Culture Center, Embassy of Japan

Free, reservations required



Jane Goodall: The Hope (USA, 2020, 88 min.) ●

Directed by Elizabeth Leiter, Kim Woodard

CLOSING NIGHT: Presented by the Reva and David Logan Foundation

Jane Goodall: The Hope celebrates the vast legacy of Dr. Jane Goodall’s four decades of advocacy work for chimpanzees and depicts the next chapter for generations to come. Picking up where National Geographic Documentary Films’ 2017 award-winning *Jane* left off, the special follows Dr. Goodall throughout her robust travels, capturing her relentless commitment and determination to spread a message of hope. The film offers an intimate perspective of Dr. Goodall’s pivotal transformation from scientist to inspirational activist and shows the harrowing obstacles she has faced throughout her remarkable career. Featuring an extensive collection of photographs and footage that spans over seven decades, the documentary illustrates how Dr. Goodall’s passion for wildlife and unshakable drive have persevered, making her one of the most important figures in wildlife conservation and galvanizing a future generation to create lasting change.

World Premiere | Sat., March 21, 7:00 p.m. | National Geographic Society

\$35 | Post-screening discussion | Closing Night party follows—VR available



Kifaru (USA, 2019, 81 min.)

Directed by David Hambridge

Presented by the Reva and David Logan Foundation

The negligent actions of mankind have become the responsibility of a small rhino-caretaker unit at Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya. Follow the extinction of a species through the eyes of two young Kenyan rangers who have knowingly taken on the hopeless mission of caring for the world’s last male northern white rhino, Sudan, and the unwavering commitment they make to provide care, comfort, and compassion for a creature living on borrowed time. With exclusive access to the subject matter, director David Hambridge delivers a never-before-seen glimpse into one of the most discussed global headlines in recent years. *Kifaru* invites the viewers to feel the impact of extinction as the characters experience the loss of the species they’ve devoted their lives to, while providing hope that unprecedented scientific methods can bring the species back from the brink of extinction.

D.C. Premiere | Fri., March 20, 7:00 p.m. | National Geographic Society

\$10 | Post-screening discussion with David Hambridge (director)

Last Call For The Bayou (USA, 2019, 53 min.)

Directed by Dominic Gill

Presented by Restore the Mississippi River Delta

Louisiana’s Delta is a veritable bounty of rich estuarine life, supporting a robust commercial fishing industry, fertile oil fields, millions of migrating waterfowl, and at the heart of it all, the mighty Mississippi—a navigation channel that allows the passage of goods worldwide. It is not an overstatement to say that it is the cradle of the U.S. economy. For this reason, the erosion of Louisiana’s wetlands is one of the greatest environmental threats the United States faces today. Every hour a chunk the size of a football field is lost. Each year 25 square miles of land is gone forever, and without a mitigation strategy, the marine economy, the oil and gas industry, and even the citizens of New Orleans will be seeking refuge elsewhere in 30 years or so.

D.C. Premiere | Sat., March 14, 4:00 p.m. | E Street Cinema

\$10 | Post-screening discussion with Dominic Gill (director), Nadia Gill (producer), Natalie Peyronnin Snider (Senior Director of Coastal Resilience, The Environmental Defense Fund)



Last Wild Places (USA, 2020, 60 min.)

Executive produced by Vanessa Serrao

Through stunning National Geographic imagery and intimate character studies, *Last Wild Places* brings you hopeful stories of conservation from around the world. In Malawi, Montana, Mozambique, and Argentina ambitious rewilding and landscape restoration efforts spur the revival of both the ecosystem and local culture. This film showcases the spectacular places and inspiring people at the heart of large-landscape conservation in the 21st century.

World Premiere | Tues., March 17, 7:00 p.m. | National Geographic Society

\$10 | Post-screening discussion with Vanessa Serrao (executive producer)



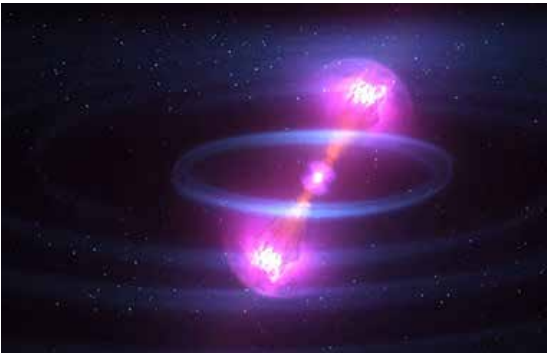
Ligo (USA, 2019, 84 min.)

Directed by Les Guthman

The thrilling inside story of National Geographic’s top “Discovery of the Decade,” the discovery of gravitational waves from deep space, which opened up the 95% of the universe that has been dark to our existing observatories and space telescopes. It’s the violent “warped side” of the universe predicted by Einstein—colliding black holes and crashing neutron stars—but never seen before. A thousand rebel scientists around the world risked their careers on a 50-year, \$1 billion search. The discovery earned the documentary’s three principal characters (including Kip Thorne, executive producer of *Interstellar*), the 2017 Nobel Prize in Physics.

U.S. Premiere | Mon., March 16, 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. | Eaton DC

Free, reservations required





Mossville: When Great Trees Fall (USA, 2019, 76 min.)

Directed by Alexander Glustrom

Mossville, Louisiana, is a shadow of its former self—a community rich in natural resources and history, founded by formerly enslaved people and free people of color—where neighbors lived in harmony, insulated from the horrors of Jim Crow. Today, 14 petrochemical plants surround Mossville, and it is the future site of a new plant being built by South African chemical company Sasol. The community struggles to let go of its ancestral home. At the center of the conflict is a man named Stacey Ryan, who has lost much of his family to cancer and has seen the neighborhood he grew up in demolished to make way for Sasol’s new multibillion dollar project. He views these changes from his parent’s home, a FEMA trailer smack in the middle of where the new Sasol facility is being built—and he refuses to leave. Stacey struggles as his power, water, and sewage are all cut off, and his health continues to decline from ongoing chemical exposure. As Sasol encroaches on citizens’ property with buyout offers, Stacey and other community members have to decide whether to exist in a chemical war zone or abandon land that has been in their families for generations.

D.C. Premiere | Mon., March 16, 7:00 p.m. | The Naval Heritage Center

\$10 | Post-screening discussion

Encore Presentation | Co-presented with Georgetown University’s Environmental Studies and Film & Media Studies Program

Thurs., March 19, 7:00 p.m. | Georgetown University

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion



Museum Town (USA, 2019, 75 min.) ●

Directed by Jennifer Trainer

Co-presented with the National Gallery of Art

In 2017, MASS MoCA became the largest museum for contemporary art in the world—but just three decades before, its vast brick buildings were the abandoned relics of a massive shuttered factory. How did such a wildly improbable transformation come to be? A testament to tenacity and imagination, Jennifer Trainer’s documentary *Museum Town* traces the remarkable story of how a small rural Massachusetts town went from economic collapse to art mecca. Threaded with interviews of a diverse cast—a tattooed curator, a fabricator, a former factory worker, and shopkeepers—the film also looks at the artistic process itself, tracking the work and ideas of celebrated artist Nick Cave as he creates “Until,” his groundbreaking installation at MASS MoCA. With appearances by artists ranging from James Turrell to David Byrne, narration by Meryl Streep, and a soundtrack from John Stirratt of Wilco, *Museum Town* captures the meeting of small-town USA and the global art world as it tells a tale that is, like any great artwork, soulful, thought-provoking, and unforgettable.

D.C. Premiere | Sat., March 21, 2:00 p.m. | National Gallery of Art

Free, no reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Jennifer Trainer (director)

Nomad: In the Footsteps of Bruce Chatwin (U.K., 2019, 85 min.)

Directed by Werner Herzog

Co-presented with National Archives

When Bruce Chatwin was dying of AIDS, his friend Werner Herzog made a final visit. As a parting gift, Chatwin gave Herzog his rucksack. Thirty years later, Herzog sets out on his own journey, inspired by Chatwin’s passion for the nomadic life.

D.C. Premiere | Wed., March 18, 7:00 p.m. | National Archives

Registration recommended, but not required | Post-screening discussion



Nómadas (Nomads) (Mexico, 2020, 81 min.)

Directed by Emiliano Ruprah

Co-presented with the Center for Environmental Filmmaking at American University, the Embassy of Mexico, and the Mexican Cultural Institute

Follow some of the world’s most charismatic animals as they travel to and from Mexico across the span of a year. Using unprecedented access to some of the country’s most protected sights, the film explores the relationship between family members as they battle to survive. Mixing moments of exquisite intimacy with fast-paced action sequences, *Nomads* captures the epic scope of Mexico’s wildlife while it seeks to explain one of the most important themes of our era: migration.

World Premiere | Mon., March 16, 7:00 p.m. | American University—Center for Environmental Filmmaking

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Emiliano Ruprah (director)



Nostalgia for the Light (France/Chile, 2010, 90 min.)

Directed by Patricio Guzmán

Co-presented with the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center

This documentary examines two different searches conducted in the Chilean Atacama Desert: one by astronomers looking for answers about the history of the cosmos and one by women looking for the remains of loved ones killed by Augusto Pinochet’s regime.

This film is part of a three-film retrospective, along with the two later works in the trilogy: *The Pearl Button* (p. 23) and *The Cordillera of Dreams* (p. 10).

Sat., March 14, 3:00 p.m. | AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center

\$13





Nothing Fancy: Diana Kennedy (USA, 2019, 72 min.) ●

Directed by Elizabeth Carroll

Co-presented with the National Museum of Women in the Arts, the Embassy of Mexico, and the Mexican Cultural Institute

This feature-length documentary offers a candid look into the world of 92-year-old British chef and cookbook author Diana Kennedy, widely regarded as the world’s authority on Mexican cuisine. Standing barely five feet tall with a still-thick English accent, Diana is a formidable critic of any individual who doesn’t agree with her subjective views on Mexican culinary traditions—or, God forbid, doesn’t recycle. Diana is a force of nature, living entirely in harmony with it. In 1974, she designed and built her ecologically sustainable property outside Zitácuaro, Michoacán, where she continues to cook, recycle rainwater, use solar power, and grow her own vegetables, coffee, and corn. She is a staunch environmentalist, maintaining a collection of plastic bags she’s reused for a decade.

D.C. Premiere | Sat., March 21, 1:00 p.m. | National Museum of Women in the Arts

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion



Okavango: River of Dreams (Botswana, 2020, 94 min.) ●

Directed by Beverly Joubert, Dereck Joubert

AWARD WINNER: Shared Earth Foundation Award for Advocacy

The Okavango in Southern Africa’s Botswana is one of the greatest rivers on Earth. It starts in the mountains of Angola, but unlike normal rivers, its waters don’t run toward the ocean. Instead, the Okavango flows inland through Angola and into Botswana—only to vanish completely in the Kalahari desert, after a journey of 1,500 kilometers. Lions and leopards, elephants and hippos, warthogs and crocodiles, painted dogs, bush babies, and many more, all thrive and survive here. Filmmakers and National Geographic Explorers at Large Dereck and Beverly Joubert have created an utterly breathtaking example of visual storytelling with rich clarity. Each dazzling closeup of the exotic flora and fauna is truly remarkable, as is the narration by Dereck Joubert himself, accompanying the stunning images.

D.C. Premiere | Thurs., March 12 7:00 p.m. | National Geographic Society

\$35 | Post-screening discussion with directors Beverly and Dereck Joubert | Opening Night party follows—VR available | Tickets limited. Please visit DCEFF.ORG for availability and more information

Encore presentation | Sun., March 22, 6:00 p.m. | The Naval Heritage Center

\$10



Our Gorongosa (Mozambique, 2019, 60 min.)

Directed by James Byrne

Presented by HHMI Tangled Bank Studios

Gorongosa National Park in Mozambique has become one of Africa’s most celebrated wildlife restoration stories. After a decade of renewed protection, Gorongosa’s large mammal population has increased tenfold, to over 100,000 animals. But the park must also find a way to coexist with the 200,000 people living in surrounding communities. Dominique Gonçalves, a young African elephant ecologist, shares the inspiring story of how Gorongosa is becoming a new model for wildlife conservation and community development. By bringing large-scale, long-term health care, agriculture support, and girls’ education to surrounding communities, Gorongosa is redefining the identity and purpose of this national park.

D.C. Premiere | Sat., March 21, 3:30 p.m. | The Naval Heritage Center | Reception follows

\$10 | Post-screening discussion with Jared Lipworth (Executive Producer, HHMI Tangled Bank Studios), Larissa Sousa (Manager for the Girls Education Program in Gorongosa National Park)

Our Oceans: A Journey of Discovery (South Africa, 2019, 90 min.)

Directed by Charlie Luckock

Co-presented with the National Academy of Sciences

Our oceans are in a state of crisis that we’re responsible for. A team of scientists, divers, and photographers set out on a journey along one of the longest, and richest, coastlines in the world. Along the way they unveil three incredible natural phenomena while highlighting the impending threats and promoting the protection of our oceans.

D.C. Premiere | Fri., March 13, 7:00 p.m. | National Academy of Sciences

Free, reservations required



Pariah Dog (USA, 2019, 77 min.)

Directed by Jesse Alk

This lyrical, kaleidoscopic picture of the city of Kolkata, India, is seen through the prism of four outsiders and the neglected street dogs they love. *Pariah Dog* gains intimate access to the lives of its subjects as they both care for the stray animals around them and struggle to find their own place in this crowded megacity.

D.C. Premiere | Sat., March 14, 9:30 p.m. | E Street Cinema

\$10



The Pearl Button (France/Chile, 2015, 82 min.)

Directed by Patricio Guzmán

Co-presented with the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center

The ocean contains the history of all humanity. The sea holds the voices of the Earth and those that come from outer space. Water receives impetus from the stars and transmits it to living creatures. Water, the longest border in Chile, also holds the secret of a mysterious button that was discovered in its seabed. Chile, with its 2,670 miles of coastline, the largest archipelago in the world, presents a supernatural landscape. In it are volcanoes, mountains, and glaciers. In it are the voices of the Patagonian indigenous people, of the first English sailors, and also those of its political prisoners. Some say that water has memory. This film shows that it also has a voice.

This film is part of a three-film retrospective along with the two other films in the trilogy: the earlier *Nostalgia for the Light* (p. 21) and the later *The Cordillera of Dreams* (p. 10).

Sun., March 15, 3:00 p.m. | AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center

\$13





Bonus Screening: The Plastic Problem, presented by PBS NewsHour

(USA, 2019, 54 min.)

Produced by Lorna Baldwin

Co-presented with the National Academy of Sciences

By 2050 there will be more plastic than fish in the oceans. PBS NewsHour takes a closer look at how it’s impacting the world and ways we can break our plastic addiction.

Sun., March 22, 2:00 p.m. | National Academy of Sciences

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Amna Nawaz (producer), Lorna Baldwin (producer)



The Pollinators

(USA, 2018, 93 min.)

Directed by Peter Nelson

Co-presented with the American Conservation Film Festival

This cinematic journey around the United States follows migratory beekeepers and their truckloads of honeybees as they pollinate the flowers that become the fruits, nuts, and vegetables we all eat. The many challenges the beekeepers and their bees face en route reveal flaws in our simplified, chemically dependent agriculture system. Farmers, scientists, chefs, and academics give a broad perspective about the threats to honeybees, what those threats mean to our food security, and how we can improve it.

D.C. Premiere | Tues., March 17, 7:00 p.m. | Carnegie Institution for Science

\$10 | Post-screening discussion with Peter Nelson (director)



Rebuilding Paradise

(USA, 2020, 90 min.)

Directed by Ron Howard

Early in the morning of November 8, 2018, a spark flew into the parched brush of the Sierra Nevada foothills. By nightfall, it had turned into the most destructive wildfire in California’s history. A town called Paradise was burned to the ground. Eighty-five lives were lost. In the fire’s aftermath, Paradise refugees coped with shared trauma, displacement, and uncertainty about the future. Over the course of a year, through sheer grit and determination, they began to rebuild their lives and redefine the meaning of home.

D.C. Premiere | Thurs., March 19, 7:00 p.m. | National Geographic Society

\$10

A Reindeer’s Journey

(Finland/France, 2018, 86 min.)

Directed by Guillaume Maidatchevsky

Co-presented with the Embassy of Finland

Meet Ailo, a newborn reindeer who embarks on an incredible odyssey with the help of his mother. Narrated by Donald Sutherland and set against the frozen majesty of northern Finland, this an uplifting story for the whole family.

D.C. Premiere | Sat., March 21, 3:00 p.m. | Embassy of Finland

Free, reservations required



Sea of Shadows

(Austria, 2019, 104 min.)

Directed by Richard Ladkani

Co-presented with the Austrian Cultural Forum Washington, the Embassy of Italy and the Italian Cultural Institute in Washington, D.C.

AWARD WINNER: Hausman Foundation for the Environment Award for Best International Film

A looming disaster in one of the most spectacular environments on Earth sparks a rescue mission unlike any other. When Mexican drug cartels and Chinese traffickers join forces to poach the rare totoaba fish in the Sea of Cortez, their deadly methods threaten to destroy virtually all marine life in the region, including the most elusive and endangered whale species on Earth, the vaquita porpoise. *Sea of Shadows* follows a team of dedicated scientists, high-tech conservationists, investigative journalists, and courageous undercover agents as well as the Mexican Navy as they put their lives on the line to save the last remaining vaquitas and bring the vicious international crime syndicate to justice. This riveting new documentary from National Geographic Documentary Films won the Sundance Audience Award for World Cinema Documentary.

Fri., March 13, 7:00 p.m. | Carnegie Institution for Science

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion

Encore presentation | Sun., March 22, 4:00 p.m. | The Naval Heritage Center

Free, reservations required



The Seer & The Unseen

(USA/Iceland, 2019, 84 min.) ●

Directed by Sara Dosa

This magic realist documentary about invisible elves, financial collapse, and the surprising power of belief follows Ragga, a grandmother and “seer” who has the ability to communicate directly with a parallel realm of elves—invisible spirits of nature that over half of Iceland believes in. When the elves enlist Ragga to speak on behalf of nature under threat, she begins a journey to protect a lava field set to be razed by road construction—just one of the many needless projects in the wake of Iceland’s financial meltdown in 2008, driven by the “invisible hand of the free market.” Through Ragga’s story, the film explores the invisible forces—be they elves or the market—that shape our world and transform our natural landscapes.

D.C. Premiere | Mon., March 16, 7:00 p.m. | E Street Cinema

\$10





The Serengeti Rules (USA, 2019, 60 min.)

Directed by Nicolas Brown

Presented by HHMI Tangled Bank Studios

Co-presented with the National Museum of Natural History and Jackson Wild

Beginning in the 1960s, a small band of young scientists headed out into the wilderness, driven by an insatiable curiosity about how nature works. Immersed in some of the most remote and spectacular places on Earth—from the majestic Serengeti to the Amazon jungle; from the Arctic Ocean to Pacific tide pools—they discovered a single set of rules that govern all life. Now in the twilight of their eminent careers, these five unsung heroes of modern ecology share the stories of their adventures, reveal how their pioneering work flipped our view of nature on its head, and give us a chance to reimagine the world as it could and should be.

Sun., March 15, 7:00 p.m. | National Museum of Natural History

Free, reservations required

Post-screening discussion with Sean Carroll (author, *The Serengeti Rules*), Ruth Anna Stolk (Founding Executive Director, Smithsonian Conservation Commons)



Sheep Hero (Netherlands, 2019, 81 min.)

Directed by Ton van Zantvoort

Shepherd Stijn has a romantic worldview, but his idealism clashes with the harsh reality of having to be a modern entrepreneur. In this poignant and cinematic documentary, Stijn and his family try to keep the tradition of sheep herding alive. Will his struggle pay off, or will he be forced to go with his flock?

D.C. Premiere | Thurs., March 19, 7:00 p.m. | E Street Cinema

\$10



The Story of Plastic (USA, 2019, 93 min.)

Directed by Deia Schlosberg

Unlike any other plastic documentary you’ve seen, *The Story Of Plastic* presents a cohesive timeline of how we got to our current global plastic pollution crisis and how the oil and gas industry has successfully manipulated the narrative around it.

D.C. Premiere | Fri., March 13, 7:00 p.m. | The Naval Heritage Center

\$10 | Post-screening discussion

Encore presentation | Co-presented with the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars | Fri., March 20, 12:00 p.m. | Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Free, no reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Deia Schlosberg (director)

Stuffed (USA, 2019, 94 min.)

Directed by Erin Derham

Welcome to the surprising and unique world of taxidermy. Through the eyes and hands of passionate renowned artists across the world, *Stuffed* allows the audience to dip into and explore this diverse subculture where sculptors must also be scientists. It is a genre of art, formed by a collection of people who have a fanaticism for nature, matched only by their desire to protect it. They love animals and see life where others see only death. In an unexpected twist, *Stuffed* reveals the importance of preserving nature, using taxidermy as its unlikely vehicle and the taxidermist as its wild driver.

Sun., March 15, 9:30 p.m. | E Street Cinema

\$10



Sustainable Islands (Netherlands, 2019, 73 min.)

Directed by Eef de Graaf

Co-presented with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

The Dutch Wadden Islands and the islands of the Dutch Delta in Zeeland are regarded internationally as pioneer regions for the transition to a more sustainable, zero-emissions future. These islands have launched a number of large-scale projects to realize their ambitions. This film follows several idealists from different walks of life on their long and winding road towards their dreams of “sustainability.”

U.S. Premiere | Wed., March 18, 6:30 p.m. | Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Free, reservations required



Swarm Season (USA, 2019, 86 min.)

Directed by Sarah Christman

On the remote volcanic island of Hawaii, 10-year-old Manu and her mother collect wild, endangered bees in order to breed disease-resistant colonies. Her father is protesting on the sacred mountain Mauna Kea against the establishment of a gigantic telescope. On a neighboring mountain, six NASA scientists practice living on Mars, and under the ground and the water, the Kilauea volcano quivers fatefully. With an artist’s eye for details and plenty of time for amazement, *Swarm Season* draws fascinating parallels between the microcosm and macrocosm and challenges our understanding of nature, the world, and ourselves. If honey bees—one of the most robust and cooperative species on this planet—are threatened with extinction, what future does humanity have on Earth?

D.C. Premiere | Tues., March 17, 7:00 p.m. | E Street Cinema

\$10





A Taste of Sky (USA, 2019, 85 min.)

Directed by Michael Lei

This film delicately details the journey of two students from Gustu, the groundbreaking cooking school and fine-dining restaurant founded by Noma’s Claus Meyer in La Paz, Bolivia. Kenzo, a hunter raised in the Bolivian Amazon, and Maria Claudia, a native of the Andean *altiplano*, have resettled in La Paz in order to pursue a career in the culinary arts. Under the tutelage of Meyer, these young Bolivians work toward a better future as they attempt to establish their country as the world’s next great culinary destination.

Sun., March 15, 4:00 p.m. | The Naval Heritage Center

\$10



Under Thin Ice (Canada, 2019, 88 min.)

Directed by Denis Blaquière

Co-presented with the Embassy of Canada

This film chronicles an extraordinary expedition undertaken by Canadian extreme divers and cinematographers Jill Heinerth and Mario Cyr. In Tallurutiup Imanga, also known as Lancaster Sound in Nunavut, Canada, they dive with belugas and narwhals in the open Arctic Ocean. They venture to Greenland’s Disko Bay to explore the underside of icebergs and to discover the luminescent world of algae. Back to Canada in the Nauyasat region, they swim with walrus and polar bears, the supreme predators of the Arctic. Filmed in stunning 4K, *Under Thin Ice* brings viewers into an awe-inspiring underwater world threatened by melting ice and rapid climate change.

D.C. Premiere | Wed., March 18, 3:00 p.m. | Embassy of Canada

Free, reservations required

Encore Presentation | Wed., March 18, 6:00 p.m. | Embassy of Canada

Free, reservations required



Watson (Australia/USA, 2019, 99 min.) ●

Directed by Lesley Chilcott

Cofounder of Greenpeace and founder of Sea Shepherd, Captain Paul Watson has spent 40 years fighting to end the destruction of the ocean’s wildlife and its habitat. He and his crews have confronted whaling vessels from Europe to the Southern Ocean, seal hunters in Canada, and shark finners in Central America. *Watson* blends revealing contemporary interviews, archival clips of Sea Shepherd’s dramatic encounters, and spectacular underwater nature footage. It paints a fascinating portrait of a man willing to put his own life at risk in a relentless quest to protect the oceans and the marine life within.

D.C. Premiere | Fri., March 20, 7:00 p.m. | The Naval Heritage Center

\$10 | Post-screening discussion with Paul Watson (featured subject; Founder and President, the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society)

The Weight of Water (USA, 2019, 79 min.)

Directed by Michael Brown

Blind adventurer Erik Weißenmayer takes on an absurdly improbable challenge: kayaking the Grand Canyon. He desires the elusive state of being that so many of us seek, to be engaged in the present moment. “It’s so hard to be fully in the moment,” Weißenmayer muses, “because there’s so much fear, there’s so much anxiety, it’s like a person looking through a window at an experience rather than being in the experience.”

D.C. Premiere | Fri., March 13, 7:00 p.m. | E Street Cinema

\$10



The Wild (USA, 2019, 64 min.)

Directed by Mark Titus

An urgent threat emerges to spur filmmaker Mark Titus, who is fresh into addiction recovery, back to the Alaskan wilderness—where the people of Bristol Bay and the world’s largest wild salmon runs face devastation if a massive copper mine is constructed. By suddenly dismantling safeguards the EPA had enacted to protect the salmon, water, and people of Bristol Bay, the current political regime in the United States has unilaterally revived a mining corporation’s relentless pursuit to build North America’s largest open-pit copper mine—directly in the headwaters of the most prodigious wild sockeye salmon run in the world.

D.C. Premiere | Sat., March 14, 4:00 p.m. | Carnegie Institution for Science

\$10 | Post-screening discussion with Mark Titus (director)



The Wind: A Documentary Thriller (Poland/Slovakia, 2019, 75 min.)

Directed by Michal Bielawski

Co-presented with the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden

Thematic content: suicide

There is a place where emotions burst out several times a year, and the life of the local community is changed forever. The halny wind comes in cycles, every spring and autumn. One never knows if or when it will turn into a destructive gale. Halny particularly affects the inhabitants of Zakopane and its area, changing picturesque mountain trails into a set for an untamed performance of a human struggle against destructive forces of nature.

D.C. Premiere | Sun., March 15, 2:00 p.m. | Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden

Free, reservations required

Encore Presentation | Sun., March 22, 2:00 p.m. | Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden

Free, reservations required





Wine Calling (France, 2018, 95 min.)

Directed by Bruno Sauvard

Co-presented with the Embassy of France

A counterculture is shaking up the world of wine. All around the world, joyous rebels have invaded the vineyards to create the wine they love: a natural wine free of codes and norms. While there are more than 3,000 wine growers in France, less than 3 percent of them are working in bio, biodynamic, or natural methods of wine production. For ethical reasons, this relatively small community of wine growers has chosen environmentally friendly farming practices aimed at finding the natural expression of terroir—the full breadth of land, geography, and climate—and the living character of the wine. In the south of France, in the heart of Catalonia, *Wine Calling* follows over a year some of the most exciting of these new wine growers.

D.C. Premiere | Mon., March 16, 7:00 p.m. | Embassy of France

Free, reservations required



Youth Unstoppable (Canada, 2020, 89 min.) ●

Directed by Slater Jewell-Kemker

Over the course of 12 years and set against stunning visuals of a planet in crisis, *Youth Unstoppable* follows the evolution of a diverse network of youth rising up to shape the world they will live in.

World Premiere | Sun., March 15, 7:00 p.m. | Carnegie Institution for Science

\$10 | Post-screening discussion

Co-presented with the Center for Environmental Filmmaking at American University

Thurs., March 19, 7:00 p.m. | American University—Center for Environmental Filmmaking

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion



28TH ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL

SHORTS PROGRAMS



SHORTS:

Climate Connections

The Emergency Brake (Canada, 2019, 4 min.) ●

Directed by Macy How

Inspired by the powerful words of Greta Thunberg, this animated short film by the 2019 class of the Powell River Digital Film School is a collaboration between students who are passionate about the state of their world and future.

U.S. Premiere

The Resilient (Norway, 2019, 28 min.) ●

Directed by Julie Lunde Lillesæter

Follow the drought-stricken Norwegian farmer Einar as he searches for a way to continue the family legacy of dairy farming. After the most difficult season of his life, he travels to Malawi in East Africa to learn from farmers who have been living with the impacts of climate change for more than a decade.

U.S. Premiere

Melted (USA, 2020, 4 min.) ●

Directed by Sierra Quitiquit

Imagine the future of the world if nothing is done to address the global climate crisis. The year is 2098, the ice caps have melted, and all the snow is gone. The world we live in is barren, dry, dystopian, and inhospitable to human life. The pursuit of adventure remains as the protagonists seek the thrill of skiing. Budding filmmaker and professional skier, Sierra Quitiquit makes her directorial debut with this beautiful and emotionally provocative plea to protect what is dearest to her: snow, the natural world, and this beautiful planet.

World Premiere

The Climate Limbo (Italy, 2019, 40 min.) ●

Directed by Elena Brunello, Paolo Caselli, Francesco Ferri

This documentary analyzes how climate change impacts migrations and fuels poverty and wars. By 2050, climate change-related disasters could displace up to 250 million people.

U.S. Premiere

We Will Stay (USA, 2020, 10 min.)

Directed by Francisco Campos-Lopez

Tangier Island, located in the middle of the Chesapeake Bay, has been shrinking because of climate change. Cameron Evans, a young local photographer and crab man, is completely set on a mission to document the life of the island to be remembered for the future and to create awareness about rising sea levels and climate change.

World Premiere

80° North (USA, 2020, 15 min.)

Directed by Brandon Holmes

A group of international artists explore the Arctic island chain of Svalbard. Set against dramatic natural backdrops, the artists share their hopes, fears, and insights on encountering an environment undergoing radical change.

World Premiere

Into the Dark (USA/Norway, 2019, 28 min.)

Directed by Michael O. Snyder

Battling subzero temperatures and 40-foot seas, a team of scientists embark on a perilous winter expedition into the darkest regions of the Arctic. Their mission: to understand how trace amounts of light may be radically altering the mysterious world of the polar night. What they discover has implications for the global climate and the future of the Arctic.

U.S. Premiere

Sat., March 14, 2:00 p.m. | Carnegie Instituion for Science

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Michael O. Snyder (director, *Into the Dark*)



SHORTS:
Community Partners



The Heartbeat (USA, 2020, 10 min.)

Directed by Danny Schmidt

In Alaska’s Kenai Peninsula, salmon is culturally and economically significant. *The Heartbeat* tells the story of how the landscape is connected to salmon and salmon connected to people. Produced by Smithsonian Global.

World Premiere



Perempuan (Indonesia, 2018, 8 min.) ●

Directed by Katie Bryden

All people, regardless of gender, should enjoy the same rights, resources, opportunities, and protections. Meet the women who are standing up for their right to protect the ocean in Conservation International’s original video *Perempuan*. Produced by Conservation International.

D.C. Premiere



Women On a Mission (Peru, 2018, 5 min.)

Directed by Katie Bryden

A young Indigenous woman sets out to document the traditional knowledge of the older women in her community—helping revive nearly forgotten customs as they work to restore their forest after decades of destruction. Produced by Conservation International.

D.C. Premiere



Protecting the Birds of Black River Gorges (USA, 2019, 8 min.)

Executive produced by Vanessa Serrao

The Mauritius kestrel and the echo parakeet were two of the rarest birds in the world, but after decades of conservation efforts, they’re now making a comeback: just a few surviving individuals have turned into hundreds. And while these birds are only found in Black River Gorges National Park in Mauritius, the dedicated efforts to bring them back from the brink is a hopeful example for the world, showing us that it’s never too late to act. Produced by National Geographic.

World Premiere

Saving the Javan Rhino of Ujung Kulon (USA, 2019, 8 min.)

Executive produced by Vanessa Serrao

The Javan rhino is the rarest rhino in the world, and it takes a dedicated and coordinated effort to ensure the survival of this elusive and majestic species. But the task is much more than a day job. Rangers and local community members spend weeks at a time in the forest, patrolling, monitoring, and protecting the rhinos’ remaining habitat in Ujung Kulon National Park, Indonesia. Produced by Conservation International.

World Premiere



Stories from the Blue: Million Waves Project (USA, 2020, 6 min.) ●

Directed by Shannon Shikles

What if doing something was better than doing nothing? That’s the question that sparked the Million Waves Project, which works with Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary to turn marine debris into 3D-printed prosthetic limbs. Watch our *Stories from the Blue* to hear how the project is making a difference for people and the oceans. Produced by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

D.C. Premiere



Homecoming: Journey to Limuw (USA, 2020, 15 min.)

Directed by Nick Zachar

Each year the Chumash people take an annual journey back to their historical village site on Limuw, now present day Santa Cruz Island. Come along as we see, hear, and feel each pull of their paddles, symbolic of how the Chumash people are keeping their traditions alive. Produced by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

D.C. Premiere



Spawning Hope (USA, 2019, 10 min.)

Directed by Roshan Patel

Coral biologists are concerned about the genetic health of many endangered coral. This short film follows a team of scientists as they attempt to use cryopreserved coral sperm to introduce coral DNA to new populations of elkhorn coral. If this technique works, it could have lasting impacts on how conservationists are able to protect and restore endangered coral species from near extinction. Produced by Smithsonian’s National Zoo & Conservation Biology Institute.

D.C. Premiere



Sun., March 15, 2:00 p.m. | Carnegie Institution for Science

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Roshan Patel (director, *Spawning Hope*)



SHORTS:
Conservation I

Uncle Elephant (USA, 2019, 5 min.)

Directed by Jon Bougher

When he was young, Tuy Sereivathana (Vathana) dreamed of working in the forest. Today, his dream is realized in Cambodia’s Prey Lang Forest, where Vathana conserves Asian elephants in collaboration with government partners and the Indigenous Kuy community.

D.C. Premiere

Mad World (South Africa 2019, 3 min.)

Directed by Beverly Joubert, Dereck Joubert, Candice Odgers

This public service announcement explores humanity’s relationship with Earth, overlaying protest art with iconic footage.

World Premiere

Bang Bang (South Africa, 2019, 3 min.) ●

Directed by Beverly Joubert, Dereck Joubert, Candice Odgers

This PSA juxtaposes a sixties pop song and haunting images of elephants.

World Premiere

Eyes in the Forest (USA, 2019, 19 min.)

Directed by Ryan Ffrench

The Amazon was the first victim of the peace process in Colombia. Since the demobilization of the FARC guerilla group in 2017, deforestation rates have spiked by more than 40 percent as illegal loggers exploit the power vacuum left behind by the rebels. Today the country is losing approximately 32 soccer fields of virgin forest every hour. Eyes in the Forest follows an expedition into these contested territories with Angélica Diaz-Pulido, a camera trap expert from Instituto Humboldt, and Jorge Ahumada, director of Wildlife Insights, a revolutionary new platform for analyzing camera-trap data. Angélica and the Wildlife Insights team are racing against the dark forces behind Colombia’s deforestation to understand and protect the country’s incredible biodiversity—before it is too late.

March of the Newts (USA, 2019, 5 min.)

Directed by David Herasimtschuk

Follow one of the forest’s funkiest creatures into a gathering of amphibious affection... and learn how you can help protect these sensitive animals from an emerging disease.

D.C. Premiere

Forgotten but Not Gone: The Pacific Fisher (USA, 2019, 8 min.)

Directed by Morgan Heim

Discover a world of drugs, the timber industry, and a controversial decision not to list Pacific fisher under the Endangered Species Act. This story pulls back the veil on the lead-up to that surprise decision and what it means for the future of the Pacific fisher.

D.C. Premiere

The Golden Lion Tamarins of Poco Das Antas (USA, 2019, 8 min.)

Executive produced by Vanessa Serrao

The golden lion tamarin becomes a beacon of hope for the Atlantic Forest habitat in Brazil, as conservationists continue a more than 30-year effort to save the species by connecting its fragmented habitat with a wildlife bridge.

World Premiere

The Rescue Center (USA, 2020, 11 min.) ●

Directed by Nikki Dodd

Set against the backdrop of the illegal wildlife trade, *The Rescue Center* offers a glimpse into the daily activities of Cikananga Wildlife Center in Indonesia. Cikananga operates on the front lines of the wildlife crisis, rescuing animals from an abusive multibillion-dollar global industry. Victims of the trade are captured from the wild, often as babies, and sold as pets, bushmeat, dancing monkeys, or ingredients in traditional Chinese medicine. Animal keeper Ade Solihin has been working at Cikananga for eight years. Growing up in a poor family, Ade never had grand dreams, but working at Cikananga gives him a way to support his children, just as it gives the animals he cares for a second chance at life.

World Premiere

Cries of Our Ancestors (Guinea, 2020, 17 min.) ●

Directed by Kalyanee Mam, Rebecca Kormos

In the highlands of Guinea, people and chimpanzees live peacefully side by side. Myths and stories—and a mutual respect for one another—have preserved this relationship for generations. Now, however, both people and chimpanzees are being pushed out of their homes by bauxite mining, which risks killing thousands of chimpanzees and displacing tens of thousands of people. Once sharing the same water source and fruits from the land, both now struggle to survive. Guinea has the largest population of chimpanzees in West Africa. Protecting their home in Guinea is one of their last chances of survival.

World Premiere

Sat., March 14, 2:00 p.m. | The Naval Heritage Center

Free | reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Jorge Ahumada (Senior Wildlife Conservation Scientist, Moore Center For Science, Conservation International)



SHORTS:
Conservation II

Protecting Nature for Good (USA, 2020, 6 min.)

Produced by Neil Losin, Nathan Dappen, Jill Schwartz

How a massive, big-picture approach to conserve Brazil’s Amazon helped define a new way to save nature.

World Premiere

Our Own House (USA, 2020, 22 min.) ●

Directed by Jeremy Kaplan, Vanessa Bergonzoli, Tyler Robinson

The locals in Punta Gorda, a small remote town in southern Belize, remember a time without electricity, roads, and plastics. Amidst the influx of single-use plastics, an activist and his neighbors confront the threat to their piece of paradise.

World Premiere

Kipatsi, Nija, Añaantsi (Land, Water, Life) (USA,/Peru, 2019, 11 min.)

Directed by Murat Eyuboglu

This film follows a number of Ashaninka communities in the Peruvian Andes as they pay tribute to their sacred sites.

D.C. Premiere

Preserving the Páramo of Chingaza (USA, 2019, 10 min.)

Executive produced by Vanessa Serrao

The páramo ecosystem in Colombia’s Chingaza National Park makes life in Bogotá possible. Government and non-government organizations are coordinating efforts to test water sources, monitor plants and animals, manage ecotourism, and educate the public about the páramo and its vital connection to Bogotá.

World Premiere

This Land (USA, 2020, 10 min.) ●

Directed by Chelsea Jolly, Whitney Hassett

Accompanied by running companions who represent diverse perspectives in what it means to be a public land owner, runner and advocate Faith E. Briggs assesses what is at stake if previously protected lands are reduced and if the public is largely unaware.

D.C. Premiere

From Kurils with Love (USA, 2020, 25 min.) ●

Directed by Taylor Rees

A scrappy Russian marine mammal biologist unexpectedly hitchhikes aboard a boat filled with adventure junkies.

D.C. Premiere

Sun., March 15, 2:00 p.m. | The Naval Heritage Center

Free, reservations required

SHORTS:
Conservation Center Stage:
Films by Eric Bendick & Joe Flannery

Co-presented with the U.S. Department of the Interior

Legacy (USA, 2019, 18 min.)

Directed by Joe Flannery

For almost 150 years, the contributions of Chinese railroad workers to the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad was forgotten and ignored. Set on Donner Pass within the Tahoe National Forest, *Legacy* documents their story and legacy.

D.C. Premiere

The Last Herd (USA, 2018, 22 min.)

Directed by Joe Flannery

In the contiguous United States, wild bison are no longer free-roaming. With low natural mortality rates, the few wild herds that do exist are annually culled or fenced in to control their population. Others, such as those in Yellowstone National Park, are rounded up when they leave park boundaries to prevent the spread of brucellosis, a disease that may be transmitted to cattle. The Henry Mountains bison represent the last genetically pure and brucellosis-free herd that roams over a large area—over 385,000 acres without fences, culling, or roundups. This independent conservation film documents shows how free-roaming bison and private interests can co-exist.

D.C. Premiere

The Sentinels (USA, 2020, 28 min.)

Directed by Eric Bendick

“Sentinels” are those who stand guard, watch over, and look ahead. Today, a new corps of sentinels is emerging across the American landscape to steward and defend the last pristine landscapes from disappearing in a tidal wave of urbanization and land conversion. They fight for clean air, clear water, and the freedom to roam for both people and wildlife. They also play a vital and unheralded role in protecting our national security. *The Sentinels* tells the diverse stories of the guardians living, working, and training in our “Sentinel Landscapes”—installations recognized by the U.S. Department of Defense for both exemplary ecological value and strategic military importance.

World Premiere

Fri., March 13, 6:30 p.m. | U.S. Department of the Interior

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Eric Bendick (director, *The Sentinels*), Joe Flannery (director, *The Last Herd* and *Legacy*)



SHORTS:
Hope on the Hudson:
Films by Jon Bowermaster



Farmscape Ecology (USA, 2020, 26 min.)

Directed by Jon Bowermaster

Farming is ever-evolving. Today, when we think about what’s to come next for farmers, a key question is, “How do we produce food and still maintain a livelihood for farmers, while respecting the needs of other organisms with which we share the land?” Recent biodiversity decline can be partially attributed to the impacts of farming. For the past several years a small team of ecologists, herpetologists, micro-biologists, ornithologists, hydrologists, and farmers in New York’s Hudson Valley have been trying to answer the question, “Can wildlife and farming co-exist?”

World Premiere

PRECEDED BY

A Living River (USA, 2019, 24 min.)

Directed by Jon Bowermaster

The Hudson River Valley has been called America’s Serengeti, for the abundance of wildlife in what many wrongly consider to be a “dead” river—including 14-foot sturgeon, glass eels that commute from the Sargasso Sea, hundreds of thousands of spawning herring, and blue crabs.

D.C. Premiere

Sat., March 21, 1:30 p.m. | The Naval Heritage Center

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Jon Bowermaster (director)

SHORTS:
International Portraits

Sand Castles (Spain, 2019, 4 min.)

Directed by Markel Redondo

Spain was one of the countries most affected by the European economic crisis in 2008, leaving behind a desolate landscape of thousands of abandoned houses throughout its territory. Ten years later, the landscape is still shocking.

U.S. Premiere

Diary of Cattle (Indonesia, 2019, 18 min.) ●

Directed by David Darmadi, Lidia Afrilita

Every morning hundreds of cows are herded to a landfill site where they eat, nap, play, and mate while having to keep themselves safe from the excavators and bulldozers that plow around the site. If not careful, a cow might be killed by the heavy machines or trapped under tons of trash. Despite all the risks, this practice has been around for many years because it saves the owners the trouble of looking for pasture; instead, they rely on human food waste to feed their animals. Some cows even spend the night there because the owner lives far from the site. Regardless of their differences, all these rubbish-eating cows will share the same destiny under the butcher’s knife.

U.S. Premiere

A Fistful of Rubbish (Spain, 2019, 14 min.)

Directed by David Regos

A Western environmental documentary, *A Fistful of Rubbish* is set in the Tabernas Desert in Spain—Europe’s only desert. An area known for being the backdrop of many famous Western films, it is sadly being trashed. But now, with the help of some locals, an English expatriate is forming a posse and taking things into his own hands.

D.C. Premiere

Riafn (Italy, 2019, 30 min.)

Directed by Hannes Lang

This cinematic journey into the soundscape of the Alps condenses idiom, song, as well as calls and commands of shepherds to create a musical film between artistic ideal and documentarian realism.

D.C. Premiere

Gold of Cajamarca (France, 2019, 16 min.)

Directed by Alexandre Regol

This short, handcrafted 16mm documentary examines the fights against one of Colombia’s biggest open-sky gold-mine projects. *Gold of Cajamarca* is a black-and-white ballad through Tolima’s green mountains in the Colombian Andes, talking to Cajamarca’s valley inhabitants. On the surface lie green fertile lands and peaceful agriculture. But hidden under the ground, invisible fields of gold could reshape this whole world.

D.C. Premiere

Sun., March 15, 12:00 p.m. | E Street Cinema

Free, reservations required



Special Screening: The Love Bugs

The Love Bugs (USA, 2019, 34 min.) ●

Directed by Maria Clinton, Allison Otto

Co-presented with the National Museum of Natural History

Over the course of 60 years, two married entomologists traveled to more than 67 countries and quietly amassed the world’s largest private collection of insects, with more than one million specimens. But as they grapple with Parkinson’s and their twilight years, these two soulmates—married for 55 years—decide to give the collection away. This humorous and poignant documentary explores the love of nature—and the nature of love—and what it means to devote oneself completely to both.

D.C. Premiere | Sun., March 15, 4:00 p.m. | National Museum of Natural History

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Allison Otto (co-director) and Floyd Shockley (Collections Manager of Entomology, National Museum of Natural History)



SHORTS: The Eric Moe Award for Best Short on Sustainability

Established for the 2014 Festival by Julia and Richard Moe in memory of their son, Eric, to honor his strong interest in film and his commitment to sustainability, the Eric Moe Award for Best Short on Sustainability recognizes a short film for its inventive solutions to balancing the needs of humans and nature. The award includes a \$5,000 cash prize.

The Love Bugs (USA, 2019, 34 min.) ●

Directed by Allison Otto, Maria Clinton

Over the course of 60 years, two married entomologists traveled to more than 67 countries and quietly amassed the world’s largest private collection of insects, with more than one million specimens. But as they grapple with Parkinson’s and their twilight years, these two soulmates—married for 55 years—decide to give the collection away. This humorous and poignant documentary explores the love of nature—and the nature of love—and what it means to devote oneself completely to both.

D.C. Premiere



Bare Existence (Canada, 2019, 20 min.)

Directed by Max Lowe

A behind-the-scenes look into the plight of the polar bear, *Bare Existence* focuses on the biologists on the front lines of protecting these animals as they battle against the effects of climate change threatening their existence. This film presents a drastic cry for immediate attention and instills the viewer with hope, illuminating present-day efforts for a brighter future.

D.C. Premiere

Where Life Begins (USA, 2020, 10 min.) ●

Directed by Katie Schuler

Explore the inseparable bond between mother and child as well as the sacred and fragile moments after birth and the importance of protecting the Arctic Coast, at the northernmost point on American soil.

Uniontown (USA, 2019, 16 min.)

Directed by Fraser Jones

AWARD WINNER: The Eric Moe Award for Best Short on Sustainability

This film weaves together the unheard individual narratives of grassroots organizers in Uniontown, Alabama, as they fight to take the town back from the hands of industrial polluters and complacent politicians in the midst of a high-stakes local election.

D.C. Premiere

Mon., March 16, 7:00 p.m. | National Geographic Society

\$10 | Post-screening discussion with Fraser Jones (director, *Uniontown*), Katie Schuler (director, *Where Life Begins*), Allison Otto (co-director, *The Love Bugs*), Max Lowe (director, *Bare Existence*), Esther Calhoun (Former President, Black Belt Citizens),

Encore presentation | Sun., March 22, 2:00 p.m. | The Naval Heritage Center

\$10



SHORTS:
Narrative



Butterflies (Israel, 2019, 8 min.)

Directed by Yona Rozenkier

It's another Sunday in April on a kibbutz in the north of Israel. When a natural phenomenon occurs, a family takes an impromptu ride—maybe the last one.

D.C. Premiere



Dimo's Forest (Bulgaria/France, 2018, 24 min.)

Directed by Hristo Simeonov

Dimo is a forest ranger in a Bulgarian mountain village; he is used to wielding his authority in order to protect the state forest he fosters and guards from being damaged. But wood is a resource coveted by many: as firewood by the poorest of the village as well as by the mayor, who is logging illegally and wants to get more out of the forest than Dimo can approve. When Dimo witnesses an illegal wood transport, he is confronted with his helplessness.

U.S. Premiere



Traces (Belgium, 2019, 12 min.)

Directed by Sébastien Pins

A horse logger and his horse take us deep into a forest in the Ardennes as the seasons go by, living his passion under the gaze of a strange young girl. The man will teach her his passion of draft-horse logging: this is a film about the idea of passing down traditions and how some encounters can lead to a life's calling. The short film *Traces* shows today's youth as the main force of the preservation of our forests. It also highlights the emotional symbiosis between man, the animal, and the forest.

D.C. Premiere



Ani Wa Sa (We Are One) (USA, 2020, 28 min.) ●

Directed by Lindsay Branham, Andrew Michael Ellis

Garamba National Park is globally recognized as ground zero in Africa's poaching wars. Fewer than 1,200 elephants remain. Two brothers who come from a line of Zande hunters pursue protecting their forest from diametrically opposed avenues: one through tradition and the other as part of Garamba's militarized ranger team. Though their relationship has fractured, an advancing rebel group poses a mutual threat, and they may need each other to protect Congo's people and animals for generations to come. This film is being used in an innovative on-the-ground mobile cinema effort in central Africa to bring communities together to dialogue about using conservation and human security to protect both people and animals in this fragile and interdependent ecosystem.

World Premiere

Sat., March 14, 1:00 p.m. | Eaton DC

Free, reservations required

SHORTS:
Newsmakers

What Can Be Saved: Vanishing Venezuela (Venezuela, 2020, 13 min.)

Directed by the Associated Press

Scientists in Venezuela persevere in their quest to study fragile alpine ecosystems as the country's only glacier quickly disappears and their country is in chaos.

World Premiere



Green Gold? (U.K., 2020, 26 min.) ●

Directed by Nicky Milne

As the global demand for the super food avocados has soared, Chile has become the world's third-largest exporter of avocados. But the community of Petorca, Chile, say drought—and the insatiable appetite for avocados—has brought desperate water shortages. This film explores a quiet water war. Allegations of water theft, of exploitation, and of death threats against those who speak out are rife. “When you export our avocados, you export our water,” says one community member. The government says it is bringing change, but as exports continue to grow, *Green Gold?* explores an uncomfortable global moral dilemma.

World Premiere



Open Water (U.K., 2019, 16 min.)

Directed by Danny McDougall

The perfect storm of a changing climate and the rapid encroachment of the modern age has dramatically impacted the Arctic people—forcing them to cope with change beyond their immediate control in the present—not the future. The short film *Open Water* is a triptych narrative, based on the lives of three Greenlanders: a hunter, a ship's captain, and a fisherman, individuals whose very existence and heritage is intertwined with the Arctic Ocean. On a warming planet, open water, an ocean without ice, offers both economic opportunity for fishermen in terms of access to halibut grounds in winter and a longer tourism season, but also cultural decay in terms of traditional ways of life.

U.S. Premiere



In Dry Water (USA, 2019, 14 min.)

Directed by Kevin Clancy

Adama and Adja have a problem on their hands. Their country, Senegal, is running out of fish. As foreign trawlers and climate change cripple their stocks, the friends face a choice: Stay or follow the same trail as the fish.



Death of a Species (Canada, 2020, 12 min.)

Directed by Nicolas Pollock

Snails in Hawaii are disappearing at a faster rate than any other animal on the planet. Meet the scientists fighting for their survival.

World Premiere

Sat., March 14, 12:00 p.m. | E Street Cinema

Free, reservations required



SHORTS:
Our Rivers



The River Guards (USA, 2020, 20 min.)

Directed by Aaron Kalischer-Coggins

Faced with the enormous environmental and health crisis of a contaminated river and city, a dedicated community of grassroots activists have fought against corporate negligence and government bureaucracy for over 30 years. Discover how they are dealing with the uncertain future.

World Premiere

By the River (USA, 2019, 5 min.) ●

Directed by Keely Kernan

Pastor Harry Joseph focuses on his community and church, Mount Triumph Baptist, in St. James Parish, Louisiana, a community that lies in the chemical corridor region of the Mississippi River.

D.C. Premiere

Nibi Walk (USA, 2020, 4 min.) ●

Directed by Keely Kernan

Sharon Day is an Anishinaabe elder and the leader of the Nibi (Water) Walks, an extended ceremony to heal and honor water. She has led several long-distance water walks throughout the United States and has walked the entire length of the Mississippi River, the Ohio River, the Missouri River, the Great Lakes, and several small tributaries, creeks, and streams. The short film follows Sharon as she walks along tributaries of the Mississippi River in northern Minnesota.

World Premiere

What the River Made (USA, 2019, 5 min.) ●

Directed by Keely Kernan

Ryan Lambert from St. Charles Parish, Louisiana, shares his thoughts on how man-made influences have fundamentally altered the Mississippi River and its delta. While on a journey through Bayou Pompadour in southern Louisiana, we see how land loss has transformed the landscape and culture.

D.C. Premiere



A Living River (USA, 2019, 24 min.)

Directed by Jon Bowermaster

The Hudson River Valley has been called America’s Serengeti, for the abundance of wildlife in what many wrongly consider to be a “dead” river—including 14-foot sturgeon, glass eels that commute from the Sargasso Sea, hundreds of thousands of spawning herring, and blue crabs.

D.C. Premiere

Nassawango Legacy (USA, 2019, 15 min.)

Directed by Sandy Cannon-Brown, David Harp; produced by Tom Horton

This film pays tribute to Joe and Ilia Fehrer and their beloved Nassawango Creek. The Fehrers were environmentalists before anyone understood what that meant and were harassed for their activism. But their stewardship and advocacy led to the purchase and protection of 1100 acres in Maryland by the Nature Conservancy.

D.C. Premiere

Sun., March 15, 1:00 p.m. | Eaton DC

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Aaron Kalischer-Coggins (director, *The River Guards*)





SHORTS:
Profiles & Perspectives I

Detroit Hives (USA, 2019, 6 min.) ●

Directed by Rachel Weinberg, Palmer Morse

Tim Paule and Nicole Lindsey are a young couple who run an urban bee farm in East Detroit to create opportunities for young Detroit natives to overcome adversity. Detroit ranks fourth in the United States for the most vacant housing lots, with well over 90,000 empty lots to date. In an effort to address this issue, Detroit Hives has been purchasing vacant lots and converting them into buzzing bee farms. *Detroit Hives* explores the importance of bringing diversity to beekeeping and rebuilding inner-city communities one hive at a time.

D.C. Premiere



Golden (USA, 2018, 8 min.)

Directed by Charles Post

Peering out her tall bedroom windows at the highway below, Caitlin Davis dreamed of life as an ecologist. When she saw mountains for the first time on a backpacking trip after college, her fate was sealed. Today, in Idaho's demanding sagebrush country, the raptor biologist spends her days rappelling into golden eagle nests to study how human impact affects their reproduction and productivity.

D.C. Premiere

Constant Thought (USA, 2019, 14 min.)

Directed by Matt Mikkelsen, Palmer Morse

When the traditional methods of coping with trauma don't work, what options do you have left? Brandon Kuehn, an Iraq War veteran, believes the best way to face a range of trauma is to reach for literal physical summits—and he isn't alone. Outdoor therapy is a growing field that is helping people like Brandon who struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder. *Constant Thought* is an intimate portrayal of Brandon and his attempt to walk the 2,650 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail. The film also underscores how stress of any kind can be soothed by both using and preserving the lands Brandon fought to protect.

D.C. Premiere

Paradise (USA, 2019, 20 min.)

Directed by Erik Petersen

An unlikely environmentalist, Bryan Wells finds himself standing between Yellowstone National Park and an industrial-scale gold mine. The proposed mine would sit just above his home, and it threatens not only America's most iconic national park but also his community's way of life.

D.C. Premiere



ADAPTATION: Kentucky (USA, 2020 12 min.) ●

Directed by Alizé Carrère

Despite the growing persistence of environmental change, human resourcefulness remains alive and well as people across the globe experiment with innovative adaptive methods on the ground. In *ADAPTATION: Kentucky*, scientist and National Geographic Explorer Alizé Carrère travels to a small town in western Kentucky to meet Angie Yu, a Chinese-American woman who is turning the Mississippi River's invasive Asian carp problem into an environmental and economic triumph. While Americans may want nothing to do with this bony fish, one man's trash has now become another man's treasure.

World Premiere

Connection (USA, 2020, 8 min.) ●

Directed by Ciara Lacy, Tracy Nguyen-Chung

A lifelong angler, Autumn Harry had never fished beyond the waters of her reservation—until she picked up a fly rod.

D.C. Premiere

Chasing Ghosts (USA, 2020, 16 min.)

Directed by Eric Bendick

Deep in remote Florida swamps, a team of researchers and photographers have made a new discovery that upends what we thought we knew about the ghost orchid, one of the world's most iconic flowers, and its method of reproduction. In their quest to identify the pollinator of the ghost orchid for the first time, this team spent three summers standing waist deep in alligator- and snake-laden water, swatting mosquitoes that blackened the air, and climbing to sometimes nausea-inducing heights. They came away with an even deeper love for Florida's wildest wetlands—and surprising revelations that may help to conserve both the endangered orchid and its shrinking home.

D.C. Premiere

Sat., March 14, 2:00 p.m. | E Street Cinema

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Eric Bendick (director, *Chasing Ghosts*)



SHORTS:
Profiles & Perspectives II



Street Surfers (South Africa, 2019, 9 min.)

Directed by Arthur Neumeier

Frank Solomon, a big wave surfer and marine activist from Cape Town, South Africa, travels to meet two exceptional men, Thabo and Mokete, who indirectly serve the environment through recycling as a means of income. *Street Surfers* is the untold story of new friendships, shared experiences, and common interests between individuals who are worlds apart.

D.C. Premiere



There’s Something in the Water (USA, 2018, 8 min.)

Directed by Rory WT

There’s two kinds of lakes in the South: them that’s got giant salvinia and them that’s about to have giant salvinia. Caddo Lake is the only natural lake in Texas, but its delicate ecosystem is threatened by a seemingly unstoppable invasive species of floating fern: giant salvinia.

D.C. Premiere



Ice Ball (Australia, 2020, 14 min.)

Directed by Nathaniel Schmidt

Will Steger’s life work grew out of a single log cabin he built after moving to the Minnesotan wilderness at age 25. Reliant on sustainable energy and natural commodities, he formed a community and culture based on the principle of mutuality. Central to Steger’s operation is the lost art of cutting ice for refrigeration. This annual harvest formed a tradition spanning 50 years that became known as the “Ice Ball.” While this old-world technology inevitably became obsolete, its disappearance parallels a concerning loss of social interdependence in modern society. The film portrays human innovation and interconnection that embodies one man’s attempt to move society forward without leaving the past behind.

World Premiere



Dee Molenaar | My Friends Were Mountaineers (USA, 2019, 14 min.)

Directed by Eric Becker

A living alpine legend and prolific artist revisits his favorite mountain on his 100th birthday.

D.C. Premiere

One Word Sawalmem (USA, 2019, 18 min.) ●

Directed by Natasha Deganello Giraudie, Michael “Pom” Preston

One word ripples outward, vibrating with healing power: Sawalmem, meaning “sacred water.” For Winnemem Wintu young man Michael “Pom” Preston, Sawalmem represents a vital vision for healing the world and for healing from the legacy of the Shasta Dam that, since the 1940s, has harmed salmon and the Sacramento River and the Winnemem Wintu people of Shasta Mountain, California. Violating state law and posing a risk to Northern California’s water supply and the Winnemem Wintu people, a Shasta Dam raise is being fast-tracked by the Trump administration. Michael’s mother, Chief Caleen Sisk, speaks out and organizes Run4Salmon, an annual 300-mile prayerful journey. Michael dances in tribal ceremonies to stay strong in this latest battle as a warrior for Sawalmem. The spiritual is political.

D.C. Premiere



Venture Out (USA, 2020, 15 min.)

Directed by Jamie DiNicola, Palmer Morse, Matt Mikkelsen

This film tells a story of overcoming odds, the power of resilience, and ultimately, the everlasting effects of LGBTQ community building. The Venture Out Project (TVOP), founded by Perry Cohen, is a nonprofit organization that brings LGBTQ folks together outdoors on wilderness trips. In sharing Perry’s story and hearing from the other TVOP participants, we get a glimpse into the healing qualities of nature and life-saving community bonds that are being forged as a result of Perry’s work.

D.C. Premiere



Shoulders Deep (USA, 2020, 8 min.)

Directed by John Fiege

Aniya Wingate is a radiant and talented 17-year-old African American dancer from Houston, who was displaced from her home for half a year by Hurricane Harvey. *Shoulders Deep* translates her experience of displacement through dance, poetry, and performance.

World Premiere



Sun., March 15, 2:00 p.m. | E Street Cinema

Free, reservations required

SHORTS:
Student Cinema



Felicia: The Life of an Octopus Fisherwoman (Mexico, 2019, 11 min.)

Directed by José Carlos Pons

This short film sheds light on the life of one woman, whose story aims to provide a firsthand experience of the vicious link between poverty and environmental degradation in developing countries like Madagascar. As an orphan and later as a mother, Felicia turns to the sea as a means for sustenance, even when migration, commercial trawling, and cultural loss make small-scale fishing an increasingly challenging way of life.



INBUILT—A Question Of Environment & Price (Switzerland, 2019, 17 min.) ●

Directed by Nadine Widmer

As traditional farmers, Roland and his father Robert face constant criticism that their farm pollutes the environment. Between detached family houses and the motorway, they seek a balance between ecological food production methods and their economic survival.

U.S. Premiere

Poison Is the Wind (USA, 2020, 14 min.) ●

Directed by Crystal Berg

The Africatown neighborhood of Mobile, Alabama, is more than a place. Founded as a home away from home by West Africans brought to the United States in an illegal slave trade, the community continues to be a steadfast symbol of independence and perseverance.

World Premiere



All That Remains (USA, 2019, 20 min.) ●

Directed by Eva Rendle

A year after wildfires ravaged Northern California’s wine country, its vulnerable population of farmworkers, many of them undocumented, find themselves in a heightened state of insecurity and inequality. *All That Remains* follows the second responders and vineyard workers who are still dealing with the aftermath of the fires long after the media has turned away.

D.C. Premiere

Punjab: Land of the Five Drying Rivers (USA, 2020, 33 min.) ●

Directed by Sirjaut Dhariwal

A matriarch in her 90s recounts her experiences with the introduction of genetically modified organisms to her homeland. Using her farming village as a case study, the film explores the social and environmental degradations wrought by seeds forced onto the people of northwest India.

World Premiere



Sat., March 21, 1:00 p.m. | Eaton DC

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Sirjaut Dhariwal (director, *Punjab: Land of the Five Drying Rivers*)



28TH ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL

FILMMAKER SPOTLIGHTS



Films by Jared Flesher

Pine Mud (USA, 2020, 58 min.)

Directed by Jared Flesher

In the vast Pinelands National Reserve of southern New Jersey, powerful vehicles topple protected sand dunes and drive circles through ancient ponds. “Off-roading” has grown more popular in the reserve, especially now that smartphones can help anyone navigate the winding trails of the deep forest. But to lump all off-roaders together would be unfair. In addition to those who use their vehicles for illegal destruction, others drive carefully on hundreds of miles of unpaved sand trails, an activity that remains perfectly legal.

Sat., March 14, 3:00 p.m. | Eaton DC

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Jared Flesher (director)

PRECEDED BY

Selections from the Creature Show

World Premiere



Films by Sandy Cannon-Brown & David Harp

Nassawango Legacy (USA, 2019, 15 min.) ●

Directed by Sandy Cannon-Brown, David Harp. Produced by Tom Horton

This film pays tribute to Joe and Ilia Fehrer and their beloved Nassawango Creek. The Fehrers were environmentalists before anyone understood what that meant and were harassed for their activism. But their stewardship and advocacy led to the purchase and protection of 1100 acres in Maryland by the Nature Conservancy.

D.C. Premiere



A Voice for the Rivers: The Riverkeepers of Maryland's Eastern Shore (USA, 2019, 30 min.) ●

Directed by Sandy Cannon-Brown, David Harp

Professional and citizen river keepers monitor and protect the rivers of Maryland's Eastern Shore. The film is a tribute to the beauty of our rivers and to the individuals dedicated to protecting and preserving these living treasures.

D.C. Premiere

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with filmmakers Sandy Cannon-Brown and David Harp

Sun., March 15, 3:00 p.m. | Eaton DC

Films by Taylor Graham

The Women of Kunda Basti (USA, 2020, 9 min.)

Directed by Taylor Graham

Set during the blistering heat of summer in Jaipur, Rajasthan, *The Women of Kunda Basti* follows the lives of three women in an urban slum, where the burden of collecting and often fighting for water is carried by the community's mothers and daughters. As the film follows the women through a single day in the Kunda Basti slum, it highlights the ways in which each takes action to better her community.

World Premiere

Mahakali (USA, 2018, 11 min.)

Directed by Taylor Graham

A group of Indian whitewater kayakers complete a first, and likely final, descent of the dam-threatened Mahakali River. As they say goodbye to an unparalleled stretch of river, they take heart in local community members' full-throated opposition as they fight for the preservation of their homes and livelihoods.

U.S. Premiere

Kumik and the Glacier (USA, 2020, 3 min.)

Directed by Taylor Graham

Meme Falchung, the oldest person in Kumik (a hillside community in northwest India), has watched through the years as the glacier above his village melts away. Now, as Meme reaches the end of his life and the villagers of Kumik make plans to move their community from its centuries-old location, local monks have traveled to perform a prayer to ask for respite.

World Premiere | Fri., March 20, 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. | Eaton DC

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Taylor Graham (director)





The Films of Day’s Edge Productions

International Parks & Protected Areas Serengeti: Nature’s Living Laboratory (USA, 2019, 40 min.)

Produced by Neil Losin, Nathan Dappen

In three chapters, this film explores the foundational research in the Serengeti National Park, Tanzania, that uncovered many of the ecological principles that govern how animal populations and communities are regulated. This is the story of how ecologists Tony Sinclair, Simon Mduma, and Grant Hopcraft spent five decades piecing together the mystery of what makes the Serengeti the way it is and the central role wildebeest play.

Sat., March 14, 7:00 p.m. | Eaton DC

Free, reservations required

PRECEDED BY

Episodes of The Anomalies

World Premiere

28TH ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL PARTNER SHOWCASES

Creating Diversity & Impact

Co-presented by the Center for Environmental Filmmaking at American University

Award-winning filmmakers associated with the Center for Environmental Filmmaking and the Festival share their works and explore creative and impact strategies for films at the intersection of environment, humanity, justice, and resilience.

Poppy Crash (Mexico, 2020, 10 min.) ●

Directed by Andalusia Knoll Soloff

As addiction to the opioid fentanyl surges in the U.S. causing an unprecedented number of overdoses, violence spikes in the mountains of Guerrero, Mexico. Fentanyl is cheaper and more potent, which has slashed natural opium prices, leaving the indigenous poppy farmers in Guerrero left with few options for survival. *Poppy Crash* chronicles the stories of three indigenous farmers who worked in the opium harvest since they were children and suddenly had their livelihood ripped out from under them. Their dependence on the international drug economy and the volatile market has left these communities with an uncertain future where increased poverty and violence is evident.

Felicia: The Life of an Octopus Fisherwoman (Mexico, 2019, 11 min.)

Directed by José Carlos Pons

This short film sheds light on the life of one woman, whose story aims to provide a firsthand experience of the vicious link between poverty and environmental degradation in developing countries like Madagascar. As an orphan and later as a mother, Felicia turns to the sea as a means for sustenance, even when migration, commercial trawling, and cultural loss make small-scale fishing an increasingly challenging way of life.

No Place to Grow (USA, 2019, 27 min.) ●

Directed by Michelle Aguilar

Follow a group of Latino farmers who find themselves representing a movement to save the last green space centered within a neighborhood facing gentrification. Over time, we find out what happens when migrated farming traditions intersect with the “urban growth machine.” The community of Santa Cruz, California, a small city known for its liberal ideology, becomes conflicted as the fate of the garden is jeopardized.

D.C. Premiere | Tues., March 17, 7:00 p.m. | American University–Center for Environmental Filmmaking

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion





Eco-Comedy Video Awards Celebration

Co-presented by the Center for Environmental Filmmaking at American University with The Nature Conservancy & Clean Air Partners

An entertaining evening of humorous shorts.

Fri., March 20, 7:00 p.m. | American University—Center for Environmental Filmmaking

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion



Gombe National Park: A Virtual Reality Exploration

(Tanzania, 2020, 60 min.)

Directed by Bill Wallauer

Join Bill Wallauer, the Jane Goodall Institute’s scientific advisor and famed wildlife filmmaker, on a virtual journey through the lush, dense forests of Gombe National Park in Tanzania. Get a unique, fascinating view of the place where Goodall made groundbreaking discoveries about wild chimpanzees and where that work continues today.

Fri., March 13, 7:30 p.m. | National Geographic Society

\$40 | Featured guest: Bill Wallauer (Director, Gombe National Park)



Nat Geo Nights: Protecting Canadian Waters

Explore Canada’s diverse and astonishing rivers, lakes, and coastlines—from the Atlantic to the Pacific—with fish biologist Andrea Reid, aquatic ecologist Dalal Hanna, ecological entrepreneur Mikayla Wujec, conservation ecologist Lauren Eckert, and marine biologist Justine Ammendolia. At this happy hour and interactive talk, you’ll meet these National Geographic Explorers who are working in these waters, connecting with local communities, and expanding our understanding of the challenges the water systems face so we can better protect them.

Thurs., March 19, 5:30 p.m. | National Geographic Society

\$20 | Featuring National Geographic Explorers, including Justine Ammendolia, Lauren Eckert, Dalal Hanna, Andrea Reid, Mikayla Wujec



Our Planet, Our Future— D.C. Youth Films about Climate Change

Presented by the D.C. Office of Cable Television, Film, Music and Entertainment

Co-presented by the D.C. Environmental Education Consortium and the D.C. Office of the State Superintendent of Education

Today’s youth are not waiting for the future to start actively raising awareness and inventing solutions to the world’s environmental challenges. As schools strive to create authentic learning experiences that emphasize real world problems and solutions, communicating about science plays an important role. For the last five years, several DC Public Schools and charter schools have participated in the 1-Minute Climate Change Filmmaking Project, which introduces teachers and students to the world of film and media arts as a tool to explore climate change. A selection of films created by elementary, middle, and high school students will be screened, followed by a student panel, who will discuss the impact the project had on their views on climate change.

Sat., March 14, 12:00 p.m. | Carnegie Institution for Science

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion

Nourishing Our Healthy Planet

Co-presented by the Center for Environmental Filmmaking at American University

An informative and fun evening of films and speakers about nourishing ourselves and our planet, from sustainable farming to community gardens, beekeeping, going vegan, and more. Visit dceff.org for details.

Weds., March 18, 7:00 p.m. | American University—Center for Environmental Filmmaking

Free, reservations required

Plastic and Environmental Film

Presented by the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (GFDD) and the Dominican Republic Film Festival (DREFF)

A panel discussion on plastic as a global issue and how it has been recently portrayed in environmental films. Hosted by Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (GFDD) and its Dominican Republic Environmental Film Festival (DREFF).

Tues., March 17, 11:00 a.m. | Global Foundation for Democracy and Development

Free, reservations required | Featured speakers include Maggie Burnette Stogner (Executive Director, Center for Environmental Filmmaking at American University), Jake Kheel (Vice President, Puntacana Group Foundation; and President, EcoRED), Marvin del Cid (director, *Chasing the SNOT of the whales of Samana*), Jason Donofrio (External Relations Officer, The Ocean Foundation), Sarah Ingersoll (Advisor, Plastic Pollution Coalition)



Plastic Island preceded by Chasing the SNOT of the Whales of Samana

Presented by the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (GFDD) and the Dominican Republic Environmental Film Festival (DREFF)

Isla de Plastico (Plastic Island) (Dominican Republic, 2019, 85 min.)

Directed by José Maria Cabral

This documentary exposes the reality of garbage, plastic, and pollution in the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

U.S. Premiere

PRECEDED BY

Chasing the SNOT of the Whales of Samana (Dominican Republic, 2019, 5 min.)

Directed by Marvin del Cid

SnotBot—a project of Ocean Alliance, a nonprofit that protects whales and their ocean environment—uses drones to capture the blow expelled from whales’ lungs and then to study all the biological matter it contains.

U.S. Premiere | Wed., March 18, 7:00 p.m. | E Street Cinema

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion



Resistance in the Rainforest

Co-presented with the Pulitzer Center

A selection of short films from the Pulitzer Center’s Rainforest Journalism Fund. Check pulitzercenter.org for more information.



Climate Superheroes: The Trees of Brazil, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of Congo

(Brazil/Indonesia/Democratic Republic of Congo, 2020, 7 min.) ●

Directed by Kainaz Amira, Eliza Barclay

Tropical forests in Indonesia, Brazil, and the Democratic Republic of Congo are underappreciated superheroes regulating and rescuing the global climate. A reporting team from Vox explores how at least three tree species regulate and interact with the global climate and weather patterns thousands of miles away. The trees’ superpowers includes being rainmakers and carbon guardians. Yet these forest ecosystems are threatened, especially from deforestation.

World Premiere



Tupí: A Story of Indigenous Courage and Resolve

(Brazil, 2020, 6 min.)

Directed by Pablo Albarenga, Francesc Badia i Dalmases

Tupí is an Indigenous activist denouncing violence against women and fighting to protect human rights and the environment in her homeland at the Tapajós River in the Brazilian Amazon. As a young woman, she shows how the Indigenous territory goes beyond the land and involves her own body.

World Premiere



Indigenous Communities Under Siege in Rondon’s Land

(Brazil, 2020, 13 min.)

Directed by Fabio Nascimento, Gustavo Faleiros

In Rondônia, Brazil, theft of wood, land grabbing in protected areas, and threats to Indigenous leaderships are commonplace. The Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau Indigenous territory is under constant attack by invaders. With the arrival of the government of Jair Bolsonaro, the interest in reducing the land of the Indians became evident. In this documentary, villagers from the Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau villages show the most recent outbreaks of invasion. Rural landowners accused of *grilagem* (land grabbing in Portuguese) claim they have the support of a government agency to seek new land. The defenders of the Indians indicate that there is an orchestrated action to reduce the territory traditionally occupied by the Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau.

World Premiere

Restoring Indonesia’s Peatlands—One Pasta at a Time

(Indonesia, 2020, 4 min.) ●

Directed by Rebecca Grossman, Daniel Grossman

One-size-fits-all agriculture has robbed Indonesia’s peatlands of their moisture. Now, the country is working to restore these historic swamps by embracing their boggy nature—and enjoying the pasta made from a water-loving crop.

World Premiere



In Brazil, Fires and Deforestation Threaten Amazon Species’ Survival

(Brazil, 2020, 9 min.) ●

Directed by Mike Fritz, Amna Nawaz

South America’s Amazon rainforest is home to a remarkable diversity of animal and plant life. But record-breaking forest fires in 2019 and ongoing deforestation is putting many of the Amazon’s original inhabitants at risk. For this *NewsHour* report done in collaboration with the Pulitzer Center, we ask, “Can the Amazon be saved?” Amna Nawaz and producer Mike Fritz traveled to a remote scientific outpost in one of the most pristine sections of the Brazilian rainforest to meet conservationists who have fended off agricultural creep and managed to even save some endangered species that have long called the region home. But they admit they’re working around the clock to catalog their environment, preparing for what they believe is the inevitable destruction of the rainforest.

World Premiere | Mon., March 16, 7:00 p.m. | Carnegie Institution for Science

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Pablo Albarenga (co-director, *Tupí: A Story of Indigenous Courage and Resolve*), Gustavo Faleiros (co-director, *Indigenous Communities Under Siege in Rondon’s Land*), Eliza Barclay (co-director, *Climate Superheroes: The Trees of Brazil, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of Congo*)



Solar For All—DC Solar Stories

(USA, 2020, 27 min.)

Directed by Michael Skinner, Jon Michael Shink

Co-presented with the Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)

This documentary celebrates the successes and documents the challenges of the first two years of implementing Solar For All, Mayor Muriel Bowser’s initiative to provide 100,000 low-to-moderate income families with the benefits of locally generated clean energy. Discover how the District is using innovation and the concept of equity or “equal access” to local, clean energy to slash resident’s utility burdens and protect underserved communities in the face of the changing climate.

World Premiere | Sun., March 15, 12:00 p.m. | Carnegie Institution for Science

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion facilitated by Tommy Wells, Director of the Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE)



VENUE & TRANSPORTATION INFO

AFI SILVER

8633 Colesville Rd, Silver Spring, MD
Metrorail: Silver Spring
Metrobus: S2, S4, 70
Metrobus Extra: S9, 79
Capital Bikeshare: Fenton Street & Ellsworth Street and Silver Spring Metro

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Doyle/Forman Theater, School of Communication, Center for Environmental Filmmaking, 201 McKinley Building, 4400 Massachusetts Ave, NW
Metrorail: Tenleytown-AU Station with connecting shuttle bus service to AU
Metrobus: 30N, 30S, 32, 33, 36, H2, H4 with connecting shuttle bus service to AU at Tenleytown Metro
Capital Bikeshare: Ward Circle at American University Station and American University East Campus

AVALON THEATRE

5612 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC
Metrorail: Friendship Heights
Metrobus: E4, E6, L1, L2
Capital Bikeshare: Connecticut Ave & McKinley St NW

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION FOR SCIENCE

1530 P St NW, Washington, DC
Metrorail: Dupont Circle
Metrobus: S2, S4, S2, S4
Metrobus Extra: S9, S9
Capital Bikeshare: 15th Street & P Street NW

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

1849 C St NW, Washington, DC
Metrorail: Farragut West
DC Circulator: National Mall Route
Capital Bikeshare: 18th Street & C Street NW

E STREET CINEMA

555 11th St NW, Washington, DC
Metrorail: Metro Center or Gallery Place-Chinatown
Metrobus: 30N, 30S, 32, 33, 36
Capital Bikeshare: 10th Street & E Street NW

EATON DC

1201 K St NW, Washington, DC 20005
Metrorail: McPherson Square or Metro Center
Metrobus: D4, D6, G9
Capital Bikeshare: 12th Street & L Street NW

EDLAVITCH JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER CAFRITZ HALL

1529 16th St NW, Washington, DC
Metrorail: Dupont Circle
Metrobus: S1, S2, S4
Capital Bikeshare: 15th Street & P Street NW

EMBASSY OF AUSTRIA

3524 International Court NW, Washington, DC
Metrorail: Van Ness-UDC
Metrobus: H2
Capital Bikeshare: Van Ness-UDC Station NW

EMBASSY OF CANADA

501 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC
Metrorail: Archives-Navy Memorial or Judiciary Square
Metrobus: 30N, 30S, 32, 33, 36
Capital Bikeshare: 6th Street & Indiana Ave NW

EMBASSY OF FINLAND

3301 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC
Metrorail: Woodley Park/National Zoo
Metrobus: N2, N4, N6
DC Circulator: Woodley Park - Adams Morgan - McPherson Square Route
Capital Bikeshare: 36th Street & Calvert St NW/ Glover Park

EMBASSY OF FRANCE

4101 Reservoir Rd NW, Washington, DC
Metrobus: D1, D2, D3, D5, D6
Capital Bikeshare: Reservoir Rd & 38th Street NW

EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

4200 Linnean Avenue NW, Washington, DC
Metrorail: Van Ness-UDC
Metrobus: H2
Capital Bikeshare: Van Ness-UDC Station NW

FREER SACKLER GALLERY

Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Sublevel 1: 1050 Independence Ave SW, Washington, DC
Metrorail: Federal Triangle, Smithsonian, or L'Enfant Plaza
DC Circulator: National Mall Route
Capital Bikeshare: Independence Ave & L'Enfant Plaza SW/ Department of Energy Station

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Main campus: 37th & O Street NW
Film Screening Room at 156 New South (upper level Healey Family Student Center)
DC Circulator: Georgetown-Union Station Route
Capital Bikeshare: 37th and O Streets, NW

GLOBAL FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

1629 K Street, NW #1100, Washington, DC
Metrorail: McPherson Square
Metrobus: 16Y, 80, D6
Capital Bikeshare: Vermont Ave., and I Street, NW

HIRSHHORN MUSEUM AND SCULPTURE GARDEN

Independence Ave & 7th St SW, Washington, DC
Metrorail: Smithsonian or L'Enfant Plaza
DC Circulator: National Mall Route
Capital Bikeshare: Independence Ave & L'Enfant Plaza SW/Department of Energy Station

JAPAN INFORMATION AND CULTURE CENTER, EMBASSY OF JAPAN

1150 18th St NW, Washington, DC
Metrorail: Farragut North or Farragut West
Metrobus: 30N, 30S, 32, 33, 36
Capital Bikeshare: 18th Street & M Street NW

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

2101 Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC
Metrobus: 7Y, H1, L1
DC Circulator: Georgetown-Union Station Route
Capital Bikeshare: 21st Street & Constitution Ave NW

NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM

655 Jefferson Dr SW, Washington, DC
Metrorail: Smithsonian or L'Enfant Plaza
Metrobus: 30N, 30S, 32, 33, 34, 36
DC Circulator: National Mall Route
Capital Bikeshare: 7th Street & C Street SW and 4th Street & C Street SW

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

701 Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC
Metrorail: Archives-Navy Memorial
Metrobus: 30N, 30S, 32, 33, 36
DC Circulator: National Mall Route
Capital Bikeshare: 8th Street & D Street NW

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

6th St and Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC
Metrorail: Archives-Navy Memorial or Judiciary Square
Metrobus: 30N, 30S, 32, 33, 36
DC Circulator: National Mall Route
Capital Bikeshare: 4th Street & Madison Drive NW

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

1600 M St NW, Washington, DC
Metrorail: Farragut North, Farragut West
Metrobus: S1, S2, S4
Metrobus Extra: S9
DC Circulator: Georgetown - Union Station Route
Capital Bikeshare: 15th Street & M Street NW

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

1400 Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC
Metrorail: Smithsonian or Federal Triangle
Metrobus: 30N, 30S, 32, 33, 36
DC Circulator: National Mall Route
Capital Bikeshare: 15th Street & Constitution Ave NW

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

10th St & Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC
Metrorail: Smithsonian
Metrobus: 30N, 30S, 32, 33, 36
DC Circulator: National Mall Route
Capital Bikeshare: 10th Street NW and Constitution Avenue NW

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN IN THE ARTS

1250 New York Ave. NW, Washington, DC
Metrorail: Metro Center
Metrobus: D6, P6
DC Circulator: Georgetown - Union Station Route
Capital Bikeshare: 13th Street & New York Avenue NW

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

8th St & F St NW, Washington, DC
Metrorail: Gallery Place-Chinatown
Metrobus: 70, 30N, 30S, 32, 33, 34, 36
Metrobus Extra: 79
Capital Bikeshare: 7th Street & F Street NW

NATIONAL ZOO

3001 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC
Metrorail: Woodley Park-Zoo
Metrobus: L1, L2
DC Circulator: Woodley Park - Adams Morgan - McPherson Square Route
Capital Bikeshare: 3000 Connecticut Avenue NW

NAVAL HERITAGE CENTER

701 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC
Metrorail: Archives-Navy Memorial
Metrobus: 30N, 30S, 32, 33, 36
Capital Bikeshare: 8th Street & D Street NW

NYU-DC

1307 L St NW, Washington, DC
Metrorail: Metro Center or Mt Vernon Sq
Metrobus: 52, 54, 63
Capital Bikeshare: 14th Street & L Street NW

TOWN HALL EDUCATION ARTS & RECREATION CAMPUS (THEARC)

1901 Mississippi Ave SE, Washington, DC
Metrorail: Southern Avenue
Metrobus: 30S, 32
Capital Bikeshare: Mississippi Avenue & 19th Street SE

WOODROW WILSON INTERNATIONAL

Sixth Floor Auditorium, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC
Metrorail: Federal Triangle
Metrobus: 52
DC Circulator: National Mall Route
Capital Bikeshare: 14th Street & D Street NW



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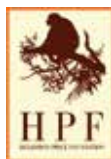

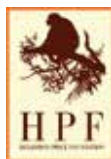

















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