



ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL

IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL



PRESENTING SPONSOR

MARCH 14-24, 2019

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Anthropocene: The Human Epoch,

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Materials for the 2019 DCEFF, including posters and programs, were sustainably produced and printed using recycled paperstock in a 100% wind-powered facility with no carbon footprint.

WELCOME TO THE 27TH ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL!

This has been a watershed year for public reckoning with the urgency of climate change. The UN climate panel issued looming deadlines for curtailing global warming. We have also seen passionate debates about the Green New Deal and youth-led mass protests to hold governments to account. The gravity of the crisis our planet faces and the push for sweeping solutions have never been more forceful.

With that in mind, we welcome you to the 27th Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital, where our varied slate of films—over 160—captures the compelling sights, sounds, and stories of a planet at the breaking point. We present films at just under 30 venues in and around Washington, D.C.

We continue to be so honored by our many supporters, and we are pleased to have National Geographic as a Presenting Sponsor of the 2019 Festival and to have their headquarters serve as our Main Stage.

The Festival starts with our opening night screening of *The River and the Wall*, which chronicles an epic journey along the Rio Grande River and the environmental and human toll of building a border wall. Our closing night film *Sharkwater: Extinction* is the sequel to the late Rob Stewart's landmark film about illegal shark fin hunting and its ruinous effects. In between are a wide range of documentary, narrative, archival, short, and animated films such as *Anthropocene: The Human Epoch*, which attests to the dire consequences of humanity's attempts to engineer the natural world; *Paris to Pittsburgh*, which exposes the dangers of exiting the Paris Climate Accords; *The Human Element*, which explores wildfires, hurricanes, sea level rise, and other natural disasters exacerbated by climate change; and *Lost World*, which addresses the ecological and human impact of Cambodia's policy of allowing its mangrove forests to be mined for sand. We also present virtual-reality (VR) experiences, including a celebration of majesty of Bears Ears National Monument in Utah and an immersive companion piece to Shannon Service and Jeffrey Waldron's *Ghost Fleet*, which shows enslaved labor driving the global fishing industry.

While film alone cannot save the planet, the medium is a uniquely powerful force for depicting the threats to the environment and engaging audiences of all ages. Our films also offer moments of incredible beauty, touching humor, and unforgettable humanity. The imperiled condition of the natural world can dazzle and even entertain us without diminishing the state of high alert that our times demand. As always, our post-screening discussions, events, and receptions afford ample opportunities to extend the dialogue, mingle with each other, and meet the filmmakers.

Epic and micro productions from more than 25 countries represent not only the infinite variety of how today's directors capture our environment on film. They also embody a thriving, heterogeneous international community. The board, staff, and I are honored to support this community, and we thank you for taking part by joining the Festival.

Thank you to all our volunteers, sponsors, donors and venue partners. We couldn't do it without you!



Christopher Head

Executive Director

P.S. Please join our community by becoming a Friend of the Festival. Visit dceff.org to find out how donors like you make a difference.

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DCEFF 2019
160+ FILMS
130+ PREMIERES
30+ COUNTRIES
20+ VENUES

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 5 minutes before the posted show time.

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

Presented by the Reva & David Logan Foundation

The River and the Wall (USA, 2019, 108 min.)

Directed by Ben Masters

This film follows five friends on an immersive adventure through the unknown wilds of the Texas borderlands. They travel 1,200 miles, from El Paso to the Gulf of Mexico, on horses, mountain bikes, and canoes. Realizing the urgency of documenting the last remaining wilderness in Texas as the threat of new border wall construction looms, they set out to document the borderlands and explore the potential impacts of a wall on the natural environment. As the wilderness gives way to the more populated and heavily trafficked Lower Rio Grande Valley, they come face to face with the human side of the immigration debate.

**D.C. Premiere | Thurs., March 14, 7:00 p.m. |
National Geographic Society**

\$35 | Post-screening discussion with Ben Masters (director).
Moderated by Juliet Eilperin (*Washington Post* senior national affairs
correspondent) | Opening Night party follows



HAUSMAN FOUNDATION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AWARD FOR BEST INTERNATIONAL FILM

This newly established 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.

A Modern Shepherdess (France, 2019, 87 min.)

Directed by Delphine D  trie

A few years ago, St  phanie left her Parisian life for the vast salt meadows of the Cherbourg Peninsula. The former graphic designer discovered a deep connection with this land by the sea where she now raises sheep. Here, she has reinvented herself. In pursuing her new calling, the single mother became the manager of a farm. It needs to be profitable, as this is the leitmotif of our time that even small farmers cannot escape from. She must also face up to neighbors who are hostile to the stranger that she still remains in their eyes. Through her courage, creativity, and strength of character, St  phanie aims to evade the birds of ill omen and win her freedom. This is the story of a shepherdess that invites us to question our own desire to lead a life in keeping with who we really are.

World Premiere | Fri., March 15, 7:00 p.m. | Embassy of France

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Delphine D  trie (director)



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.

When Lambs Become Lions (USA, 2018, 76 min.)

Directed by Jon Kasbe

In a Kenyan town bordering wildlife conservation land, a small-time ivory dealer fights to stay on top while forces mobilize to destroy his trade. When he turns to his younger cousin, a conflicted wildlife ranger who hasn't been paid in months, they both see a possible lifeline. For the poachers, conservationists are not only winning their campaign to value elephant life over its ivory, but over human life as well. Who are these hunters who will risk death, arrest, and the moral outrage of the world to provide for their families? Director Jon Kasbe followed the film's subjects over a three-year period, gaining an extraordinary level of access and trust as he became part of their everyday lives. The result is a rare and visually arresting look through the perspectives and motives of the people at the epicenter of the conservation divide.

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

\$12 | Post-screening discussion with Jon Kasbe (director)
Reception follows



POLLY KRAKORA AWARD FOR ARTISTRY IN FILM

Established in 2010 by Joseph Krakora in memory of his wife Polly Krakora, a member of our Advisory Council, the Polly Krakora Award for Artistry in Film Award recognizes creative value in all aspects of filmmaking. The award includes a \$5,000 cash prize.

Anthropocene: The Human Epoch

(Canada, 2018, 87 min.) ●



Directed by Nicholas de Pencier, Jennifer Baichwal, Edward Burtynsky

The filmmakers take us on a worldwide tour encompassing concrete seawalls in China, which now cover 60 percent of the mainland coast; the biggest terrestrial machines ever built in Germany; potash mines in Russia's Ural Mountains; a heavy metal festival in the closed city of Norilsk, Siberia; the devastated Great Barrier Reef in Australia; and lithium evaporation ponds in South America's Atacama Desert. High-end production values and state-of-the-art camera techniques capture evidence of human planetary domination. At the intersection of art and science, this film bears witness to a critical moment in geological history.

D.C. Premiere | Fri., March 22, 7:00 p.m. | National Geographic Society

\$12 | Post-screening discussion with Jennifer Baichwal (director/writer), Nicholas de Pencier (director/producer)

This film is part of a three-film retrospective along with the two previous films in the series: *Manufactured Landscapes* (p. 20) and *Watermark* (p. 28).

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.

Lost World (USA, 2018, 16 min.) ●

Directed by Kalyanee Mam

As Singapore dredges sand out from beneath Cambodia's mangrove forests, the threat of erasure looms over an ecosystem, a communal way of life, and one woman's relationship to her beloved home.



D.C. Premiere | Thurs., March 21, 7:00 p.m. | National Geographic Society

\$12 | *Lost World* will be shown with finalists *Dulce* and *Treeline*. Post-screening discussion with Kalyanee Mam (director), Emmanuel Vaughan-Lee (producer). Moderated by Greg McGruder (Vice-President of National Geographic's Public Programs).

CLOSING NIGHT**SHARED EARTH FOUNDATION AWARD FOR ADVOCACY**

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

Sharkwater Extinction (Canada, 2018, 87 min.)

Directed by Rob Stewart

This thrilling, inspiring, and action-packed journey follows filmmaker Rob Stewart as he exposes the massive illegal shark fin industry and the political corruption behind it – a conspiracy that is leading to the extinction of sharks. From West Africa, Spain, Panama, Costa Rica, France, and even in our own backyard, Stewart's third film dives into the often-violent underworld of the pirate fishing trade to expose a multi-billion dollar industry. Shark finning is still rampant; shark fin soup is still being consumed on an enormous scale; and endangered sharks are being used to make products for human consumption. Stewart's mission is to save the sharks and oceans before it's too late. But exposing illegal activities isn't easy; protecting sharks has earned him some powerful enemies.

D.C. Premiere | Sat., March 23, 7:00 p.m. |
National Geographic Society

\$35 | Post-screening discussion with Brian Stewart (producer), Sandy Stewart (producer), Brock Cahill (founder, the SeaChange Agency) | Closing Night party follows.



27TH ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL

FEATURE FILMS

Acid Forest (Lithuania, 2018, 63 min.) ●



Directed by Rugilė Barzdžiukaitė

A wispy stretch of land from Russia to Lithuania becomes an unlikely tourist attraction: a dying forest of leafless trees overtaken by thousands of ancient black birds ruining the area with their acid-fortified feces.

Sun., March 24, 4:30 p.m. | National Gallery of Art

Free, no reservations required

The Ancient Woods (Lithuania, 2017, 86 min.)



Directed by Mindaugas Survila

Filmed in one of the last remaining patches of the oldest forests in Lithuania, this poetic and atypical nature film depicts a place where boundaries of time melt and everything that exists does not wither or age but “grows into” eternity. Take a journey from the forest thickets to the wolves’ caves and up to the black stork’s nest, and down to the depths of the underwater forest – and, finally, to the human beings on the wood’s edge. There is no commentary, only rich, almost palpable sounds of the forest and magical situations captured by the camera.

D.C. Premiere | Sat., March 16, 4:00 p.m. | National Museum of Natural History

Free, reservations required

Anthropocene: The Human Epoch (Canada, 2018, 87 min.) ●



Directed by Nicholas de Pencier, Jennifer Baichwal, Edward Burtynsky

Winner, Polly Krakora Award for Artistry in Film

The filmmakers take us on a worldwide tour encompassing concrete seawalls in China, which now cover 60 percent of the mainland coast; the biggest terrestrial machines ever built in Germany; potash mines in Russia’s Ural Mountains; a heavy metal festival in the closed city of Norilsk, Siberia; the devastated Great Barrier Reef in Australia; and lithium evaporation ponds in South America’s Atacama Desert. High-end production values and state-of-the-art camera techniques capture evidence of human planetary domination. At the intersection of art and science, this film bears witness to a critical moment in geological history.

D.C. Premiere | Fri., March 22, 7:00 p.m. | National Geographic Society

\$12 | Post-screening discussion with Jennifer Baichwal (director/writer), Nicholas de Pencier (director/producer)

Encore Screening | Sat., March 23, 5:30 p.m. | AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center

\$13

Aquatic Cathartic (USA, 2018, 26 min.)

Directed by Gad Girling

A short documentary investigating the entangled roles of art and science in making the world a better place.

D.C. Premiere | Fri., March 15, 7:00 p.m. | National Academy of Sciences

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Gad Girling (director), Dustin Hayes (composer/writer), Kelsey Bisson (co-chief scientist of film's expedition). Moderated by JD Talasek (Director of Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences)



Beatrix Farrand's American Landscapes (USA, 2019, 60 min.)

Directed by Stephen Ives

The film follows award-winning public garden designer Lynden B. Miller as she explores the remarkable life and career of America's first female landscape architect, Beatrix Farrand (1872-1959). Farrand was responsible for some of the most celebrated gardens in the United States and helped create a distinctive American voice in landscape architecture. Despite the exclusion of women from formal landscape education and the difficulties they faced in starting businesses, Farrand persevered and implemented garden practices that are widely respected and utilized today. She created gardens for the rich and powerful, including John D. Rockefeller, Jr., J. P. Morgan, and President Woodrow Wilson, but she also was an early advocate for public gardens and believed strongly in the power of the natural world to make people's lives better.

D.C. Premiere | Sat., March 23, 1 p.m. | National Museum of Women in the Arts

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Stephen Ives (director)



The Blessing (USA, 2018, 74 min.)

Directed by Hunter Robert Baker, Jordan Fein

This personal and crucial documentary follows Lawrence, a Navajo coal miner and single father raising a teenaged daughter, struggling with the part he plays in the irreversible destruction of one of their sacred mountains at the hands of America's largest coal producer. Lawrence endures a life-threatening injury and confronts the deep spiritual sacrifice he made to provide for the people he loves. At the same time his daughter, Caitlin, attempts to manage the expectations of her traditional father while covertly playing on the men's varsity football team and subsequently being crowned homecoming queen. The filmmakers' unprecedented access to a family on the Navajo Nation suffuses a robust portrait spanning more than five years.

D.C. Premiere | Sat., March 16, 2:00 p.m. | National Museum of the American Indian

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion





Blowout (USA, 2019, 80 min.)

Directed by Zach Toombs

Investigative journalists, scientists, and concerned citizens trace the fallout of a new American fossil fuel boom. From the oil fields of west Texas to tanker traffic busting the Panama Canal at its seams, to an energy revolution in Asia, this documentary takes a deep dive into American energy's global impacts on profits, public health, and climate change.

World Premiere | Sun., March 17, 2:00 p.m. | Carnegie Institution for Science

\$10



Confluence (USA, 2018, 54 min.) ●

Directed by Amy Marquis, Dana Romanoff

Presented by the Reva and David Logan Foundation

The Colorado River has carved a deep imprint both on the physical landscape and on the lives of the people who rely on it. This film follows an up-and-coming indie folk band as they traverse and document this endangered river system in the form of original music.

D.C. Premiere | Fri., March 15, 7:00 p.m. | Carnegie Institution for Science

\$10 | Post-screening discussion with Amy Marquis (co-director), Ben Barron (executive producer), Darren Durlach (director of photography)



COOKED: Survival by Zip Code (USA, 2018, 78 min.) ●

Directed by Judith Helfand

This searing yet quirky film investigates the “natural” disasters we’re willing to see and prepare for and the “unnatural” ones we’re not. Adapted from Eric Klinenberg’s groundbreaking book *Heat Wave: A Social Autopsy of Disaster in Chicago*, Peabody Award-winning filmmaker Judith Helfand uses her signature serious-yet-quirky connect-the-dots style to take audiences from the deadly 1995 Chicago heat disaster deep into one of our nation’s biggest growth industries – disaster preparedness. Along the way she forges inextricable links among extreme weather, extreme disparity, and politics, daring to ask: What if a ZIP code were just a routing number, and not a life-or-death sentence?

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

\$10 | Post-screening discussion with Judith Helfand (director). Moderated by Andrea Passafiume (Program Director, Docs in Progress)

Additional presentation | Thurs., March 21, 7:00 p.m. | Town Hall Education Arts Recreation Campus (THEARC)

Free, reservations required

Current Revolution (USA, 2018, 37 min.)

Directed by Roger Sorkin

For decades the utilities industry has been a driving engine of the U.S. economy, contributing significantly to our progress and standard of living, with a business model that focused on centralized generation. Today, however, facing a crisis that requires them to capture new market share, the industry has its sights on the transportation sector. This shift could catalyze the electric vehicle industry but also sets it on a collision course with major petroleum interests. This new film by the American Resilience Project, along with associated media, educational materials and advocacy campaign, tackles the challenge of modernizing the power grid. Through interviews, observational, and archival footage with top executives, military personnel, utilities workers, and elected officials, the film tells the story of a towering American industry on the brink of massive change. Whether it fails, prevails, or adapts, the outcome will profoundly affect us all.

D.C. Premiere | Sat., March 23, 4:00 p.m. | Carnegie Institution for Science

\$10 | Post-screening discussion with Roger Sorkin (director), Leilani Munter (subject)



The Dawn Wall (USA, 2017, 100 min.)

Directed by Peter Mortimer, Josh Lowell

In January 2015, American rock climbers Tommy Caldwell and Kevin Jorgeson captivated the world with their effort to climb the Dawn Wall, a seemingly impossible 3,000-foot rock face in Yosemite National Park, California. For Caldwell, this was much more than just a climb. It was the culmination of a lifetime defined by overcoming obstacles, including time held hostage in Kyrgyzstan, the loss of an index finger, and the collapse of his marriage. Caldwell and Jorgeson spend six years meticulously plotting and practicing their route. On the final attempt, with the world watching, Caldwell is faced with a moment of truth. Should he abandon his partner to fulfill his ultimate dream, or risk his own success for the sake of their friendship?

Sun., March 17, 2:00 p.m. | National Geographic Society

\$12



Eating Up Easter (USA, 2018, 76 min.)

Directed by Sergio M. Rapu

In a cinematic letter to his son, native Rapanui (Easter Island) filmmaker Sergio Mata'u Rapu explores the modern dilemma of their people, who risk losing everything to the globalizing effects of tourism. The film follows four islanders, descendants of the ancient statue builders, who are working to tackle the consequences of their rapidly developing home. Mama Piru leads recycling efforts to reduce trash, Mahani and Enrique use music to reunite their divided community, and Sergio tries to understand the motivations of his father who embraces the advantages of building new businesses. These stories intertwine to reveal the complexities of development and the contradictions within us all, as we face hard choices about our planet's future.

D.C. Premiere | Sun., March 17, 4:00 p.m. | E Street Cinema

\$10





Elephant Path – Njaia Njoku (USA, 2018, 79 min.)

Directed by Todd McGrain

An indelible tale of friendship and commitment set against the luminous beauty of the central African Rainforest. Together, an elephant behavioral biologist, Andrea Turkalo, and an indigenous tracker, Sessely Bernard, will be tested by the realities of war and the limits of hope for the majestic animals they have committed their lives to study and protect.

D.C. Premiere | Tues., March 15, 7:00 p.m. | E Street Cinema

\$10 | Post-screening discussion with Todd McGrain (director), Dr. Andy Stern (executive producer)



Epic Yellowstone: Return of the Predators

(USA, 2019, 51 min.)

Produced by Eric Bendick, Tom Winston, Tria Thalman

It's the dawn of a bold new era in Yellowstone. Wolves have returned. The grizzly bear population is at an all-time high. The resurgence of these iconic predators is shaping every aspect of life in this ecosystem – restoring an ancient balance between predator and prey. This world comes alive through the eyes of a lone wolf searching for a pack and alongside the trails of a legendary grizzly defending the next generation. For these tireless hunters, what will it take to survive, protect their turf, and raise young – all while trying to stay at the top of the food chain?

World Premiere | March 16, 7:00 p.m. | National Museum of Natural History

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Tria Thalman (producer), Eric Bendick (producer)



The Fisherman and the Forest (Japan, 2018, 49 min.)

Produced by NHK

Oyster farmer Shigeatsu Hatakeyama is something of a maverick. He is a fisherman, author, university professor, and recipient of the U.N. Forest Hero Award. At a time when industrialization was devastating the ocean, he requested an academic survey and then began planting trees. More than three decades later, a healthy forest, river, and ocean contribute to some of the finest oysters in the world. Even after the 2011 great tsunami swept everything away, nature proved resilient. Hatakeyama restarted his oyster farm and now passes his love for the sea to his grandson. This is a marvelous celebration of Hatakeyama's small bay, its richness, and the ongoing cycle of life.

World Premiere | Fri., March 15, 6:30 p.m. | Japan Information and Culture Center, Embassy of Japan

Free, reservations required

Free Solo (USA, 2018, 100 min.) ●

Directed by Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi, Jimmy Chin

From award-winning documentary filmmaker E. Chai Vasarhelyi (*Meru*) and world-renowned photographer and mountaineer Jimmy Chin comes a stunning, intimate, and unflinching portrait of Alex Honnold. The free soloist climber prepares to achieve his lifelong dream: climbing the face of the world's most famous rock – the 3,000-foot El Capitan in Yosemite National Park – without a rope. Celebrated as one of the greatest athletic feats of any kind, Honnold's climb sets the ultimate standard: perfection or death. Succeeding in this challenge, he enters his story in the annals of human achievement. This film is both an edge-of-your seat thriller and an inspiring portrait of an athlete who exceeded our current understanding of human physical and mental potential. The result is a triumph of the human spirit.

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

\$12



Genesis 2.0 (Switzerland, 2018, 112 min.)

Directed by Christian Frei, Maxim Arbugaev

On the remote New Siberian Islands in the Arctic Ocean, hunters search for tusks of extinct mammoths. One day, they discover a surprisingly well-preserved mammoth carcass. Resurrecting the woolly mammoth is a first manifestation of the next great technological revolution – genetics. It may well turn our world upside down.

D.C. Premiere | Sat., March 23, 2:00 p.m. | Freer Gallery of Art

Free, no reservations required



Ghost Fleet (USA, 2018, 88 min.) ●

Directed by Shannon Service, Jeffrey Waldron

Presented by the Reva & David Logan Foundation

This film follows a small group of activists who risk their lives on remote Indonesian islands to find justice and freedom for the enslaved fishermen who feed the world's insatiable appetite for seafood. Bangkok-based Patima Tungpuchayakul, a Thai abolitionist, has committed her life to helping these lost men return home. Facing illness, death threats, corruption, and complacency, Patima shows fearless determination for justice, inspiring her nation and the world.

Sat., March 23, 4:00 p.m. | National Geographic Society

\$12 | Post-screening discussion with Jon Bowermaster (producer)



The Green Lie (Austria, 2018, 97 min.)



Directed by Werner Boote

Co-presented with the Embassy of Austria and the Austrian Cultural Forum Washington

Environmentally friendly electric cars, sustainable produced food products, fair production processes: Hurray! If everything the corporations tell us is true, we can save the world through our purchasing decisions alone. Is it all a popular and dangerous lie? Are the industry's "green products" nothing more than a sales strategy? In his new documentary film, Werner Boote shows us, together with environmental expert Kathrin Hartmann, how we can protect ourselves. They easily banter, they agree to disagree, and ultimately bring freshness to a never-ending debate.

D.C. Premiere | **Tues., March 19, 7:00 p.m.** | **Carnegie Institution for Science**

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Werner Boote (director)

Grit (USA, 2018, 80 min.) ●



Directed by Sasha Friedlander, Cynthia Wade

Presented by the Reva and David Logan Foundation

In 2006, international drilling company Lapindo carelessly unleashed an unstoppable toxic mudflow into East Java, burying dozens of nearby villages and displacing tens of thousands of Indonesians in the process. Documentarians Cynthia Wade (Academy Award winner for *Freeheld*) and Sasha Friedlander focus the tragedy around 16-year-old Dian, a survivor who is routinely ignored by her government, despite the unforgiving sludge continuing to engulf her home for over a decade. Chronicling the teenager's transformation from a young girl into an outspoken advocate for her community, this is a timely showcase of the urgent need for political activism, the duty to hold those in power accountable, and the perseverance of the human spirit amidst social and environmental strife.

D.C. Premiere | **Sun., March 17, 7:00 p.m.** | **National Geographic Society**

\$12 | Post-screening discussion with Sasha Friedlander (director), Tracie Holder (producer)

Encore presentation | **Sun., March 24, 4:00 p.m.** | **Carnegie Institution for Science**

\$12

Ground War (Canada, 2018, 80 min.)



Directed by Andrew Nisker

A filmmaker's investigation into the death of his father takes him deep into the world of golf, chemical lobbying, and citizen activism, where he learns that the rampant use of pesticides around the world may be far more damaging than he thought. What chance do we have at creating a safer world for ourselves and our children? The answer may lie with the incredible people he encounters along his journey.

U.S. Premiere | **Tues., March 19, 7:00 p.m.** | **E Street Cinema**

\$10 | Post-screening discussion with Andrew Nisker (director)

Harvest Season (Mexico, 2018, 80 min.)

Directed by Bernardo Ruiz

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

This film delves into the lives of people who work behind the scenes of the California wine industry during one of the most dramatic grape harvests in recent memory. Mexican-American winemakers and migrant workers are essential to the wine business yet are rarely recognized for their contributions. Their stories unfold as wildfires ignite in Napa and Sonoma counties, threatening the livelihoods of small farmers and winemakers who are already grappling with a growing labor shortage, shifting immigration policies, and the impacts of a rapidly changing climate.

D.C. Premiere



PRECEDED BY

Who Speaks for Nature (USA, 2019, 35 min.)

Directed by Larry Engel

This short film looks at three different Amazonian indigenous peoples' battles with their Ecuadorian government and big oil and mining to protect their land and human rights.



Weds., March 20, 7:00 p.m. | American University

Free, reservations required

WORLD WATER DAY PRESENTATION

Hidden Rivers (USA, 2019, 56 min.)

Directed by Jeremy Monroe, David Herasimtschuk

This film explores the rivers and streams of the southern Appalachian region, North America's most biologically rich waters. *Hidden Rivers* follows the work of conservation biologists and explorers throughout the region, revealing both the beauty and vulnerability of this aquatic life as well as how people are finding ways to protect it.

World Premiere

PRECEDED BY

Your Rivers Need You (USA, 2018, 6 min.)

Directed by Jim Pattiz, Will Pattiz

The Red River in Kentucky was slated to be dammed in the early 60s, and a well-known young local named Joe Bowen supported the construction. He even gave a speech in opposition to Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas and the Sierra Club. Not anymore. "In 75 years of living, I've changed my attitude about this wild river. The river is ours. So if it's ours, then it's also our responsibility. I want my great grandchildren to see what I have seen." In 1993, the Red River received Wild & Scenic River Designation. Discover the incredible story of Joe Bowen and the magic of the Red River, in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act.

D.C. Premiere

Rock-Paper-Fish (USA, 2019, 28 min.)

Directed by Connor Gallagher, Colin Arisman

Journey deep into the rainforest of southeast Alaska, where life is inseparable from the age-old rhythms of the Chilkat River. Every year, all five species of salmon return to the Chilkat, drawing the world's largest gathering of bald eagles, insatiable grizzly bears, and fascinated tourists. The salmon also define life for two communities: The ancient Tlingit village of Klukwan and the scrappy commercial fishing town, Haines. Meanwhile, a modern-day gold rush is under way. Some locals are eager for a mining boom, while others fear that the risks to the Chilkat Watershed far outweigh short-term economic benefits.

World Premiere

Fri., March 22, 6:30 p.m. | U.S. Department of the Interior

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Jeremy Monroe (co-director, *Hidden Rivers*)

Hostile Planet (U.K., 2019, 48 min.)

Executive producers: Bear Grylls, Guillermo Navarro, Martha Holmes, Tom Hugh-Jones

In today's more violent and volatile climate, animals' epic battles for survival take on a new urgency as they face intensified wildfires, blizzards, droughts, and downpours. These challenges are too much for some but present new opportunities for others.

Fri., March 15, 7:00 p.m. | National Geographic Society

\$12 | Post-screening discussion with Tom Hugh-Jones (executive producer)



A House in the Fields (Morocco, 2017, 86 min.) ●

Directed by Tala Hadid

This film examines life in an isolated Amazigh community in the High Atlas Mountains. The thousand-year history of the Amazigh in Morocco has been primarily transmitted and preserved by bards and storytellers in oral form. *House in the Fields* continues this tradition; it is told in collaboration with two teenage sisters, one who must give up school to be married, and the other who dreams of being a lawyer. This uniquely intimate take on the ethnographic documentary shows issues of tradition and change from the perspectives of young women.

D.C. Premiere | Sun., March 17, 4:00 p.m. | National Museum of Natural History

Free, reservations required



The Human Element (USA, 2018, 76 min.)

Directed by Matthew Testa

Presented by the Hollomon Price Foundation

Renowned photographer James Balog (*Chasing Ice*) uses his camera to reveal how environmental change is affecting the lives of everyday Americans. Following the four classical elements – air, earth, fire, and water – to frame his journey, Balog explores wildfires, hurricanes, sea level rise, coal mining, and the changes in the air we breathe. With compassion and heart, this film tells an urgent story while giving inspiration for a more balanced relationship between humanity and nature.

Sun., March 17, 7:00 p.m. | Carnegie Institution for Science

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with James Balog (producer), Matthew Testa (director), Rafe Pomerance (chairman, Arctic 21), Jesse Meisenhelter (New Green Deal Campaign Director, Sunrise Movement)

Reception follows



Into the Canyon (USA, 2019, 84 min.)

Directed by Peter McBride

In 2016 filmmaker/photographer Pete McBride and writer Kevin Fedarko set out on a 750-mile journey on foot through the entire length of the Grand Canyon. More people have stood on the moon than have accomplished this task. Their quest was more than just an endurance test – it was also a way to draw attention to the unprecedented threats facing one of our most revered landscapes. Throughout their passage, McBride and Fedarko encountered an astonishingly diverse and powerful landscape, rich in history, which is now facing perhaps the gravest crisis in the 98-year history of the Grand Canyon National Park. This film tells the story of extreme physical hardship that stretches the bonds of friendship and meditates on the timeless beauty of this sacred place.

D.C. Premiere | Sat., March 16, 4:00 p.m. | National Geographic Society

\$12 | Post-screening discussion





Island of the Hungry Ghosts (Australia, 2018, 98 min.) ●

Directed by Gabrielle Brady

Located off the coast of Indonesia, the Australian territory of Christmas Island is inhabited by migratory crabs traveling by the millions from the jungle toward the ocean, in a movement provoked by the full moon. Poh Lin Lee is a “trauma therapist” who lives with her family in this seemingly idyllic paradise. Every day, she talks with the asylum seekers held indefinitely in a high-security detention center hidden in the island’s core, attempting to support them in a situation that is as unbearable as its outcome is uncertain. As Poh Lin and her family explore the island’s beautiful yet threatening landscape, the local islanders carry out their “hungry ghost” rituals for the spirits of those who died on the island without a burial.

D.C. Premiere | **Mon., March 18, 7:15 p.m.** | **AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center**
\$13



Journey of the Whooping Crane (USA, 2018, 50 min.)

Directed by Rhett Turner, Greg Pope

At five feet tall, and with a wingspan of over seven feet, the whooping crane has the distinction of being North America’s tallest bird and, sadly, also one of its rarest. Habitat loss caused by European settlers reduced the population to just 15 birds by the 1940s. Since then, in an intense effort to protect and restore the species, a broad coalition of NGOs, private interests, and government agencies has worked collectively and tirelessly to nurture the remaining wild flock to its current population of about eight hundred.

D.C. Premiere | **Sun., March 17, 1:00 p.m.** | **National Zoo**

Free, registration required



Last Glimpse (USA, 2019, 45 min.)

Directed by Josh Burstein

This film explores the island paradise of the Maldives – the lowest lying nation in the world. Due to rising sea levels, this community and its culture are on the brink: “Modern Atlantis.” And rather than offering another climate change tale of doom and gloom, the filmmakers celebrate the stories they find. Young people take action on the frontlines of change, while former President Nasheed gives his last international interview before his incarceration (he has since been released). Director and host Josh Burstein leans on best practices from his experience serving in the Obama administration and advocating against the Keystone XL pipeline and for protecting the Boundary Waters of Minnesota.

World Premiere | **Fri., March 15, 7:00 p.m.** | **Eaton DC**

Free, registration required

LOBSTER WAR: The Fight Over the World's Richest Fishing Grounds

(USA, 2018, 74 min.)

Directed by David Abel

This feature-length film explores a climate-fueled conflict between the USA and Canada over waters that both countries have claimed since the end of the Revolutionary War. The disputed 277 square miles of sea, known as the Gray Zone, were traditionally fished by U.S. lobstermen. But as the Gulf of Maine has warmed faster than nearly any other body of water on the planet, the area's previously modest lobster population has surged. As a result, Canadians have begun to assert their sovereignty, warring with the Americans to claim the bounty.

D.C. Premiere | Sun., March 17, 7:00 p.m. | National Museum of Natural History

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with David Abel (director)



The Lonely Battle of Thomas Reid

(Ireland, 2017, 76 min.)

Directed by Feargal Ward

Thomas is a 55-year-old Irish farmer who lives and works the farm of his ancestors. Threadbare clothes, self-cut hair, and tough, weathered hands reveal a life of land and toil. His next-door neighbor is the world's largest manufacturer of computer microchips. The factory's site is almost fully developed, and rumors abound that more land is required for expansion. Thomas refuses all approaches to sell his farm but finds his world in turmoil as forces conspire to remove him. What begins as a story of one man's struggle to hold on to his way of life and land transforms into a universal exploration of a battle between principle and power.

D.C. Premiere | Sun., March 17, 9:30 p.m. | E Street Cinema

\$10



The Lost City of the Monkey God

(USA, 2018, 103 min.)

Directed by Bill Benenson

This film follows explorer Steve Elkins and team as they use advanced laser mapping technology to find a lost city hidden in the almost impenetrable jungle of "The Mosquito Coast." With the support of the president of Honduras and the Honduran military, they are able to save the site from certain destruction and looting, arrange for a proper excavation of artifacts, and begin to preserve the area for future generations.

D.C. Premiere | Sat., March 16, 7:00 p.m. | Carnegie Institution for Science

\$10 | Post-screening discussion with Bill Benenson (director), Laurie Benenson (producer), Steve Elkins (cinematographer), Ramón Espinoza (Director, Kaha Kamasa Foundation). Moderated by Barbara Harrison (Anchor, NBC4 Washington/WRC).



Love Flows (USA, 2019, 35 min.)



Directed by Francisco Campos-Lopez

Once upon a time, massive fish migrations were observed yearly around the globe. Civilizations and wildlife revolved around these natural wonders and depended on them for survival. For millennia, we have relied on rivers as a source of food, recreation, and energy. Unfortunately, many of these natural, free-flowing rivers have deteriorated as generations pass. *Love Flows* brings to life the challenges that voiceless rivers and fishes face against threats, but more importantly, it focuses on what we are doing to help improve the situation.

World Premiere

Tues., March 19, 7:00 p.m. | Embassy of Finland

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Francisco Campos-Lopez (director)

Maj Doris (Sweden, 2018, 73 min.)



Directed by Jon Blåhed

This documentary follows the legendary 74-year-old Sami woman Maj Doris Rimpi. Twenty years ago she had another kind of life. She traveled all around the world and she experienced a lot. Nowadays Maj Doris lives alone on a farm above the Arctic Circle in Sweden. She keeps reindeers, but she's also a sought-after artist, painter, and actress (best known for her role in 2016's *Sami Blood*). Last winter was filled with hard work, and she almost gave up. This winter Maj Doris gets help from an unexpected place, but does she have the energy to continue like this?

D.C. Premiere. | Weds., March 20, 7:45 p.m. | AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center
\$13

Manufactured Landscapes (Canada, 2006, 86 min.)



Directed by Nicholas de Pencier, Jennifer Baichwal, Edward Burtynsky

This feature-length documentary presents the world and work of renowned artist Edward Burtynsky. Burtynsky makes large-scale photographs of “manufactured landscapes” – quarries, recycling yards, factories, mines, dams. He photographs civilization’s materials and debris, but in a way people describe as “stunning” or “beautiful,” and so raises all kinds of questions about ethics and aesthetics without offering easy answers.

Sat., March 16, 5:00 p.m. | AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center
\$13

Meow Wolf: Origin Story (USA, 2018, 88 min.) ●

Directed by Morgan Capps, Jilann Spitzmiller

One of the most unlikely success stories you'll ever see takes us through the meteoric rise of a penniless, anarchic art collective as it attracts the support of George R. R. Martin (*Game of Thrones*) and morphs into a multi-million dollar corporation in just a few short years. With success of its House of *Eternal Return*, the group sets its sights on new exhibits around the world. How does a team of ragtag millennial artists become one of the most compelling new startups of this generation, and what will they do next? Follow the seven eclectic founding members and hundreds of volunteers as they struggle with fracture, loss, success, and failure over a decade – while constantly redefining themselves and what art can really be. The film is an artistic explosion in and of itself, a kaleidoscope of color, sound, and music that brings this crazy, highly inspiring ride to life.

Sun., March 17, 2:00 p.m. | Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion

Encore presentation: Sun., March 24, 2:00 p.m. | Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden

Free, reservations required



Mia and the White Lion (France, 2018, 98 min.)

Directed by Gilles de Maistre

This is the heartfelt story of an extraordinary friendship between a young girl and a white lion, and her incredible journey across the South African Savanna to give her best friend a new home.

U.S. Premiere | Tues., March 19, 7:00 p.m. | Embassy of France

Free, reservations required



A Modern Shepherdess (France, 2019, 87 min.) ●

Directed by Delphine D  trie

Winner, Hausman Foundation for the Environment Award

A few years ago, St  phanie left her Parisian life for the vast salt meadows of the Cherbourg Peninsula. The former graphic designer discovered a deep connection with this land by the sea where she now raises sheep. Here, she has reinvented herself. In pursuing her new calling, the single mother became the manager of a farm. It needs to be profitable, as this is the leitmotif of our time that even small farmers cannot escape from. She must also face up to neighbors who are hostile to the stranger that she still remains in their eyes. Through her courage, creativity, and strength of character, St  phanie aims to evade the birds of ill omen and win her freedom. This is the story of a shepherdess that invites us to question our own desire to lead a life in keeping with who we really are.

World Premiere | Fri., March 15, 7:00 p.m. | Embassy of France

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Delphine D  trie (director)

Encore presentation | Sun., March 24, 7:00 p.m. | National Geographic Society

Free, reservations required





Mori, The Artist's Habitat (Japan, 2018, 99 min.)

Directed by Shuichi Okita

Co-Presented with the Japan Information and Culture Center, Embassy of Japan and The Freer Gallery of Art

He lies among the shrubs and trees in his garden and observes the scurrying ants. This 94-year-old bearded man is Morikazu Kumagai, a.k.a. Mori, and he is a painter. For the last 30 years he's hardly left his property. Most of his day is spent tirelessly observing his garden and all living things in it, which he renders in paint while his wife Hideko attends to a string of visitors. When some developers decide to build a condominium next door that would block his sunlight, Mori and Hideko decide to take action.

D.C. Premiere | Sun., March 17, 2:00 p.m. | Freer Gallery of Art

Free, no reservations required



The Most Unknown (USA, 2018, 92 min.)

Directed by Ian Cheney

This epic documentary film sends nine scientists to extraordinary parts of the world to uncover unexpected answers to some of humanity's biggest questions. How did life begin? What is time? What is consciousness? How much do we really know?

D.C. Premiere | Fri., March 22, 7:00 p.m. | Carnegie Institution for Science

\$10 | Post-screening discussion with Ian Cheney (director), Jennifer Macalady (Associate Professor, Department of Geosciences at Pennsylvania State University), Rachel Smith (Curator of Meteorites at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences and Associate Professor in Physics & Astronomy at Appalachian State University). Moderated by Andrew Steele (Staff Scientist, Geophysical Laboratory, Carnegie Institution for Science).



On the Front Line: The Rangers of Gorongosa National Park (Mozambique, 2018, 82 min.)

Directed by Carla Rebai, James Byrne

In Gorongosa National Park, Mozambique, a brave team of rangers protects this beautiful wilderness from a range of threats, including bushmeat hunting and illegal logging. But Gorongosa is a million acres – the Rangers urgently need reinforcements. Seven hundred candidates attempt to pass the intense mental and physical tests required to become a Gorongosa Ranger. And, for the first time ever, women are allowed to apply. But they won't be shown any preferential treatment – they have to endure the grueling 60-day trial just like the men.

Sat., March 16, 2:00 p.m. | Carnegie Institution for Science

\$10

Paris to Pittsburgh (USA, 2018, 78 min.)

Directed by Michael Bonfiglio, Sidney Beaumont

Set against the national debate over the United States' energy future – and the explosive decision to exit the Paris Climate Agreement – this film captures what's at stake for communities around the country and the inspiring ways Americans are responding.

Tues., March 19, 7:00 p.m. | National Geographic Society

\$12 | Post-screening discussion



Peat, Palm and Haze (Singapore, 2018, 50 min.)

Directed by Isaac Kerlow

Co-presented by the Mexican Cultural Institute

Panelist: Isaac Kerlow

The burning of the peat forests throughout tropical Southeast Asia creates significant haze pollution that poses significant challenges to human health and the economies of the region. A government-sponsored transmigration program fueled the boom of oil palm farming, and local minorities were displaced. Scientists, government officials, local farmers, and displaced minorities present their conflicting points of view.

D.C. Premiere | Tues., March 19, 7:00 p.m. | Eaton DC

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Isaac Kerlow (director)



A Polar Year (France, 2017, 94 min.)

Directed by Samuel Collardey

Anders leaves his native Denmark for a teaching position in rural Greenland. As soon as he arrives, he finds himself at odds with the locals. Only through a clumsy and playful series of errors can Anders shake his Eurocentric assumptions and embrace their snow-covered way of life.

D.C. Premiere | Mon., March 18, 7:00 p.m. | Embassy of France

Free, reservations required



Return to Mount Kennedy (USA, 2018, 81 min.)

Directed by Eric Becker

In 1965 Jim Whittaker (the first American to reach the summit of Mount Everest) led Senator Robert Kennedy on the first ascent of a remote mountain in the Yukon named after the senator's late brother, President John F. Kennedy. Fifty years later, the sons of the original climbing team – a raucous band manager, a candidate for governor, and a young mountaineer – embark on an expedition to the mountain to celebrate the special bond that connects them all. Featuring unreleased instrumentals by Eddie Vedder and never-before-seen footage and photos of Robert Kennedy, the feature-length documentary sits at the intersection of politics, human rights, environmentalism, and adventure.

D.C. Premiere | Sun., March 17, 4:00 p.m. | National Geographic Society

\$12





Revolution (Canada, 2007, 89 min.)

Directed by Rob Stewart

Continuing his adventurous journey around the world, filmmaker Rob Stewart brings us a full-length feature film that is inspiring humanity to change the world and save our planet. Along with world-renowned experts, he learns that past evolutions can help solve some of our current and future environmental problems. Startling, beautiful, and provocative, this film has already won awards at international film festivals and shows us that we can make a difference.

Sun., March 17, 7:00 p.m. | Eaton DC

Free, reservations required



The River and the Wall (USA, 2019, 108 min.)

Directed by Ben Masters

This film follows five friends on an immersive adventure through the unknown wilds of the Texas borderlands. They travel 1,200 miles, from El Paso to the Gulf of Mexico, on horses, mountain bikes, and canoes. Realizing the urgency of documenting the last remaining wilderness in Texas as the threat of new border wall construction looms, they set out to document the borderlands and explore the potential impacts of a wall on the natural environment. As the wilderness gives way to the more populated and heavily trafficked Lower Rio Grande Valley, they come face to face with the human side of the immigration debate.

Thurs., March 14, 7:00 p.m. | National Geographic Society

\$35 | Post-screening discussion with Ben Masters (director).

Moderated by Juliet Eilperin (*Washington Post* senior national affairs correspondent).

Encore presentation | Sun., March 24, 2:00 p.m. | National Geographic Society

\$10



Ryuichi Sakamoto: Coda (USA/Japan, 2017, 102 min.)

Directed by Stephen Nomura Schible

Ryuichi Sakamoto has had a prolific musical career spanning over four decades, first as a techno-pop star and later as an Oscar-winning composer. The evolution of his music has coincided with his life journeys. Following the Fukushima nuclear disaster of 2011, Sakamoto became an iconic figure in Japan's social movement against nuclear power. In this intimate portrait of both the artist and the man, he returns to music following cancer to create a resounding new masterpiece.

Sun., March 17, 4:30 p.m. | National Gallery of Art

Free

Science Fair (USA, 2018, 90 min.) ●

Directed by Cristina Costantini, Darren Foster

Hailed by critics as “immensely likeable,” “brilliant and quirky,” and an “ode to the teenage science geeks on whom our future depends,” and winner of the Audience Award at Sundance and SXSW, National Geographic Documentary Films, this film follows nine high school students from around the globe as they navigate rivalries, setbacks and, of course, hormones, on their journey to compete at the International Science and Engineering Fair. As 1,700 of the smartest, quirkiest teens from 78 different countries face off, only one will be named Best in Fair. The film, from Fusion and Muck Media and directed by the duPont Award-winning and Emmy-nominated documentary filmmaking team of Cristina Costantini and Darren Foster, offers a front seat to the victories, defeats, and motivations of an incredible group of young men and women who are on a path to change their lives, and the world, through science.

Sat., March 16, 2:00 p.m. | National Geographic Society

\$12 | Post-screening discussion with Dr. Serena McCalla, STEM educator and scientist



D.C. FILMMAKER SHOWCASE

Seeds! (USA, 2018, 62 min.)

Directed by Walker Lambert

This six-part journey into the wonder and power of seeds introduces us to seed people around the world, from farmers to baristas, from gardeners to scientists, from pioneers to visionaries.

PRECEDED BY

Vital Liquido (USA, 2018, 31 min.) ●

Directed by Zachary Zimmerman, Michelle Morandotti

Subsistence Mayan farmers in the highlands of Guatemala are struggling to hold onto their lives and futures at the hands of a five-year drought that has caused their wells, springs, and pipes to run dry. The faraway rivers are polluted, and finding potable water is an everyday challenge.

Sat., March 16, 1:00 p.m. | Eaton DC

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion



Sharkwater (Canada, 2012, 90 min.)

Directed by Rob Stewart

For filmmaker Rob Stewart, exploring sharks began as an underwater adventure. What it turned into was a beautiful and dangerous life journey into the balance of life on earth. Stewart debunks historical stereotypes and media depictions of sharks as bloodthirsty, man-eating monsters and reveals the reality of sharks as pillars in the evolution of the seas. Filmed in visually stunning, high-definition video, *Sharkwater* takes you into the most shark rich waters of the world, exposing the exploitation and corruption surrounding the world's shark populations in the marine reserves of Cocos Island, Costa Rica, and the Galapagos Islands.

Sat., March 16, 7:00 p.m. | Eaton DC

Free, reservations required



Sharkwater Extinction (Canada, 2018, 87 min.)



Directed by Rob Stewart

Winner, Shared Earth Foundation Award for Advocacy

This thrilling, inspiring, and action-packed journey follows filmmaker Rob Stewart as he exposes the massive illegal shark fin industry and the political corruption behind it – a conspiracy that is leading to the extinction of sharks. From West Africa, Spain, Panama, Costa Rica, France, and even in our own backyard, Stewart's third film dives into the often-violent underworld of the pirate fishing trade to expose a multi-billion dollar industry. Shark finning is still rampant; shark fin soup is still being consumed on an enormous scale; and endangered sharks are being used to make products for human consumption. Stewart's mission is to save the sharks and oceans before it's too late. But exposing illegal activities isn't easy; protecting sharks has earned him some powerful enemies.

D.C. Premiere | Sat., March 23, 7:00 p.m. | National Geographic Society

\$35 | Post-screening discussion with Brian Stewart (producer), Sandy Stewart (producer), Brock Cahill (founder, the SeaChange Agency) | Closing Night party follows.

Encore presentation | Sun., March 24, 2:00 p.m. | Carnegie Institution for Science

\$10

Silent Forests (USA, 2019, 109 min.) ●



Directed by Mariah Wilson

This intimate, character-driven film portrays conservationists and activists who are fighting against all odds to stop elephant poaching in Africa's Congo Basin region. After a study revealed that more than half the central African forest elephant population has been lost to poaching in the last decade, a concerted effort arose to save those that remain. The dynamic subjects of *Silent Forests* include one of Cameroon's first female eco-guards, a grassroots wildlife law enforcement group, a Congolese biologist studying elephant behavior, a reformed elephant poacher, and a team of anti-poaching sniffer dogs led by a Czech conservationist. As passionate and tenacious as these conservationists are, they are up against huge institutional challenges that threaten to derail their mission.

D.C. Premiere | Mon., March 18, 7:00 p.m. | E Street Cinema

\$10 | Post-screening discussion with Mariah Wilson (director)

Thirst for Power (USA, 2018, 63 min.)

Directed by Mat Hames

Shot across Europe and the United States, this film traces the history of civilization's quest to procure abundant water and energy – from ancient Roman aqueducts in the south of France and Israel, to modern America's vast hydroelectric infrastructure. *Thirst for Power* explores our dependence on water for energy as well as the huge vulnerabilities in our current systems, exacerbated by climate change. The documentary is adapted from Dr. Michael E. Webber's book of the same name. Combining anecdotes and personal stories with insights into the latest science of energy and water, both the book and the documentary identify a hopeful path toward wise long-range water-energy decisions and a more reliable and abundant future for humanity.

D.C. Premiere | Thurs., March 21, noon | Woodrow Wilson Center

Free, no reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Mat Hames (director)

Encore presentation: Thurs., March 21, 7:00 p.m. | Eaton DC

Free, no reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Mat Hames (director)



Thirteen Ways (USA, 2019, 75 min.)

Directed by Ian Cheney

A series of scientists (and, for good measure, a few nonscientists) travel to a plot of Maine land they have never seen before. One-by-one, through all four seasons, they walk the land and describe what they see. What unfolds is an unusual meditation upon the human relationship to the natural world and the power of different ways of seeing.

World Premiere | Thurs., March 21, 7:00 p.m. | E Street Cinema

\$10 | Post-screening discussion with Ian Cheney (director)



This Mountain Life (Canada, 2018, 77 min.)

Directed by Grant Baldwin

The awe that mountainous landscapes evoke is universal, yet few ever venture into true wilderness. Living amongst us is a special breed of people for whom the draw of the mountains is so strong that their lives must revolve around them. Shot in cinematic detail, *This Mountain Life* is a riveting and intimate portrait of human passion set high in the peaks of British Columbia.

D.C. Premiere | Mon, March 18, 6:30 p.m. | Embassy of Canada

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Grant Baldwin (director)





Tigerland (USA, 2019, 91 min.)

Directed by Ross Kauffman

Tigers are the subject of myths and folktales, poetry and art. Half a century ago, in the jungles of India, a young forest officer rallied the world to save tigers from extinction. Today, the creed is carried on in far east Russia by the guardians of the last Siberian tigers, who risk everything to save the species. Directed by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Ross Kauffman (*Born into Brothels*), and produced by Oscar winner Fisher Stevens (*The Cove*), *Tigerland* is the story about our relationship with one of the world's most revered creatures.

D.C. Premiere | **Weds., March 20, 7:00 p.m.** | **Carnegie Institution for Science**

\$10 | Post-screening discussion with Ross Kauffman (director)

Encore presentation | **Sun., March 24, 7:00 p.m.** | **Carnegie Institution for Science**

\$10



The Trouble with Wolves (USA, 2018, 56 min.)

Directed by Collin Monda

With death threats, court battles, and an iconic endangered species in middle, this film takes an up-close look at the most heated and controversial wildlife conservation debate of our time. Explore whether coexistence is really possible by hearing from the people directly involved.

D.C. Premiere | **Weds., March 20, 7:00 p.m.** | **Eaton DC**

Free, reservations required



Watermark (Canada, 2013, 92 min.)

Directed by Nicholas de Pencier, Jennifer Baichwal, Edward Burtynsky

This feature documentary film brings together diverse stories from around the globe about our relationship with water: how we are drawn to it, what we learn from it, how we use it and the consequences of that use. We see massive floating abalone farms off China's Fujian coast and the construction site of the biggest arch dam in the world – the Xiluodu, six times the size of the Hoover. We visit the barren desert delta where the mighty Colorado River no longer reaches the ocean, and the water-intensive leather tanneries of Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Sun., March 17, 5:00 p.m. | **AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center**

\$13



Welcome to Sodom (Austria, 2018, 92 min.)

Directed by Florian Weigensamer, Christian Krönes

This dark and sensuous film takes us to a landfill in Ghana where electronic waste from the West is being recycled. It is an unforgettable experience, told by the workers themselves.

U.S. Premiere | **Tues., March 19, 7:45 p.m.** | **AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center**

\$13

When Lambs Become Lions (USA, 2018, 76 min.)

Directed by Jon Kasbe

Winner, William W. Warner Beautiful Swimmers Award

In a Kenyan town bordering wildlife conservation land, a small-time ivory dealer fights to stay on top while forces mobilize to destroy his trade. When he turns to his younger cousin, a conflicted wildlife ranger who hasn't been paid in months, they both see a possible lifeline. For the poachers, conservationists are not only winning their campaign to value elephant life over its ivory, but over human life as well. Who are these hunters who will risk death, arrest, and the moral outrage of the world to provide for their families? Director Jon Kasbe followed the film's subjects over a three-year period, gaining an extraordinary level of access and trust as he became part of their everyday lives. The result is a rare and visually arresting look through the perspectives and motives of the people at the epicenter of the conservation divide.

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

\$12 | Post-screening discussion with Jon Kasbe (director)

Encore presentation | Sun., March 24, 4:00 p.m. | National Geographic Society

\$10



Wild Amsterdam (Netherlands, 2018, 85 min.)

Directed by Mark Verkerk

In this eye-opening exploration of the wilder, often hidden side of Amsterdam, we discover that the bustling, historic capital of the Netherlands is home not only to colorful human beings but also to a rich and varied range of wildlife. Made by acclaimed wildlife filmmakers, *Wild Amsterdam* turns urban nature into a humorous and engaging experience for the whole family. You won't look at Amsterdam, or even your own city, in the same way again!

U.S. Premiere | Weds., March 20, 7:00 p.m. | Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Free, reservations required



Wild Relatives (Lebanon, 2018, 66 min.) ●

Directed by Jumana Manna

Deep in the earth beneath Arctic permafrost, seeds from all over the world are stored in the Svalbard Global Seed Vault. *Wild Relatives* starts from an event that sparked media interest worldwide; in 2012 an international agricultural research center was forced to relocate from Aleppo to Lebanon, due to the Syrian Revolution turned war, and began a laborious process of planting their seed collection from the Svalbard back-ups. The film captures the articulation of this large-scale international initiative at its local implementation in the Bekaa Valley of Lebanon, carried out primarily by young migrant women. The meditative pace patiently teases out tensions between state and individual, industrial and organic approaches to seed saving, climate change and biodiversity, witnessed through the journey of these seeds.

D.C. Premiere | Sat., March 16, 9:30 p.m. | E Street Cinema

\$10





Wildland (USA, 2018, 77 min.)

Directed by Alex Jablonski, Kahlil Hudson

Shot over one fire season, this sweeping yet deeply personal film chronicles a single wildland firefighting crew as they struggle with fear, loyalty, dreams, and demons. What emerges is a rich story of working-class men – their exterior world, their interior lives, and the fire that lies between.

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

\$10 | Post-screening discussion



The Woman Who Loves Giraffes (Canada, 2018, 83 min.) ●

Directed by Alison Reid

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

Dr. Anne Innis Dagg retraces the steps of her groundbreaking 1956 journey to South Africa to study giraffes in the wild. Now, at 85 years old, Anne sees a startling contrast between the world of giraffes she once knew and the one it has become. Weaving through the past and present, her harrowing journey gives us an intimate look into the factors that destroyed her career and the forces that brought her back.

U.S. Premiere | **Thurs. March 21, 7:00 p.m.** | **American University**

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Alison Reid (director), Anne Innis Dagg (subject), Mary Dagg (subject), Paul Zimic (executive producer). Moderated by Maggie Burnette Stogner (Executive Director, Center for Environmental Filmmaking).

Encore presentation | **Fri., March 22, 7:00 p.m.** | **Eaton DC**

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Alison Reid (director), Anne Innis Dagg (subject), Mary Dagg (subject), Paul Zimic (executive producer)



World at War (USA, 2019, 87 min.)

Directed by Robert Nixon

The fish he loves to catch are disappearing, so teenage fisher Jack Nixon enlists the help of marine conservationist Sylvia Earle. Finding a solution becomes a years-long global quest to save a dying ocean. Explorers Brian Skerry and Max Kennedy join the battle on the high-seas killing fields amid industrial fishing fleets and rapidly melting ice of the Chukchi Sea. The science and wisdom of Harvard biologist Dr. E. O. Wilson, deep diving pioneer Dr. Richard Pyle, and Stanford's Dr. Barbara Block inform the mission. Apollo 8 astronaut Major General William Anders and activist Bill McKibben provide relevant lessons of how humanity met past challenges. Sobered by a close examination of the daunting scale of the challenge, the teenagers find hope in nature's ability to heal and the ways a previous generation of youth overcame the global test of World War II.

Sneak Preview | **Mon., March 18, 7:00 p.m.** | **Eaton DC**

Free, registration required | Post-screening discussion with Sylvia Earle (subject)



27TH ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL

SHORTS PROGRAMS

SHORTS PROGRAM:

Alumni Spotlight



Under Her Wings (USA, 2019, 35 min.) ●

Directed by Elizabeth Herzfeldt-Kamprath

Compassion can take you by surprise. Toni Lance came to St. Croix as a young artist, expecting to discover and express the beauty of the island. She never anticipated the heart connection she would develop with the island birds, and how many she would take “under her wing.” This short documentary explores Toni’s passion as an artist and her life as a caretaker for wild birds.

D.C. Premiere



The Elephant's Song (USA, 2018, 8 min.) ●

Directed by Lynn Tomlinson

An old farm dog recounts the true tale of Old Bet, the elephant at the start of the American circus. This mournful, handcrafted film uses oil pastel as well as painterly clay-on-glass animation techniques.

D.C. Premiere



An Island Out of Time (USA, 2018, 25 min.) ●

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

This half-hour documentary about Smith Island, MD, features Mary Ada and Dwight Marshall, whose lives personify the Chesapeake Bay’s seafood-harvesting culture and history, and their four children, who chose to break with that tradition. The film, like Tom Horton’s 1996 book of the same name, is both a celebration and elegy for a place beset with erosion, dwindling population, and vanishing economic opportunities.

D.C. Premiere

Sat., March 23, 2:00 p.m. | Carnegie Institution for Science

\$10 | Post-screening discussion with Elizabeth Herzfeldt-Kamprath (director), Toni Lance (subject), Tom Horton (writer)

SHORTS PROGRAM:

Classic New Deal-Era Films from the National Archives

The Plow That Broke the Plains (USA, 1936, 29 min.)

Directed by Pare Lorentz

This classic film about the Dust Bowl has been one of the most widely praised and studied documentaries to be produced in America. Its masterful use of music and edited images were to influence a generation of filmmakers.

The River (USA, 1937, 32 min.)

Directed by Pare Lorentz

This monumental documentary highlights the exploitation and misuse of one of our greatest natural resources – the Mississippi River.

Power and the Land (USA, 1940, 39 min.)

Directed by Joris Ivens

This film was intended to encourage farmers to form their own electrical cooperatives with the help of the Rural Electrification Administration. However, famed Dutch filmmaker Joris Ivens transcended this original purpose by also presenting a timeless portrait of American farm life, rich in pastoral beauty.



Thurs., March 21, 7:00 p.m | National Archives

Free, registration recommended but not required

SHORTS PROGRAM:

Climate Change – Telling the Human Story

Co-presented with the Pulitzer Center

Amazon Forest Guardian Fight to Prevent Catastrophic Tipping Point (Brazil, 2018, 10 min.)

Directed by Sam Eaton

Indigenous groups in the Brazilian Amazon are locked in a battle to protect their forest from land grabbers, illegal loggers, and a political class determined to open the rainforest to agriculture and mining. It's a bloody conflict with global stakes. Scientists warn that rising deforestation has pushed the world's largest remaining tropical forest dangerously close to a tipping point that, once crossed, would send global warming into hyperdrive. The forest is flipping from a powerful "carbon sink" to a net source of carbon in the atmosphere. The property and legal rights of indigenous peoples that have been invoked to reverse that trend are conflicting with incentives to clear land and grow food for the global market.

D.C. Premiere

Cold Comfort: Arctic Communities (USA, 2019, 7 min.) ●

Directed by Nick Mott, Amy Martin

From the Arctic to the Amazon, communities are facing tremendous shifts in their ways of life. The people of Shishmaref, Alaska, risk becoming some of the first climate change refugees in the U.S. The Amazon Rainforest, often called the lungs of the planet, is a threatened crucial hedge against runaway climate change. A native community in Borneo is struggling to protect its ancestral homeland from an industry poised to destroy one of the Earth's oldest and most biodiverse rainforests. From stunning aerial photography from around the world, we see the damage already done by climate change, underscoring what is at stake. This year's Pulitzer Center session sheds light on the past and present to consider solutions for our future. Invited speakers for the post-screening conversation include journalist Amy Martin, and photographer George Steinmetz.

World Premiere

Losing Earth – From the Air (USA, 2019, 7 min.)

Directed by George Steinmetz

The decade from 1979 to 1989 critical for climate action. By the mid-1980s, the scientific community understood with unprecedented clarity that human activity was contributing to a rapid derangement of the natural world, one that would threaten economic and societal collapse if left unchecked. But efforts to marshal the political will and industry support to change course failed. Stunning aerial photography by George Steinmetz, taken over the past year, reveals some of the damage already done, while underscoring what remains at stake. Steinmetz combined his work with extensive reporting by Nathaniel Rich supported by the Pulitzer Center that took up an entire edition of *The New York Times Magazine* in August 2018.

World Premiere

Borneo's Vanishing Tribes (USA, 2019, 23 min.)

Directed by Kent Wagner

A native community struggles to protect its ancestral homeland from an industry poised to destroy one of the Earth's oldest and most biodiverse rainforests. *Borneo's Vanishing Tribes* offers a glimpse into the lives of those who are most at risk, the Dayak "people of the forest," who have relied on the rainforests of Borneo for thousands of years.

World Premiere

Mon, March 18, 6:30 p.m. | Carnegie Institution for Science

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Sam Eaton (director), Amy Martin (director). Moderated by Jon Sawyer (Executive Director, Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting).



SHORTS PROGRAM:

Climate Connections

Permafrost Now (USA, 2018, 9 min.)

Directed by Stash Wislocki

In vast swaths of polar tundra across the globe, permafrost acts as a giant container for carbon dioxide, locking it inside the Earth's surface and keeping it out of our atmosphere. But only when it's frozen. Scientists know that permafrost is rapidly thawing, threatening to release enormous amounts of carbon dioxide that could accelerate the effects of climate change drastically. The Woods Hole Research Center's Polaris Project sends teams of students and advisors to the northern tundra of Alaska, where they meticulously research the permafrost, work on potential solutions, and strive to become the next generation of Arctic scientists.

D.C. Premiere



Becoming Ocean (USA, 2018, 9 min.)

Directed by Scott K. Foley

When climate-change journalist Eiren Caffall is diagnosed with chronic kidney disease, she realizes that, like the planet, she is slowly drowning.

D.C. Premiere

Lowland Kids (USA, 2019, 22 min.) ●

Directed by Sandra Winther

As climate change erases the Louisiana coast, the last two teenagers on Isle de Jean Charles fight to stay on an island that's been their family home for generations.

D.C. Premiere



Nobody Dies in Longyearbyen (USA, 2018, 9 min.)

Directed by David Freid

They say that when you're hit by the polar bug, you never leave. Don't say we didn't warn you. Nobody dies in Longyearbyen, or so goes the rumor. We went to the northernmost city in the world to find out why and stumbled into the first act of a science fiction flick about something deadly, long buried in the permafrost.

D.C. Premiere



Beyond Climate (Canada, 2018, 49 min.)

Directed by Ian Mauro

Narrated by David Suzuki, this film explores the human and environmental impacts of climate change in British Columbia.

D.C. Premiere



Sun., March 17, Noon | Carnegie Institution for Science

\$10 | Post-screening discussion with William Crouse (producer, *Lowland Kids*)

SHORTS PROGRAM:

Conservation Center Stage with Ben Masters & Charles Post

5,000 Miles of Wild (USA, 2018, 8 min.)

Directed by Ben Masters

Combining stunning scenery with insightful commentary on the state of river conservation from Senator Tom Udall, Theodore Roosevelt IV, American Rivers president Bob Irvin, Rio Grande waterkeeper Jen Pelz, river guide Austin Alvarado, and others, this is a powerful call to action for protecting our country's remaining wild rivers for future generations.

D.C. Premiere

Return of the Desert Bighorn (USA, 2018, 9 min.)

Directed by Ben Masters

After the 1960s, when all native desert bighorn sheep were eliminated from Texas, conservationists began the long fight for their return. This film follows wildlife biologists as they capture, collar, and relocate desert bighorn to restore a healthy population in West Texas.

D.C. Premiere

Horse Rich and Dirt Poor (USA, 2019, 15 min.)

Directed by Charles Post, Ben Masters

This film follows ecologist Charles Post on a mission across the American West to better understand how wild horses and burros are affecting native wildlife and vegetation communities on our public lands.

World Premiere

Fri., March 15, 6:30 p.m. | Department of the Interior

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Ben Masters (director) and Charles Post (director)



SHORTS PROGRAM:

Earth in Frame

A Year along the Geostationary Orbit (Germany, 2018, 16 min.)

Directed by Felix Dierich

Himawari 8, Japan's most advanced meteorological satellite, travels 35,786 km above Earth, at more than 11000 km/h. It observes the Eastern Hemisphere day and night. For one year we look through the eyes of the distant observer. From solstice to solstice, from pole to pole, from storm to storm, we watch Earth's beauty and fragility, weather's wonders, forces, and disasters. From space, it all looks miraculous.

U.S. Premiere

How the World Looks Now (USA, 2018, 10 min.) ●

Directed by Katie Cokinos, Guy Reed

This narrative short explores the poetic effects of NASA's Apollo 8 mission and its 1968 Earthrise photo on the life of a retired English teacher – and on the astronauts themselves. This was the first time in human history we had an image of the Earth from outer space. "We were the first humans to see the world in its majestic totality," as one of the astronauts said, "and we felt small and immensely large at the same time."

U.S. Premiere

Earthrise (USA, 2018, 30 min.)

Directed by Emmanuel Vaughan-Lee

Told solely by the Apollo 8 astronauts, this film celebrates the first image captured of the Earth from space, in 1968. The iconic image had a powerful impact on the astronauts and the world, offering a perspective that transcended national, political, and religious boundaries. Fifty years later, this shift still challenges us to reflect on the Earth as a shared home. The astronauts recount their memories of the beauty, awe, and grandeur of the Earth against the blackness of space.



Weds., March 20, 7:00 p.m. | E Street Cinema

\$10 | Post-screening discussion with Emmanuel Vaughan-Lee (director), Katie Cokinos (director)

Encore presentation: Sun., March 24, noon | National Geographic Society

\$10

SHORTS PROGRAM:

Field in Focus

Predicting Pandemics (USA, 2019, 2 min.)

Directed by Roshan Patel

Smithsonian researchers partner with experts in Myanmar studying human and animal health to find out what diseases are present in wildlife and whether they could pose a threat to humans. This film shows how these scientists sample wildlife and work with communities to prevent the spread of disease.

Human-Elephant Conflict (USA, 2019, 4 min.)

Directed by Roshan Patel

Humans and elephants are increasingly living in the same places, which can lead to significant challenges. Tracking technology may be able to provide solutions that allow for people and elephant to thrive with fewer conflicts.

Tracking Elephants (USA, 2019, 5 min.)

Directed by Roshan Patel

Follow scientists as they track endangered elephants in Myanmar with GPS collars. The more they learn about how Asian elephants travel and move through the landscape, the better they can protect them.

Elephant Poaching (USA, 2019, 4 min.)

Directed by Roshan Patel

Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute scientists are tracking Asian elephants in Myanmar's Ayeyarwady region using GPS collars. Though they set out to understand how elephants use the land, their research has also revealed a troubling rise in poaching. Unlike African elephants, Asian elephants are poached for their skin and meat – making males, females, and calves equal targets. Conservation efforts in Myanmar are shifting to stop this urgent threat.



Sat., March 16, 1:00 p.m. | National Zoo

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

SHORTS PROGRAM:

Glimpses from Latin America – Sustainability Challenges Affecting Daily Lives

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

Refugiados do Desenvolvimento (Development Refugees)

(Brazil, 2017, 9 min.)

Directed by Fabio Nascimento

Brazil, just like most countries in Latin America, is a source of gold and silver, oil, iron, copper, meat, fruits, coffee, and other raw material. But the wealth goes to the prosperity of few, at the expense of the majority. The richest 1 percent of Brazilians makes almost one hundred times more than the poorest 10 percent, and 13 million Brazilians are illiterate. “Progress” and “development” only magnify the problems.

U.S. Premiere

Mar Incendiado (The Burnt Sea)

(Mexico, 2017, 17 min.)

Directed by Carlos Armella

Since 1940, abalone has been the primary fish caught off Isla Natividad, Baja California Sur, Mexico. The inhabitants of this community make efforts to adapt to the threat of climate change.

U.S. Premiere

Alimento (Food)

(Dominican Republic, 2016, 19 min.) ●

Directed by Mijaíl Peralta, Wendy P. Espinal

On the Dominican-Haitian border, the struggle to survive is getting harder every day. There is a lot of food being harvested, transported, and sold. But it ends up very far away.

U.S. Premiere

Sun., March 17, 4:00 p.m. | Carnegie Institute for Science

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Eleonora Isunza (Co-Producer, Mar Incendiado and Director, Cinema Planeta). Moderated by Natasha Despotovic (Executive Director, Global Foundation for Democracy and Development Director, Dominican Republic Environmental Film Festival).



SHORTS PROGRAM:

Global Conservation

Scenes from a Dry City (South Africa, 2018, 13 min.)

Directed by Francois Verster, Simon Wood

An impending water crisis grips Cape Town, South Africa.

U.S. Premiere



The Black Mambas (South Africa, 2018, 13 min.)

Directed by Bruce Donnelly

Formed by a group of local black women from communities surrounding the Kruger National Park, the Black Mambas are South Africa's first and only all-female anti-poaching unit, attempting to rescue their country's threatened rhino population from the edge of extinction. With military training, yet unarmed, these women have reduced rhino poaching significantly in their area, but they know they may have won only a small, short-term battle in a much larger war. Their mission now is to take their work well beyond the reserve, to the schools and communities across South Africa, to empower and employ other women, educate children, and uplift underprivileged communities. Only then will they bring about lasting and sustainable change to their country.

D.C. Premiere

A Film about Animals (for my children to watch when they are older) (USA, 2018, 12 min.)

Directed by Eric Daniel Metzgar

Winner of Best Short Film at the International Wildlife Film Festival, Planet in Focus Environmental Film Festival, and the Animal Film Festival, this is the latest documentary from two-time Emmy-nominated filmmaker Eric Daniel Metzgar. After a sobering trip to film Cambodia's disappearing wildlife and rain forests, a filmmaker struggles to know how and when to tell his young children about the destruction of the natural world. He decides to tell his children the truth of what he has witnessed in a filmed "letter" that they should watch when they are older. The film reveals the work of the Wildlife Rapid Rescue Team. These armed Cambodian government soldiers investigate the illegal wildlife trade and strictly enforce the national policy that no animals may be taken from the wild.

D.C. Premiere



Poachers and Protectors: The Story of Scarlet Macaws in Honduras (USA, 2018, 8 min.) ●

Directed by Christi Lowe

In the dangerous *La Moskitia* region of Honduras, poachers seek out the chicks and eggs of wild scarlet macaws. Their goal: sell them in the lucrative illegal pet trade. To counter the traffickers, brave community members have united to patrol and protect the nests, recognizing that in some ways, their own fates are tied to those of the birds. This film puts a spotlight on the wildlife trafficking crisis in Latin America and introduces us to some of the heroes who are willing to risk it all for these iconic birds.

D.C. Premiere



Field in Focus: Tracking Elephants (USA, 2019, 5 min.)

Directed by Roshan Patel

Follow scientists as they track endangered elephants in Myanmar with GPS collars. The more they learn about how Asian elephants travel and move through the landscape, the better they can protect them.

Antamiki (USA, 2018, 30 min.)

Directed by Steve Ellington

Illegal logging is a threat to the world's forests and to the many people who rely on them. This film follows a group of musicians to the Peruvian Amazon to listen to the stories of indigenous leaders and to learn how consumer choices directly impact forest communities. Featuring James Valentine of Maroon 5, Stefan Lessard of Dave Matthews Band, Adam Gardner of Guster, and singer/songwriter KT Tunstall.

Sun., March 17, 12:00 p.m. | E Street Cinema

\$10 | Post-screening discussion with Steve Ellington (director), Roshan Patel (director)

Encore presentation | Weds., March 20, 9:30 p.m. | E Street Cinema

\$10



SHORTS PROGRAM:

International Portraits



The River of the Kukamas (Peru, 2018, 7 min.) ●

Directed by Nika Belianina

Being born from the spirit of the Amazon River, Kukama people have a special connection to the water. The river shrinks and grows throughout the year, affecting the lives of its citizens. Filmed at its widest state at the end of the rain season, this documentary highlights the challenges that Kukama people face today.

D.C. Premiere



Crannog (U.K., 2018, 15 min.) ●

Directed by Isa Rao

Alexis has a life-threatening disease. She spends her time in the wooded expanse of northern Scotland, where she takes care of dozens of others who are also sick, wounded, or dying. Some have terminal cancer; some were about to be killed because of their disabilities; some were saved from slaughterhouses. Alexis provides palliative care for animals. This film follows Alexis as she tirelessly tries to nurse a neglected sheep back to health. This quiet reflection on kindness in the face of death intimately explores the fragility and strength that comes from dedicating your life to the care of others.

D.C. Premiere



Bayandalai – Lord of the Taiga (Spain, 2018, 12 min.)

Directed by Aner Etxebarria Moral, Pablo Vidal Santos

From inside his yurt deep within the heart of the sub-Arctic Taiga region, an elder of the Dukhas tribe muses about the significance of life and death in the largest forest on Earth. He is the last of the great reindeer herders of the Taiga.

U.S. Premiere



Black Line (Switzerland, 2017, 10 min.) ●

Directed by Mark Olexa, Francesca Scalisi

A woman fishing in turbid waters, a suffering nature, the broken chant of the muezzin – they are all linked by a thin, black line.

D.C. Premiere

Insect Guardian – Butterfly Paradise (Netherlands, 2019, 6 min.)

Directed by Tim Visser, Sander van Iersel

Back in 1980, Willem bought a remote potato farm and transformed it into a butterfly paradise. He has worked the land with shovel and scythe for almost 40 years in order to preserve the butterflies. Willem's paradise has become one of the most important habitats in the region for these fluttering beauties, but there is a problem. Due to an overload of nitrogen in the air, a monoculture of grass slowly drives away this flower-rich butterfly paradise. Butterflies that used to be common just a few decades ago are rare these days, or have completely disappeared.

World Premiere



The Call of Pashmina (India, 2018, 16 min.) ●

Directed by Taira Malaney

After news of a tragic snowstorm in Changtang reaches him, a Kashmiri man quits his job and embarks on a journey to become a shepherd. Six years later, he starts the Pashmina Goat Project – an N.G.O. to protect the Changpa community and their goats from the harsh implications of climate change in Ladakh.

D.C. Premiere



The River Is Me (USA, 2019, 17 min.)

Directed by David Freid

For many years, this river's ownership was under dispute. Now, it owns itself. In what is believed to be a world's first, the Whanganui River has been granted legal personhood, with the same rights and responsibilities as you and me. But determining where a river ends and the rest of nature begins – that may be up for some debate.

D.C. Premiere



Sat., March 16, 12:00 p.m. | E Street Cinema

\$10

Encore presentation | Mon., March 18, 9:30 p.m. | E Street Cinema

\$10

SHORTS PROGRAM:

Journeys

For the Love of Salmon (Canada, 2018, 8 min.)

Directed by Jan Vozenilek

Under a haze of wildfire smoke and with her ancestors watching from above, Keely Weget-Whitney steps into the frigid and fast-moving waters of the Fraser River with one goal in mind: make people care. Join the 25-year-old member of the Stl'atl'imx First Nation as she embarks on a 60-kilometer swim to bring awareness to the depletion of salmon and its impacts on her culture and the environment. "I just feel that if I care, a young Indigenous Stl'atl'imx mother, people will reflect on that, and they'll say why am I not caring, what can I do for a change?" As she battles the strong current and her own self-doubt, Keely encourages us all to come together to make change.

D.C. Premiere



Seldom Seen Sleight (USA, 2018, 13 min.)

Directed by Taylor Graham

When Ken Sleight first floated the Colorado River through southern Utah's Glen Canyon in 1955, he recognized the canyon as a place where he could spend the rest of his life. Shortly thereafter, he left a comfortable desk job at the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company to start his own river guiding company. With plans for Glen Canyon Dam already in the works, however, he knew he was building his life around a condemned world.

D.C. Premiere



Space to Explore (USA, 2018, 14 min.) ●

Directed by Katherine DuBois

On an outdoor adventure to the Mars-like terrain of Moab, Utah, Natalie Panek seeks to reconcile life's stumbles, redirections, and challenges in her pursuit of space travel. Panek has spent her life focused on her biggest dream – to be the first to set foot on another planet. An aerospace engineer, a pilot, an influencer, an avid explorer, she has made it to the top 100 of astronaut candidates. Amidst sky-high arches and pinnacles, breathtaking views, and a canopy of stars, it's easy to believe that all the adventure you need is right here on Earth.

D.C. Premiere



The Passage (USA, 2018, 25 min.)

Directed by Nathan Dappen

"In 1974," the filmmaker recalls, "My 20-year-old parents and uncle Andy built their own canoes, launched them into the Pacific, and became some the first people in modern history to canoe from Washington to Alaska up the Inside Passage." He continues, "My brother and I grew up paddling those wooden canoes in the Virginia rives and the 1974 adventure became legend in our family – shaping who we've become, how we view our parents, and how our parents view themselves. In the summer of 2017, we renovated those canoes and with our aging parents completed their 1974 journey. *The Passage* is a story about the dreams of aging brothers, fathers and sons, and the wild places that define us.

D.C. Premiere



Sun., March 17, 2:00 p.m. | E Street Cinema

\$10 | Post-screening discussion with Nathan Dappen (director), Katherine DuBois (director)

Encore presentation | Thurs., March 21, 9:30 p.m. | E Street Cinema

\$10

SHORTS PROGRAM:

Local Waterways

The Incredible Oyster Reef (USA, 2017, 10 min.) ●

Directed by Russ Nichols, Alison Nichols

Most of us who love the Chesapeake Bay know that oysters once existed in storied numbers, long before poor water quality, disease, and harvesting nearly put an end to them. This film explores oysters as a keystone species with a remarkable, and it seems, indispensable ability to heal the bay's troubled waters.

D.C. Premiere

Shad Run (USA, 2018, 26 min.) ●

Directed by Ben Dorger, Becky Harlan

Most of us who love the Chesapeake Bay know that oysters once existed in storied numbers, long before poor water quality, disease, and harvesting nearly put an end to them. This film explores oysters as a keystone species with a remarkable, and it seems, indispensable ability to heal the bay's troubled waters. The American shad, a migratory fish, were once so abundant in the Potomac River that people said the river would "run silver" each spring. By the 1970s numbers were so low that even seasoned anglers went home empty-handed. *Shad Run* chronicles the abundance, demise, and quest to bring back America's forgotten fish.

On the Waterfront With Arthur Cotton Moore (USA, 2019, 12 min.)

Directed by Tim Persinko

This film centers on the development of the Georgetown Waterfront National Harbor and its architect, Arthur Cotton Moore. It touches on a variety of environmental approaches to waterfront development in the District of Columbia. A world-renowned architect who was in the forefront of new designs for a changing environment as early as the 1960s, Moore addresses the role that architecture plays in the evolving environment of Washington's urban system.

World Premiere

Healing Baltimore's Harbor: A Pipe Dream? (USA, 2018, 27 min.) ●

Directed by Sirjaut Kaur Dhariwal, Crystal Berg

Baltimore's Inner Harbor is a source of pride for city residents, but every year millions of gallons of sewage seep into waterways that drain to the harbor, threatening anyone who comes in contact with the water. Is the Inner Harbor salvageable? The short answer is yes – but it is going to take a lot of work.



Sat., March 23, Noon | Carnegie Institution for Science

\$10 | Post-screening discussion with Sirjaut Kaur Dhariwal (director), Crystal Berg (director), Ben Dorger (director), Becky Harlan (director), Russ Nichols (director), Alison Nichols (director), John Wennersten (director), Tim Persinko (director)

SHORTS PROGRAM:

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

Dulce (USA/Columbia, 2018, 10 min.)

Directed by Guille Isa, Angello Faccini

Finalist

On Colombia's Pacific Coast, a mother teaches her daughter Dulce how to swim. It is an essential skill in this remote region, where livelihoods are made on the sea and where rising tides, made worse by climate change, have swept entire villages away in recent years. Overcoming her fear of the water is just one element of Dulce's budding awareness of her natural and cultural surroundings. As Singapore dredges sand out from beneath Cambodia's mangrove forests, the threat of erasure looms over an ecosystem, a communal way of life, and one woman's relationship to her beloved home.

D.C. Premiere



Treeline (USA, 2018, 40 min.)

Directed by Jordan Manley

Finalist

Quietly, patiently, trees endure. They are the oldest living beings we come to know during our time on earth. They provide our shelter, our fuel, our companionship, and – in some cases – our divinity. They are living bridges into our planet's enormous past, their obscure stories written into their rings over centuries and even millennia. *Treeline* takes us to the enshrined cypress groves of Japan, the towering red cedars of British Columbia, and the ancient bristlecone pines of Nevada, following a handful of skiers, snowboarders, scientists, and healers as they move among these giants and explore a connection older than humanity.

D.C. Premiere



Lost World (USA, 2018, 16 min.) ●

Directed by Kalyanee Mam

As Singapore dredges sand out from beneath Cambodia's mangrove forests, the threat of erasure looms over an ecosystem, a communal way of life, and one woman's relationship to her beloved home.

D.C. Premiere



Thurs., March 21, 7:00 p.m. | National Geographic Society

\$12 | Post-screening discussion with Kalyanee Mam (director), Emmanuel Vaughan-Lee (director)

Encore presentation | Sun., March 24, noon | Carnegie Institution for Science

\$10

SHORTS PROGRAM:

Narrative Film

The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating (USA, 2019, 15 min.) ●

Directed by Elisabeth Tova Bailey

When a woman is bedridden by a mysterious pathogen, a snail unexpectedly takes up residence on her nightstand. The connection between snail and woman deepens as they share a journey of survival and resilience in this intimate and surprising live-action true story. Together, their captivating and graceful explorations expand the boundaries of the bedroom.

World Premiere

Empty Skies (USA, 2017, 19 min.)

Directed by Wenting Den, Luke Fisher

A boy and his new friend hunt their village's last sparrow for a reward to save his sick grandma during Communist China's Great Leap Forward (1958-1961).

D.C. Premiere

The Open Door (Bhutan, 2018, 15 min.)

Directed by Jamyang Jamtsho Wangchuk

It was an age-old custom in the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan to keep the doors open, only closing it before bed. If doors were closed during the day, neighbors would become anxious. This short film follows the life of a girl, Pema, from infancy to adulthood, spanning over half a century. The film is divided into four chapters, each representing a season, roughly every two decades in the girl's life.

U.S. Premiere

Sides of a Horn (USA, 2019, 17 min.)

Directed by Toby Wosskow

From Executive Producer Sir Richard Branson, this is the first film to tell the story of Africa's poaching war from both sides of the fence. Based on actual events, and filmed in the townships and game reserves most directly impacted by wildlife crime, *Sides of a Horn* paints an unbiased portrait of a modern war that is tearing communities apart and driving a prehistoric species to the verge of extinction.

D.C. Premiere



Sat., March 16, Noon | Carnegie Institution for Science

\$10 | Post-screening discussion with Toby Wosskow (director)

SHORTS PROGRAM:

Profiles and Perspectives

Dignity at a Monumental Scale (USA, 2018, 8 min.) ●

Directed by Kelly Whalen

When images of everyday Navajo life began appearing at a monumental scale on abandoned buildings, roadside stands, and water towers across the Southwest, it was a surprise for many in the community to discover it was the work of Chip Thomas a.k.a. “Jetsonorama,” a longtime resident known by many as a healer of another kind. By day, Thomas is a primary care physician at the Inscription House Health Clinic, part of Indian Health Services on the Navajo Nation, where he has lived for 30 years. In his free time, Thomas installs massive photomurals depicting his neighbors, from sheepherders to grandmothers, and celebrating the beauty of a people whose land has been mined and poisoned, cut up and sold off.

D.C. Premiere



Nuuca (Canada, 2017, 13 min.) ●

Directed by Michelle Latimer

Over the last decade, an oil boom in North Dakota has seen the state’s population double, with primarily male workers flocking to the region. With this dramatic increase has come an influx of drugs, crime, and sexual violence. On the Fort Berthold Indian reservation alone, rates of sexual violence have increased 168 percent, with indigenous women most affected. Juxtaposing the ravaged yet starkly beautiful landscape with personal testimony from young indigenous women living on the reservation, *Nuuca* is an evocative meditation revealing the connections between the rape of the earth and the violence perpetrated against indigenous women and girls.



Station 15 (USA, 2017, 15 min.)

Directed by Kira Akerman

High school student and poet Chasity Hunter experienced intense flooding in her New Orleans neighborhood during both Hurricane Katrina and recent summer rainstorms. Inspired to find out how safe her city really is, she investigates its infrastructure and questions water experts. As Chasity’s knowledge deepens, she grows into her own voice in her community.

D.C. Premiere



Collapsing Time (USA, 2019, 4 min.)

Directed by Dorian Warneck

Zoe Keller is a graphite artist creating large-scale, highly detailed drawings. Using the traditions of scientific illustration, she weaves complex visual narratives about at-risk species and wild places. *Collapsing Time* takes a look at the motivations behind her work.

D.C. Premiere

Herd Impact (USA, 2019, 23 min.)

Directed by Peter Byck

A north Texas couple lets nature dictate how they graze their cattle. They are having tremendous success in regenerating their land and their lives.

World Premiere

Welcome to Gwichyaa Zhee (USA, 2019, 13 min.)

Directed by Len Necefer, Greg Belkin

The Gwich'in have been fighting oil and gas development to protect their way of life and caribou in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for over 40 years.

Sat., March 23, 3:00 p.m. | Eaton DC

\$10





SHORTS PROGRAM: Protection & Restoration

Tracking Snow (USA, 2018, 5 min.) ●

Directed by Tanya Martinez, Jaclyn Aliperti, J.P. Lawrence

To estimate the distribution elusive carnivores, researchers rely on finding snow tracks, which often leads to a lot of work without conclusive results. Join two scientists as they repurpose an old technique in a way that may revolutionize how we study threatened species and manage our landscapes. Created during the 2018 International Wildlife Film Festival Filmmaker Labs, this film highlights the importance of conservation through collaboration by bringing together the scientific minds of two distinct branches of the U.S. Forest Service.

D.C. Premiere



Parrots in Peril: Miami's Wild Macaws (USA, 2018, 8 min.)

Directed by Neil Losin, Nathan Dappen

Parrot lover and conservationist Daria Feinstein is on a mission to protect one of Miami's most spectacular wild residents: the blue-and-yellow macaw (*Ara ararauna*). Indigenous to Central and South America, these colorful parrots have established a small but well-beloved breeding population in Miami. Today, however, their numbers are crashing as poachers capture the macaws and their chicks for sale into the lucrative pet trade. Florida state law provides no legal protection for these non-native birds, but the state's wildlife agency considers them "non-invasive" because they don't seem to compete with or harm native species. Therefore, some municipalities have adopted "bird sanctuary laws" to protect them. How far should we go to protect non-native species, and can Miami's wild macaws be saved before it's too late?

D.C. Premiere

Great Old Broads for Wolves (USA, 2019, 5 min.)

Directed by Grizzly Creek Films

Welcome to the Southwest, where the land is wild and the women...might be even wilder. Introducing the Great Old Broads for Wilderness and their fight to keep southwestern Colorado's wilderness an intact and natural environment. These women have come together to find their voice and now are using it to give these lands a fighting chance.

D.C. Premiere



Cowboys & Scientists (USA, 2018, 8 min.)

Directed by Eric Bendick

Thirty years ago, a partnership between Archbold Biological Station and Buck Island Ranch inspired a new mission: cowboys and scientists working together to advance scientific discovery on a ten-thousand-acre working cattle ranch. Bridging this cultural divide has resulted in a series of transformative discoveries that have begun to reshape our misconceptions about agriculture, sustainability, and conservation in the 21st century.

D.C. Premiere

The New Way Forward: Wetlands (USA, 2019, 10 min.)

Directed by Rusty Prevatt

California's Chinook salmon population is crashing. Governmental agencies, environmentalists and others are scrambling to find answers to reverse this potentially catastrophic outcome. Meanwhile, there may be a solution just beyond the riverbank. Discover how farmers, scientists, and conservationists are using northern California rice fields to create not only habitat for wild birds but to help save the salmon.

World Premiere

Blue Carbon: A Story from the Snohomish Estuary

(USA, 2018, 6 min.) ●

Directed by Sara Joy Steele, Benjamin Drummond

Blue carbon is carbon that is captured and stored by coastal wetlands, helping to mitigate climate change. This film is about mud and the multiple benefits that estuaries provide for us. "You never go into a wetland and just restore one benefit," says wetlands ecologist John Rybczyk.

D.C. Premiere

Renewal: Think Like a Scientist (USA, 2018, 8 min.) ●

Directed by Jessica Plumb

Featuring an emerging young wildlife biologist from the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, this is a heartwarming story of transformation and restoration on Washington State's Elwha River. This profile of two women in science is part of Howard Hughes Medical Institute's "Think Like A Scientist" series. It also follows up on the award-winning feature film, *Return of the River*, which chronicled the largest dam removal in history.

D.C. Premiere

Roots (USA, 2018, 6 min.) ●

Directed by Morgan Heim, Jenny Nichols, Allison Otto

Discover the daily work, hope, and perspective of one professional female tree-planter in Oregon – from an early start with coffee, through planting countless saplings in the Willamette River Valley with her team, Ash Creek Forest Management. A new analysis says forests are shrinking on state and private land in Oregon, where an estimated 522,000 acres of forest cover have disappeared since 2000. This project was conceived and funded by reforestation nonprofit One Tree Planted.

D.C. Premiere

The Last Green Thread (USA, 2018, 18 min.)

Directed by Eric Bendick, Danny Schmidt

In 2018 three friends set out on an expedition into the most rapidly developing landscape in central Florida, traveling the narrowest and most imperiled wildlife corridor in the state.

D.C. Premiere



Sat., March 16, 2:00 p.m. | E Street Cinema

\$10 | Post-screening discussion with Eric Bendick (director), Danny Schmidt (director), Nathan Dappen (director), Jenny Nichols (director)

Encore presentation | Tues., March 19, 9:30 p.m. | E Street Cinema

\$10

SHORTS PROGRAM: Student Cinema

The Shrinking Sky (USA, 2018, 14 min.)

Directed by Hannah Silverman

In the near future, Earth's atmosphere is rapidly shrinking due to carbon dioxide emissions, and the planet will soon be uninhabitable. Ten-year-old Henry spends his days caring for his grief-stricken mother, but when he meets Alana, his nature-loving neighbor, he gains a new appreciation for the planet.

World Premiere



The Bride's Tree (Israel, 2017, 18 min.)

Directed by Shadi Habib Allah

A 12-year-old boy is put in charge of watching over a 400-year-old tree, while life unfolds beneath. The reality of living close to the separation wall is mixed with stories of loss and love.

U.S. Premiere



Fate of a Mustang (USA, 2018, 18 min.)

Directed by Hyatt Mamoun

Wild mustangs roam the American West, but their freedom, even existence, is threatened. This documentary uncovers the truth about these beautiful horses and highlights efforts to protect them.

D.C. Premiere



Dust Rising (USA, 2018, 26 min.)

Directed by Lauren Schwartzman

This film takes you on an eye-opening journey with dust from the microscopic to the global scale. Meet scientists on the cutting edge of dust research, as well as a couple whose lives have been dramatically altered by dust.

D.C. Premiere

Sat., March 23, 1:00 p.m. | Eaton DC

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Hyatt Mamoun (director)

SHORTS PROGRAM:

Views from Kosovo

Presented in partnership with DokuFest and with the support of the Trust for Mutual Understanding

Lumbardhi (Kosovo, 2019, 4 min.)

Directed by Andi Bilibani

This is the story of how a river that once used to epitomize purity and supply an entire town with clean water lost its glory due to modernization and development.

World Premiere

The Spring in Summer (Kosovo, 2014, 8 min.)

Directed by Vanja Ristić, Mila Radonjickj, Edin Alija

This short documentary captures the moments when we use the water fountain. It is a poetic and allegorical story about people, differences, connections, similarities. We all stop by the water fountain, even just for a moment, no matter where we come from or where we go. This is a story about all of us – young, old, happy or sad, angry or delighted, or just being thirsty. This is a story about the little moments of magic that happen there, at the fountain.

D.C. Premiere

The Station (Kosovo, 2018, 12 min.)

Directed by Leart Rama

Discover the high mountains on either side of a small ship that breaks the quietness of this small part of the world.

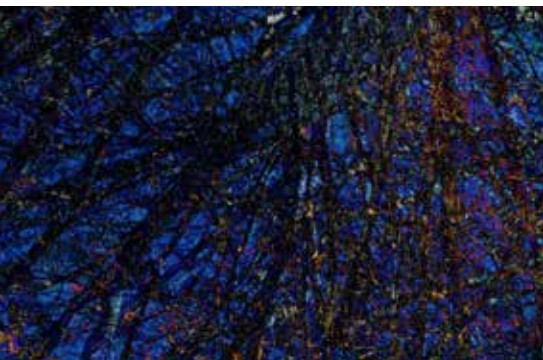
U.S. Premiere

Sat., March 16, 4:00 p.m. | Carnegie Institution for Science

\$10 | Post-screening discussion with Veton Nurkollari (Artistic Director, DokuFest), Leart Rama (director), Ferdi Limani (director)



SHORTS PROGRAM: Visionary Green



Concrescence (Canada, 2017, 2 min.)

Directed by Dan Browne

Static winter forms melt in sunlight.

D.C. Premiere



Even In Paradise (USA, 2018, 10 min.)

Directed by Duane Peterson

This experimental documentary takes an unblinking look at California landscapes bearing the scars of wars fought elsewhere. Serene forest groves and opaque Silicon Valley windows provide the visual framework for an assumption-challenging essay film inspired by Rebecca Solnit's radical historical geographies and the political cinema of Travis Wilkerson. The film's minimalist visual style features locked-down landscape cinematography and on-screen text, provoking a new way of revealing the costs of war as they are found in the very flesh of California.

D.C. Premiere

The Los Angeles River (USA, 2019, 18 min.) ●

Directed by Margaret Brown, Jeffrey Peixoto

Directed by Margaret Brown (*Be Here To Love Me*, *The Order of Myths*, *The Great Invisible*), the film explores the rich natural and human diversity of the Los Angeles River with a delicate, poetic touch. The short documentary is a moving and beautiful portrait of one of the great and unknown anomalies of Los Angeles – a river that was covered in concrete and is slowly being brought back to life. To make the film, Brown and her co-director, Jeff Peixoto, explored the river on foot over the course of a full year.

World Premiere



Becoming (Netherlands, 2018, 6 min.)

Directed by Jan van IJken

This short film explores the miraculous genesis of animal life. In great microscopic detail, we see the “making of” an Alpine newt in its transparent egg, from fertilization to hatching. The first stages of embryonic development are roughly the same for all animals, including humans. In the film, we can observe a universal process that is normally invisible: the very beginning of an animal's life. A single cell is transformed into a complete, complex living organism with a beating heart and running bloodstream. The salamander (*Ichthyosaura alpestris*) embryo was followed very closely in a combination of time-lapse photography and film. All stages of embryogenesis can be seen in this film: cleavage, gastrulation, neurulation, and organogenesis. Time was condensed from about three weeks to six minutes.

D.C. Premiere

animistica (Austria, 2018, 7 min.) ●

Directed by Nikki Schuster

This film opens with the viewer awakening as if inside a restless dream, transformed into a strange vermin. The camera assumes the perspective of an insect burrowing through the dark crumbling underground, kindred to the community of beetles swarming under the idyllic green facade of the lawn in the famous opening sequence of David Lynch's *Blue Velvet*.

D.C. Premiere

Skywards (U.K., 2017, 5 min.) ●

Directed by Eva Weber

This poetic and evocative visual study takes the viewer on a journey into the world of pigeon flying high above the bustling and crowded streets of Old Delhi.

God Has Already Gone Ahead (Germany, 2018, 10 min.)

Directed by Peter Böving

A fanciful stop-motion film about Egyptian geese from prehistoric times through the present day.

D.C. Premiere

Reboot (USA, 2018, 4 min.) ●

Directed by Ellen Osborne

Humans have finally succeeded in destroying the planet. As the last people board the ship to Mars, the earth breathes a sigh of relief and the boundless resilience of nature springs into action!

D.C. Premiere

Leafcutters (Costa Rica/Panama, 2019, 18 min.) ●

Directed by Catherine Chalmers

This film is a unique collaboration with millions of wild ants. Focusing on four supposedly unique human traits — language, ritual, war, and art — the narrative aims to blur the boundaries between culture and nature. In four chapters, *Leafcutters* accentuates the ingenuity of these miniature yet mighty civilizations that inhabit the neotropical rainforest. In “We Rule,” the ants carry language that is in keeping with their dominant status in the forest. “The Chosen” is a ritualistic procession, like a Balinese festival or pagan rite, where the ants bring flowers to lay at the feet of their idol. In “War,” two colonies of the same species are locked in a merciless battle. The video ends on a high note with “Antworks.”

D.C. Premiere



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

\$10 | Post-screening discussion with Catherine Chalmers (director)

Virtual Reality Selections

Visit dceff.org for additional selections.

Ghost Fleet (VR) (USA, 2018, 8 min.)

Vulcan Productions & Catovia

Immerse yourself in the true story of slavery in the Thai fishing industry. *Ghost Fleet*, the feature film, exposes the dark side of illegal fishing and the heroes working to end it. The VR experience allows audiences to step onboard and enter the heroic story of Tun Lin, who was sold into slavery when he moved to Thailand looking for work. Born in Myanmar, Tun Lin was kidnapped when he was fourteen-years-old and forced to fish without pay as far away as the coast of Somalia. He spent 11 years on the boat and suffered endless abuse and trauma alongside his crewmates of enslaved fishermen. Journey with Tun Lin as he retraces his ordeal, the years of horrific treatment on board the slave ship, and his brave escape from a prison made of water.



Sanctuaries of Silence (USA, 2017, 7 min.)

Directed by Adam Loftin, Emmanuel Vaughan-Lee

Silence just might be on the verge of extinction, and acoustic ecologist Gordon Hempton believes that even the most remote corners of the globe are affected by noise pollution. Join him on an immersive listening journey into Olympic National Park, one of the quietest places in North America.

Both of these VR experiences are available at the following times:

Thurs., March 14, 9:00-11:00 p.m. at the Opening Night reception | National Geographic Society

Sat., March 16, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. | Carnegie Institution for Science

Sun., March 17, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. | Carnegie Institution for Science

Sat., March 23, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. | Carnegie Institution for Science;

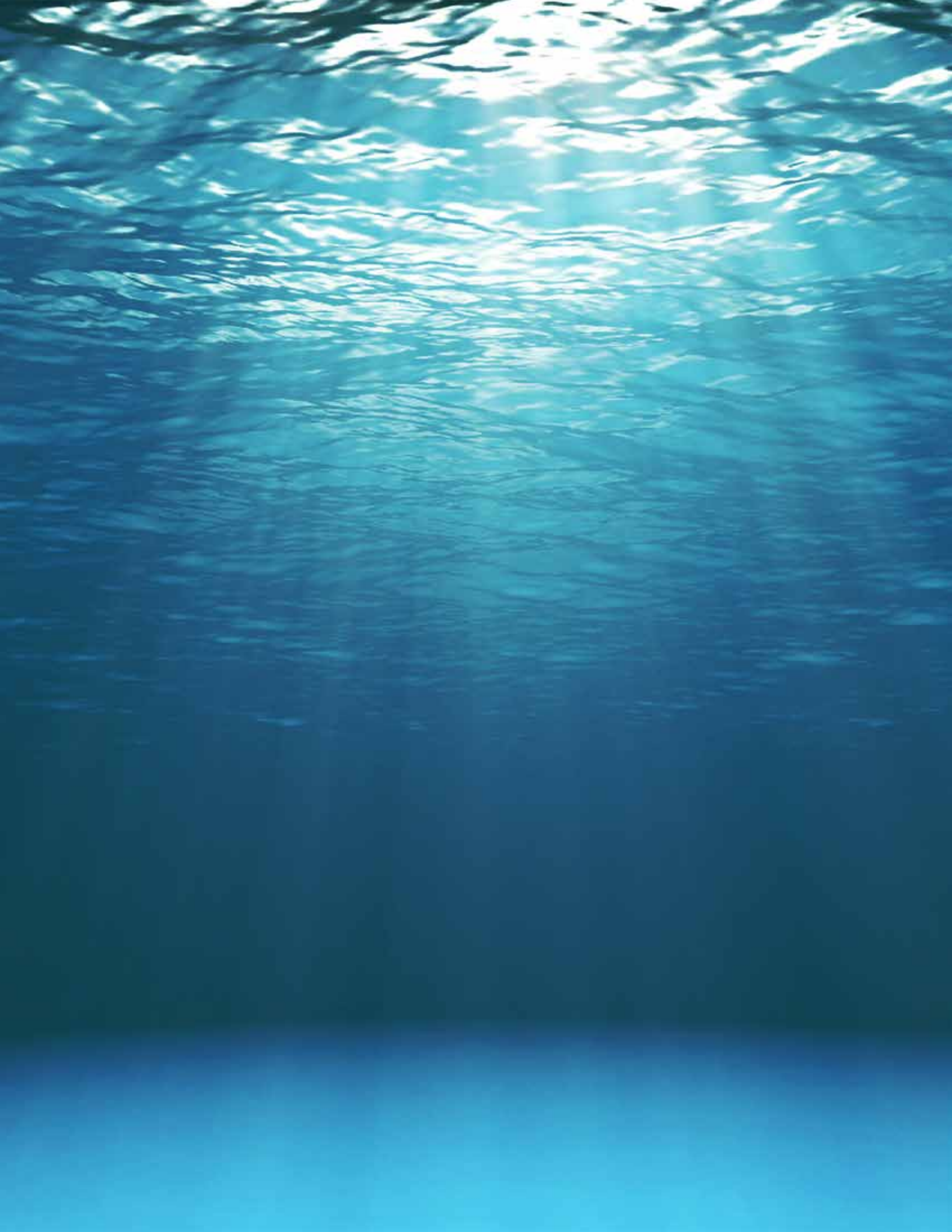
and 9:00-11:00 p.m. at the Closing Night reception | National Geographic Society

The Lost City of Mer (USA, 2018, 15 min.) ●

Directed by Liz Canner

This cross-platform interactive experience combines a smartphone app with VR. It utilizes a groundbreaking living narrative structure where the audience's real-world actions impact the story as it unfolds. Innovative "swimming," game play, elements of sci-fi, and mystery inspire users to reduce their carbon footprint in order to restore a magical lost civilization.

Sat., March 23, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. | Carnegie Institution for Science; and 9-11 p.m. at the Closing Night reception | National Geographic Society



27TH ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL

CLIPS & CONVERSATIONS

Work-in-Progress:

Ay Mariposa with Krista Schlyer ●



Three lives in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas are upended by plans to build a U.S.-Mexico border wall. As the director of the National Butterfly Center, Marianna Trevino Wright has become a leader of wall resistance, a position that has resulted in violent threats from pro-wall factions. Zulema Hernandez has been a dedicated advocate for all migrants, both animal and human. Meanwhile the butterfly, *la mariposa*, fights its own daily battle for survival in a landscape where more than 95 percent of its habitat is long gone and much of what remains lies directly in the path of the wall. *Ay Mariposa* documents each characters' fierce commitment to home, justice, wild beauty, and the future of the USA-Mexico borderlands.

Sat., March 16, 4:00 p.m. | E Street Cinema

\$10 | Post-screening conversation with Krista Schlyer (director)

Bears Ears National Monument: VR Event

(USA, 2018, 90 min.)



Directed by Aaron Huey

Join us for a special encore presentation of our popular, one-of-a-kind virtual reality tour of Bears Ears National Monument with National Geographic photographer Aaron Huey, who's using cutting-edge technology to capture its beauty and significance to the indigenous people who consider it sacred. President Barack Obama established Bears Ears National Monument in 2016. Originally 1.3 million acres, the monument was reduced 85 percent by President Donald Trump in December 2017. The area within the monument contains a wide array of historic, cultural, and natural resources. The monument is co-managed by the Bureau of Land Management and USA Forest Service, along with a coalition of five local Native American tribes that have ancestral ties to the region.

Weds., March 20, 7:00 p.m. | National Geographic Society

\$35 | Post-screening discussion with Aaron Huey (director)

Diversity & Impact Workshop

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

A workshop exploring how communities can tell their “eco-stories.” Film/mediamakers and community advocates come together to experience compelling short films and innovative participatory storytelling projects and generate ideas for telling urgent new stories.

Fri., March 22, 4:00 p.m. | American University

Free, reservations required | Workshop participants: Sirjaut Dhariwal (co-director, *Healing Baltimore's Harbor: A Pipe Dream?*), Leah Mahan (director/producer), Kalyanee Mam (director, *Lost World*), Roshan Patel (director), Laura Hinson (Filmmaker-in-Residence at American University)

Diversity & Impact Panel

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

Filmmakers associated with the Center for Environmental Filmmaking and the festival share work that explores intersections of humanity and environment, from environmental racism to climate change and food justice.

Fri., March 22, 7:00 p.m. | American University

Free, reservations required | Panelists: Vanina Harel (National Geographic Explorer and filmmaker), Byron Hurt (filmmaker, writer, speaker and activist), Kalyanee Mam (director, *Lost World*), Mireya Mayor (wildlife correspondent, *National Geographic*)

DOCS IN THE CITY WORK-IN-PROGRESS SCREENING

End of the Line:

The Women of Standing Rock (USA, 90, min.) ●

Directed by Shannon Kring

Co-Presented by Docs In Progress as part of the Docs In The City screening series

Come be a part of the creative process as the audience and special guest Judith Helfand provide feedback on a not-quite-finished documentary. The film being screened is Shannon Kring's *The Women of Standing Rock*, which introduces us to the indigenous women who are willing to risk their lives to stop the Dakota Access oil pipeline that threatens their land, water, and very existence.

Sun., March 17, 1:00 p.m. | Eaton DC

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Judith Helfand (Director, *COOKED: Survival by Zip Code*). Moderated by Erica Ginsberg (Executive Director, Docs In Progress).



Eco-Comedy Video Competition

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

This competition is sponsored by the Center for Environmental Filmmaking (www.environmentalfilm.org) and The Nature Conservancy (www.nature.org). The 2019 theme is Climate Change. Yes, we know, it's a vast, unwieldy topic that already has people rolling their eyes! Filmmakers were challenged to produce a short (less than three minutes), humorous video. The winners of the four category submissions (K-8, High School, College/University, and Nonstudent) will be showcased in this program.

Tues., March 19, 7:00 p.m. | American University

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Maggie Burnette Stogner (Executive Director, Center for Environmental Filmmaking), Severn Smith (Director of Marketing Communications, The Nature Conservancy), Bethany Hall (Comedian in Residence at American University's Center for Media & Social Impact), Caty Borum Chattoo (Director, American University's Center for Media & Social Impact)

Exploring the Real World of Virtual Reality

The presenters take you behind the scenes of what it takes to create immersive programming. Experience environmentally themed VR content in National Geographic's one-of-a-kind VR theater.

Sat., March 23, 1:00 p.m. | National Geographic Society

\$12 | Speakers: Max Salomon (Executive Producer, Black Dot Films), Malvina Martin, (Executive Producer, Black Dot Films), Vanina Harel (National Geographic Explorer and filmmaker), Krzysztof Pietroszek (AR/VR Professor at American University's School of Communication). Moderated by Maggie Burnette Stogner (Executive Director, Center for Environmental Filmmaking)

Nat Geo Nights

Learn how National Geographic Explorers are helping to document and shape the cities of the future. Hear from Lilly Sedaghat, who is investigating how communities are redefining waste; Daniel Raven-Ellison, who is reimagining cities as national parks, and Skylar Tibbits, who is designing the future through innovative materials and construction techniques.

Thurs., March 21, 5:30 p.m. | National Geographic Society

\$20 | Speakers: Lilly Sedaghat (National Geographic Explorer, Storyteller & Speaker), Daniel Raven-Ellison (Guerrilla Geographer & Creative Explorer), Skylar Tibbits (Designer and Computer Scientist)

Sargassum: An Environmental Threat?

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

A panel discussion with international experts on the threats of sargassum, a genus of brown seaweed.

Tues., March 19, Noon | Global Foundation for Democracy and Development

Free, reservations required | Speakers: Dr. Chuanmin Hu (Professor of Optical Oceanography, University of South Florida College of Marine Science), Omar Shamir Reynoso (Marine Biologist, Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo)

Filmmaker Showcase: Clips & Conversation with Emmett Williams

All films directed by Emmett Williams

Our Alaskan Stories (USA, 2016, 30 min.)

High school students from villages throughout Alaska spent a semester learning how to make documentaries about the importance of place and their connection to home. They took cameras home for the summer and produced this collection of short films.

Indigenous – Zambia (USA, 2017, 25 min.)

This film tells the story of people throughout Zambia, from farmers to chefs to students, who are learning how to hold on to their food traditions in the face of staggering climate change.

We Are All Fisherman (USA, 2018, 16 min.)

In southeast Alaska, fishermen young and old struggle to maintain a sustainable lifestyle in spite of threats from irresponsible corporations, climate change, and the high costs associated with the job.

Sun., March 17, 3:00 p.m. | Eaton DC

Free, reservations required | Emmett Williams

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*

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION FOR SCIENCE

1530 P St., NW

Metrorail: Dupont Circle

Metrobus: S2, S4, 52, 54

*Capital Bikeshare: 15th Street
& P Street NW*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

18th St. NW & C St. NW

Metrorail: Farragut West

DC Circulator: National Mall Route

*Capital Bikeshare: 18th Street
& P Street NW*

E STREET CINEMA

555 11th St., NW

*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

Metrorail: McPherson Square

Metrobus: D4, D6, G9

*Capital Bikeshare: 11th Street
& K Street NW*

EMBASSY OF CANADA

501 Pennsylvania Ave., NW

Metrorail: Navy Memorial or Judiciary Square

Metrobus: 30N, 30S, 32, 33, 36

EMBASSY OF FINLAND

3301 Massachusetts Ave., NW

Metrorail: Woodley Park/National Zoo

*DC Circulator: Woodley Park - Adams Morgan -
McPherson Square Route*

EMBASSY OF FRANCE

4101 Reservoir Rd., NW

Metrobus: D1, D2, D3, D5, D6

EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

4200 Linnean Avenue NW

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

Metrorail: Federal Triangle and Smithsonian

DC Circulator: National Mall Route

*Capital Bikeshare: Independence Ave & L'Enfant
Plaza SW/ Department of Energy Station*

GLOBAL FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

1629 K St. NW

HIRSHHORN MUSEUM AND SCULPTURE GARDEN

Independence Ave. & Seventh St., SW

Metrorail: Smithsonian, 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

*Metro*rail: Farragut North and Farragut West

*Metro*bus: 30N, 30S, 32, 33, 36

Capital Bikeshare: 18th Street & M Street NW

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

2101 Constitution Ave NW

*Metro*bus: 7Y, H1, L1

DC Circulator: Georgetown-Union Station Route

Capital Bikeshare: Henry Bacon Drive NW and Lincoln Memorial Circle NW

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

7th St. & Constitution Ave., NW

*Metro*rail: Archives-Navy Memorial

*Metro*bus: 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

*Metro*rail: Archives-Navy Memorial and Judiciary Square

*Metro*bus: 30N, 30S, 32, 33, 36

DC Circulator: National Mall Route

Capital Bikeshare: 4th Street & Madison Drive NW

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

1600 M St., NW

*Metro*rail: Farragut North or Farragut West

*Metro*bus: S2, S4

DC Circulator: Georgetown - Union Station Route

Capital Bikeshare: 15th Street & M Street NW

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

10th St. & Constitution Ave. NW,

*Metro*rail: Smithsonian

*Metro*bus: 30N, 30S, 32, 33, 36

DC Circulator: National Mall Route

Capital Bikeshare: 10th Street NW and Constitution Avenue NW

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

Fourth St. & Independence Ave., SW

*Metro*rail: L'Enfant Plaza

*Metro*bus: 30N, 30S, 32, 33, 34 36

DC Circulator: National Mall Route

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1250 New York Ave., NW

*Metro*rail: Metro Center

*Metro*bus: D6, P6

DC Circulator: Georgetown - Union Station Route

Capital Bikeshare: 13th Street & New York Avenue NW

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3001 Connecticut Ave NW,

Metro: Woodley Park-Zoo

DC Circulator: Woodley Park - Adams Morgan - McPherson Square Route

Capital Bikeshare: 3000 Connecticut Avenue NW

TOWN HALL EDUCATION ARTS & RECREATION CAMPUS (THEARC)

1901 Mississippi Ave., SE

*Metro*rail: Southern Avenue

*Metro*bus: 30S, 32

Capital Bikeshare: Mississippi Avenue & 19th Street SE

WOODROW WILSON INTERNATIONAL

Sixth Floor Auditorium,
1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW

*Metro*rail: Federal Triangle

DC Circulator: National Mall Route

Capital Bikeshare: 14th Street & D Street NW



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The Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital (DCEFF) is 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 host the largest environmental film festival in the world, presenting 100+ films to audiences of more than 20,000. Collaborating with over 110 partners, including museums, embassies, universities and theaters, the Festival is one of the leading annual cultural events in Washington, D.C., winning the 2017 D.C. Mayor's Award for Excellence in Creative Industries. ■

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We invite you to hear our explorers tell stories about their expeditions in the field, like the Okavango Wilderness Project pictured above. To see the schedule of events and learn more about our work, visit natgeo.org/events.



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IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

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