

34TH ANNUAL  
**ENVIRONMENTAL  
FILM FESTIVAL**  
IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

**MARCH 19-28, 2026**

TICKETS & UPDATES AT [DCEFF.ORG](https://dceff.org)

**70+ FILMS | 30+ PREMIERES | 20 VENUES**

*Yanuni* | Directed by Richard Ladkani (Credit: Malaika Pictures)

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Cover Image: Yanuni, directed by Richard Ladkani.  
Credit: Malaika Pictures

Program design by Sharon Thorpe, Thorpe Creative

Materials for 2026 DCEFF, including posters and programs, were sustainably produced and printed using recycled material in a facility utilizing wind power offsetting its overall carbon footprint.

# WELCOME TO THE 34TH ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL!

It doesn't take a stretch of imagination to say these have been challenging times for the nation's capital. As our team took stock of the last twelve months, the palpable sense of urgency, care, and commitment in our theatres couldn't be ignored. Our community didn't just make full houses of these cinemas and cultural institutions. You showed up with curiosity and conviction and you stayed, participating in post-screening discussions, responding to calls to action from our filmmakers, sharing virtual encores with friends and family far and wide. That's the hardy, resilient, forward-looking community we are proud to serve.

We know our District of Columbia is a tenacious one. We double down on our performing arts and public media. We lift up journalists as they chase their next investigation. We support our researchers and scientists when funding falls through. We share good news when it feels scarce, and we gather when it may feel easier to retreat.

To meet this present moment, the 2026 Festival is framed by a central theme: *Against the Current.*

In a time when headlines feel heavy and hard-won environmental protections face setbacks, there are still those who press on — undaunted, unwavering, and unrelenting. Across the next ten days, we'll celebrate the grit it takes to document this unprecedented moment for our city, our nation, and our planet — and, most vitally, the steady courage and creativity that keep the movement alive.

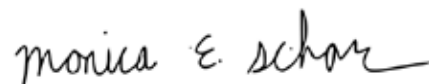
This year's slate is more than a collection of stories about persistence, though those examples are myriad — waterkeepers safeguarding our nation's rivers, Alabama grandmothers taking on toxic coal ash pits, Indigenous activists fighting exploitative land grabs in Brazil. As we convene, we also pay tribute to the storytellers, activists, communities, and everyday people who refuse to surrender hope. Even in uncertain times, leadership is emerging in unexpected places, and solutions are being shaped by people too often overlooked.

As we welcome filmmakers, film subjects, and other expert voices and frontline activists into our community this year, I invite you to gently set aside cynicism. Expand your understanding of what leadership looks like right now. Broaden your expectations of who is ready to collaborate and build solutions. Extend a hand to the next generation, acutely aware that the stakes of inaction are simply too high.

Just as filmmaking is an inherently collaborative art, film festivals are an inherently collective experience. This is only as meaningful an experience because of your partnership and participation. Take every opportunity to witness and participate in this year's Festival, whether that's catching all of our Smithsonian screenings, attending a deeper-dive impact session at the Reservoir Center, or bringing the whole family to one of our youth programs. You'll also be able to encounter local and national groups advancing this work day-in, day-out. As ever, we know we'll emerge from this 2026 Festival fortified by our shared knowledge and heartened by common cause.

On behalf of the Festival staff, our Board of Directors, Advisory Council, and our partners, our deepest thanks for continuing to gather, to query, and to connect. We are grateful to stand with you for the arts, for Washington, and for the planet.

The earth endures, and so will we.



**Monica Schorn**

*Executive Director*



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## ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

### HOW TO FEST

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While this guide is current as of publication, programs are subject to change. For the most up-to-date event information, please visit our website at [DCEFF.org](https://DCEFF.org).

### RESERVATIONS AND SEATING POLICY

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Unless otherwise noted, all seats must be reserved in advance for both paid and free programs. This includes all members of our Friends of the Festival program. Patrons without reservations will be asked to join a standby line. 15 minutes before the scheduled show time, empty seats will be released to the standby line on a space-available basis.

### VIRTUAL SCREENINGS

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Eager for more DCEFF programming? Visit our website at [DCEFF.org](https://DCEFF.org) to catch up on films from our 34-year history! [DCEFF.org](https://DCEFF.org) is home to our Watch Now page, featuring more than 500 past Festival selections, many available to stream at no cost.

### DCEFF HEALTH POLICY

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We encourage you to evaluate your own risk when considering whether to attend in-person screenings. Please continue to assess your health throughout the duration of the Festival. We are always glad to refund tickets for those guests whose health prevents them from attending an in-person screening. If you're not feeling well or have been exposed to illness, we ask that you stay home. Thank you for being a conscientious part of our Festival community!

For additional information on "How to Fest," visit our website at [DCEFF.org](https://DCEFF.org).

# 34TH ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL

# SIGNATURE PRESENTATIONS

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## OPENING NIGHT PRESENTATION

### **A Life Illuminated** (U.S., 2025, 90 mins)

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Directed by Tasha Van Zandt

**D.C. Premiere**

After a lifetime of unveiling the deep sea's most elusive secrets, pioneering marine biologist Dr. Edie Widder descends 3,300 feet into the ocean's depths on her most groundbreaking mission yet: to capture a bioluminescent phenomenon that could transform our understanding of life on Earth.

**Thursday, March 19, 7:00pm | U.S. Navy Memorial**

**\$20, reservations encouraged | Followed by a post-screening conversation with Juliet Eilperin (Deputy Editor of the Futures Department at The Washington Post) and Dr. Edie Widder (film participant)**



A Life Illuminated

## FLO STONE AND ROGER D. STONE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ARTISTRY IN FILMMAKING

Established for DCEFF's 30th Anniversary in honor of Founder Flo Stone and her husband, Roger D. Stone, this award recognizes both Flo and Roger's passion for originality and innovation in filmmaking. This award is funded by the Farvue Foundation and includes a \$10,000 cash prize.

## Observer (U.S., 2025, 94 mins)

Directed by Ian Cheney

*Presented by the Farvue Foundation; co-presented with the National Academy of Sciences*

*Observer* embarks on an experiment in which a series of keen-eyed observers — scientists, artists, a hunter — are brought to a range of locations around the world, and asked to simply describe what they see.

**Saturday, March 21, 2:00pm | National Academy of Sciences**

**Free, registration required | Followed by a post-screening conversation with Sarah Goodwin (Executive Producer), Dallas Hudson (film participant) and Natalie Compton (Washington Post)**



## CENTERPIECE

## The [Conserv]atives (U.S., 2025, 88 mins)

Co-Directed by Nadia Michelle Gill, Dominic Whinfield Gill

**World Premiere**

Four conservative climate advocates push their party towards climate action. From farms to city halls, Fox News to the pulpit, they work within a system that resists change, testing whether Republicans can move beyond denial or remain stuck in the past. As tribal loyalties clash with urgent action, they risk isolation, frustration, and political backlash — but refuse to back down.

**Monday, March 23, 7:00pm | Miracle Theatre**

**\$15, reservations encouraged | Followed by a post-screening conversation with Nadia Gill (Director), Dominic Gill (Director), and Dr. Jessica Moerman (film participant)**





### WILLIAM W. WARNER VOICE OF NATURE AWARD

Established in memory of William W. Warner by the Warner and Kaempfer families for the 2015 Festival, the William W. Warner Voice of Nature Award recognizes a film that reflects a spirit of reverence for the natural world. William W. Warner was the Pulitzer Prize-winner author of *Beautiful Swimmers*, a study of crabs and watermen in the Chesapeake Bay. The award includes a \$5,000 cash prize.

## Nuisance Bear (U.S., Canada, UK, 2025, 90 mins)

Directed by Gabriela Osio Vanden and Jack Weisman

### D.C. Premiere

A polar bear is forced to navigate a human world of tourists, wildlife officers, and hunters as its ancient migration collides with modern life. When a sacred predator is branded a nuisance, it becomes unclear who truly belongs in this shared landscape.

Friday, March 27, 6:30pm | U.S. Navy Memorial

**\$20, reservations encouraged | Followed by a post-screening discussion with Dana Hedgpeth (Washington Post), Jack Weisman (Director) and Gabriela Osio Vanden (Director)**

### THE ERIC MOE AWARD FOR BEST SHORT ON SUSTAINABILITY

Established for the 2014 Festival by Julia and Richard Moe in memory of their son, Eric, to honor his strong interest in film and his commitment to sustainability. The Eric Moe Award for Best Short on Sustainability



## Sallie's Ashes (U.S., 2025, 39 mins)

Directed by Brennan Robideaux

### D.C. Premiere

Faced with terminal lung cancer, 80-year-old Sallie Smith rallies an unlikely team of fellow Alabama grandmas to fight for the removal of a toxic coal ash pit that threatens the waters of their beloved Mobile Bay.

Saturday, March 28, 4:00pm | U.S. Navy Memorial

**\$10, reservations encouraged | Featuring a post-screening conversation with Brennan Robideaux (Director, Sallie's Ashes), Diane Thomas (Film Participant), and Savan Wilson (Film Participant), and Gregory McGruder (National Geographic, Director, Global Special Events; DCEFF Board of Directors)**

## CLOSING NIGHT PRESENTATION

### SHARED EARTH FOUNDATION AWARD FOR ADVOCACY

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

## YANUNI (Austria, 2025, 112 mins)

**Directed by Richard Ladkani**

Yanuni is a cinematic portrait of Juma Xipaia, an Indigenous chief from the Brazilian Amazon who rises from a remote village to the frontlines of climate justice. At once intimate and epic, *Yanuni* is a powerful story of Indigenous sovereignty, love, and the urgent fight to protect the planet we call home.

**Saturday, March 28, 6:30pm | U.S. Navy Memorial**

**\$25, reservations encouraged | Followed by a post-screening conversation with Caroline Gabel (President and CEO, Shared Earth Foundation; DCEFF Board of Directors), Anna Rathman (Jane Goodall Institute), Richard Ladkani (Director), and Anita Ladkani (Producer). Closing Night reception to follow**



# 34TH ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL

# FEATURE FILMS



## Agatha's Almanac (Canada, 2025, 86 mins)

Directed by Amalie Atkins

**D.C. Premiere**

*Co-presented with the National Museum of Women in the Arts*

90-year-old Agatha forges a solitary existence on her ancestral farm, preserving heirloom seeds in her handmade universe. Practical and esoteric, her actions predate modern conveniences. Without a drivers license, cell phone, running water, or even a functioning landline, Agatha's daily rituals form a vivid counterpoint to modern life.

**Monday, March 23, 6:30pm | National Museum of Women in the Arts**

**Free, registration recommended**



## Aki (Canada, 2025, 89 mins)

Directed by Darlene Naponse

**D.C. Premiere**

*Co-presented with the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian*

A cinematic act of listening and immersion, *Aki* draws its power from the land, the seasons, memory and the rhythms of life on Atikameksheng Anishnawbek territory, weaving a beautiful, elemental portrait of community, survival, and Indigenous sovereignty.

**Saturday, March 28, 1:00pm | Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian**

**Free, seats first-come first-served**



## Apollo 1 (UK, Germany, 2025, 102 mins)

Directed by Mark Craig

**D.C. Premiere**

*Co-presented with the National Archives Foundation*

Three pioneering astronauts in a race to the Moon pin their hopes on an untried spacecraft riddled with problems.

**Sunday, March 22, 2:00pm | National Archives**

**Free, registration required | Followed by a post-screening conversation with Katrina Jackson (Science Communicator & Filmmaker), Nadia Gill (Line Producer), Dominic Gill (Cinematographer)**

## Bee Wild (U.S., 2025, 55 mins)

Directed by Rebecca Harrell Tickell and Josh Tickell

D.C. Premiere

### FAMILY FRIENDLY PROGRAMMING

*Bee Wild* takes viewers into a visually stunning and emotional journey through the fragile world of wild pollinators. Narrated by Ellie Goulding and executive produced by Angelina Jolie, the film explores the essential role wild bees play in sustaining ecosystems, food systems, and life itself.

Saturday, March 28, 1:00pm | U.S. Navy Memorial

\$10, registration encouraged | Followed by a post-screening conversation with Josh Tickell (Director)



Bee Wild

## Borderlands Jaguar (U.S., 2025, 52 mins)

Directed by Ben Masters

*Borderlands Jaguar* is a thrilling documentary following wildlife cinematographers Austin Alvarado and Ben Masters on a quest to document the elusive species and show the importance of conserving wildlife corridors along the US-Mexico border.

Saturday, March 21, 4:00pm | U.S. Navy Memorial

\$10, registration encouraged | Followed by a post-screening conversation with Maggie Dewane (Defenders of Wildlife; Advisory Council, DCEFF) and Cholla Rose Duir (Assistant Director, Northern Jaguar Project)



Borderlands Jaguar

## The Call (Canada, 2025, 37 mins)

Directed by Cam MacArthur

Co-presented with the Embassy of Canada

Penticton, British-Columbia, Canada, is a hotbed for wildfire and a mecca for outdoor enthusiasts. As the Summer heat approaches, Penticton Search and Rescue volunteers prepare to stay ahead of the overwhelming number of calls during one of the worst fire seasons on record in British Columbia. Get to know these dedicated individuals as we follow them throughout the year.

Tuesday, March 24, 5:30pm | The Embassy of Canada

Free, reservations required



The Call

## Climate in Therapy (Sweden, 2025, 65 min.)

Directed by Nathan Grossman

D.C. Premiere

Seven climate scientists meet in a godforsaken meeting room to engage in circle therapy about their shared climate anxiety. Can emotional honesty be part of the solution? *Climate in Therapy* is a humorous, inventive and serious experiment in which climate scientists confront an academic taboo and a hitherto unknown area of research in itself: their own emotions.

Friday, March 20, 7:00pm | U.S. Navy Memorial

\$15, reservations encouraged | Followed by a post-screening conversation with Richard Beck (Therapist; Film Participant)



Climate in Therapy



Cotton Queen

## Cotton Queen

(Sudan, Germany, France, Palestine, Egypt, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, 2025, 94 mins)

Directed by Suzannah Mirghani

**D.C. Premiere**

**Co-presented with the New African Film Festival and the AFI Silver Theatre & Cultural Center**

In a farming village in Sudan, teenage Nafisa (Mihad Murtada) spends her days working in the cotton fields and listening to her grandmother, the village matriarch Al-Sit, tell heroic tales of battling British colonizers. But when a young businessman arrives from abroad with a new development plan and genetically engineered cotton, Nafisa becomes the center of a power play to determine the future of the village. Awakening to her own strength, Nafisa sets out to save the cotton fields.

**Saturday, March 21, 6:30pm; Tuesday, March 24, 4:40pm; Thursday, March 26, 4:40pm | AFI Silver Theatre & Cultural Center**

**Tickets range from \$8 to \$14, registration required**



Forever Home

## Forever Home

(U.S., 2025, 56 mins)

Directed by Allison Argo

**D.C. Premiere**

In the heart of North Carolina, two dreamers are revolutionizing animal care through groundbreaking architecture and by rethinking the concept of “home.” With empathy and imagination, they’re bringing architectural design to the world of animal care and providing a blueprint for a compassionate, sustainable future.

**Saturday, March 21, 7:00pm | Miracle Theatre**

**\$15, reservations encouraged | Followed by a post-screening conversation with Allison Argo (Director), Nina Elkadi (Editor-at-Large, Sentient), Paul Drake (film participant), and Lenore Braford (film participant)**



Glaciers - Ice in Freefall

## Glaciers - Ice in Freefall

(France, 2025, 90 mins)

Directed by Pierre-Olivier François

**U.S. Premiere**

**Co-presented with the Embassy of France and French In Motion**

*Glaciers - Ice in Freefall* is a striking visual journey, both deeply moving and visually arresting. It’s an essential film for grasping the scale of the climate emergency and the race against time to preserve the world’s glaciers, whose fate is inseparable from our own.

**Wednesday, March 25, 6:30pm | Embassy of France**

**\$10, reservations required | Followed by a post screening conversation with Joaquim Nassar (Science and Technology Attaché, Embassy of France in the United States), and Dr. Heidi Sevestre (Glaciologist; Film Participant)**

## Hair, Paper, Water... (Tóc, Giấy và Nước...)

(Belgium, France, Vietnam, 2025, 71 min)

**Directed by Nicolas Graux**

**D.C. Premiere**

**Co-presented with the National Gallery of Art**

Born in a cave and now in her old age, a Rục woman navigates memory and daily life, passing on her disappearing language to her grandchildren.

**Saturday, March 28, 2:00pm | National Gallery of Art**

**Free, registration required**



Hair, Paper, Water...

## Hen

(Germany, Greece, Hungary, 2025, 96 mins)

**Directed by György Pálfi**

**D.C. Premiere**

**Co-presented with the AFI Silver Theatre & Cultural Center**

In this eggcellent fable from György Pálfi, a plucky hen seeking a home to lay her eggs escapes an industrial farm and lands in the coop of a Greek restaurateur whose cliffside eatery is used by predatory smugglers who treat their fellow humans as viciously as they would a chicken. An official selection of the 2025 Toronto and San Sebastian film festivals, *Hen* is an innovative feature that, like Jerzy Skolimowski's *EO*, tackles broader issues in the human world through its animal protagonist.

**Saturday, March 21, 2:20pm | AFI Silver Theatre & Cultural Center**

**Tickets range from \$8 to \$10, registration required**



Hen

## Her Shark Story

(Chile, Ecuador, U.S., 2024, 76 mins)

**Directed by Ignacio Walker**

**Co-presented with Earth Commons - Georgetown's Institute for Environment & Sustainability**

This is the story of Sofia, a young marine biologist in the Galapagos who reconnects with her absent father through their shared passion for trying to save the biggest shark in the world: the Whale Shark.

**Monday, March 23, 6:00pm | Georgetown University, Capitol Campus**

**Free, registration required | Followed by a post-screening conversation with Ignacio Walker (Director) and Jonathan Green (Founder & Director, Galapagos Whale Shark Project; film participant)**



Her Shark Story

## Melt

(Austria, 2025, 127 mins)

**Directed by Nikolaus Geyrhalter**

**U.S. Premiere**

**Co-presented with the Embassy of Austria**

Snow and ice, as far as the eye can see: Nikolaus Geyrhalter's new film immerses audiences in a world of white. The filmmaker has visited spectacular locations across the world and met people who are surrounded by these landscapes every day. *Melt* explores their stories – and the gradual disappearance of the ice that was once assumed to be eternal.

**Tuesday, March 24, 7:00pm | Embassy of Austria**

**Free, reservation required**



Melt



The Keeper

## The Keeper (U.S., 2025, 80 mins)

**Directed by Jon Bowermaster**

**D.C. Premiere**

Cantankerous, charismatic and passionately committed, this river keeper — John Lipscomb — reflects on his 25 years patrolling the Hudson, traveling more than 80,000 miles by wooden boat, and helping defend America’s First River.

**Sunday, March 22, 7:00pm | U.S. Navy Memorial**

**\$15, reservations encouraged | Followed by a post-screening conversation with Maggie Burnette Stogner (Executive Director, The Center for Environmental Filmmaking at American University; Advisory Council, DCEFF), Jon Bowermaster (Director), John Lipscomb (Film Participant), Batu (Best Dog)**



The Last Dive

## The Last Dive (U.S., 2025, 88 mins)

**Directed by Cody Sheehy**

**D.C. Premiere**

Terry Kennedy, an American veteran and ex-Hell’s Angel, once formed an unlikely bond with a giant manta ray named Willy. Now in his 80s, he makes one final dive expedition to a remote island, hoping to reunite with his extraordinary ocean friend.

**Saturday, March 21, 7:00pm | U.S. Navy Memorial**

**\$15, reservations encouraged | Followed by a post-screening conversation with Justin Catanoso (Mongabay), Cody Sheehy (Director), and Mima Holt (NRDC)**



The Last whale Singer

## The Last Whale Singer

(Germany, Czech Republic, Canada, 2025, 91 mins)

**Directed by Reza Memari**

**D.C. Premiere**

**Family Friendly Programming**

When a monstrous creature escapes from a melting iceberg, a self-doubting teenage humpback whale must face his greatest fears and dive into the darkest depths with his friends to discover the mystical song that can save the oceans from destruction.

**Saturday, March 21, 1:00pm | Miracle Theatre**

**\$10, reservations encouraged**

## Mother of Snow Cranes (Finland, 2024, 78 mins)

Directed by Iiris Härmä

**D.C. Premiere**

*Co-presented with the Smithsonian National Museum of Asian Art and the Embassy of Finland*

Ellen Vuosalo is an ornithologist who has become famous for her Siberian snow crane conservation work in Iran. She was born in Canada 1931 to a family of Finnish immigrants. Today she is known in Iran by her nickname Mother of Cranes. But who is she? And how has she lived in Iran for over 55 years?

**Saturday, March 21, 2:00pm | Smithsonian National Museum of Asian Art**

**Free, registration required | Followed by a post-screening conversation with Tom Vick (Film Curator, Smithsonian National Museum of Asian Art), Iiris Härmä (Director), and Visa Koiso-Kanttila (Producer and Cinematographer)**



Mother of Snow Cranes

## Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind

(Japan, 1984, 118 mins)

Directed by Hayao Miyazaki

*Co-presented with AFI Silver Theatre & Cultural Center and the Japan Information & Culture Center, Embassy of Japan*

**Family Friendly Programming**

Set one thousand years from now, the Earth is ravaged by pollution and war. In the Valley of the Wind lives Nausicaä, Princess of her people. Their land borders on a toxic jungle, filled with dangerous over-sized insects. Meanwhile, two nearby nations are bitterly engaged in a war and the Valley of the Wind is stuck in the middle.

**Saturday, March 28, 2:15 pm | AFI Silver Theatre & Cultural Center**

**\$5, registration required | Join us in the lobby for an origami activity station**



Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind

## Nuestra Tierra (Our Land)

(Argentina, U.S., Mexico, France, Denmark, Netherlands, 2025, 122 mins)

Directed by Lucrecia Martel

**D.C. Premiere**

*Co-presented with the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center*

In 2009, a man and two accomplices try to evict members of the Indigenous community of Chuschagasta in northern Argentina. Claiming ownership of the land and armed with guns, they kill the community's leader, Javier Chocobar. The murder is caught on video. It takes nine years of protests before court proceedings are finally opened in 2018. During all this time, the killers remain free. The film combines the voices and photographs of the community with courtroom footage to explore the long history of colonialism and land dispossession that led to this crime.

**Sunday, March 22, 1:45pm | AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center**

**Tickets range from \$8 to \$10, registration required**



Nuestra Tierra



Plan C for Civilization

## Plan C for Civilization (U.S., 2025, 108 mins)

Directed by Ben Kalina

**D.C. Premiere**

*Co-presented with The George Washington University and Planet Forward*

David Keith knows how to cool the planet, fast. But his first, tiny experiment has divided environmentalists, spawned a global conspiracy, and inspired rogue geoengineers. As this disruptive technology lands in a chaotic world in climate meltdown, are any ideas too risky to explore?

**Thursday, March 26, 6:30pm | The George Washington University**

**Free, registration required | Followed by a post-screening conversation with Ben Kalina (Director), Quentin Scott (Federal Policy Director, Chesapeake Climate Action Network), Marianne Lavelle (Bureau Chief in D.C., Inside Climate News)**



Ponyo

## Ponyo (Japan, 2008, 101 mins)

Directed by Hayao Miyazaki

*Co-presented with the AFI Silver Theatre & Cultural Center and the Japan Information & Culture Center, Embassy of Japan*

**Family Friendly Programming**

A 5-year-old boy named Sosuke forges a friendship with a goldfish princess named Ponyo, who desperately wants to become human.

**Saturday, March 28, 11:30am | AFI Silver Theatre & Cultural Center**

**\$5, registration required | Join us in the lobby for an origami activity station**



Resilience

## Resilience (Czech Republic, 2025, 83 mins)

Directed by Tomáš Elšík

**D.C. Premiere**

*Curated by One World Film Festival*

*Co-presented with generous support from the Trust for Mutual Understanding*

Klára is a K9 officer, who specializes in bird crime. Her dogs are means to protect endangered species of the birds of prey. Pavel strives to reclaim woods and maintain wetlands. With his humble approach, he strives to preserve the diversity of our flora. Two extraordinary people unusually sensitive towards the world around them. Is their work pointless? A documentary reminiscent of Last and First Men lets the viewer appreciate a visually striking side of nature, so often overlooked, observing the endless work of those who managed to find their way back to their sensitivity.

**Thursday, March 26, 7:00pm | U.S. Navy Memorial**

**\$15, reservations encouraged | Followed by a post screening conversation with Tomáš Elšík (Director), Matouš Horčíčka (One World, Event Manager), and Holly Jonas (Mongabay)”; remove Ondřej Kamenický (TMU One World, Director)**

## Secrets of the Bees (UK, U.S., 2026)

**Directed by Bertie Gregory**

**Episode 1: Premiere**

National Geographic Explorer Bertie Gregory explores the extraordinary lives of bees — among the planet’s most important animals. Over three years, special cameras opened a rare window into a single hive, revealing their hidden world. With more than 20,000 bee species pollinating one-third of the world’s food, this series uncovers their astonishing architecture and intelligence, unlocking their secrets.

**Wednesday, March 25, 7:00pm | U.S. Navy Memorial**

**\$10, reservations encouraged | Followed by a post screening conversation**



Secrets of the Bees

## Solwara: Papua New Guinea’s Sacred Sea

(Papua New Guinea, 2025, 73 mins)

**Directed by Brian Newell, Alexandra Verville, Jon Betz**

**U.S. Premiere**

**Presented by National Geographic Pristine Seas**

Some of the world’s greatest marine biodiversity thrives in Papua New Guinea. In this film, local communities and scientists from PNG and around the globe come together to better understand the health of the nation’s special waters — and protect them for future generations.

**Tuesday, March 24, 7:00pm | U.S. Navy Memorial**

**\$15, reservations encouraged | Followed by a post screening conversation with Alexandra Verville (Co-Director, Producer), Brian Newell (Co-Director, Editor), Kevin Chand (Pristine Seas’ Senior Director of Pacific Ocean Policy), and Gregory McGruder (National Geographic, Director, Global Special Events; DCEFF Board of Directors)**



Solwara

## The Tree of Authenticity

(Belgium, Democratic Republic of Congo, 2025, 89 mins)

**Directed by Sammy Baloji**

**D.C. Premiere**

**Co-presented with the New African Film Festival and the AFI Silver Theatre & Cultural Center**

In the heart of the Congo rainforest, the remains of a research centre dedicated to tropical agriculture reveal the burden of the colonial past and its inextricable links to contemporary climate change.

**Sunday, March 22, 11:45am; Monday, March 23, 2:45pm | AFI Silver Theatre & Cultural Center**

**Tickets range from \$8 to \$14, registration required**



The Tree of Authenticity



## To the West, in Zapata

(Cuba, Spain, 2025, 74 mins)

**Directed by David Bim**

**Curated by One World Film Festival**

**Co-presented with generous support from the Trust for Mutual Understanding and Embassy of the Czech Republic**

In a constant cycle of survival and separation, a married couple must go to extreme lengths in the marshlands of Zapata to provide for their son.

**Friday, March 27, 7:00pm | The Embassy of the Czech Republic**

**Free, registration required | Featuring a post screening conversation**



## Unless Something Goes Terribly Wrong

(U.S., 2025, 73 mins)

**Directed by Kaitlyn Schwalje, Alex Wolf Lewis**

**D.C. Premiere**

As America's aging wastewater systems begin to fail, one plant does all it can to stay afloat. Plant manager Dustin Price, together with his motley crew of unlikely heroes, battle aging infrastructure, forever chemicals and the misconceptions of an odor averse public to keep Portland, Maine clean and healthy.

**Thursday, March 26, 3:00pm | Reservoir Center for Water Solution**

**Free, registration required**



## What Does That Nature Say To You?

(Korea, 2025, 109 mins)

**Directed by Hong Sang-soo**

**Co-presented with the Smithsonian National Museum of Asian Art**

In the latest film from Hong Sang Soo (subject of a 2024 NMAA retrospective), a young Seoul poet named Donghwa travels to the countryside with his girlfriend Junhee to meet her parents for the first time. Donghwa becomes enchanted with the house and its beautiful environs — which were cultivated by Junhee's father to provide serene surroundings for his mother when she was dying — and the father's devotion to nature, tradition, and filial duty. But as the hours drift by and the makgeolli flows, Donghwa's tongue loosens and his anxieties begin to surface. As easygoing as a lazy afternoon spent with friends, Hong's film is a genial ode to nature as inspiration.

**Sunday, March 22, 2:00pm | Smithsonian National Museum of Asian Art**

**Free, reservation required**

# The Wild North Sea (De wilde Noordzee)

(The Netherlands, 2024, 89 mins)

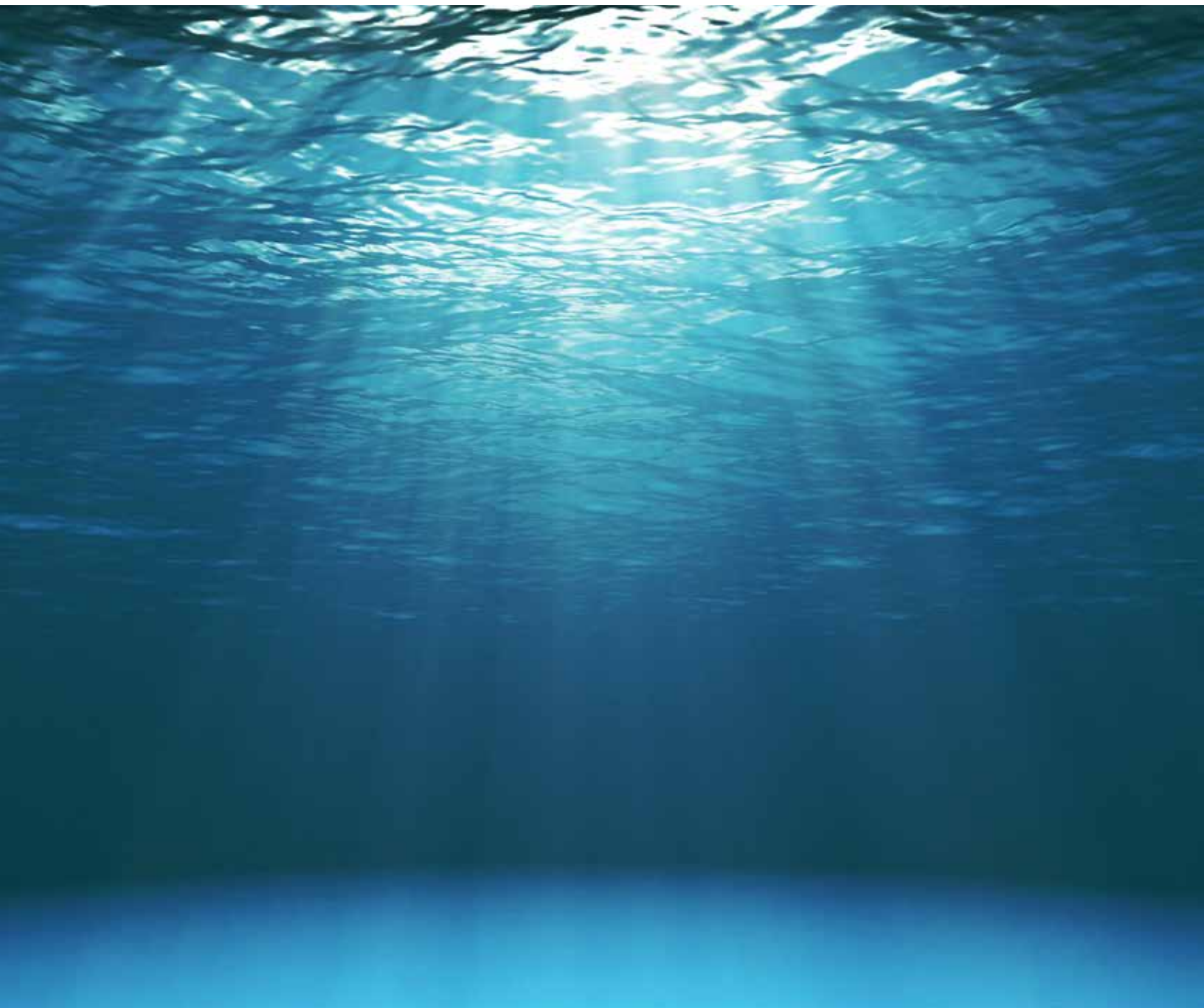
**Directed by Mark Verkerk**

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

We follow experienced diver and cameraman Peter van Rodijnen, who has spent the past 20 years filming in oceans around the world. Inspired by the famous explorer Jacques Cousteau, Peter decides to capture the unknown underwater world of the North Sea. So close, yet so unknown: the North Sea, the largest nature reserve in the Netherlands!

**Thursday, March 26, 6:00pm | The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

**Free, registration required**



# 34TH ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATIONS



## Big Medicine: York Outdoors Screening & Live Performance (U.S., 2025, 30 mins)

Directed by Andre Lambertson

*Big Medicine: York Outdoors* shares the untold story of York, the Black explorer who played a pivotal role in the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1803-1806. The film follows eight adventurers on a four-day river journey along the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument in Montana, a rugged and beautiful landscape traversed by the Corps of Discovery in the early 19th Century.

This film is followed by a live performance by Hasan Davis. Hasan brings history alive by giving voice to the overlooked heroes of color through his theatrical performance of York, explorer on the Lewis and Clark expedition. Hasan's one-man show is an example of experiential, interactive, learning that engages adults and youth.

Monday, March 23, 7:00pm | MLK Jr. Memorial Library

Free, registration required | Featuring a post-screening conversation with James Edward Mills (Producer), Hasan Davis (Film Participant), and Gregory McGruder (National Geographic, Director, Global Special Events; DCEFF Board of Directors)



## The Birds (USA, 2024, 40 min.)

Directed by David Allen

Presented by HHMI Tangled Bank Studios

A filmmaker, facing up to the twilight of his career, sets out to use his camera skills to decipher the relationship between a million seabirds and a single hunting falcon. Ultimately his cinematic portrait of this "cosmic event" provides crucial insights into the mechanisms of the natural world and the difficulties of coming to terms with the end of a life well-lived.

This film will be preceded by *Wild Hope: Building for Birds* (U.S., 2025, 16 mins). This short features the story of millions of birds passing through our yards during their bi-annual migrations. However, they face an invisible killer along the way: glass windows. In the US alone, an estimated one billion birds die each year when they collide with windows. Now, two organizations help pave the way to a bird-friendly future.

Monday, March 23, 7:00pm | U.S. Navy Memorial

Free, registration required | Followed by a post-screening conversation moderated by Dr. Elizabeth Gray (Chief Executive Officer, Audubon), Jared Lipworth (Head of HHMI Tangled Bank Studios), Brian Evans (Migratory Bird Ecologist, Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute), Sara Hallager (Curator of Birds, Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute), Tara Snedgen (Bird Observatory Manager, Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute) | Followed by a public reception.

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# IMPACT PREVIEW EVENT

## The Way of the Whale (U.S., 2026, 92 mins)

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A special preview screening of *The Way of the Whale*, followed by a conversation about the power of film to drive change.

**Directed by Franco Campos-Lopez**

**Co-presented with American University's Center for Environmental Filmmaking**

Director **Franco Campos-Lopez** and Producer **Clate Korsant** will speak with **Maggie Burnette Stogner** (Executive Director, The Center for Environmental Filmmaking at American University; Advisory Council, DCEFF), about how storytelling can influence policy, mobilize communities, and inspire action. They will be joined by **Joel Reynolds** (Senior Institutional Strategist and Senior Attorney, Nature, NRDC), along with **Ashley Avis** and **Ed Winters**, the team behind *Black Beauty* (Disney, 2020) and the Lost Horses PSA. Avis and Winters will share how they are leveraging film in their advocacy work in Washington, DC to rally public support for the **Save America's Forgotten Equines (SAFE) Act**.

More about *The Way of the Whale* (92 min):

Following climate activist **Xiye Bastida**, *The Way of the Whale* tells the story of the gray whales of Laguna San Ignacio, a pristine nursery along Mexico's Baja California peninsula. Tracing the whales' epic migration from Baja to the Arctic, the film revisits the campaign that halted a massive industrial salt project and protected the lagoon, now considered one of the great environmental success stories of our time. Directed by Franco Campos-Lopez.

**Wednesday, March 25, 6:30pm | Public reception starts at 6:00pm | American University, Malsi Doyle and Michael Forman Theater**

**Free, registration required**



# 34TH ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATIONS

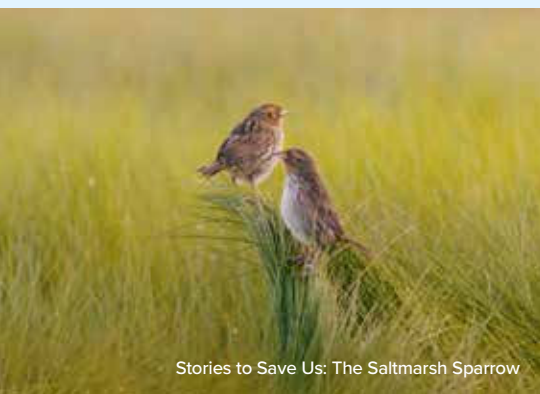
## IMPACT SCREENINGS AT THE RESERVOIR CENTER FOR WATER SOLUTIONS



Ghost Lands



Patched Wings



Stories to Save Us: The Saltmarsh Sparrow

### Shorts: Bird Stories

*Across saltmarshes, city skylines, and haunted wetlands, these shorts explore how birds connect us — to place, to history, and to responsibility. Together, they form a powerful meditation on how bearing witness to the lives of birds can inspire care, accountability, and collective hope for the habitats we share.*

#### Ghost Lands (U.S., 2025, 10 mins)

Directed by Zachary Garmoe

**D.C. Premiere**

Follow herons, finches, and snow geese through hazy marshes and moonlit forests to trace the footsteps of Harriet Tubman and explore what it means for us to physically dwell with the ghosts of our nations' past.

#### Patched Wings (U.S., 2025, 14 mins)

Directed by Andrew McCabe

**D.C. Premiere**

Amid a staggering decline in bird populations, wildlife conservation organizations unite to reduce deadly building collisions through advocacy, research, and a shared mission to make cities safer for birds.”

#### Stories to Save Us: the Saltmarsh Sparrow (U.S., 2025, 36 mins)

Directed by Matt Aeberhard and Melanie Finn

A filmmaking team intimately follows a female Saltmarsh Sparrow as she raises her chicks on a remnant East Coast saltmarsh. This sparrow species is facing extinction due to sea level rise and other man-made activities including habitat loss and a legacy of agricultural ditching. The chicks are no longer able to raise their heads above incoming high-tides: a few centimeters in height is the difference between their life and death. The sparrow's dramatic story helps us understand the fate of our saltmarshes and the mitigations that may save them – and us.

**Wednesday, March 25, 12:30pm | Reservoir Center for Water Solutions**

**Free, registration required | Featuring a post-screening conversation  
Melanie Finn (Writer, Producer, and Co-Founder) and Matt Aeberhard  
(Director, Cinematographer, and Co-Founder)**

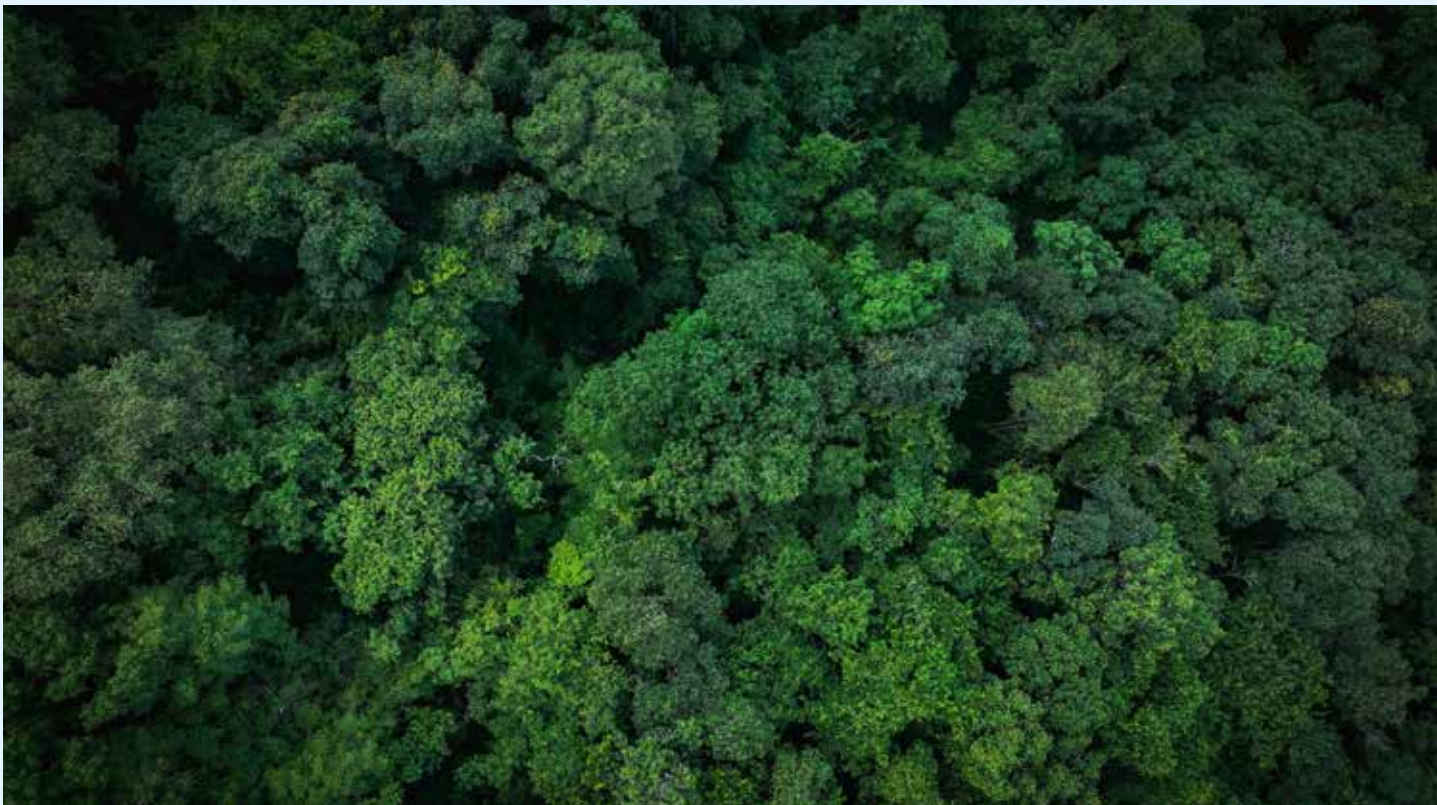
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## Turning the Tide: Environmental Movement Building

*With inspiration from environmental champions like Rachel Carson and the late Dr. Jane Goodall, this program brings together powerful storytelling and thoughtful dialogue to explore the roots, evolution, and positioning of the modern environmental movement. Through a curated selection of short films and conversation, attendees will witness inspirational stories of individuals and communities working to protect the natural world and discuss how momentum is built, sustained, and transformed.*

*Together, we will explore how hopeful storytelling and collective action can continue to inspire meaningful change, equipping a new generation of environmental stewards with the insight and resolve needed to meet the challenges of our time.*

**Thursday, March 26, 12:30pm | Reservoir Center for Water Solution**  
**Free, registration required | Featuring a post-screening conversation**



# 34TH ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATIONS

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## Watershed: Exploring a New Water Ethic for the New West Watershed

(U.S., 2012, 57 mins)

### SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO ROBERT REDFORD

Directed by Mark Decena

*Co-presented with the Redford Center*

Executive produced and narrated by Robert Redford, and directed by award-winning filmmaker Mark Decena, *Watershed* tells the story of the threats to the once-mighty Colorado River and offers solutions for the future of the American West.

**Monday, March 23, 3:00pm | Reservoir Center for Water Solutions**

**Free, registration required | Featuring a post-screening conversation with Maggie Burnette Stogner (Executive Director, The Center for Environmental Film)**



## VS. GOLIATH: Cancer Alley

(+ Episode 4 Sneak Peek) (U.S., 2025, 39 mins)

Directed by Sam Eilertsen, Nate Birnbaum

When a chemical company opens a new plastics factory that threatens to pollute the area, a Louisiana grandmother and educator-turned-activist leads members of her parish to fight back.

This screening will include a special sneak peek at the unreleased *Vs. Goliath* Episode 4 and be followed by a conversation with the filmmakers.

**Monday, March 23, 12:30pm | Reservoir Center for Water Solutions**  
**Free, registration required | Featuring a post-screening conversation**



Cancer Alley

## VS. GOLIATH: Appalachia & Greater Chaco

Episode 2: Appalachia (U.S., 2025, 41 mins)

Directed by Maggie Lemere, Sam Eilertsen, Nate Birnbaum

An army veteran enlists in the battle against a massive gas pipeline that cuts through his community in the mountains of Appalachia, joining with neighbors near and far in a showdown against a shadowy corporation and some of the nation's most powerful politicians.

Episode 3: Greater Chaco (U.S., 2025, 37 mins)

Directed by Maggie Lemere, Sam Eilertsen, Nate Birnbaum

**World Premiere**

After a transformative call to action at Standing Rock, a young woman from Sandia Pueblo joins forces with a Diné (Navajo) elder and former rodeo cowboy in an intergenerational movement to defend New Mexico's Greater Chaco from oil and gas industry extraction and devastating pollution.

**Friday, March 20, 7:00pm | Miracle Theatre**  
**\$15, reservations encouraged Followed by a post-screening conversation moderated by Jess Stahl (Grist) | Public reception to follow**



Appalachia



Greater Chaco

# 34TH ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL SHORTS PROGRAMS

## THE ERIC MOE AWARD FOR BEST SHORT ON SUSTAINABILITY

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



## Sallie's Ashes

(U.S., 2025, 39 MINS)

### THE ERIC MOE AWARD WINNER

Directed by Brennan Robideaux

**D.C. Premiere**

Faced with terminal lung cancer, 80-year-old Sallie Smith rallies an unlikely team of fellow Alabama grandmas to fight for the removal of a toxic coal ash pit that threatens the waters of their beloved Mobile Bay.



## The Clearing

(UK, POLAND, 2025, 28 MINS)

### THE ERIC MOE AWARD FINALIST

Directed by Marta Kasztelan and Andy Ball

*The Clearing* follows young Cambodian activists risking years in prison for exposing state-sanctioned environmental destruction, as they continue on their collision course with the authorities.

**Saturday, March 28, 4:00pm | U.S. Navy Memorial**

Featuring a post-screening conversation with Brennan Robideaux (Director, *Sallie's Ashes*), Diane Thomas (film participant), and Savan Wilson (film participant), Holly Jonas (Mongabay) and Gregory McGruder (National Geographic, Director, Global Special Events; DCEFF Board of Directors)

## PROFILE SHORTS: Trailblazers

Belief, identity and stewardship intersect in this collection, showcasing the individuals challenging the social norms of who belongs in conservation, and how we can connect to conserve. Each story centers individuals whose work reshapes both knowledge and culture, from the sharing of ancient wisdoms to the search for new discoveries. These trailblazers influence future generations to move off established paths and reimagine their relationships with the world, and the possibilities of how the world can relate to each other.

### Arctic Alchemy (U.S., 2025, 29 mins)

**Directed by Colin Arisman and Zeplin Zeerip**

Renowned adventurer and climate scientist Roman Dial embarks on a research expedition in the Alaskan Arctic, where he reckons with the power of wilderness to both break us and bring us alive.

### Love Birds (U.S., 2025, 28 mins)

**Directed by Elliott Kennerson, Angel Morris**

When George Hunt and Molly Warner discovered 'lesbian seagulls' on Santa Barbara Island in 1972, they didn't expect national headlines. But the media frenzy that followed would upend their lives — and their relationship.

### The Book of George (U.S., 2025, 15 mins)

**Directed by Danny Schmidt**

#### D.C. Premiere

George McKenzie Jr. traded the hard streets and violence of New York City for a life photographing some of the most elusive animals in North America for National Geographic. His next mission? Empower kids of color to access their own dreams and to protect the natural world.

### Walking the Fringe (U.S., 2025, 14 mins)

**Directed by Mark Decena**

#### D.C. Premiere

Three Sierra Foothill land stewards bring their unique perspectives to conservation of the land and restoration of the spirit.

### Waska: The Forest Is My Family (Ecuador, 2024, 15 mins)

**Directed by Nina Gualinga, Boloh Miranda, and Eli Virkina**

#### D.C. Premiere

In memory of her grandfather, Nina Gualinga speaks to his legacy by calling out the commodification and extractivism of Indigenous lands in the Amazon Rainforest, and how this consumption has now extended to the ancestral medicine *hayakwaska*.

**Sunday, March 22, 4:00pm | U.S. Navy Memorial**  
**Pay What You Can (\$10 suggested | Followed by a post-screening**  
**conversation with Adriane Alicea (Executive Director, Green 2.0) and**  
**Mark Decena (Director, Walking the Fringe)**



## PULITZER CENTER SHORTS: Changing Tides

As social and political tides turn, changemakers and climate communicators around the world persevere for the protection of our planet and its people. The Pulitzer Center is proud to present a few of their stories, in partnership with DCEFF, during an evening of short films celebrating those who inspire change through meaningful climate storytelling.

From the Indigenous groups preserving the soundscape of the Indonesian rainforest, to the California town fighting for clean water, to the researchers sounding an alarm on Thailand’s vanishing dugongs, these films—and their creators—highlight the determination and creativity driving worldwide climate action at this challenging time.



### **Allensworth Rising: A Fight for Water** (U.S., 2025, 21 mins)

**Directed by Isabella Roya Marzban**

*Allensworth Rising: A Fight for Water* follows community leader Sherry Hunter as she fights to secure safe water for the historic town of Allensworth, California, founded as a self-governed haven for Black families. More than a century later, residents confront an arsenic water crisis that threatens the town’s health and its founding vision of dignity and self-determination.



### **Payuun** (Thailand, 2026, 15 mins)

**Directed by Mailee Osten-Tan**

Thailand’s dugongs are dying in alarming numbers—fewer than 120 may remain—as collapsing seagrass meadows leave them starving. After some migrated to a Phuket bay, volunteer Theerasak “Pop” Saksritawee began helping marine biologists monitor them, raising an urgent alarm to save the species before it disappears.



### **Rainforest Sound Guardians** (Indonesia, U.S., 2025, 19 mins)

**Directed by Leah Varjacques**

As Jakarta sinks, Indonesia is building a new capital in east Borneo’s biodiverse forests, threatening endangered species and the Indigenous Balik community. Partnering with bioacoustic scientists, Balik elder Abidin records the forest’s changing soundscape to protect both ecological evidence and cultural knowledge before it’s lost.

**Tuesday, March 24, 7:00pm | MLK Jr. Memorial Library**

**Free, registration required | Followed by a post-screening conversation**

## SHORTS: Eco-Horror

Dystopia confronts reality here in the very raw commentaries of the social/political worlds we live in, and the ones we foolishly don't believe we're in yet. Where humanity is questioned, when the need for action challenges our very belief systems; Where the overconsumption of resources are at the center of death and destruction; And where life is reimagined where humans must adapt with nature, not around it. These eco-horrors are anything but shy in their depiction of the harsh and graphic possible futures that lie ahead and within us. They demonstrate the essence of the gravest threat that man has, and will face in our lifetimes; ourselves.

### Alguma Coisa com Plutônio (Something with Plutonium) (Brazil, 2024, 11 mins)

**Directed by Raoni Assis** **D.C. Premiere**

Recife in dystopia. A social critique, like a reality shock, about apathy disguised as fiction and dystopia. Characters peeking at the end that will come with overheating. A familiar story, even too familiar.

### Flatastic (France, Netherlands, 2024, 17 mins)

**Directed by Alice Saey**

Pushed to their limit, the Manta Rays rise up against Man to take control of the Earth. It is the dawning of a new Flat era.

### Last Gasp (UK, 2025, 17 mins)

**Directed by Tom Cholmondeley** **U.S. Premiere**

Two men are coming for Robert Harper – their weapon is not violence but the truth about his investments. A dark truth that drives a wedge between him and his beloved daughter.

### Misery and Other Choices (Australia, 2025, 10 mins)

**Directed by Samuel Lucas Allen** **World Premiere**

What do you do when the world is on fire? *Misery and Other Choices* is a darkly comic drama pitting climate nihilism against murderous hope.

### My Name is Oil (Azerbaijan, 2025, 15 mins)

**Directed by Igor Smola** **U.S. Premiere**

The oil in the film is shown as a living organism with a heart and arteries. This organism can foresee a disaster caused by human intervention.

### Plastic Surgery (UK, 2025, 12 mins)

**Directed by Guy Trevelyan** **D.C. Premiere**

A doctor on her last day before maternity leave is thrown into chaos when a hidden threat emerges.

### Reaper (France, 2025, 5 mins)

**Directed by Cassandra Fenech, Cléa Fernandez Robles, Emilie Friess, Léa Gisbert, Morgane Jama, Aiden Mallet, Axel Pancioni, Émeline Vann La**

After many years of garbage collecting, Oktave's routine is upended when, one night, unsettling apparitions disturb his reality.

Thursday, March 26, 9:30pm | Angelika Pop-Up at Union Market

\$10, reservations recommended



Alguma Coisa com Plutônio



Flatastic



Last Gasp



Misery and Other Choices



My Name is Oil



Plastic Surgery



Reaper



## SHORTS: Emerging Filmmaker Showcase

In a great collision of urgency and imagination, this program demonstrates the collective impacts of resiliency and the need for restoration as a result of man's obstruction of the natural flight and flow of our world and its cohabitants. From documentation to performance, animation and poetry, experience the rise of the emerging voices representing the next generation of filmmakers. These films refuse to allow the quietest of crises go unnoticed and the loudest of calls-to-action go unheard. Together, they reflect the power of hope that one can instill, when awareness becomes agency, and we begin creating new possibilities.

**Co-presented with George Washington University and Planet Forward**



### **Appalachian Understory** (U.S., 2026, 8 min)

**Directed by Katherine Gunning**

A short documentary demonstrating how the power of music and community can help overcome eco-grief.



### **The Final Bow** (U.S., 2025, 17 mins)

**Directed by Iona Horton**

Follows master bowmaker Christophe Landon, celebrated cellist Coleman Itzkoff, and Brazilian conservationists, united by a struggle over pernambuco - a rare tree found only in Brazil's Atlantic Forest and essential to the world's finest stringed instrument bows. As the government moves to upgrade the species to the highest level of international protection, conservationists fight illegal logging while musicians fear losing the tool that connects their souls to their music, while not actually helping to save the species. The film explores the clash of regulation, conservation, and art. It questions the effectiveness of the proposed upgrade, and asks what will happen to classical music if one of its most vital tools is banned across borders.



### **Patched Wings** (U.S., 2025, 14 mins)

**Directed by Andrew McCabe**

**D.C. Premiere**

Each year in the United States, over one billion birds die from building collisions—an often overlooked ecological crisis—and this short film explores the human impact of urban structures on bird populations while highlighting the rescue efforts of City Wildlife and the American Bird Conservancy to drive lasting solutions.

### **The Rebel Reef: Seeds of Hope** (U.S., 2025, 25 mins)

**Directed by Brynne Rardin**

After surviving a near-death experience, the sole divemaster in a Honduran beach town devotes himself to a mysteriously thriving reef—awakening questions about nature, healing, and the limits of both.

**Friday, March 26, 4:30pm | George Washington University and Planet Forward**

**Free, registration required | Featuring a post-screening conversation**

## SHORTS: Science & Scientists

What does it mean to study a world in crisis? From dirt digging to deep diving, follow the collective of environmentalists and scientists alike in their discovery of the world at large, the ecosystems within it, and smallest of discoveries that can make the largest of impacts. At the edge of uncertainty in a world of accelerating change, these individuals test resilience, navigating the environmental and ethical challenges of the modern world. Together, these films capture what emerges when observation becomes action and when the pursuit of change carries real consequences for both people and the planet.

### Between Moon Tides (U.S., 2025, 25 mins)

Directed by Jason Jaacks

**D.C. Premiere**

In a ribbon of saltmarsh in coastal New England, an intergenerational group of citizen scientists is trying to save the Saltmarsh Sparrow from extinction, one nest at a time.

### Florida Bear Tracks (U.S., 2025, 15 mins)

Directed by KT Bryden

An all female team of biologists sets out to collar black bears in South Florida on a quest to learn what the future holds for the species.

### Life Invisible (UK, 2025, 20 mins)

**D.C. Premiere**

As millions die each year from superbug infections, a Chilean scientist searches the hostile salt flats of the Atacama Desert for new antibiotics.

### Nodules (U.S., 2025, 19 mins)

Directed by Jason Jaacks

**U.S. Premiere**

Two marine scientists' discoveries about bizarre deep-sea rocks illuminate a growing face-off between science and capitalism on Earth's last great wilderness.

### Tipping Point (U.S., 2025, 10 mins)

Directed by Aaron Lemle

**World Premiere**

In the face of unprecedented coral bleaching, marine biologist Shayle Matsuda draws on the resilience he has cultivated in his personal life to inform his research on increasing thermal tolerance in corals.



Between Moon Tides



Florida Bear Tracks



Life Invisible



Nodules



Tipping Point

**Sunday, March 22, 1:00pm | U.S. Navy Memorial**

**Pay What You Can (\$10 suggested) | Followed by a post-screening conversation with Roshan Patel (Media Producer, Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute), KT Bryden (Director), and Clare Fieseler (Canary)**



America's Wolf

## SHORTS: This Land - American Conservation

Humans, wildlife, and the lands we share: the delicate balance of cohabitation is challenged when the promise of protection puts into question our relationship with land and its inhabitants, the governance of it, and how interference with the natural world can be both destructive and opportune. From high peaks to sunken riverbeds, explore the complexities of conservation and control when humans interfere, and wildlife prevails.



Inaccessible

**America's Wolf** (U.S., 2025, 7 mins)

**Directed by The National Geographic Society Impact Story Labs**

**D.C. Premiere**

Long ago, red wolves roamed from East Texas to coastal New York. Today, not even 20 remain in the wild. This short film tells the imagined story of one young wolf raised in captivity and released into the wild, where she finds freedom, danger, and the possibility of a new future for her species. Long ago, the red wolf was America's Wolf, and with our help it could be again.

**Inaccessible** (U.S., 2025, 31 mins)

**Directed by David Byars**

**D.C. Premiere**

Set in Montana's rugged Crazy Mountains, *Inaccessible* follows professional skier Griffin Post and a team of elite athletes as they venture into terrain shaped by history and the complex boundaries of public and private land. What begins as a ski expedition becomes a powerful exploration of who gets to access — and ultimately protect — America's shared places. *Inaccessible* explores the boundaries that separate millions of acres of public land from the public, and Griffin Post's search for something deeper than snow.



Leaving the Point

**Leaving the Point** (U.S., 2025, 20 mins)

**Directed by Michael Fearon**

With ranch closures looming in Point Reyes National Seashore, a tight-knit community faces significant changes and a vanishing way of life.



What the River Knows

**What the River Knows** (U.S., 2025, 34 mins)

**Directed by Diego Riley and Will Buckley**

**D.C. Premiere**

A lost eden drowned under Lake Powell re-emerges, revealing the follies of the past and a new way forward for the Colorado River.

**Saturday, March 21, 1:00pm | U.S. Navy Memorial**

**Pay What You Can (\$10 suggested) | Followed by a post-screening conversation with Sam Sheline (Producer), Jake Li (VP of Conservation Policy, Defenders of Wildlife), and Will Buckley (Director, What the River Knows)**

# FESTIVAL QUICK GUIDE

## MARCH 19-28, 2026

### THU MARCH 19

**7:00 PM**  
**A LIFE ILLUMINATED**  
U.S. Navy Memorial

### FRI MARCH 20

**7:00 PM**  
**CLIMATE IN THERAPY**  
U.S. Navy Memorial

**7:00 PM**  
**VS GOLIATH: APPALACHIA & GREATER CHACO**  
Miracle Theatre

### SAT MARCH 21

**1:00 PM**  
**SHORTS: THIS LAND - AMERICAN CONSERVATION**  
U.S. Navy Memorial

**1:00 PM**  
**THE LAST WHALE SINGER**  
Miracle Theatre

**2:00 PM**  
**OBSERVER (STONE AWARD)**  
National Academy of Sciences

**2:00 PM**  
**MOTHER OF SNOW CRANES**  
Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art

**2:20 PM**  
**HEN**  
AFI Silver Theatre & Cultural Center

**4:00 PM**  
**BORDERLANDS JAGUAR**  
U.S. Navy Memorial

**6:30 PM**  
**COTTON QUEEN**  
AFI Silver Theatre & Cultural Center

**7:00 PM**  
**THE LAST DIVE**  
U.S. Navy Memorial

**7:00 PM**  
**FOREVER HOME**  
Miracle Theatre

### SUN MARCH 22

**11:45 AM**  
**THE TREE OF AUTHENTICITY**  
AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center

**1:00 PM**  
**SHORTS: SCIENCE AND SCIENTISTS**  
U.S. Navy Memorial

**1:45 PM**  
**NUESTRA TIERRA (OUR LAND)**  
AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center

**2:00 PM**  
**APOLLO 1**  
National Archives

**2:00 PM**  
**WHAT DOES THAT NATURE SAY TO YOU**  
Smithsonian National Museum of Asian Art

**4:00 PM**  
**SHORTS: TRAILBLAZERS**  
U.S. Navy Memorial

**7:00 PM**  
**THE KEEPER**  
U.S. Navy Memorial

### MON MARCH 23

**12:30 PM**  
**VS. GOLIATH: CANCER ALLEY**  
Reservoir Center for Water Solutions

**2:45 PM**  
**THE TREE OF AUTHENTICITY**  
AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center

**3:00 PM**  
**WATERSHED: EXPLORING A NEW WATER ETHIC FOR THE NEW WEST**  
Reservoir Center for Water Solutions

**6:00 PM**  
**HER SHARK STORY**  
Georgetown University, Capitol Campus

**6:30 PM**  
**AGATHA'S ALMANAC**  
National Museum of the Women in the Arts

**7:00 PM**  
**THE [CONSERV]ATIVES**  
Miracle Theatre

**7:00 PM**  
**BIG MEDICINE: YORK OUTDOORS SCREENING AND LIVE PERFORMANCE**  
MLK Jr. Memorial Library

**7:00 PM**  
**THE BIRDS**  
U.S. Navy Memorial

### TUE MARCH 24

**4:40 PM**  
**COTTON QUEEN**  
AFI Silver Theatre & Cultural Center

**5:30 PM**  
**THE CALL**  
The Embassy of Canada

**7:00 PM**  
**SOLWARA: PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S SACRED SEA**  
U.S. Navy Memorial

**7:00 PM**  
**MELT**  
Embassy of Austria

**7:00 PM**  
**PULITZER CENTER SHORTS: CHANGING TIDES**  
MLK Jr. Memorial Library

### WED MARCH 25

**12:30 PM**  
**SHORTS: BIRD STORIES**  
Reservoir Center for Water Solutions

**6:30 PM**  
**GLACIERS - ICE IN FREEFALL**  
Embassy of France

**6:30 PM**  
**IMPACT PREVIEW EVENT: THE WAY OF THE WHALE**  
American University, Malsi Doyle and Michael Forman Theater

**7:00 PM**  
**SECRETS OF THE BEES**  
U.S. Navy Memorial

### THU MARCH 26

**12:30 PM**  
**TURNING THE TIDE: ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT BUILDING**  
Reservoir Center for Water Solutions

**3:00 PM**  
**UNLESS SOMETHING GOES TERRIBLY WRONG**  
Reservoir Center for Water Solutions

**4:30 PM**  
**EMERGING FILMMAKERS SHOWCASE**  
George Washington University

**4:40 PM**  
**COTTON QUEEN**  
AFI Silver Theatre & Cultural Center

**6:00 PM**  
**THE WILD NORTH SEA**  
Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

**6:30 PM**  
**PLAN C FOR CIVILIZATION**  
The George Washington University

**7:00 PM**  
**RESILIENCE**  
U.S. Navy Memorial

**9:30 PM**  
**SHORTS: ECO-HORROR**  
Angelika Pop-Up at Union Market

### FRI MARCH 27

**6:30 PM**  
**NUISANCE BEAR (WARNER AWARD)**  
U.S. Navy Memorial

**7:00 PM**  
**TO THE WEST, IN ZAPATA**  
The Embassy of the Czech Republic

### SAT MARCH 28

**11:30 AM**  
**PONYO**  
AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center

**1:00 PM**  
**AKI**  
Smithsonian's Museum of the American Indian

**1:00 PM**  
**BEE WILD**  
U.S. Navy Memorial

**2:00 PM**  
**HAIR, PAPER, WATER**  
National Gallery of Art

**2:15 PM**  
**NAUSICAA OF THE VALLEY OF THE WIND**  
AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center

**4:00 PM**  
**SALLIE'S ASHES AND THE CLEARING (MOE AWARD)**  
U.S. Navy Memorial

**6:30 PM**  
**YANUNI (ADVOCACY AWARD)**  
U.S. Navy Memorial



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Katharine Heyl  
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## ANGELIKA POP-UP AT UNION MARKET

550 Penn St NE, Washington, DC 20002

## AFI SILVER THEATRE AND CULTURAL CENTER

8633 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD 20910

## AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Doyle/Forman Theatre, School of Communication, Center for Environmental Filmmaking  
201 McKinley Building, 4400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20016

## EMBASSY OF AUSTRIA

3524 International Court, NW, Washington, DC 20008

## EMBASSY OF CANADA

501 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001

## EMBASSY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

3900 Spring of Freedom Street NW, Washington, DC 20008

## EMBASSY OF FRANCE

4101 Reservoir Road, NW, Washington, DC 20007

## EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

4200 Linnean Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20008

## THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Jack Morton Auditorium  
805 21st St NW, Washington, DC 20052

## GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Capitol Campus  
125 E. Street NW, Washington, DC 20001

## MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MEMORIAL LIBRARY

901 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20001

## MIRACLE THEATRE

535 8th St SE, Washington, DC 20003

## NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

2101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20418

## NATIONAL ARCHIVES

701 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20408

## NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

8th Street & F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001

## NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN IN THE ARTS

1250 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005

## RESERVOIR CENTER FOR WATER SOLUTIONS

301 Water Street, SE, Washington DC 20003

## SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ASIAN ART

1050 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20004

## SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

4th Street & Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20560

## U.S. NAVY MEMORIAL VISITOR CENTER

701 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

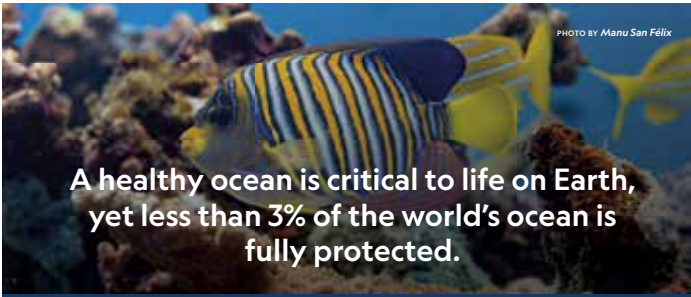


PHOTO BY Manu San Félix

**A healthy ocean is critical to life on Earth, yet less than 3% of the world's ocean is fully protected.**

Papua New Guinea, a country with a rich tradition of marine protection going back millennia, is home to some of the planet's greatest biodiversity — including coral reef ecosystems teeming with fish and sharks. But these vital waters are under threat from overfishing, pollution and global warming.

In *Solwara: Papua New Guinea's Sacred Sea*, National Geographic Pristine Seas joins forces with local communities and scientists from Papua New Guinea on a scientific expedition to some of the country's most remote and unexplored waters. Their goal: to understand the ocean's health from surface to seafloor and ensuring these sacred spaces remain protected for generations to come.

**Join us for a special screening of *Solwara* at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24th at the Burke Theater at Navy Memorial**

Stick around for a Q&A session with the filmmakers after the screening

Learn more at [PristineSeas.org](http://PristineSeas.org) and follow us [@natgeopristseseas](https://twitter.com/natgeopristseseas)



**34TH ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL**  
IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

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Grist is a nonprofit, independent media organization dedicated to reporting on climate change. Since 1999, we have used the power of journalism to engage the public about the perils of one of the most existential threats we face. We seek to document the often unequal impacts of climate change on communities in the United States and globally — as well as to show the promise of equitable climate solutions.

*Grist is proud to be a media partner to the Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital*

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