

**ENVIRONMENTAL  
FILM FESTIVAL  
IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL**



**March 11 – March 22, 2009**

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**Oceans, Sharks, Honeybees and Hedrick Smith:  
Environmental Film Festival Marks 17 Years in D.C.**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The 17<sup>th</sup> annual Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital, March 11 through 22, will present 136 documentary, feature, animated, archival, experimental and children's films selected to provide fresh perspectives on environmental issues facing our planet. The health and sustainability of earth's oceans and sea life is a major theme of the 2009 Festival, which features cinematic work from 34 countries and 56 Washington, D.C., United States and world premieres. Fifty-four filmmakers and 69 special guests will discuss their work at the Festival.

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author Hedrick Smith will speak about toxins in our waters and show clips from his upcoming film, *Poisoned Waters*, comparing the condition of the Chesapeake Bay and Puget Sound. The D.C. premiere of the documentary, *Earth Days*, recounts the history of the modern environmental movement. A sneak preview of *Return of the Honeybee* considers the mysterious and potentially disastrous worldwide disappearance of bees.

The world premiere of *The State of the Planet's Oceans* investigates the condition of marine preserves and fisheries around the world. *A Sea Change* warns of the potential calamity of ocean acidification. *Sharkwater*, to be shown at a pre-Festival event on March 10, exposes the alarming decimation and demonization of sharks worldwide. *Who Killed Crassostrea Virginica: The Fall and Rise of the Chesapeake Oyster*, identifies new reasons for the decline of oysters in the Chesapeake Bay.

The 2009 Festival also presents a retrospective of 11 environmentally oriented films by renowned filmmaker Werner Herzog, including his most recent, Oscar-nominated *Encounters at the End of the World*. Ken Burns' upcoming TV series on "The National Parks: America's Best Idea" is previewed. Two acclaimed films chronicling a changing sense of place: *Of Time and the City* about Liverpool, England and *24 City* set in Chengdu, China, are among Festival highlights.

Oscar-nominated D.C. filmmakers Sean Fine and Andrea Nix Fine will screen their new film, *Built for the People: The Story of TVA* about the Tennessee Valley Authority. D.C. filmmakers Pamela Peabody and Carl Colby will show their film, *Abbott Thayer and the Art of Camouflage*, about how camouflage was developed. The world premiere of the film, *Nora!* profiles Washington restaurateur Nora Pouillon, founder of the nation's first certified organic restaurant. D.C. filmmaker Ginny Durrin shows clips from her film-in-progress, *Bombs in Our Backyard* about the toxic dumping site under the northwest D.C. neighborhood of Spring Valley. *RiverSmart*, produced by the District Department of the Environment, offers solutions to the problem of sewage overflow in our local rivers.

The Environmental Film Festival has become the leading showcase for environmental films in the United States. Presented in collaboration with 101 local, national and global organizations, the Festival is one of the largest cooperative cultural events in the nation's capital. Films are screened at 52 venues throughout the city, including museums, embassies, libraries, universities and local theaters. Many screenings are free.

For a complete schedule, visit the Festival Web site at **[www.dcenvironmentalfilmfest.org](http://www.dcenvironmentalfilmfest.org)**. Photographs are available on our Web site under the press section or by email from [info@envirofilmfest.org](mailto:info@envirofilmfest.org). To receive a film brochure, sign up for our mailing list on the Web site, email us at [info@envirofilmfest.org](mailto:info@envirofilmfest.org) or call 202-342-2564.