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## Planet in Focus Environmental Film Festival Announces 2016 Film Line up

The 17th annual Planet in Focus Environmental Film Festival takes place October 18 to 23, 2016 in venues across Toronto.

TORONTO - The **Planet in Focus Environmental Festival (PiF)** announced its 17th edition line up today. PiF is taking it all on in 2016, exploring some of the most intriguing issues of our time, from the harsh survival skills necessary to live in Brazil's favelas to rapid industrialization in China and Mongolia and from the plundering of natural resources in the Atlantic to eating bugs to sustain our existence on the planet.

The line up includes 26 features and 27 shorts from every corner of the planet, out of which there will be 10 World premieres, 12 North American premieres, 11 Canadian premieres and 13 Toronto debuts.

"We love the passion and dedication that these filmmakers bring to the festival," says Planet in Focus Senior Programmer Marc Glassman. "They explore new perspectives and find fresh approaches, which invite audiences in to share in their fervent interest in environmental concerns. From the big issues that dominate headlines to the problematic relationship we have with the world around us, this year's lineup has something for everyone."

Opening the Festival is Peter Svatek's ***Theatre of Life***, a powerful documentary that follows world renowned chef and humanist Massimo Bottura, as 60 of the world's best chefs join him to cook for refugees and the homeless in Milan with dishes created from the wasted food discarded during the city's 2015 World Fair. Taking audiences on a wild gastronomic adventure is Andreas Johnsen's documentary ***Bugs***, a film that explores whether insects can put an end to world hunger sustainably, thanks to their low ecological impact and nutritious properties. Following chefs and researchers Josh Evans, Ben Reade and Roberto Flore, this film is a quest to find out if insects are the new superfood.

Planet in Focus 2016 puts the spotlight on Brazil with: Laurence Guenou's ***The Garden of Hope***, the sobering and courageous story of citizens living in a Brazilian favela; Elizabeth Rocha Salgado's short, ***River of Death***, which examines the aftermath of a dam burst that devastated a small village leaving questionable drinking water in the wreckage; ***5x Chico***, a journey on the São Francisco River, in which a quintet of talented directors present five perspectives on the relationship between the river and the communities that surround it; and in ***Gerais***, a short documentary directed by Tiago Carvalho and Arthur Frazão, the indomitable spirit of the

residents of Vereda Funda is tested as they reclaim the land exploited by investors for eucalyptus plantations.

Transporting audience to the remote reaches of the planet are: ***Ever the Land***, a portrait of the Ngāi Tūhoe, one of New Zealand's most passionately independent Maori tribes; Zhao Liang's award-winning ***Behemoth***, banned in China, which presents the industrialization of Inner Mongolia as a nightmarish journey through the underworld; and in ***The Anthropologist***, directors Seth Kramer, Daniel A. Miller, and Jeremy Newberger follow cultural anthropologist Susie Crate and her daughter Katie as they travel across the globe tracking the effects of climate change on the ways of life in rural communities.

Closer to home, Nova Scotia's Neal Livingston stitches together stories close to his heart of governance, public policy, renewable energy, fracking and contemporary life in Atlantic Canada in ***100 Short Stories***. Sebastien Chabot with his feature debut, profiles renowned gardener and horticulturist Francis Cabot in ***The Gardener***, while also offering a rare look inside one of the largest and most beautiful private gardens in the world.

Narrowing in on the natural gifts found in the Canadian backyard, are three extraordinary shorts. Justin Simm's ***Hand. Line. Cod***, captures the return of cod fishing in Newfoundland; Nicolas Paquet's ***Sugar Shack Tales*** goes behind the scenes with a father and son to learn the art of creating Canada's ambrosia, maple syrup; and Jean-Nicolas Orhon's ***Reverence: The Monarch Project*** presents an artistic portrait of the nearly extinct monarch butterfly.

Closing PiF 2016 is Emanuel Hoss-Desmarais' visually stunning ***What Lies Below***, a touching portrait of Lawrence Gunther, a legally blind environmental advocate. The film follows him as he travels across Canada, inviting people to look deeper at the ecological impact on fish populations of environmental spills from human sewage and oil extraction in various communities.

Full line up of films and tickets now available at: [PlanetinFocus.org](http://PlanetinFocus.org)

### **About Planet in Focus**

Planet in Focus is a charitable organization whose mission is to promote environmental education by raising awareness of critical environmental issues through a variety of media-based initiatives including; the Planet in Focus Environmental Film Festival, the Green School Tours, Eco-Film Lab, the PiF Student Film Festival and year 'round screenings that showcase the best environmental films from Canada and around the world. [PlanetinFocus.org](http://PlanetinFocus.org)

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The **Planet in Focus Environmental Film Festival** is generously supported by  
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For more information contact Daniela Ponce - [danielaponce@poncedaniela.com](mailto:danielaponce@poncedaniela.com) - 647 239 3034