

- For Immediate Release -
19 September 2018



Planet in Focus International Environmental Film Festival unveils film lineup for 2018 edition

Diverse portraits of curiosity and commitment, including the Canadian Premiere of Slater Jewell-Kemker's *Youth Unstoppable*, Alison Reid's *The Woman Who Loves Giraffes* with Canadian Eco-Hero Dr. Anne Innis Dagg, Emma Davie and Peter Mettler's *Becoming Animal*, Andrew Nisker's *Ground War*, and Liz Marshall's *Midian Farm*

The 19th Planet in Focus International Environmental Film Festival takes place October 25 to 28, 2018 planetinfocus.org

TORONTO - The [Planet in Focus International Environmental Film Festival](#) (PIF) announced today the exciting lineup for its 2018 edition, consisting of 23 feature films and 28 shorts. Preceding the festival itself PIF will host **An Evening with Dr. Anne Innis Dagg**, this year's recipient of the Planet In Focus Canadian Eco-Hero Award. A ground-breaking scientist, and first person in the world to study animal behaviour in the wild on the African continent, Dagg's impressive work will be highlighted in a special screening of **Alison Reid's** moving documentary portrait [The Woman Who Loves Giraffes](#) as part of the launch event on October 18th.

PIF 2018 opens officially on October 25th with the Canadian Premiere of **Slater Jewell-Kemker's** inspiring [Youth Unstoppable](#), a (self-)portrait of activists from the Global Youth Climate Movement fighting for a better tomorrow. Moving from rallies, international social media exchanges, and appearances at Climate Change Conferences around the world, the acclaimed film made its premiere in Cannes as part of the Film4Climate program.

The festival will conclude with a Gala presentation of **Andrew Nisker's** [Ground War](#) on October 28th, a personal and journalistic investigation that examines the death of the filmmaker's father that leads Nisker from golf course maintenance to histories of global pesticide use. The Gala will also celebrate previously announced International Eco-Hero **Dr. John Francis**. Other special events include the previously announced centrepiece screening of **Ian Mauro's** [Beyond Climate](#), followed by a discussion between Mauro and **David Suzuki**.

Wildlife and the ecosystem remain ever-urgent and illuminating subjects, and are the topic of several stimulating features. Selections include [Becoming Animal](#), a playful and innovative tribute to artist and philosopher **David Abram** and his belief in the human body's connection to our animal friends, produced in collaboration between **Peter Mettler** and **Emma Davie**; the clever and insightful [Rodents of Unusual Size](#), in which directors **Chris Metzler**, **Jeff Springer**, and **Quinn Costello** offer a comical and insightful tale of an invasive species run amuck; and the impeccably crafted [When Lambs Become Lions](#) by **Jon Kasbe**, which exposes the severity of Kenya's poaching crisis.

PIF is also proud to present a screening of **Rob Stewart's** [Sharkwater Extinction](#), following its successful Premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival. A recipient of PIF's 2014 Canadian Eco-Hero Award, and the namesake for the Rob Stewart Youth Eco-Hero Award (to be bestowed this year on activist **Rachel Parent**), Stewart's final film is a bold and moving testament to the filmmaker's work as a valiant advocate for the preservation of sharks and the environment.

Elsewhere in the festival a number of films look at various ways of living together, then and now. Highlights include the Canadian Premiere of [Midian Farm](#) by director **Liz Marshall** (**The Ghosts in our Machine**), a provocative and personal portrait of 1970s communal living; **Timothy George Kelly's** timely [Brexitannia](#), a complex examination of the mechanics behind the United Kingdom's vote to leave the EU; and **Chad Freidrich's** [The Experimental City](#), which traces a never completed 1960s plan for a utopian city in Minnesota, which featured contributions from **Buckminster Fuller**, among others.

Featured in the programme are a number of exciting premieres, including the Canadian Premiere of **Ann Shin's** [The Superfood Chain](#), which offers an informative, well-researched exploration of superfood trends, and the Toronto Premiere of the award-winning [Genesis 2.0](#), by directors **Christian Frei** and **Maxim Arbugaev**, a global odyssey in search for traces of the woolly mammoth.

Other highlights in the Festival's feature film lineup include **Quinn Kanaly** and **Noel Dockstader's** [Point of No Return](#), which follows the first solar-powered aircraft to circle the earth; **Courtney Quirin's** [Guardian](#), a beautifully shot examination of the Canadian government's threatened Guardian program and their work monitoring salmon populations in British Columbia; and [The Blessing](#) by directors **Hunter Robert Baker** and **Jordan Fein**, a tale of Indigenous resistance in the face corporate environmental exploitation.

Due to extenuating circumstances previously announced Eco-Hero Jennifer Keesmaat is no longer able to participate in this year's edition of the festival.

About Planet in Focus

Planet in Focus is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to use film as a catalyst for change 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

Planet in Focus gratefully acknowledges the support of the Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, Celebrate Ontario, Toronto Arts Council, Ontario Creates, Telefilm Canada, and Heritage Canada.

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