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SF Green Film Festival Announces 2019 Line-Up; 'Home' theme explores affordable housing, migration, sustainable cities, habitat loss, and more.

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**9th SAN FRANCISCO GREEN FILM FESTIVAL  
SEPTEMBER 24-29, 2019**

*A bold and fearless voice for our planet.*

*SF Green Film Festival returns for its 9th year from Sept 24-29 with a week of new environmental films, discussions, and special events that spark green ideas and actions.*

*Venues include the Castro Theatre, Roxie, 518 Valencia Gallery, Manny's, Exploratorium, and Switzerland at Pier 17.*

*Partnering with organizations across the SF Bay Area and around the globe in alignment with the United Nations Climate Action Summit 2019.*

*Announcing 2019 Festival theme: **Home***

The San Francisco Green Film Festival is pleased to announce its ninth season. From September 24-29, the Green Film Festival will show audiences the most vital stories from the environmental front lines. The Festival will take place in September in alignment with the hub of crucial environmental discussions and actions occurring in the US and around the globe, including the UN Climate Action Summit in NYC and the Global Climate Strike, a week of worldwide actions beginning on September 20.

This year, the Festival brings back programs that broaden the depth of critical climate conversations including filmmaker Q&As, panel discussions with thought-leaders, youth workshops, live cinema, and much more. The program includes 60 new films with over 100 guest speakers. The Festival will launch with a spectacular Opening Night at the Castro Theatre on Tuesday, September 24, and Closing Night is at the Roxie on Sunday, September 29.

**2019 FESTIVAL THEME: 'HOME'**

This year's **Home** theme encompasses a broad range of critical issues including affordable housing, migration, sustainable cities, habitat loss, and more.

Revelations from two recent United Nations reports on Housing and Biodiversity show that the global climate crisis is more widespread and critical than ever before. For individuals, families, communities, nations, and ecosystems, all of our homes are at risk. With decisive elections just around the corner and a Green New Deal at stake, now is the time to share global stories that educate, inspire, and ignite change that can save all of our homes.

"Home" means something different to everyone, and at this year's festival we will be delving into the global conversation within this personal framework. Throughout the Festival we will ask, "*What does home mean to you, and how can we work together to protect it?*".

## **BIG NIGHTS**

### **OPENING NIGHT**

Sept 24 at Castro Theatre

#### **PUSH**

**Director:** Fredrik Gertten (Sweden)

**USA Premiere // Best Feature Award 2019**

**Expected Guests:** Fredrik Gertten and United Nations Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, Leilani Farha

SFGFF welcomes back director Fredrik Gertten (*BANANAS!\**, *Bikes vs. Cars*) to open the Festival with *PUSH*, launching the 2019 'Home' theme and setting the stage for a week of discussions. Housing is a fundamental human right, so why can't we afford to live in our own cities anymore? *PUSH* sheds light on a new kind of faceless landlord, our increasingly unlivable cities, and an escalating crisis that affects us all. Follow Leilani Farha, the UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, as she travels the globe investigating who's being pushed out of cities and why.

**Preceded by the Opening Night Reception on the Castro Mezzanine.**

### **CENTERPIECE**

Sept 28 at Roxie

#### **COOKED: SURVIVAL BY ZIP CODE**

**Director:** by Judith Helfand (USA)

**Green Tenacity Award 2019**

**Expected guest:** Judith Helfand

A life and death story about extreme heat, the politics of "disaster," and survival by zip code. This story explores the systematic ways that climate disasters like heat waves disproportionately affect lower income and marginalized communities.

## **CLOSING NIGHT**

Sept 29 at Roxie

### **16 SUNRISES**

**Director:** Pierre-Emmanuel Le Goff (France)

**USA Premiere**

**Expected guest:** Pierre-Emmanuel Le Goff

For six months, French Astronaut Thomas Pesquet and his fellow astronauts live on the International Space Station, 450 kilometers from Earth, and obtain a different perspective of home. As the space station revolves, they experience 16 sunrises each day, witnessing a planet that is constantly evolving.

**The Closing Night Wrap Party follows at Slate Bar - 2925 16th Street San Francisco, CA 94103**

## **SPOTLIGHT PROGRAMS**

### **UN Climate Action Summit national screening event**

Sept 25 at Roxie

#### **ANTHROPOCENE: THE HUMAN EPOCH**

**Directors:** Nicholas de Pencier, Jennifer Baichwal, and Ed Burtynsky (Canada)

**SF Premiere**

A cinematic meditation on humanity's massive reengineering of the planet, as scientists argue we have now entered a new epoch.

### **HONOR THE PAST TO SHAPE THE FUTURE: Ohlone Women Reclaim Their Homelands**

Sept 27 at Roxie

**Expected Guests:** Ohlone leaders Ann Marie Sayers and Kanyon Sayers-Roods, Native Scholar Melissa Nelson, filmmaker Rucha Chitnis

Trailblazing Ohlone women leaders are creating pathways to reclaim their ancestral lands, spirituality, and culture, in this evening of film, song, and storytelling.

### **SF Green Film Festival Takeover of Piers 15 & 17**

Sept 26 at Exploratorium and Switzerland at Pier 17

The SF Green Film Festival will take over the wharf at Piers 15 and 17 in the first-ever collaboration between the Exploratorium, Swissnex, and the Consulate General of Switzerland in San Francisco. This unique co-curated project will guide guests over a fog bridge across the water and through a labyrinth of interactive eco-arts exhibits - with indoor and outdoor screenings of local and Swiss films, talks, drinks, and music.

The evening includes special presentations of:

### **NATURE'S NICKELODEONS**

**Director:** Amy Cutler (UK)

**USA Premiere**

**Expected Guests:** Artists Amy Cutler, Jason Singh and others TBA.

Experimental composers, musicians and A.I. join filmmaker and Doctor of GeoHumanities Amy Cutler to re-invent the heroes, villains, sounds and spaces of nature broadcasts in this live cinema event.

### **WALDEN**

**Director:** Daniel Zimmerman (Switzerland)

#### **West Coast Premiere**

Through thirteen 360-degree shots, Daniel Zimmermann creates a meditative comment on the absurdity our globalised world.

### **GREEN FIRE AWARD: SF BAY AREA FEATURES**

Third year of our Juried award with \$2,500 cash prize for Best SF Bay Area Environmental Feature. The award recognizes the best of independent filmmaking in the SF Bay Area by honoring innovative storytelling and new perspectives on environmental topics.

Films in this competition include:

### **5 BLOCKS**

**Director:** Dan Goldes (USA)

#### **World Premiere**

**Expected Guests:** Director Dan Goldes and subjects from the film

In San Francisco, A grassroots coalition is using arts & technology to bring development to central Market Street's marginalized communities.

### **ARTIFISHAL**

**Director:** Josh "Bones" Murphy (USA, Canada, Norway, UK)

#### **SF Premiere**

**Expected Guests:** Josh "Bones" Murphy"

This film is a call-to-action documentary about people, rivers, and the fight for the future of wild fish and the environment that supports them.

### **HARVEST SEASON**

**Director:** Bernardo Ruiz (USA)

**Expected guest:** Bernardo Ruiz

From vine to vintage, this is the story of California wine country's unsung heroes during one of the most dramatic harvests in history.

### **MOTHERLOAD**

**Director:** Liz Canning (USA)

**Expected Guest:** Liz Canning

A mother's quest to understand the disconnection of the digital age, its planetary impact, and how cargo bikes could help.

### **ONCE WAS WATER**

**Director:** Christopher Beaver (USA)

**California Premiere**

**Expected Guests:** Producer Diana Fuller

This film explores innovative water technologies in Las Vegas, Nevada: the thirstiest city in the driest state.

## **US & INTERNATIONAL FEATURES**

### **16 SUNRISES**

(see **Big Nights** above)

### **THE AGE OF STUPID**

**Director:** Franny Armstrong (UK)

**10th Anniversary Screening // Inspiring Lives Award 2019**

**Expected guest:** Director Franny Armstrong (via Skype)

The film that started it all: ***The Age of Stupid*** inspired the founding of the first San Francisco Green Film Festival. In the devastated future, a man looks back at old footage and asks: why didn't we stop climate change when we had the chance?

### **ANTHROPOCENE: THE HUMAN EPOCH**

(See **Spotlight Programs** above)

### **AY MARIPOSA**

**Director:** Krista Schlyer (USA)

**SF Premiere**

**Expected Guest:** Krista Schlyer

Advocates illustrate their fierce commitment to home, justice, wild beauty, and the future of the US-Mexico borderlands.

### **COOKED: SURVIVAL BY ZIP CODE**

(see **Big Nights** above)

### **EARTH**

**Director:** Nikolaus Geyrhalter (Austria)

**West Coast Premiere**

This captivating film shows humanity's constant struggle to dominate the planet, through the eyes of men who move mountains for a living.

### **GOLDEN FISH, AFRICAN FISH**

**Directors:** Moussa Diop and Thomas Grand (Senegal)

**West Coast Premiere**

One of the last areas of traditional fishing in West Africa is threatened by industrial development, housing shortages, and toxic work conditions.

### **THE GREEN LIE**

**Director:** Werner Boote (Austria)

**West Coast Premiere**

Greenwashing experts explore how we can fight back against the dangerous lies of big business.

### **KIFARU**

**Director:** David Hambridge (USA, Kenya)

#### **SF Premiere**

Experience the intimate joys and pitfalls of wildlife conservation through the eyes of Kenyan rhino caretakers who witness extinction happening in real-time.

### **MOSSVILLE: WHEN GREAT TREES FALL**

**Director:** Alexander Glustrom (USA)

#### **SF Premiere**

**Expected Guests:** Executive Producer Michelle Lanier.

One man standing in the way of a petrochemical plant expansion in his ancestral hometown refuses to give up.

### **THE POLLINATORS**

**Director:** Peter Nelson

**Expected Guests:** Peter Nelson

A cinematic journey about the current international bee crisis, what it means for our food security, and how we can improve it.

### **PUSH**

(see **Big Nights** above)

### **THE RIVER AND THE WALL**

**Director:** Ben Masters (USA, Mexico)

Journey on an immersive adventure through the unknown wilds of the Texas borderlands on horses, mountain bikes, and canoes.

### **SETTING THE BAR: A CRAFT CHOCOLATE ORIGIN STORY**

**Director:** Tim Shepard (Mexico)

A new era of sustainable chocolate trade protects livelihoods, supports sustainability, educates consumers, & creates award-winning chocolate!

### **SILENT FORESTS**

**Director:** Mariah Wilson (USA, Cameroon, Congo)

#### **SF Premiere**

**Expected Guest:** Mariah Wilson

Tenacious conservationists fight to stop forest elephant poaching in Africa's Congo Basin region.

### **THIRTEEN WAYS**

**Director:** Ian Cheney (USA)

#### **West Coast Premiere**

A series of scientists (and, for good measure, a few nonscientists) travel to a plot of Maine land they have never seen before.

## **TRIBES ON THE EDGE**

**Director:** Céline Cousteau (USA, Brazil)

**SF Premiere**

**Expected Guest:** Céline Cousteau

Celine Cousteau journeys to the Brazilian Amazon in order to bear witness to the indigenous communities' fight for survival.

## **WALDEN**

(See **Spotlight Programs** above)

## **THE WOMAN WHO LOVES GIRAFFES**

**Director:** Alison Reid (Canada, USA, Kenya, South Africa)

**SF Premiere**

**Expected Guests:** Alison Reid and film's subject Anne Innis Dagg.

This film highlights Dr. Anne Dagg's pioneering research on South African Giraffes and her tireless fight for gender equity.

## **SHORT FILMS**

Over 30 short films will show at Green Film Fest 2019. Highlights include:

### **EXTINCTION**

**Director:** Jack Stimpson (UK)

**USA Premiere**

**Expected Guests:** Jack Stimpson

A dark satire starring Emma Thompson and featuring footage from this year's Extinction Rebellion protests in London.

### **AFTER THE FIRE**

**Director:** Derek Knowles & Spencer Seibert (USA)

**Best Short Award**

An intimate look at communities in Northern California as they struggle to heal after historic devastating fires.

### **SAVE OUR PLANET**

**Director:** Alexis Buggs Hodgson (USA)

**Young Filmmaker Award**

A short film on the causes of climate change, its effects on air quality, and actions we can take.

### **IN A NUTSHELL**

**Director:** Fabio Friedli (Switzerland)

**San Francisco Premiere**

An attempt to capture the world in a nutshell: from a seed to war, from meat to love, from indifference to apocalypse.

## **PANELS & MORE**

## **IMPACT FILM FORUM**

Sept 28 & 29 at Manny's

The new Impact Film Forum is a series of panels with environmental thought-leaders, filmmakers, and change-makers, supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

### **Accountable Filmmaking: Considering MOSSVILLE**

An interactive discussion of **Mossville: When Great Trees Fall** and the challenge to engage in “accountable” documentary filmmaking. Working Films presents a video exploring case studies aimed at illuminating a praxis for the field. Moderated by filmmaker Jun Stinson with **Mossville** Executive Producer Michelle Lanier.

### **Climate Justice: Lessons from COOKED**

With filmmaker Judith Helfand, whose new documentary raises urgent questions for our Bay Area communities. The co-founder of Chicken and Egg Pictures and Working Films talks with local leaders about her exploration of the deadly Chicago heat wave and the justice issues it laid bare. Moderated by Anthony Khalil, Community Engagement Director for Literacy for Environmental Justice.

### **Youth Voices: Stepping Up**

Features urgent media about young leaders confronting the climate crisis. Preview Connie Field's work-in-progress about the Sunrise Movement and discuss the viral video of children confronting Senator Feinstein, as well as the Global Youth Climate Strike, Sept 20-27. Guests: Sunrise activists Jackie Ali Cordoba and Mikala Butson, whose hometown was destroyed by The Camp Fire. Moderated by Jeffrey Chen, winner of the San Francisco Green Film Festival's Young Filmmaker award in 2017.

### **Ecology of Place**

Invites discussion with documentarians tackling urban challenges. Dan Goldes' **5 Blocks**, about the transformation of Mid-Market Street, premieres at the festival. Denise Zmekhol shares her work-in-progress, **Skin of Glass**, about Brazil's right-to-housing movement. Young Richmond artists with RYSE Center present **Youthtopia: In The Face of Gentrification**. Moderated by Saneta deVuono-powell, Senior Fellow at The Center for Community Investment.

Additional talks and events include:

### **BUREAU OF LINGUISTICAL REALITY ART POP UP**

An interactive artwork that will create new words for feelings and experiences relating to today's climate crisis and the Anthropocene.

### **EARTH ANGELS**

Join us for this workshop on Green Film Production with experts in the field to learn how productions like *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, *The Goldfinch*, *Madam Secretary* and more are going green on set.

## **SCALES OF HOME: UNCANNY APPROACHES TO NATURE AND DOCUMENTARY**

The nature documentary is all too familiar, and at the same time, all too strange. Dr. Amy Cutler (**NATURE'S NICKELODEONS**) will discuss radical nature documentary tactics related to voice, authority, charisma, science, gender, politics, and live cinema. Includes a screening of the Eames' classic **POWERS OF TEN**, anchoring our **Home** theme, from the streets of our cities to the reaches of outer space.

## **WALKING CINEMA: MUSEUM OF THE HIDDEN CITY**

An immersive journey into San Francisco's 80-year affordable housing experiment. This Augmented Reality experience will open up a hidden world of housing history all around you.

## **ACTIVIST CENTER**

Sept 27-29 at 518 Valencia Gallery

Throughout the festival, a broad network of nonprofit partners and community allies will coordinate efforts at our activist center hub, where audiences can connect their environmental inspirations with local campaigns and causes. The Activist Center will host non-profit Community Ally information tables, educational panels, sustainable art exhibitions, petition-signing booths, happy hour events, and filmmaker discussion forums.

## **SPONSORS & PARTNERS**

SF Green Film Festival is pleased to have exceptional support from Premier Sponsor Kaiser Permanente. Additional generous support is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Campbell Foundation. A full list of sponsors and partners can be found at [greenfilmfest.org/thanks](http://greenfilmfest.org/thanks).

## **2019 FESTIVAL AT-A-GLANCE**

**Event:** 9th Annual San Francisco Green Film Festival

**Dates:** Tuesday, September 24 through Sunday, September 29, 2019

**Number of Films Forecast:** 60 films in 6 days

**Number of Guest Speakers/Filmmakers Forecast:** 100+ guest speakers including filmmakers, environmental experts, and global partners.

**Venues:** Venues across San Francisco including Opening Night at the Castro Theatre, with most screenings at the Roxie, and additional programs at 518 Valencia Gallery, Manny's, Exploratorium, and Switzerland at Pier 17.

**Tickets:** \$16 per screening (\$13 Members) or \$160 for a full pass to the Festival's 6-days of films, panels, and social events. All screenings are free to anyone aged 18-and-under or with current student I.D. or EBT card.

**Website:** [greenfilmfest.org](http://greenfilmfest.org)

**Info:** Email [info@greenfilmfest.org](mailto:info@greenfilmfest.org) or call 415.767.1977

**Social Media:** @GreenFilmFest #greenfilmfest  
#morethanmovies #homeiswhere

## **ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO GREEN FILM FESTIVAL**

San Francisco Green Film Festival is a non-profit organization committed to using the power of film to bring audiences into the global conversation on environmental solutions.

Our annual Film Festival is the West Coast's leading event for films that spark green ideas and actions, attracting bold filmmakers and highly engaged audiences every year. We curate compelling discussions with thought leaders, innovators, and world-class storytellers, using the power of film to inspire, inform, and ignite change. We are the SF Bay Area's only ongoing environmental arts program and, as we approach our 10th Anniversary in 2020, we are expanding our reputation as a leading force for environmental justice, strengthening communities, and growing the green movement.

SFGFF has a broad network of local and international partnerships, including the United Nations Environment Programme, the Green Film Network, and World Bank's Connect4Climate Initiative.

For more information, please visit [greenfilmfest.org](http://greenfilmfest.org)