

Insurgent Media Presents
In Association with Hope Spots Company,
Diamond Docs & True Blue Films

MISSION BLUE

A film by Fisher Stevens and Robert Nixon



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MISSION BLUE

SYNOPSIS

Legendary oceanographer Sylvia Earle is on a personal mission to save the ocean.

For generations, we have believed that the ocean is too big to fail. We have overfished it to the point of collapse; used it as a massive dumping ground; and drilled for oil thousands of feet down, regardless of the environmental risks. It's a model we can no longer sustain. Having logged over 7000 hours and more than 70 expeditions underwater, Sylvia Earle is uniquely positioned to help us understand why.

Mission Blue – shot during a 3-year period in numerous locations around the world – the film traces Sylvia's remarkable personal journey, from her earliest memories exploring the ocean as a young girl to her days leading a daring undersea mission in the Virgin Islands and beyond.

The film deftly weaves her unique personal history with the passion that consumes Sylvia today: creating a global parks system for the ocean that she calls "Hope Spots". As she eloquently expressed in her TED prize wish, Sylvia passionately believes that this ambitious plan is the best way to restore the health of the ocean. But as she travels to the Gulf of Mexico, the Galapagos Islands, the Coral Sea, and beyond, it becomes clear just how daunting the challenges we face truly are.

The film is part oceanic road trip; part biography; part action adventure story. Guiding us through the film is Fisher Stevens, whose own lifelong love for the ocean inspired him to produce the Academy award winning film, *The Cove*. In many ways, *Mission Blue* is an extension of that earlier film. But rather than explore a single issue – as *The Cove* did when it turned its lens on dolphin slaughters in Japan – *Mission Blue* tackles the daunting challenge of how to protect the global ocean that is now under attack as never before. As a witness to change over the past 60 years, Sylvia is a steadfast warrior, leading the charge to restore the ocean to health before it's too late.

Ambitious in its visual language, goals and passion for change, *Mission Blue* is a wake-up call -- for everyone who has ever cared about or experienced the Ocean -- as well as for those far inland who are dependent on rainwater, clean air and weather cycles regulated by the ocean. As Sylvia says: "No blue; no green. No ocean; no us."

SYLVIA A. EARLE

SYLVIA A. EARLE **Oceanographer**

National Geographic Society Explorer in Residence Dr. Sylvia A. Earle, called *Her Deepness* by the New Yorker and the New York Times, *Living Legend* by the Library of Congress, and first *Hero for the Planet* by Time Magazine, is an oceanographer, explorer, author and lecturer with experience as a field research scientist, government official, and director for corporate and non-profit organizations including the Kerr McGee Corporation, Dresser Industries, Oryx Energy, the Aspen Institute, the Conservation Fund, Conservation International, American Rivers, Mote Marine Laboratory, Duke University Marine Laboratory, Rutgers Institute for Marine Science, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Research, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, Ocean Futures, Marine Conservation Institute and the Ocean Conservancy. She is a Founding Ocean Elder and an IUCN Patron of Nature

Formerly Chief Scientist of NOAA, Dr. Earle is the Founder of Deep Ocean Exploration and Research, Inc., Founder of Mission Blue and The Sylvia Earle Alliance, Chair of the Advisory Councils of the Harte Research Institute, the Ocean in Google Earth, the Marine Science and Technology Foundation and the SRVInstitute. She has a B.S. degree from Florida State University, M.S. and PhD. from Duke University, 22 honorary degrees and has authored more than 180 scientific, technical and popular publications, lectured in more than 80 countries, and appeared in hundreds of radio and television productions.

She has led more than 100 expeditions and logged more than 7000 hours underwater including leading the first team of women aquanauts during the Tektite Project in 1970 and setting a record for solo diving in 1000 meters depth. Her research concerns marine ecosystems with special reference to exploration, conservation and the development and use of new technologies for access and effective operations in the deep sea and other remote environments.

Her special focus is on developing a global network of areas on the land and in the ocean, "Hope Spots." to safeguard the living systems that provide the underpinnings of global processes, from maintaining biodiversity and yielding basic life support services to providing stability and resiliency in response to accelerating climate change.

Her more than 100 national and international honors include the 2009 TED Prize, the Netherlands Order of the Golden Ark, Australia's International Banksia Award and SIMS

Green Leadership Award, Italy's Artiglio Award, the Dominican Republic's Medal of Honor, the International Seakeepers Award, the International Women's Forum, the National Women's Hall of Fame, 1991 Academy of Achievement, Los Angeles Times Woman of the Year, and medals from the Explorers Club, the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences, Lindbergh Foundation, National Wildlife Federation, Sigma Xi, Barnard College, and the Society of Women Geographers.

THE FILMMAKERS

FISHER STEVENS

Director & Producer

Fisher Stevens has been in the entertainment business for over 30 years. His versatility in the industry is evident from his wide range of credits, from acting to producing to directing, and from film to television to theater to working with the United Nations.

Stevens began his acting career in New York, appearing in over 40 Broadway and Off-Broadway shows. His first big break came in appearing in the Tony award-winning production of Torch Song Trilogy playing David, the adopted son opposite Harvey Fierstein. He parlayed his stage success into film and was seen in such films as The Flamingo Kid, Short Circuit 1 & 2, Hackers, Super Mario Brothers, Awake, Factotem, The Experiment, Henry's Crime, and the upcoming Wes Anderson film Grand Budapest Hotel. On television Stevens was a series regular on Fox's Key West and CBS' Early Edition. He had recurring roles on Lost and Damages with Glenn Close as well as guest-starred on numerous episodes of Law & Order, Californication, Ugly Betty, and It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia among others.

In 1986 Stevens co-founded the downtown NY theater company Naked Angels, which just celebrated its 25th year, where he produced, directed and acted in many productions. And in 1996 he co-founded GreeneStreet Films, where he had his film directorial debut with Just A Kiss starring Marisa Tomei, Kyra Sedgwick, and Taye Diggs. Stevens produced over 15 films while involved with GreeneStreet, including the Academy Award-nominated In The Bedroom, A Prairie Home Companion, Piñero, Swimfan, Uptown Girls and the acclaimed documentary Once In A Lifetime.

After Once in a Lifetime he became very interested in documentary filmmaking. He then produced and co-directed the 2008 Independent Spirit Award-winning documentary Crazy Love. He then went on to produce 2010 Academy Award-winning documentary The Cove, about the dolphin slaughters taking place in Taiji, Japan.

In March 2010, Stevens co-founded Insurgent Media with Andrew Karsch and Erik Gordon. At present, they have completed the 2012 SXSW Grand Jury Prize-winning documentary Beware of Mr. Baker, Before The Spring, After The Fall, the critically acclaimed Blank City about the 1970s New York underground film scene, and Woody Allen: A Documentary, which premiered on PBS American Masters and was directed by Robert Weide. Stevens made his Broadway directorial debut with John Leguizamo's Ghetto Klown at the Lyceum Theatre which is currently on tour and soon to

be filmed for Television broadcast. He recently directed the feature film Stand Up Guys for Lionsgate, starring Al Pacino, Christopher Walken, and Alan Arkin which was just released on DVD as well as music videos for Jon Bon Jovi's latest album What About Now.

ROBERT H. NIXON
Director & Producer

Academy Award nominee Robert Nixon leads film crews to the Earth's furthest corners to capture compelling stories of tribal peoples, threatened habitats and endangered species. His captivating films illustrate humankind's connection to our environment and highlight the urgency of making peace with nature.

In High School, Bob's lifelong dream of becoming an ornithologist was shattered by an "F" in Biology. Accepting he was not meant to be a field biologist the ardent young conservationist decided to become their messenger. Thus began a lifelong quest to use film to bring to the world the stories of heroic individuals fighting to save our planet.

A fortuitous apprenticeship to legendary British falconer and wildlife photographer Philip Glasier gave Nixon the skills to become both a master falconer and filmmaker. *The Falconer*, the teenage Nixon's first documentary, centered on Glasier and the Falconry Center's struggle to breed raptors in captivity. Fifty documentaries and dramatic films later Nixon's films share trademarks of sync sound storytelling in extreme locations and stunning cinematography. His powerful stories have touched and inspired millions and brought crucial worldwide attention and resources to scientists and species in dire need.

Notable productions include, *Amazon Diary*, *On The Trail of the Giant Panda*, *The Last Bushmen*, *Real Jaws*, *Ancient Nomads*, *The End of the Game*, *Elephant Diary*, *If I Can Do This... I Can Do Anything*, *Last Word From Paradise*, *Gorillas In The Mist*, *America the Beautiful*, *Endangered Species*, *The Last Rivermen*, *The Lord God Bird*, *Great White Highway* and *American Heroes*. In 1980, while shooting the documentary *Fossey's War*, Nixon suggested to Dian Fossey that her 15-year battle to save the Mountain Gorilla from extinction would make a powerful feature film. Convinced no one would care, Fossey offered to trade her life story rights for one year of Nixon doing what she termed, "boots on the ground conservation." Dian was partially right. It was only after her murder that *Gorillas In the Mist* was made. Nixon was Co-Producer.

After the film's run Nixon decided to fulfill his promise to Dian by cleaning up one of the most polluted rivers in America. The Anacostia River runs through both our Nation's Capital and one of America's most impoverished and violent neighborhoods. At Valley Green Public Housing complex Nixon convinced nine young men and women to reclaim the polluted Anacostia River in their back yard. They called themselves the Earth Conservation Corps.

Two decades later thousands of youth have engaged in Dian Fossey's model of "boots on the ground conservation." The river is rebounding but the cost has been crushing. Nixon has buried twenty-one of his young volunteers, victims of the epidemic street violence. When the deaths of these youth was not covered in newspaper, Nixon and the Corps created a youth journalism program to document their positive contributions. The resulting Earth Conservation Corps films have spawned a movement of disenfranchised urban youth to combat poverty, youth violence and environmental injustice.

Nixon's cutting edge contributions in film and conservation have widely recognized including an Academy Award Nomination, five Emmy Awards, the President's Service Medal by President Bill Clinton, "Hero of the Planet" by the National Geographic Society, "Educator of the Year" by Chesapeake Bay Foundation, by the Walter Cronkite Award and as a Hometown Hero by WETA. Mr. Nixon's work has been profiled on "Now with Bill Moyers", "60 Minutes", People Magazine, The Washington Post, The New York Times, ABC World News Tonight, PBS, NPR's All Things Considered, CBS Morning News, National Geographic Channel and media outlets around the world.

MARK MONROE
Writer

Mark Monroe is an award-winning documentary filmmaker whose theatrical writing credits include:

"The Summit", (Winner, Best Editing Sundance 2013); "Who is Dayani Cristal?", (Winner, Best Cinematography, Sundance 2013); "Sound City"; "The Cove" (Winner, Best Documentary 2010 Academy Awards & Best Documentary Script, W.G.A. 2010); "The Tillman Story"; "Chasing Ice" (Winner, Best Cinematography Sundance 2012); "Stolen Seas"; "Last Play at Shea"; "Once in a Lifetime: The Extraordinary Story of the New York Cosmos", (W.G.A. nomination "Best Documentary Script", 2007); "Amazing Journey: The Story of The Who", and writer/director, "Morning Light", Disney Pictures.

A journalism graduate from the University of Oklahoma, Mark began his career in television as a newswriter for CNN in Atlanta. Before writing for film, he produced more than sixty hours of biography-style programming for TV.

Currently, Mark is working on academy award winner Louis Psihoyos' follow-up film to "The Cove", as well as "Another World" a film about the Occupy Movement.

JACK YOUNGELSON
Producer & Writer

Jack Youngelson is an Emmy Award winning documentary film director, producer, and writer. His projects have been shown by numerous broadcasters, including HBO, PBS, A&E, Bravo, BBC, and Channel Four. Currently, he is directing the premiere episode of the 3 part, 6 hour series, *The Story of Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies*, executive produced by Ken Burns, which will debut on PBS in the spring of 2015. Other recent credits include two projects for HBO: *Ghosts of Abu Ghraib* with director Rory Kennedy (writer / producer), for which he won an Emmy for outstanding non-fiction special, and the Emmy nominated *Ethel* (producer). Both films premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. Jack also directed the acclaimed independent documentary *Tierney Gearon: The Mother Project*, which was distributed by Zeitgeist Films after a successful film festival run. Other recent PBS credits include *Electric Nation* for the 4 part series, *America Revealed* (writer / producer), *Rethinking Happiness* – for the 3 part, six hour NOVA series, *This Emotional Life* (writer / director); *African American Lives II* and *Finding Your Roots* (director / producer), hosted by Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates Jr. Jack lives in Brooklyn, New York.

PETER R. LIVINGSTON JR.
Editor & Producer

Peter R. Livingston Jr. has been editing documentary films for both television and theatrical release for more than 20 years. His films have been broadcast on PBS, Showtime, CBC, IFC, The Discovery Channel, ABC, TLC, CNN, CNBC, The National Geographic Channel and can be found in the permanent collection of The Center for Oral History at West Point. He is currently editing the premiere episode for the PBS 6-hour series *The Story of Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies*, executive produced by Ken Burns and scheduled to air in 2015. Some of his credits include *Finding Your Roots*, hosted by Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates Jr., *Lafayette: The Lost Hero*, and Frontline's *Ten Trillion and Counting*, all for PBS; the theatrical film *Steep* directed by

Mark Obenhaus, which premiered at the 2007 Tribeca Film Festival; the ABC Bob Woodruff Special, *China Inside Out*, which was nominated for an Emmy Award for Outstanding Continuing Coverage of a Long Form News Story; *China Rises: Getting Rich*, 2006 Gemini Award for Best Documentary Series; multiple specials for Peter Jennings Reporting, including *In Search of America: Homeland*, *Ecstasy Rising*, *UFOs: Seeing is Believing*, and *The Kennedy Assassination – Beyond Conspiracy* which won the Edward R. Murrow Award for News Documentary, and for which he was nominated for an Emmy Award for Editing. Peter currently lives and works in NYC.

CREDITS

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DIRECTORS

Fisher Stevens

Robert Nixon

PRODUCERS

Erik H. Gordon

Fisher Stevens

Robert Nixon

Jack Youngelson

Peter R. Livingston Jr.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

Julie Nives

Andrew S. Karsch

EDITOR

Peter R. Livingston Jr.

WRITERS

Mark Monroe

Jack Youngelson

FEATURING

(In Order of Appearance)

Dr. Sylvia Earle

Fisher Stevens

Dr. Jeremy Jackson

James Cameron

Dr. Carl Safina

Liz Taylor

Dr. Mike deGruy

Graham Hawkes

Bryce Groark

Imogen Zethoven

MUSIC BY

Will Bates

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Damien Drake

Axel Baumann

UNDERWATER DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Bryce Groark

ARCHIVAL PRODUCER

John Miller - Monzon

CO-PRODUCER

Zara Duffy

Run Time: 95 minutes

Language: English

Production Company: Hope Spots Company Inc.

Produced in the USA, 2013

FILM PARTICIPANTS
(Special Mention)

MISSION BLUE - SYLVIA EARLE ALLIANCE

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