



ONE EARTH FILM FESTIVAL

Moving Planet, Moving People

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2017 One Earth Film Festival adds Conservation International's Amazon virtual reality short film 'Under the Canopy'

Oak Park—**One Earth Film Festival** today announces the addition of a virtual reality experience to its 2017 lineup. "Under the Canopy," Conservation International's short film that takes viewers on a guided tour of the Earth's most biodiverse ecosystem, the Amazon rainforest, will have its Midwest premiere at One Earth's Green Carpet Gala on March 3. Repeat screenings will be held at select venues throughout the festival's nine-day run.

Conservation International and Jaunt VR developed "Under the Canopy" with support from the **John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation** and distribution support from **SC Johnson, Tiffany & Co. Foundation** and **HP, Inc.** One Earth's screenings are made possible with a grant from the MacArthur Foundation.

"The MacArthur Foundation is pleased to support the 2017 One Earth Film Festival and its mission to inspire action to achieve a more just and verdant world," said **Amy Rosenthal**, Program Officer, Conservation & Sustainable Development. "In a few short years, One Earth has become an essential local forum, reflecting the best of Chicagoland's distinct character, including its vibrant arts and culture, mission for social justice, and diverse community-based networks. We look forward to the festival's signature blend of exhilarating and moving films with stimulating post-film programs and engaging special events."

"Under the Canopy" lets viewers experience Amazonia—the Amazon River basin and the Guiana Shield in Guyana, Suriname, and parts of Venezuela and northern Brazil—in a way few will have the chance to do in person. Indigenous guide Kamanja Panashekung and actor Lee Pace narrate the film, taking viewers down a river past three-toed sloths and a 15-foot anaconda while Panashekung shows how the forest supplies food, income and more, drawing on his community's collective knowledge in protecting its trees, waters and wildlife. Ultimately viewers find themselves surrounded by the results of rampant deforestation as each year Amazonia loses an area of forest more than 1.5 times greater than the size of Yellowstone National Park.

"Virtual reality is an exceptional way for festival audiences to truly see and experience the impact of what's happening to our global environment," said festival director **Ana Garcia Doyle**. "Under the Canopy fits perfectly with our programs that touch on critical themes of biodiversity in the context of the five great forests and intact forests around the world."

A team from Conservation International, a nonprofit environmental organization based in Arlington, Va., will be on hand to run the virtual reality viewings, which require special headsets. Eight separate viewings of “Under the Canopy” will be offered in conjunction with previously scheduled festival programs around Chicago.

This year’s festival will present 31 films in 47 screening events at 39 venues. Among other films on this year’s schedule are: “The Age of Consequences,” “Minimalism,” “Before the Flood,” “SEED: The Untold Story,” “Sustainable,” “Can You Dig This?” “Crying Earth Rise Up,” “Dive!”

The Green Carpet Gala, the festival’s signature opening event, will be held at the Gratz Center of Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago Church, 126 E. Chestnut St.

Screenings are held in cultural centers, museums, churches, schools, libraries and other easily accessible public spaces. Tickets to the Green Carpet Gala are \$70. Most screenings are free with a suggested \$6 donation. Reservations for all events are required through Eventbrite.

One Earth Film Festival is the Midwest’s Premier Environmental Film Festival.
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