

WILDSCREEN FESTIVAL

GLOBAL WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL

Presenting Wildscreen 2010

...the world's largest, most prestigious and influential event for the wildlife and environmental filmmaking industry.

For almost 30 years the Wildscreen Festival has remained true to its founding principles – celebrating and promoting excellence within the wildlife media arena, with the ultimate aim of these films helping to increase global public awareness about the natural world and the urgent need to protect it.

Opening night...

The Festival's grand first night event *'The Moment My Heart Stopped'* was hosted by Alastair Fothergill (BBC NHU and Disneynature), and saw renowned cameramen and women, producers and presenters provide the inside stories to a spectacular collection of 'heart stopping' wildlife moments. The Festival was officially opened by H.E. Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, Assistant Secretary General, Environment Agency Abu Dhabi, principal sponsors of Wildscreen's key initiative, ARKive.



L to R: Alastair Fothergill is joined by Doug Allan & Martin Dohrn
H.E. Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, Sophie Darlington & Kim Wolhuter

Reaching out to the public...

Throughout the Festival week, free public events were on offer. These included more than 50 **free film screenings** held at Watershed, together with opportunities to meet the finalist filmmakers.

Members of the public were also able to join delegates at the prestigious keynote **Sir Peter Scott Lecture** on Tuesday 12 October.



Save Our Sharks, winner of the Campaign Panda Award

In conversation with Dr George Schaller

On Tuesday 12 October there was a buzz at Festival HQ as delegates gathered for the session *'In conversation with Dr George Schaller'*.

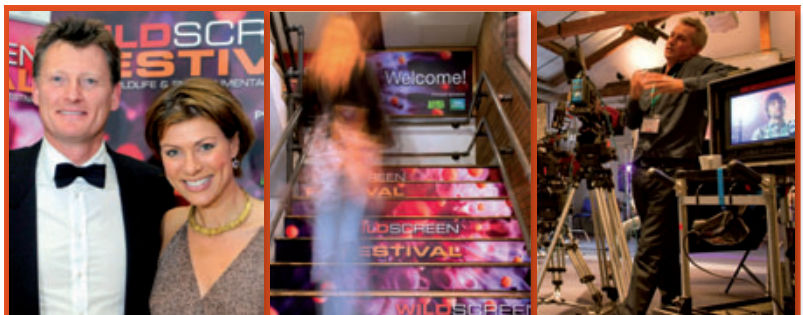
Celebrated as one of the greatest conservationists and naturalists of all time, George Schaller provided a fascinating insight into his remarkable life and career. George captivated delegates with inspiring stories of his ground-breaking work and adventures over five decades, studying some of the world's most charismatic animals.



Dr George Schaller in conversation with Brian Leith

George stressed how vital it is to work with local communities to gain support for the conservation of endangered species, particularly in developing countries where people may not be aware of the huge importance of the rich diversity of wildlife on their doorstep.

"I found the Wildscreen Festival highly illuminating and I gained great insight from films and film producers about the making of documentaries. The public discussions raised important conservation issues and the responsibilities of the nature film industry. Above all, it was for me an enjoyable and stimulating experience of making new contacts, meeting old friends, and viewing fine films." Dr George Schaller



Why not visit Wildscreen's YouTube pages to view some of the highlights from this year's Festival:

www.youtube.com/wildscreenfestival

Learning from the greats...

The Festival was honoured to welcome a host of speakers, including industry experts Clark Bunting (President of Discovery), Kim Shillinglaw (Commissioning Editor for Science and Natural History, BBC), Anthony Geffen (Atlantic Productions and 3D expert), Jenifer Austin and Charlotte Vick (Google Earth).



Dr George McGavin

Dr George McGavin (author, lecturer, television presenter, explorer) and Ed Gillespie (Futerra co-founder) joined Dr George Schaller, Julia Marton-Lefèvre (IUCN Director General) and Dr Jim Leape (WWF International Director General) for the Festival's keynote event – the

Sir Peter Scott Lecture. Entitled **'We ♥ Biodiversity – Why are we failing to save it?'**, this landmark event attracted over 800 people, including the public, delegates and VIPs.

The debate discussed our detachment from nature, with the panellists unanimously agreeing that we must use positive messages about the wonders of nature to increase people's awareness, understanding and connection to the natural world.



We ♥ Biodiversity, Sir Peter Scott Lecture Panellists

On the first day of business, delegates had a privileged opportunity to hear Clark Bunting's retrospective look at the wildlife filmmaking industry and its guiding principles – that human beings are innately curious and that storytelling is a uniquely powerful tool. He discussed best practices in the constantly evolving industry, and the ways Discovery plans to lead with ground-breaking technological innovations.

"Our mission today is to tear down the barrier between head and heart, learning and feeling, fact and fiction. Give me true facts with real passion. We need to tell stories that hit you in the stomach. And, take viewers on a fantastical ride to places they may never go.



Clark Bunting, President of Discovery

"Technology mustn't masquerade as good storytelling but it can immerse viewers even further into a great story. And when it's done well, it blows your mind!" **Clark Bunting**

Opportunities for development...

As ever, those attending the Festival were spoilt for choice with the huge array of workshops, sessions, speakers, film screenings and networking opportunities on offer. From scriptwriting, storytelling, lighting and music, to research, pitching, social networking and post-production – everything from the world of wildlife and environmental filmmaking was covered.

New this year was **'Wildscreen's Got Talent'** – which saw 16 newcomers, keen to break into the world of wildlife TV, compete in front of a panel of seasoned professionals and celebrity TV presenter, Steve Leonard.



Steve Leonard & Charlotte Coales, winner of Wildscreen's Got Talent

Underwater workshops were another popular choice, with some of the top names in the business hosting the sessions, including distinguished cameraman Doug Allan. Delegates also had a treasure trove of state-of-the-art equipment to try out such as the latest 3D cameras and housings.



An underwater workshop

Technological innovations...

Showcasing the latest technology was a strong theme throughout the Festival, with Wednesday highlighting the newest innovations in the 3D industry. From shooting and post-production considerations, to specialist software, rigs and cameras, the 3D line-up provided delegates with cutting-edge perspectives, and a first-hand insight into the world of 3D filmmaking.

"...very impressed to see Wildscreen pushing the technical boundaries with their 3D special feature and how well the event was organised. I was delighted at the amount of lively debate and discussion."

Anthony Geffen



Anthony Geffen's latest 3D production **Flying Monsters**, showing on Sky 3D Christmas 2010

The **Festival Trade Show** also entered the realm of 3D with Major Sponsor and exhibitor, Panasonic, showcasing the world's first integrated twin-lens 3D camcorder for professional use, at its UK premiere – providing Festival delegates with a unique hands-on opportunity to test it out.

Delegates were also able to view the latest technologies at the BBC's **Blue Room**, with demonstrations and opportunities to try the latest gadgets and innovations.

Supporting business and the economy...

In these challenging economic times the Festival is a significant platform for industry, and is a key marketplace where films are bought and sold and new programmes are commissioned.

2010 saw Wildscreen receive a record number of film entries from over 45 countries and an increase in delegate numbers compared to 2008. Further cause for celebration were film entries from countries that have not been represented at the Festival before, including Angola, Taiwan and Puerto Rico.

One of the key elements of the Festival is the opportunity to network, and 2010 again saw social events being held to offer newcomers, commissioning editors, filmmakers and conservationists the chance to discuss current and future projects.



Alongside this, more formal opportunities were provided with sessions on how to speedpitch ideas to commissioning editors; as well as sessions explaining what heads of networks are looking for; exploring news ways to make, fund and distribute films; and how to sell internationally.

At the popular **'Movers & Shakers'** talks, hosted by Natalie Humphreys, heads of networks and commissioning editors divulged the latest news from their channels, while providing exclusive insight into commission and co-production opportunities.



The Festival week has again seen numerous pitches and ideas being discussed, details exchanged and partnerships forged – nurturing the future of the wildlife and environmental filmmaking industry.

Thanks to the many delegates who completed 'Feedback forms', Wildscreen is undertaking a substantial review of Festival activity to produce an *"economic impact report"*. This report will look to quantify Wildscreen Festival's significance in a local, national and international context.

Launching international research...

On Wednesday 13 October the Wildscreen Festival was privileged to host the launch of WWF's Living Planet Report 2010 – the leading analysis of the state of the planet. The event was held in Bristol, with live satellite video links to WWF ambassadors in Ecuador and the Philippines.



"WWF has been a supporter of Wildscreen since the beginning and we're delighted to be taking our collaboration to the next level."

Martin Atkin, Media Director for WWF International

Celebrating success...

The **Panda Awards Ceremony** is the pinnacle of the Festival. Nicknamed the 'Green Oscars', it is internationally acknowledged as the most prestigious event of its kind.

Presented this year by BBC's Kate Silverton and explorer Benedict Allen, the judges felt that all entries to this year's Panda Awards contribute to raising greater awareness of the wonders of the natural world and the threats it faces, but one particular film stood out above all others.

'Green', winner of the highest accolade of all, the WWF Golden Panda Award, is the remarkable achievement of Patrick Rouxel. 'Green' is a deeply moving film following the lonely last days of an ageing female orangutan called Green, as she witnesses the destruction of her rainforest home. Panda Award judges unanimously felt that the eloquence and passion of Rouxel was an inspiration and testament to the power of film.



"The Golden Panda award is the highest and most prestigious award I have and probably will ever receive. If I were to keep just one award of all those 'Green' has received, it would be without a question the Golden Panda."

"Wildscreen has given an undeniable 'added value' to 'Green', hence a chance to have the film broadcast worldwide, hence a chance to touch the hearts of many people around the world, hence a chance to actually help protect the Indonesian rainforest and the orangutans in particular." **Patrick Rouxel**

The Wildscreen Festival also nurtures up-and-coming talent – no more so than through the Wildscreen Award to Promote Filmmakers from Developing Countries, which this year was won by Rita Banerji and Shilpi Sharma, India, for 'The Wild Meat Trail', who secured project funding for this film at 2008's Wildscreen Festival.



Left: Patrick Rouxel receives the Golden Panda for 'Green'
Top right: Rita Banerji, Wildscreen's Harriet Nimmo, and Shilpi Sharma. Bottom right: Delegates from HawkView Taiwan eagerly await news of the Panda Award winners

2010 Panda Award Winners

Contact: +44 (0)117 328 5950 | info@wildscreen.org.uk

Animal Behaviour Award - *The Pack: Episode 5* - Animal Planet International (USA)

Campaign Award - *Save Our Sharks* - Save Our Seas Foundation (United Kingdom)

UWE Children's Choice Award - *Monkey Thieves: Searching for Sanctuary* - Off the Fence (Netherlands & United Kingdom)

Panasonic Cinematography Award - *The Forest: Realm of Shadows* - A nautilusfilm GmbH (Germany) production for NDR Naturfilm/Studio Hamburg co-produced with ARTE, ORF in association with Parthenon Entertainment Camera - Jan Haft & Kay Ziesennehenne

Earth Sciences Award - *How Earth Made Us: Deep Earth* - BBC (United Kingdom) Co-produced with BBC Factual & National Geographic Channels in association with ZDF

Best Editing Award - *Wild Places of Essex* - AGB Films Ltd (United Kingdom) - Co-produced with BBC Natural History Unit/BBC Worldwide Editor: Nigel Buck

Natural History Museum Environment Award - *Green* - Tawak Pictures (France)

Parthenon Entertainment Award for Innovation - *In the Womb: Extreme Animals* - Pioneer Productions (United Kingdom) Co-produced with Fox Television Studios & Channel 4 for National Geographic Channel

Best Music Award - *The Crimson Wing, Mystery of the Flamingos* - Disneynature (United Kingdom) Co-produced with Natural Light Films and Kudos Pictures - Music: The Cinematic Orchestra

ARKive New Media Award - *iSpot* - Open University (United Kingdom)

BBC Newcomer Award - *Hudson's Monarch* - Filmmaker: Mat Thompson (United Kingdom)

Animal Planet International People & Animals Award - *Explorer: Gorilla Murders* - National Geographic Television (USA)

Popular Broadcast Programme - *Lost Land of the Volcano: Programme 1* - Co-produced with BBC Worldwide, Discovery Channel & NDR Naturfilm/Studio Hamburg (Germany) production

Presenter-led Award - *Expedition Grizzly* - Grizzly Creek Films (USA) Co-produced with The National Geographic Channel, US Presenter: Casey Anderson

Best Script Award - *The Legend of Pale Male* - BirdJail Productions (USA) - Script: Janet Hess

Best Series Award - *How Earth Made Us* - BBC (United Kingdom) Co-produced with BBC Factual & National Geographic Channel US, in association with ZDF

Short Film Award - *The Coral Gardener* - BBC (United Kingdom)

Films at 59 Sound Award - *Ash Runners* - Saint Thomas Productions (France) Co-produced with Arte France - Sound: Raphael Andrieu

Theatrical Award - *The End of the Line* - The Fish Film Company (United Kingdom) - Co-produced with Dartmouth Films, Calm Productions & Arcane Pictures

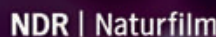
Wildscreen's Award to promote filmmakers from developing countries - *The Wild Meat Trail* - Dusty Foot Productions (India) Filmmakers: Rita Banerji & Shilpi Sharma

Jury's Special Prize - *Life (The Series)* - BBC (United Kingdom) - Co-produced with BBC NHU, Discovery, Skai, the Open University in association with RTI Spa

Christopher Parsons Award for Outstanding Achievement - *NATURE (Television series, USA)* - WNET (USA)

WWF Golden Panda - *Green* - Tawak Pictures (France)

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