

WILDscreen2006

INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL

FESTIVAL REVIEW



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

Celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2006 the Festival has grown hugely over this time, and yet still holds true to its founding aim - to celebrate and promote excellence within the wildlife media industry, thereby increasing the global viewing public's awareness and understanding of nature and the urgent need to conserve it.

The Greatest Show on Earth

The 2006 Wildscreen received 412 film entries from 45 countries in competition for 20 Panda Awards – the green Oscars of the wildlife and environmental and filmmaking industry.

The Festival was attended by some 600 delegates from 40 countries, including international broadcasters, distributors, commissioning editors, film & post production companies, camera people, fixers, graphics & technical companies, musicians, conservationists and newcomers to the industry.

"A fantastic event this year! I met a great bunch of people and made some valuable new contacts - from Greenpeace's point of view certainly the most productive Wildscreen so far."

Martin Atkin, Head of Images, Greenpeace International



"Wildscreen was a huge success. Events were brilliantly produced and sessions were stimulating and informative; the atmosphere was very friendly and informal and yet I managed to have many important business meetings because of the range of people you attracted. The feedback here from all the staff who attended has been incredibly positive – whether they were there for serious business or just to party!" **Neil Nightingale, Head of BBC Natural History Unit**

Public Engagement

Wildscreen is committed to using the power of wildlife imagery to engage public audiences and encourage their appreciation of biodiversity and the threats facing our planet.

Thanks to National Lottery funding through the UK Film Council and South West Screen, 5000 free tickets were made available for our public film screenings at Watershed. Free public access was also offered to our keynote Peter Scott Debate on global warming, chaired by world famous oceanographer, Dr Sylvia Earle, and attended by 800 people.



Industry Marketplace

Along with buying and selling completed films and commissioning new ideas, Wildscreen is the ideal place for showcasing new industry technology – to provide filmmakers with the opportunity to get hands-on experience with the latest equipment.

The Trade Show area is dedicated to showcasing these new developments - featuring exhibits from the world's leading manufacturers and suppliers. A new twist on the trade show design was introduced this year - three rooms divided into 'shoot', 'post' and 'production'; even featuring a macro wildlife film set so delegates could shoot and edit their own mini-feature. For the first time at the Festival the trade show was also opened up to the general public to increase the scope for advertising and sales.



'Wildscreen was packed full of wonderfully creative and inspirational souls bringing to Bristol the very best of natural history filmmaking and wildlife reporting from around the globe' **Films at 59**

Training & Development

Wildscreen is one of only a small number of places in the world that offer training in wildlife filmmaking. It offers courses at a fraction of the cost for commercial training events, allowing delegates the chance to learn from some of the most experienced names in the industry

Over 500 places were offered in 29 diverse workshops ranging from filming in high def to scriptwriting, creating the perfect musical score to pitching programme ideas and from filming underwater to fundraising. Places were also made available to local industry contacts.

Wildscreen also organises and encourages a 'buddy scheme' to allow newcomers to get the most out of the Festival by pairing them up with experienced industry professionals.

Economic Impact

Wildscreen is the most significant international market-place in the world for the wildlife and environmental film industry – the place where completed films are showcased, bought and sold, and new commissions and contracts are awarded.

48% of delegates said they had commissioned, or continued negotiations for, new programmes. 36% of delegates bought or sold existing programmes, and 67% of delegates were offered or began discussions about new employment opportunities.

Wildscreen contributes over £1 million to the local economy with an estimated £550,000 being spent by delegates during their stay in Bristol, and a further £600,000 is spent locally by Wildscreen to organise and run the Festival.



Funding and thanks

The 2006 Wildscreen Festival would not have been possible without the much appreciated assistance of its sponsors and supporters.

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John Bone	Jury's Bristol
Lobster Pictures	Marriott Royal Hotel
Martin Elsbury	Novotel Bristol Centre
Osborne Clarke	Quad Logic Systems
Ramada Plaza Hotel, Bristol	Red Vision
The Screenwriters Store	Thistle Hotel, Bristol
Visual Impact	Watershed

Media Coverage

Wildscreen receives a high profile both regionally and nationally, as well as considerable worldwide industry press.

Regional, national and international coverage included: The Guardian, Bristol Evening Post, Western Daily Press, Venue Magazine, BBC Wildlife Magazine, Metro UK, Radio Bristol, BBC Points West and ITV West, African Geographic and Times of India.

Industry coverage included: Broadcast, Real Screen, Televisual, The Producer, High Definition Magazine, Television Business International and Worldscreen.



Coming Soon...

The Wildscreen Festival might only take place every 2 years but Wildscreen as an organisation has big plans for the future...

January 2007 will see Wildscreen going to India and presenting a special series of wildlife filmmaking events in association with the British High Commission and British Council.

Wildscreen's new Heritage Lottery Funded project WildFilmHistory will also be launching in 2007, creating the world's first centralised collection of films and information documenting the history and heritage of wildlife filmmaking over the past 100 years.

Following the huge success of this year's inaugural WildPhotos event - an exciting programme of talks and presentations by the world's leading wildlife photographers, will be expanded into a major event for 2007.

Wildscreen

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