



PRESS RELEASE

Barcelona, 25th October 2017

Under the hashtag #InItsSkin FICMA's 24th edition starts on November 2 screening a spectacular 3D film directed by Jean Michel Cousteau & Jean Jacques Mantello (Wonders of the Sea) and awarding the Special Golden Sun to animal-loving Carol Buckley.

Among this edition's innovations and in order to enhance industry, FICMA launches the 1st. Environmental Documentary Global Market **FICMARKET** and releases a new **Official Section of Catalan documentary** in a new movie theatre: the ZumZeig Cinema. As well, the Festival will keep awarding the **FICMA-WWF Grant** to produce a short film and **Tippi Degré** (the girl of the jungle) will be among us these days directing the Petit FICMA.

Two major productions outside the competition (Premiere Section) will open and close this year's 24th edition of the Barcelona International Environmental Film Festival (FICMA).

"Wonders of the Sea 3D" by **Jean-Michel Cousteau and Jean Jacques Mantello** is an overwhelming documentary filmed over three years in different dream locations that will be screened at Barcelona's French Institute. It is a trip to discover the ocean as it has never been seen before and learn more about the threats that put our seas at risk.

Produced and narrated by Arnold Schwarzenegger (the mythical actor and former Governor of California), it plunges us into an exciting journey underwater, seeking to raise awareness about the sea treasures and the need to preserve them. The son of the emblematic Jacques Cousteau keeps alive his father's leitmotiv: **"Knowing to Protect"**, showing the wonders of our oceans and an endless number of messages that invite us to see the environment beyond dramatic circumstances.

"Unchained" directed by Alex Rivera, will be screened at the closing ceremony in CosmoCaixa and follows the work of Carol Buckley and her team to improve the well-being of captive elephants in Nepal, showing that there is a "better way" to treat elephants in captivity. Carol's approach is gradual and pragmatic: it fosters cooperation rather than confrontation between the mahouts (Nepalese elephant trainers) and their elephants who are essential to them, being the basis of their subsistence in a habitat that offers no other options. Carol Buckley that will be with us at the closing ceremony to receive FICMA's Special Golden Sun promotes cooperation between humans and elephants: a "better way" contrary to domination and cruelty.

As well in this section we will be able to enjoy new and surprising episodes of Conservation International's winning series of the 2015 Golden Sun **"Nature is Speaking"**, with the participation of distinguished stars as Rubén Blades, Salma Hayek, Penélope Cruz and Carlos Vives, among others. These films summarize what FICMA has been saying for 24 years; cinema is a tool of education, entertainment and awareness that shows the good things that surround us and that we have to take care about before they become "bad news" in the medias. "Not all is bad, but if we don't change our attitude, it will be much worse" says **Claudio Lauria, President and founder of the Festival.**



Other Sections and latest News of the 24th edition:

FICMA, the oldest Festival in the world of its kind and worldwide pioneering in environmental audiovisual, "celebrates that this festival of cinema and environment, which invites to reflection and environmental awareness is transforming for a week the city into the Green Capital of Europe, and allows thousands of citizens to put themselves **#InItsSkin**; this year Festival's hashtag, so that together we put ourselves in the situations that others (people and animals) live daily ", says **Jaume Gil, Director of FICMA**, adding that "in this 24th edition will be projected 140 films showing the most current, relevant and diverse environmental and ecological films in more than 8 cinemas in Barcelona."

The Official Section has 47 productions in all its categories that will be screened in the **Girona Cinemas, Zumzeig Cinemas and in the Universities Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona and Blanquerna** and, on November 3, 10, 17 and 24, FICMA will also perform projections at the **Gas Museum of Sabadell**.

Tippi Degré, "the girl of the jungle" heads the Petit FICMA:

CosmoCaixa continues to be as every year, the headquarters of the Petit FICMA, screening projections for children and the whole family, workshops and special attractions, that will be coordinated and directed by the mythical "girl of the jungle" Tippi Degré, who will be there during the activities.

One of the main attractions is "**Looking for the wild**" where a 10-year-old boy who travels with his family on an extraordinary trip around the world shows an unconditional love for nature. Wolves, elephants, pumas, bison, penguins and crocodiles are the main characters of this wonderful film that will be attended by **Unai and his family**.

As well, FICMA keeps alive the online education space "**EVERY CLASSROOM A CINEMA**", that goes to all schools of Catalonia and Spain with the support of the Fundación Biodiversidad and WWF aiming teachers to have this online tool, which allows them to "entertain educating" during the whole school year.

FICMARKET, the 1st. global market for environmental audiovisual

In addition of launching new values and talent, FICMA is a great space of supply for distributors and televisions around the world; many of them will meet to capture and acquire the latest and most innovative global environmental audiovisual that is at FICMA.

FICMARKET, directed by Carolina Gómez, is a bridge between producers and authors with the audiovisual industry, a window that starts during the Festival but unlike other markets, will remain alive 365 days a year. Platforms such as National Geographic, German station ZDF and distributors specialized in environmental films such as Green Planet Films of the USA have already confirmed their participation.

WWF – FICMA Grant

For the second consecutive year, the international NGO WWF and FICMA join synergies to encourage environmental audiovisual production, rewarding a grant of 2000 € to the Winning Project in order to produce a short film that emphasizes values of sensitization and environmental awareness. During the closing ceremony, the winning short film of the previous edition will be screened: "**Macronesia**" by **Dácil Díaz**.

With the sponsorship of La Caixa Foundation, Agbar and Ecoembes, and the special collaboration of other entities such as Catalunya Films Festivals, El Periódico, the Franz Weber Foundation & Sercotel, FICMA awards its highest prizes, the Golden Suns, at the Closing Ceremony hosted by presenter Cori Calero and actress Mabel Martí on November 9 at CosmoCaixa at 8pm, bringing together for the first time three generations of environmentalists: Unai, Tippi Degré and Carol Buckley.

More information, photos and trailers in press@ficma.com