



EndPandemics  
Investing in Planetary Health

THE 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
**FREELAND  
FILM FESTIVAL**

# BEYOND PANDEMICS

[www.freelandfilmfest.org](http://www.freelandfilmfest.org)

**Jan 13-15, 2022**

**Bangkok & Global Virtual**

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**WELCOME** to Freeland’s 4th Annual Film Festival, Stage II, “A Better World, Beyond Pandemics”. Stage I took place in September, 2021 in Freeland’s North American base, Green Lake, Wisconsin. We’re happy to team up for Stage II with the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand (FCCT), based in Freeland’s Asian base, Bangkok. The FCCT will provide our in-person viewing venue between January 13-15, 2022, while on those same days we will beam our excellent set of new films out to a global audience through a virtual platform as well.

All of us could use some beautiful, hopeful stories about earth following the devastating impacts and annoying disruptions COVID-19 inflicted on our personal and professional lives in 2020-2021. So, this year’s Festival offers you inspirational documentaries and discussions that explain why COVID-19 (and other zoonotic outbreaks before) happened in the first place, and solutions to prevent them from happening again. These movies were produced all over the globe, looking at pandemic drivers like wildlife trade, industrial farming, and nature-based solutions on many levels.

This year’s fest supports and builds on our partnership campaign “EndPandemics”, which was formed by an alliance of frontline organizations a week after the virus got its name and has been actively raising awareness around the globe ever since with a roadmap to prevent pandemics. We have teamed up with legislators in Asia, NGOs in Africa and South America, the Vatican in Rome, and more partners and audiences to come.

Freeland and our campaign partners are pooling nature-based solutions that can make our world resilient. Imagine a world free of wildlife trafficking, and in which we feed ourselves through compassionate, healthy, and sustainable farming.

Lets create a planetary immune system that drives away the cancers threatening earth, and ensure a safe, happy world for all of us, including our children. Good stories and storytellers are critical to making this systemic change. We hope you are inspired by the films we selected, and the panel discussions we organized.

**-Steve Galster and Rich Christian, Executive Producers**  
**Molly Ferrill, Producer**

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**THANK YOU** to **B.Grimm** and **Jane Seymour** for their steadfast support of EndPandemics, as well as LUSH, Fortifi Bank, and Town Square.

Special thanks to Mike Mitchell, Amar Sawhney, Evelyn Galster, Wanisa Bunlue, Luxana Kiratibhongse, Tom Eddy, Dawn Borchardt, Marcella Jones, Jolene Schatzinger, and Colin Sytsma for support of the festival on many levels.



For more information on EndPandemics:  
[www.endpandemics.earth](http://www.endpandemics.earth)

## **A Grain of Sand in the Machine**

Belgium / 87 mins. / Creative Documentary

Dir. Alain de Halleux

[FEATURE]



## LE PETIT GRAIN DE SABLE DANS LA MACHINE

"Who am I, I who am at the limit of the living, to dare to address you? I am nothing, not even a grain of sand, but this little grain of sand has seized your beautiful and great Machine".

Covid-19, a small piece of genetic code, has caused deaths, revealed the inadequacies of health care systems, and revealed the fragility of our economies and of our freedoms. The paradigm shift of our societies seems inevitable. Sociologists, scientists, politicians, philosophers and strategists from all over the world are asking themselves: are we at the end of an era? This film sounds like a warning!

## Blood Scales

Italy / 60 mins / Documentary

Dir. Paolo Sodi

[FEATURE]



# BLOODSCALES

Extinction Looms, Heroes Fight Back

The Head of Operations and Investigations at the Last Great Ape Organization (LAGA) hunts a ring of wildlife traffickers in possession of 550 pounds of pangolin scales as he recalls the events in his life that led him down this path. Meanwhile, a newly rescued tree pangolin fights to regain strength and freedom thanks to the professional care provided by the Tikki Hywood Foundation Cameroon. Pangolins are the world's most illegally trafficked mammal.

# FESTIVAL PROGRAM

13-15 January 2022

## Until We Live Again

United Kingdom / 84 mins / Documentary

Dir. Mathias Falcone

[FEATURE]



## UNTIL WE LIVE AGAIN

A Film By MATHIAS FALCONE

CURIOUS LITTLE SHIP FILMS PRESENTS A FILM BY MATHIAS FALCONE "UNTIL WE LIVE AGAIN"  
SACHA MOURABAI ABINOMA KYIMAR VICKY CARTER REBECCA JACKSON ELYS LEON KATHERINE BEERSTROB LUANA BOSIO PAISMA CABRAL  
LONKA KURICER SASA DE WITT SKITNIK MATTHEW CAMPFIELD CAITLIN JAGG BENNIS SEEMA FLOWER ESTHER BODINWAY SULTAN ISLAM  
KABAA M-MURRO LISA RICHARDSON JINGMING HUANG MARIA CRISTINA DARIAS ANVA TRUONGHAN DANIELA VEGA HELMI LAKSONO  
SABAI PRADO TERAN ALEXANDRIA THOMAS VLADIMIR PALIBEK AGNESZKA STILES PAULINE VAN HASSELT LYDIE O'CONNOR  
PRODUCED BY DAIRYLL O'DONOVAN EDITED BY LESLIE ROTHWELL DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY FROMY KLAUS EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MATHIAS FALCONE

Spring 2020 - mankind is under lockdown. Forced to reconcile themselves with loss and come to terms with an unprecedented crisis, people from all corners of the world decide to let go of the life they once knew and make way for a new beginning. Revelations, epiphanies and a new awareness, brought about by the pandemic, drive them to redesign their lives from scratch, within their own homes. The collective testimonial which emerges from their stories points the way towards mankind's next chapter—one of trust and renewed hope.

## The Fever

Austria / 99 mins / Documentary

Dir. Katharina Weingartner

[FEATURE]



THE FEVER portrays the fight against malaria in East Africa as a case study in greed, courage and self-determination. Covid-19 has put the world on hold. But with malaria, which has killed more people than all other diseases and wars on earth combined, it's business as usual, or even worse: Deaths are expected to double due to the lockdown in African countries. Black lives apparently don't matter.

What if there was an herb that could defeat the deadly malaria parasite and save a thousand lives per day, every day? One you could grow in your backyard, which costs next to nothing, and could be easily available for everybody in need? In the Global North nobody seems to believe that Africans have their own solutions. In The Fever three East Africans counter the spectacle of Black suffering that Western documentaries often perpetuate, and show how local solutions could save millions of lives—from malaria and possibly other pandemic diseases as well.

## **The Last Horns of Africa**

South Africa / 98 mins / Documentary

Dir. Garth de Bruno Austin

[FEATURE]



With unprecedented access, *The Last Horns of Africa* is a gripping and intimate look at the current rhino poaching war raging across Africa. We follow the journeys of two conservation heroes who put their lives on the line to protect the rhino in their care; all the while a top-secret, covert operation endeavours to bring down South Africa's most notorious rhino poaching syndicates. From never before seen footage of South Africa's largest undercover wildlife investigation to interviews with poachers, the filmmakers risk their lives as they are thrust into the underground world of illicit rhino horn deals organised by South Africa's ruthless rhino poaching kingpins.



## Dark Green: Alone in the Amazon

Netherlands / 32 mins / Documentary

Dir. Jesper Buijvoets, Aagje van Meerwijk

[MEDIUM LENGTH]



In Dark Green we follow conservationist and storyteller Paul Rosolie deep into the jungle of the Amazon, risking his life to learn more on this last remaining wilderness on earth. Leaving a world of man-made destruction, where the Trans Amazon highway eats its monstrous way into the jungle, Paul contemplates how to save this large ecosystem. Rosolie

describes his solo-expeditions as a “calibration of the concept of nature”: “At the very moment we start to lose species from an ecosystem, people will adapt to this new situation.” Rosolie needs to surrender himself to the untouched wilderness. Not only to recharge, but even more so to reconnect and bring back his love for the wild to the world.

## Keystone

United States / 28 mins / Documentary

Dir. Maggie O’Dea

[MEDIUM LENGTH]

This film looks at the vital role that bison play on the plains of the western United States. By removing this keystone species, we have altered an ecosystem and affected all of its inhabitants. Not only have we removed this critical species, but we have introduced cattle into the landscape to further alter the ecosystem. To create more abundance, we look at bringing back the bison herds and restoring the western prairie. By working with nature and keystone species we can generate prosperity in the landscape for present and future generations.



## Ha Nii Tokxw: Our Food Table

Canada / 39 mins / Documentary

Dir. Farhan Umedaly

[MEDIUM LENGTH]



The story of the indigenous Gitanyow people and their struggle to protect their traditional lands and “food table” in the face of climate change, industrialization and colonization in Northern British Columbia.

## Costa Rica: Animals Return

France / 52 mins / Documentary

Dir. Luis Miranda

[MEDIUM LENGTH]

This is a country that has recovered its majestic nature after centuries of deforestation. Due to intensive agriculture and livestock farming, its ancient forest was destined to become large-scale farms and grazing pastures for as far as the eye could see. But today, a lavish green woodland once again covers half of Costa Rica, from the Pacific Coast, along the flanks of the volcanoes, to the Caribbean Sea. Although women and men are now watching over this convalescent forest, the true artisans of its restoration are the animals that inhabit it: jaguars, tapirs, white-lipped peccaries, spider monkeys, great green macaws, among others. They shape it; they are its architects and its builders. Without them, the forest would disappear.



## The Return

Ecuador / 17 mins / Documentary

Dir. Eriberto Gualinga

[SHORT]



While millions of people around the world have been forced into lockdown amid the coronavirus crisis, a family in the Ecuadorian Amazon has opted to move deeper into the relative safety of the jungle. As they reconnect with dormant ancestral knowledge, away from the distractions of modern life, their affinity with nature begins to flourish. As news spreads that Ecuador might lift lockdown soon, will the family stay?

## Pongo the Stolen Orangutan: How Law Can Heal

United States / 5 mins / Animation

Dir. Colin Sytsma

[SHORT]

Pongo the Stolen Orangutan: How Law Can Heal tells the story of an illegally traded orangutan and how conservation litigation can be used to help biodiversity.



## Inga... The Wonder Tree!

United Kingdom / 8 mins / Documentary

Dir. Jav Douglas

[SHORT]



There's a 'wonder tree' in Honduras that's acting as a game-changer—creating organic farming livelihoods, climate resistance, and hope for farmers in the Central American nation and elsewhere. Because of this tree, the oft-used method of tropical land clearance—which tragically tends to yield one good crop, without another one ever following—is being replaced with another form of agroforestry that

ticks every box, and which has rural farmers running towards regenerative farming methods.

## Kimana Tuskers

Kenya / 12 mins / Documentary

Dir. Jamie Joseph

[SHORT]

There are fewer than 20 tuskers left on earth, where ivory still sweeps the ground. Filmed throughout the Greater Amboseli ecosystem in Kenya, Kimana Tuskers is a short film of epic proportions. Follow the famous tusker known as Craig, and the younger elephant bulls who entrust their lives to him as they navigate a vanishing landscape through the Kimana Wildlife Corridor. This is the passage of experience, a brotherhood, built on respect, trust and loyalty, and what awaits them is the promised land, so that one day their sons will rise to be kings...



## La Foret d'Ebo

Italy / 9 mins / Documentary

Dir. Paolo Sodi

[SHORT]



In 2016, the Ebo Forest Research Project team installed 20 trail cameras in the Ebo forest. These cameras were installed in a 15 square mile mountainous area that is home to up to 25 of what might be the rarest gorilla subspecies – the Ebo gorillas. Ebo is a lush rain-forest in southwestern Cameroon. It is also a place representative of an alarming trend all over the world where the rights of indigenous communities are ignored in favor of short-term, exploitative practices

that ultimately harm the well-being of both humans and wildlife species that call these places home.

## Gilson

Brazil / 5 mins / Docu-Fiction Animation

Dir. Vitoria Di Bonesso

[SHORT]

"Gilson" is a docu-fiction animated hybrid that discusses social inequality and wealth concentration through the story of a delivery app courier that needs to work during the pandemic.



## The Salamander's Saviour

United Kingdom / 13 mins / Documentary

Dir. Evelyn Smalley

[SHORT]



This debut student film follows the conservation of a critically endangered Mexican salamander and the unlikely partnership formed to save it. After the Achoque's population began to crash in the 1980's, a captive breeding programme was established by a convent of nuns. In collaboration with conservationists from Chester Zoo, the programme's

aim is to eventually reintroduce a genetically healthy population back into the wild. This story overcomes the dichotomy between religion and conservation, proving that everyone can play a part in the protection of the natural world.

## Last of My Kind

United Kingdom / 9 mins / Documentary

Dir. Nicolas Brown

[SHORT]

One hundred and sixty species have become extinct over the past decade, and the rate of loss is increasing rapidly. FaithInvest's Martin Palmer leads a service to mourn them: he believes humanity must go through a grieving process to acknowledge the harm done, before it becomes possible

to reforge a deeper link to the natural world of which we are all a part. In an echo of the Christian tradition of tolling the bell for the dead, Martin rings the bell of his local Somerset church once for each lost species, to mark their passing. Like it or not, human beings have the power to destroy or protect life on Earth, and Martin asks us all to consider what the future will be for those plants and animals with whom we share the planet. Will we allow more species to vanish, never to return? Or together, can we turn the tide?



## Ensnared: The Congo Basin Bushmeat Trade

United States / 12 mins / Documentary

Dir. Mariah Wilson

[SHORT]



Bushmeat hunting poses a major threat to many endangered species, including chimps and pangolins. Hunters say that they have no livelihood alternatives, and that they hunt by necessity, not by choice. But some conservationists in the Congo Basin are trying to change that. In this short documentary, Mongabay explores the bushmeat trade across the Congo Basin, meeting forest guards, hunters and conservation experts.

## Chui Mamas

Kenya / 5 mins / Documentary

Dir. Paula Kahumbu

[SHORT]

A pastoral community in Kenya struggled to make ends meet when Covid-19 negatively impacted the tourism industry. The Chui Mamas quickly changed their strategy so that they could sustain a livelihood for themselves and their community. Chui means 'leopard' in Swahili.





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