



From the creators of *The Heart of the Game*



SONG OF THE NEW EARTH

**TOM
KENYON
AND THE
POWER OF
SOUND**

©KEN BALLARD

WOODYCREEKPICTURES PRESENTS A SOPHIAFILMS PRODUCTION A FILM BY WARD SERRILL AND SOPHIE JANE MORTIMER "SONG OF THE NEW EARTH"
DIRECTED BY WARD SERRILL PRODUCED BY SOPHIE JANE MORTIMER AND BETSY CHASSE EDITED BY ERIC FRITH WRITTEN BY WARD SERRILL SOPHIE JANE MORTIMER AND ERIC FRITH
MUSIC BY TOM KENYON ANIMATION BY DREW CHRISTIE ORIGINAL SCORE BY JASON STACZEK AND IAN MOORE EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS
JOHANNES RIETSCHEL STELLA SINGINGHEART AND CLIFTRON ANN HUXTABLE ANN AND ANDY MORTIMER THE PHOENIX RISING SCHOOL AND DORIS HANGARTNER

WWW.SONGOFTHENWEARTH.COM

Discussion Guide

**Song of the New Earth: Tom Kenyon and the Power of Sound
is a new documentary by Ward Serrill and Sophie Jane Mortimer
about one man's quest to integrate
modern science and ancient mysticism through sound.**

About the Film

The film premiered at the 40th Annual Seattle International Film Festival to two sell-out audiences and is now screening in select US theaters as well as community screenings all over the country. The DVD will be released in November 2014.

An award winning team including Ward Serrill (*The Heart of the Game*, Miramax), editor Eric Frith (*Eden*), New York Times animator Drew Christie and Producer Betsy Chasse (*What The Bleep Do We Know?!*) present the extraordinary life of Tom Kenyon, a country singer turned brain scientist and sound shaman.

The film follows Kenyon's journey from the stage on Broadway, to giant caves in the south of France, the golden-chandeliered symphony halls of Vienna and finally to the snowy peaks of Tibet, performing with the unique - almost four octave range - voice which has earned him a worldwide following.

Tom Kenyon was on his way to fame as a country singer in Nashville when he began to experience uninvited paranormal states of consciousness. His quest to understand these experiences sent him on a journey into Tibetan Buddhism, Yoga, mystical Christianity, Shamanism, the Taoism of China, and Egyptian alchemy.

But spirituality did not give him all the answers he needed, and he turned to science. He discovered that neurophysiology had a language that could help explain his mystical experiences. After qualifying as a psychotherapist – in part, he admits, to find out if he was going crazy - he spent years studying the effects of sound and music on the human brain and nervous system and is now an internationally recognized authority on the science of sound.

The film explores in depth the cutting edge scientific research which proves that sound shifts brain states and promotes dramatic healing. *Song of the New Earth* presents not only Tom Kenyon's extraordinary journey but also an unforgettable experience with sound.

Regardless of a your religion or belief system, *Song of the New Earth* informs, inspires, and provides an extraordinary opportunity to experience how sound and music can be powerful medicine for ourselves and our world.

Index

1. Director Statement from Ward Serrill
2. Frequently Asked Questions
3. Discussion Questions on the Documentary
4. How you can Help Spread the Word about the Film



Director Statement - Ward Serrill

I have always been fascinated by the practice of listening. It set in most deeply when I lived in a remote Alaskan cabin near a waterfall where, for seven years, the sound of water and nature had their way with me. I wanted to make a film about sound, one with a spiritual core. While in southern France in 2009, Sophie and I were researching a film about Mary Magdalene. We met Tom Kenyon and Judi Sion who were doing a workshop on Magdalene near Rennes le Chateau and they agreed to meet us.

I was aware of Tom Kenyon and had listened to one of his CD's, which he said was inspired by Mary Magdalene. The most dramatic thing I can say about our meeting with him in France is it led directly to Sophie and I getting married. Tom performed a toning for the two of us and within the hour I had proposed to Sophie. How that occurred is a longer story but eventually, it led to us deciding to do a movie about Tom and his work.

Tom was a very interesting cat to me, analytical by nature, he defined himself as a musician, and a researcher on the brain and how sound influences brain states. Meanwhile he was experiencing psychic, spiritual or paranormal events that most of us would love to experience – such states named samadhi by the yogis or satori by the Japanese Buddhists.

Abandoning all conventional musical forms, Tom has invented a way of chanting or “toning” using his nearly four octave voice and taking audiences on sound journeys to deeper states of consciousness.



As a filmmaker, I was intrigued to make a film about one man's relationship to and use of sound. Secondly, I saw a film that might normalize psychic experiences. Thirdly, I wanted to make a film that might challenge an audience to go within for some insight. And lastly, I saw a film that carried a message for a planet in peril.

So began a four-year odyssey following Tom and Judi around to spots in many countries, including caves in France, chandeliered symphony halls in Vienna and a remote island in the San Juan Islands in Washington State where Tom and Judi live.

The biggest challenge to me was how to make a film about things that are essential invisible: psychic experiences and sound. The solution was a combination of nature imagery and animation. The latter led me to discover the genius of Seattle animator Drew Christie, who was a delight to work with.

One of the unfair advantages of being a director is you get credit for other people's amazing work. Key to the collaboration was Editor Eric Frith, composers Jason Staczek and Ian Moore and sound designer Dave Howe. None of it - and I mean none of it - would have happened without the creative brilliance and divine insight of my co-producer and partner in life, Sophie Jane Mortimer.

In the end, my greatest interest with this film is not to tell just a great story but to also invite audiences to have an experience with sound that transcends the story. I am immensely curious about what will happen.



Frequently Asked Questions

Where was Song of the New Earth filmed?

We filmed Tom's workshops in the US and Europe; on Orcas island, in Seattle, New York, in Munich, Germany, Zurich, Switzerland, and Vienna, Austria. We also filmed Tom toning in several location in the south of France, where we also conducted several interviews, as well as in Hawaii and Tom and Judi's home in the Pacific North West. The film also features footage shot several years ago in Tibet, as well as still photography from their world tours.

How long did Song of the New Earth take to make?

The production took place over three years, followed by a year in post-production.

How was the film funded?

The film was a huge crowd-funding success - 730 people from 20 countries donated almost a third of the funds needed to bring the film into being. We also created a 'Magdalen Circle' of producers who stepped forward with larger contributions. It really was an inspiring experience of the power of co-creation.

Why did you choose the name Song of the New Earth?

Tom's spontaneous initiation on his 40th birthday, where he experienced being taken deep into the inner realms, where he was asked to 'sing the song of the new earth' became an epochal moment in his life. That story became central to the arc of the film. It conveys one of the main underlying themes of the film, the need for humanity to collectively reorient our relationship to the earth and to each other.

What was the biggest creative challenge?

The most challenging question, from the very beginning, was how to make a movie about subjects that are essentially invisible - the inner realms, and sound.

How can we have a deeper experience of the music in the film?

The Deluxe edition DVD will contain over two hours of tonings and teachings from Tom Kenyon. The film's soundtrack will also contain longer versions of the tonings in the movie.

How can I watch this film?

The film is currently screening in select US Theaters at at community screenings. The DVD and digital download release will happen in November, followed by international release.

Is the movie available in my country?

Look at our screenings list to see if the film will be screening in your area. If you can't find it, you can always decide to host your own screening.

Discussion Questions on the Documentary

1. The film contains several minutes of Tom Kenyon's catalytic sound work – how did the long sound pieces make you feel? What effect did they have on your body, mind and emotional state?
2. After watching the film, what is your understanding of how sound can open up latent potentials within us, including self-healing and shifts of consciousness? Have you had any personal experience of this?
3. The film discusses how more and more people are experiencing 'paranormal experiences' and that we can learn from them, rather than 'putting them in the box of 'crazy''. What do you think is causing these experiences? Have experiences like this happened to you or someone you know? How have you, or they, learnt from them?
4. One of Tom's main quests in his journey has been to unify the 'human and the divine'. He asks 'is this possible?'. Discuss your personal experience of this – do you feel it is possible to unify the human and the divine?
5. The final third of the film discusses the Divine Feminine, and the need for the restoration of balance between the masculine and the feminine. What is the Divine Feminine to you? How could we create more balance, individually, and as a society at large?



How you can help spread the word about the film

1. Visit our website and sign up for our newsletter
2. Like our Facebook page and follow us on Twitter
www.facebook.com/SongOfTheNewEarth
www.twitter.com/SongOfNewEarth
3. Email your friends and tell them about the film –
it is word-of-mouth that will help this film to thrive!
4. Call your local theater and ask them to book the film
5. Host a screening for your friends and community

For more information email:
SongOfTheNewEarth@gmail.com

