

Green Planet Films



ANNUAL
2022
REPORT

*Promoting Environmental Education Through Film
Since 2003*

Celebrating a Milestone Anniversary

20 Years!

Since 2003, Green Planet Films has brought documentaries that matter to the screen. We expand the world of ideas by sharing films that inspire and inform audiences around the world.

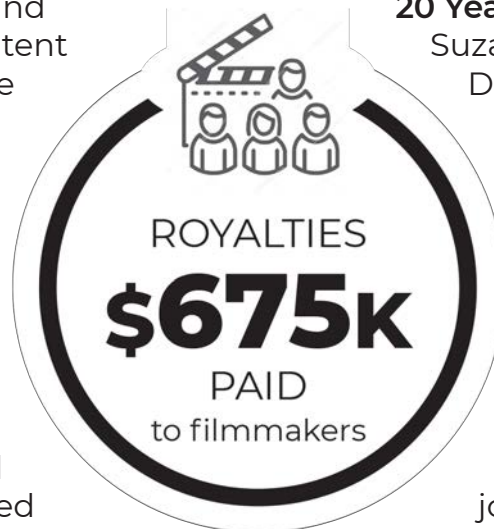
What makes Green Planet Films different from a commercial film distributor?

We specialize in distributing to the educational market, and put filmmakers first by compensating them with a 50% split in profits from screening, streaming and DVD distribution. We put access and education first by selecting films that matter to libraries and universities. We put great content first by choosing films that are insightful, beautiful, at times concerning, and satisfying to watch.

The positive relationship we have built with documentary film makers has led them to return to Green Planet Films again and again with new films and new perspectives on our shared world. In this way, Green Planet Films has been able to grow and deepen our commitment to documentary film, and its growing audiences. That's what nonprofits do, work toward a mission that means more than profit alone.

More than ever before, we need to strengthen our commitment to integrity and education in documentary filmmaking. At Green Planet Films, we are ready to continue to meet this challenge by investing in new partnerships with filmmakers who create thought-

provoking stories that educate and inspire audiences here in the United States and around the world. We remain committed to developing and maintaining a media library for distribution to educational and public institutions, non-profits, businesses and individuals.



20 Years of Green Planet Films!

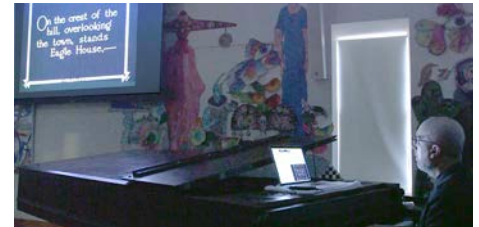
Suzanne Harle, Executive Director and founder of Green Planet Films created Green Planet in San Francisco, California in 2003. She has dedicated the past twenty years to building an impressive library of documentaries one film at a time. Her respect for each filmmaker's journey and the hard work and commitment it



takes to complete a film, set her apart from her peers. She has taken risks to do this, and in the course of her work built trust with filmmakers that can only be earned by succeeding in helping their films find new audiences and opportunities for distribution. At the heart of this trust has been Suzanne's commitment to connect great films with people who are passionate about learning and discovering our shared world through film.

New Films in 2022

2022 was a year of growth for Green Planet. We emerged from the pandemic with nine new film acquisitions across a range of topics including: the environment, history, and the arts. Green Planet also made its first foray into film preservation with the restoration of a classic silent film entitled **The Church with an Overshot Wheel**.



This 1920 film, directed by Joseph Byron Totten, with story by American author O. Henry, was shot locally in southeastern Connecticut. Totten owned a farmhouse film studio in Voluntown Connecticut from approximately 1915-1924, known as Studio Farm. The film was restored by The Academy Film Archive in Los Angeles, with funding from Green Planet Films. The film was also given new life with an original musical score composed by Connecticut composer Donald Sosin.

This film is somewhat of a homecoming project for Green Planet Films after relocating back to Connecticut in October 2018. What better way to celebrate our new shoreline home than to restore and present a found silent film 100 years after it was shot. Needless to say, the film premiere event, as an official selection of the October 2022 Mystic Film Festival at Stonington's Lagrua Center, was a nearly sold out event and received great coverage by the New London Day and other local media.

Other new 2022 film acquisitions include the below



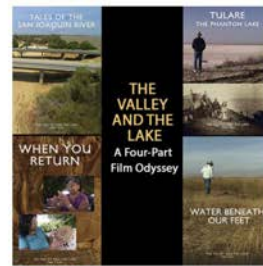
TRACKING NOTES: The Secret World of Mountain Lions



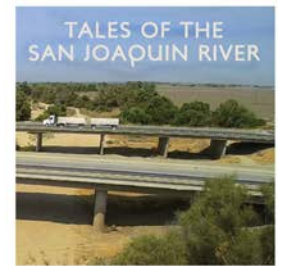
The Church with an Overshot Wheel (1920) Story by O. Henry



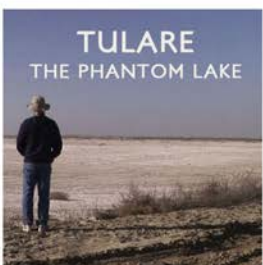
A Call to Arts: An Artistic Journey in Ireland 1935-1975



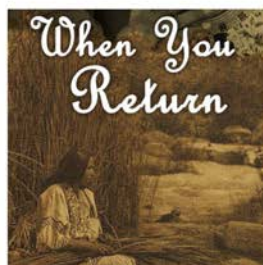
The Valley and the Lake (collection)



Tales of the San Joaquin River (2022)



TULARE The Phantom Lake (2022)



When You Return



Water Beneath Our Feet



Transcending Waves - A South Atlantic Expedition



Finding Thoreau's Cape Cod



Hosting the International Ocean Film Festival

2022 also saw new partnerships and new programmatic offerings through our program Green Planet Presents. “Green Planet Films Presents” a film screening initiative, where we invite existing environmental film festivals from around the world to showcase 12 hours of documentary films and subsequent discussions, which include award winners and topical documentaries.

In October 2022, in partnership with the International Ocean Film Festival (IOFF) and the Mystic Aquarium Green Planet Films presented the traveling International Ocean Film Festival. The goal was to bring to our community an illuminating platform, such as documentary film screenings, to help us expand our understanding of the critical environmental challenges that face us globally and locally today, plus celebrating successes that mitigate these challenges. Sample topics for this particular event were kids/family ocean shorts, kelp forests and harvesting, coral reefs, New York waterways, sustainable shipping, ocean ecosystems, and student films.



Hosting the festival also gave Green Planet Films the opportunity to offer a free filmmaking workshop for kids. Fifteen young filmmakers shot and edited for two days and saw their work presented on the main festival screen as a part of the IOFF.



MYSTIC AQUARIUM

SPONSORS

Thanks to our sponsors who helped us to present the International Ocean Film Festival at the Mystic Aquarium. These include:

ARPA GRANT

- AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 Stonington ARPA Grant for Arts & Culture

SILVER SPONSORS

- WASHINGTON TRUST®
- Dominion Energy®

BRONZE SPONSORS

- HOYT FILIPPETTI & MALAGHAN LLC CPAs & BUSINESS ADVISORS
- VERDE BIRDIE NUTRICAL NATURETICS
- CHARTER OAK CREDIT UNION
- MASONS ISLAND MARINA MYSTIC, CT
- OCEAN COMMUNITY CHAMBER COMMERCE
- Chelsea Groton Feel good about your bank
- Stonington Fresh STONINGTONFRESH.COM
- 50 Project Oceanology

Staff, Donations, and Grants

NEW STAFF

Green Planet Films also welcomed a new staff member in 2022 hiring filmmaker and fundraiser **Chris Kepple** as Chief Operating Officer. Chris Kepple joined GPF in the fall of 2022. In addition to being C.O.O. Chris is an experienced filmmaker and fundraiser who has worked mainly in the nonprofit sector for the last 10 years. He is looking forward to maintaining and growing the collection and impact of Green Planet films around the world.



Current Board of Directors and Team

Executive Director, **Suzanne Harle**
President (Interim), **Ernest Gonzales**
Treasurer (Interim), **Dave Reinhardt**
Secretary, **Sharon Duncalf**

Director of Marketing and Development, **Christopher Donohue**
Director of Education, **Rosanne Shea**
GPF History and Culture Founding Member **Dave Reinhardt Ragouzeos**
Sr. Advisor, Scientific Panel, Climate Change and Media, **Dr Robert Kay**
Friend of Green Planet Films, **Matt Scullin**

DONATE

Please consider donating
\$20 in celebration of our
20th anniversary this year

With your support, we can continue to present educational films that inspire audiences and make the world a better place.

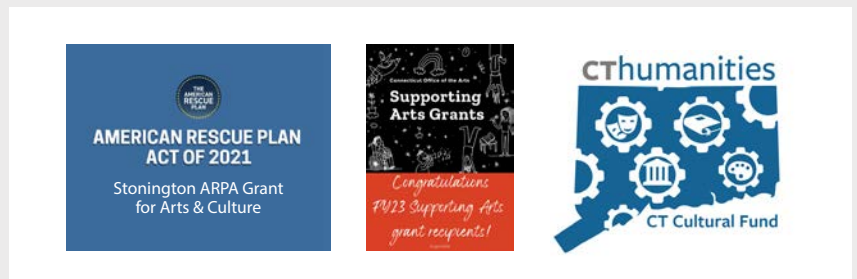


GRANTS

In 2022 Green Planet received a total of 3 in grants.

Grants were awarded from

- Connecticut Humanities - Cultural
- Connecticut Office of the Arts - Supporting Arts Grant
- ARPA Grant - (Stonington) for Arts & Culture

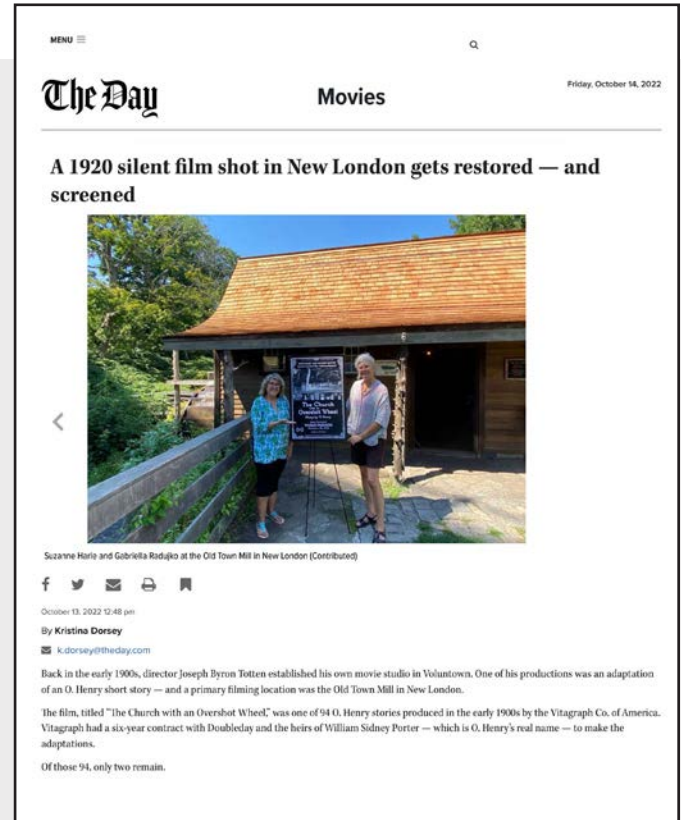


Two Stories in *The Day*

The Day has been awarded 'Newspaper of the Year' and the 'Best Daily Newspaper Award' from the New England Newspaper & Press Association (NENPA)

A 1920 silent film shot in New London gets restored — and screened.

[Read Here](#)



The Day

SECT cultural organizations benefit from CT Humanities grants

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The Day · 15 Jan 2022 · By KRISTINA DORSEY

Hygienic Art in New London received \$22,800. The Lyme Academy of Fine Arts in Old Lyme got \$114,400. The Mystic River Chorale was awarded \$6,400. Those are just three of 78 non-profit organizations in New London County that are recent beneficiaries of grants from CT Humanities (CTH). CTH awarded a total of \$16 million to 624 museums and cultural, humanities and arts organizations in the state. Those grants, dubbed CT Cultural Fund Operating Support Grants (CTCFOSG), were part of the \$30.7 million of support allocated to CTH over the next two years by the state's General Assembly and approved by Gov. Ned Lamont. The minimum award was \$5,000, with the most being \$500,000; the award totals were based on an organization's budget size and other sources of state funding. Mystic Aquarium and Mystic Seaport were the two organizations in New London County to receive \$500,000. Here are a few examples of what local groups are planning to do with their grants.

Green Planet Films
Green Planet Films, a Stonington-based non-profit distributor of nature, environment, and human ecology films, received a \$14,400 grant. Suzanne Harle, founder of Green Planet Films, says the money will go toward three different aspects. It will help bring back staff "because when the pandemic hit and there were no events, the revenue really went down. We're just kind of recovering from that," she says. And some of the funds will go toward increasing audiences for in-person screenings and toward launching a virtual cinema.

"We were thrilled" to get the grant, Harle says. "It just felt like a relief that we could carry on with our plans and not be so financially strapped."

The organization has had to pivot since COVID-19 began. A planned ocean film festival had to be postponed, so there was no revenue from that. Schools and libraries were closed, so no one was buying DVDs or having screenings.

"Everyone wanted online at that point, and we weren't set up for online," Harle says. In addition to the aforementioned grant, Green Planet Films got a \$1,775 Connecticut Humanities SHARP Capacity Grant that will also go toward getting its virtual cinema going. (See accompanying article for other local SHARP Capacity Grant winners.)

SECT cultural organizations benefit from Connecticut Humanities grants. [Read Here](#)



Collaborations



MYSTIC AQUARIUM



SEPTEMBER 2022
Student Filmmaking Workshop



LEARN MORE

FEBRUARY 2022

Special Virtual Film Screening During Ice Festival!

Can't make it to the Museum for Ice Festival? No problem, we've got a special virtual program just for you!

In partnership with Green Planet Films, the Museum is pleased to present a virtual film screening of *THIN ICE: The Inside Story of Climate Science*. In recent years, climate science has come under increased scrutiny. Concerned geologist Simon Lamb grabbed a camera and set out to explore the inside story of climate research.

MYSTIC SEAPORT MUSEUM



The Church With an Overshot Wheel



Mystic Film Festival

OCTOBER 2022



Partners and Platforms

Showcase of Streaming or DVD Platforms and Partners



Top Ten Streamed Films over the years

Video Title	Plays	Mins
Crazywise	28,217	1,024,031
Trashed with Jeremy Irons	9,363	308,224
Vegucated	8,922	289,109
The Grammar of Happiness	9,412	262,055
Frightened	8,575	209,592
Thin Ice	7,304	174,937
Sand Wars	5,971	162,439
Ancient Futures: Learning From Ladakh	5,848	153,495
Autism in America	4,881	144,815
To the Ends of the Earth	4,815	127,762

