



BLUE WATER FILM FESTIVAL

July 3, 2020

NEWS - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Blue Water Film Festival, in celebration of UN - World Oceans Day, Announces 2020 Filmmaker Award winners and Honoree

Dr. Sylvia Earle to receive Queen of the Sea Award

Martha's Vineyard, MA. The 2020 Blue Water Film Festival (BWFF) presented by the Martha's Vineyard Film Society announces its honorees and film line-up for its inaugural film festival event taking place June 5th till July 3rd 2020, in celebration of UN - World Oceans Day.

HONOREE

Dr. Sylvia Earle receives the **Queen of the Sea Award**, which is presented to an industry leader whose contributions to the innovation of science & entertainment have changed the industry for the better. The award was presented online on Monday, June 8th, UN - World Oceans Day..

AWARDS RECEPTION

The Blue Water Film Festival awards comprises over twenty films and seven jury members. The recipient of **2020 Ocean Hero Award** is **Gavin Strange** - *Turtle Journey: Crisis in Our Oceans*; Grand Jury Feature documentary, **Deia Schlosberg** - *Story of Plastics*; Grand Jury Short documentary, **Matt Modine** - *Ripple Effect*. There was a three way tie for Audience Best Feature Documentary. Recipients of the award include: **Damon Gameau** - *2040*; **Darby Duffin** and **Adam Jones** - *Fish & Men*; and **John Hopkins** - *Blue Fin*. Audience Short Award is given to **Mark Benjamin**, *Murder at Sea*. The awards are brought to you by Riviera Towel & the Wyland Foundation.

###

About **Blue Water Film Festival**

Founded in 2020, the Blue Water Film festival celebrates the UN - World Oceans Day, June 8th. The theme of the BWFF is about our Blue Planet; the festival purpose is to encourage attendees to think broadly about how climate change affects planet Earth and deeply about the universal concerns and actions needed to bring us into balance. About 50% of all film selections are non- US productions, helping to fulfill the festival mission of promoting cross -cultural understanding through film.

About the **Blue Water Institute**

Blue Water Institute is a non-profit organization founded by Greg Reitman committed to the preservation of the planet and the need to nurture the next generation of environmental filmmakers. The Institute is driven by its environmental programs that discover, innovate and support the next generation of environmental filmmakers from all over the world.

About **MVFS**

The Martha's Vineyard Film Society, Inc. is a member-funded 501 (c)(3) non-profit arts organization dedicated to screening the best in independent films, movie classics, documentaries, and world cinema for diverse audiences of all ages throughout the calendar year. The Film Society also offers an enriched film program that includes film-related speakers and filmmakers, educational programs for both youth and adults, and special events to enhance its mission and increase the public's appreciation of fine cinema in all its forms. The Film Society runs the Martha's Vineyard Film Center at the Tisbury Marketplace (Vineyard Haven), consisting of the **Marilyn Meyerhoff Theatre**, a 177 stadium seat configured DCI cinema and stage, the **Feldman Family Artspace**, and offices to carry out its programming mission.

###

Media contacts
Richard Paradise
Greg Reitman