

INDUSTRY DAYS 2024

PROGRAM

10 JAAR

WILDLIFE FILM FESTIVAL

ROTTERDAM



WELCOME!

We are excited to welcome you to the 10th edition of Wildlife Film Festival Rotterdam. During the WFFR Industry Days, filmmakers and other film professionals can meet in an approachable way to share their own experiences and learn from professional knowledge. The perfect place to gain inspiration, get answers to practical questions, expand your circle of film friends and your professional network. We welcome wildlife film professionals from around the world to join us and connect at the WFFR Industry Days 2024 on the 8th and 9th of November.

The program consists of various activities, from pitch sessions to networking drinks and from talks to workshops. On Saturday evening, November 9th, the WFFR Flamingo Awards will be presented in the Arminiuskerk. Over 400 films from around the world enter for this year's WFFR Flamingo Competition. WFFR honors outstanding achievements in ten different award categories during that evening.

I hope this Industry Days booklet will guide, connect and inspire you during your stay in Rotterdam!

Raymond Lagerwaard
Festival Director WFFR

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PRACTICAL INFORMATION

When

Friday November 8th 2024

- Day program starts 11:15am at the Natuurhistorisch Museum
- Drinks at 8:00pm at Cinerama Foyer - VIP area
- Screening at 9:00pm of Lions of the Skeleton Coast - Cinerama zaal 3

Saturday November 9th 2024

- Day program starts at 11:15am at the Natuur Historisch Museum
- Flamingo Award Ceremony starts 7:30 pm at the Arminius Church

General

On these days, coffee and tea will be provided as you arrive. There will also be a free lunch. On Friday there will be free drinks after the program in Cinerama and on Saturday after the Flamingo Award Ceremony in the Arminiuskerk. Dinner and drinks during the program (other than lunch, walk in and scheduled drinks) are at your own expense.

Addresses

Cinerama: Westblaak 18, 3012 KL, Rotterdam

Arminius Church: Museumpark 3, 3015 CB, Rotterdam

Natuurhistorisch Museum: Westzeedijk 345, 3015 AA, Rotterdam

PROGRAM FRIDAY NOVEMBER 8th

Chairman of the day: Roelof-Jan Donner

Location: Natuurhistorisch Museum

11:00 Registration + walk-in with coffee and tea

11:15 Opening

11:30 Networking session

12:30 Lunch

13:15 Masterclass – Innovative and powerful storytelling
by: Nigel Pope (Director Maramedia, UK)

14:30 (Guided) Tour NHM

15:30 Pitch Sessions

17:00 End of program @Natuurhistorisch Museum

20:00 Drinks @Cinerama (Foyer - VIP area)

21:00 Lions of the skeleton coast (Cinerama zaal 3)

22.00 End Industry Days - day 1

PROGRAM SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9th

Chairman of the day: Roelof-Jan Donner

Location: Natuurhistorisch Museum

11:00 Registration + reception with coffee and tea

11:15 Opening

11:20 Lecture – Producing character-led, behavior-driven wildlife films

by Will & Lianne Steenkamp (Producer and Director, Into Nature Productions, Namibia)

12:30 Lunch

13:15 Lecture – Terra Mater’s plans and ideas on ‘Impact Producing & Green storytelling’

by: Wolfgang Knopfler (Executive Producer, Terra Mater Studios, Austria)

14:15 Coffee & Tea break

14:30 Sigma workshop - Hybrid in focus

by: Jeffrey van Houten

15:30 Coffee & Tea break

15:45 Workshop - Audio technology and cinematic 360 sound design

by Offspring Films

17:00 End of program @Natuurhistorisch Museum

19:30 Flamingo Award Ceremony @Arminiuskerk

21:15 Drinks & DJ Sierk @Arminiuskerk

DETAILED PROGRAM FRIDAY NOVEMBER 8th

11:30 Networking sessions

In a short networking session participants get to know each other and the value of each other's knowledge and expertise in the field.

13:15 MASTERCLASS – Innovative and powerful storytelling

By: Nigel Pope (Director Maramedia, UK)

Duration: 1,5 hours (including Q&A)

The focus of this masterclass is to immerse the audience in Nigel Pope's innovative and powerful story-driven approach, which has earned him numerous international awards and nominations, including BAFTA, Wildscreen Panda, and Emmy.

Nigel has been working as a director for 30 years. Originally trained at Bristol's famous BBC Natural History Unit, he directed and produced many successful series, including Big Cat Week, Springwatch, and The Secret Life of Elephants. In 2010, together with his partner Jackie Savery, he founded Maramedia. The company specializes in global blue-chip programming and has produced a series of visually stunning and impactful films, such as Hebrides: Islands on the Edge, Stormborn, and Chasing the Rains.

Note: This year, WFFR will screen Nigel Pope's latest film: A Life Among Elephants (2024)



15:15 Pitch Sessions

Moderator: Roelof Jan Donner

De Monding van morgen

Rik van der Linden

The Rijnmaasmonding, shaped by natural processes, has a rich history and offers a glimpse into the future. In the documentary “The Forgotten Life of the Netherlands – Rijnmaasmonding” and its sequel “The Estuary of Tomorrow”, experts explore how we can collaborate with nature to create a resilient landscape. Since 2020 Rik van der Linden decided to put all his work at the service of nature. Human kind always has a role in his stories, because they have a role in our ecosystems too. The Wonderers (2024) is his first documentary for the big screen and premiering at the Wildlife Film Festival Rotterdam this year.

Responsible for project: Firma Film.

Country of filming: Netherlands and Belgium

Length of film: 50 minutes



Frost without snow and ice

Producer: Asgeir Helgestad &

Writer: Ageliki Lefkaditou

For ten years a polar bear mother takes a Norwegian filmmaker on a journey of love and conflict, life and death at Svalbard in the melting Arctic.

Asgeir Helgestad is a Norwegian filmmaker with over 25 years of Arctic filming experience. His documentary *Queen Without Land* (2018) gained global recognition, winning 30+ awards. His latest film, *A Call from the Wild* (2024), is already earning international accolades.

Responsible for project: Artic Light & Angel Films

Country of filming: Svalbard and production in Norway

Length of film: 1x90 min. and 1x52 min.



Geruisloos

Jura Bakx

Geruisloos, offers an intimate look at how the modern world affects the senses of animals. Through the eyes of different species, we experience how noise pollution disrupts their daily



lives: from adjusting their songs to losing natural hunting and survival instincts, and the challenges they face in a world where silence is becoming increasingly rare.



Responsible for project: Cinebakx
Country of filming: The Netherlands
Length of film: 20 min.

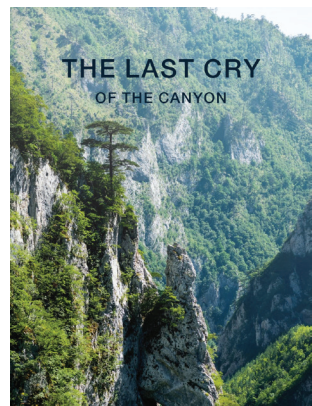
Last Cry of the Canyon

Roman Willy

The Last Cry of the Canyon follows an international team of scientists and naturalists led by Taxon Expeditions as they explore Montenegro's Komarnica Canyon, one of Europe's last unexplored ecosystems.



Through breathtaking visuals and intimate sit-down interviews with scientists and local conservationists of the NGO Spasimo Komarnicu, this film highlights the race against time to protect Komarnica's fragile ecosystem. The film serves as a call to action, urging global efforts to preserve this irreplaceable wilderness before it's too late.



Responsible for project: WildReach
Productions
Country of filming: Montenegro
Length of film: 12-15 min.

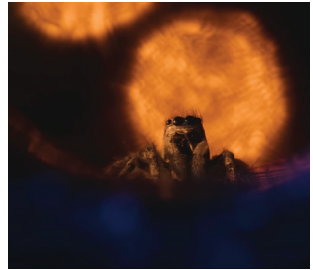
Nightlife

Anice Hut

The documentary 'Nightlife' takes you on a journey away from the human perspective. We are located in the vibrant city centre of Groningen, where we experience this nocturnal world literally through the eyes of different animals.



Anice Hut is a 24 year old script writer and film director based in Groningen, The Netherlands. She creates new age nature films, an art piece where people can find an escape, education, inspiration and wonderment. For 'Nightlife' Anice Hut is collaborating with Andres Fouche.



Responsible for project: Film Collective Groningen

Country of filming: Netherlands

Length of film: 15 min.

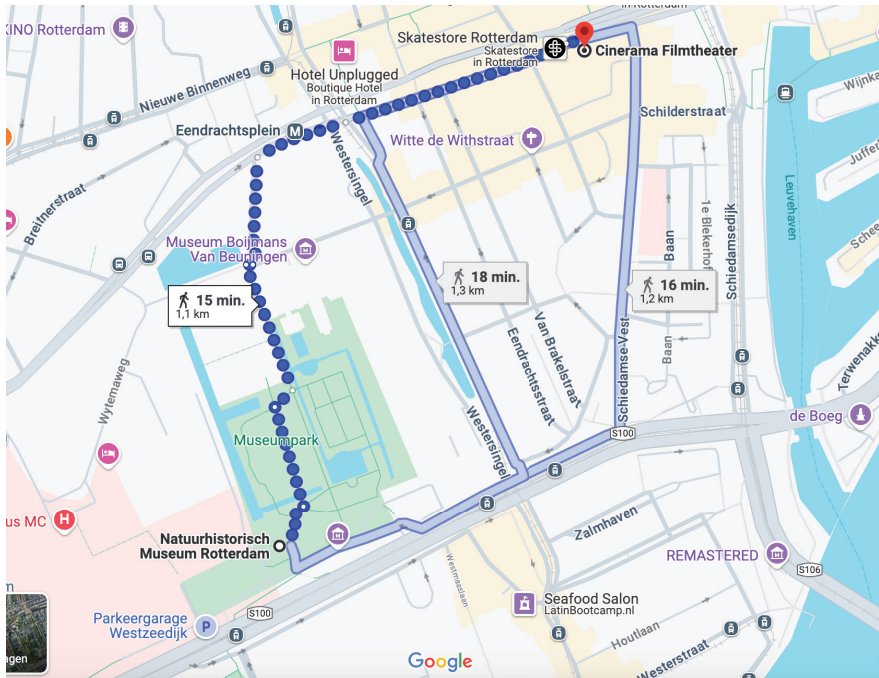
20:00 Free drinks (Foyer Cinerama – VIP ruimte)

21:00 Filmscreening: Lions of the Skeleton Coast
(Cinerama zaal 6)

Walking route from Natuur Historisch Museum to Cinerama



Scan your route



DETAILED PROGRAM SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9

11:30 LECTURE – Producing character-led, behavior-driven wildlife films

by Will & Lianne Steenkamp (Producer and Director, Into Nature Productions, Namibia)

Beyond the charismatic allure of iconic African wildlife, Will & Lianne strive to create a deeper understanding of habitats in their films, highlighting the urgent need for conservation. But how do you make a film that evokes empathy and action through an intimate portrait, leading to a commitment to protect our planet's last wild places? In this lecture, Will and Lianne will explain their approach through practical examples.

After more than a decade in the nature and environmental television industry, Will and Lianne Steenkamp took a leap in 2009, embarking on an adventurous journey across Africa. With international recognition for their films, including two Emmy nominations, Best of Festivals, and multiple awards, they continue to reach a wide audience. Their work has been broadcast worldwide on channels such as BBC, National Geographic, Smithsonian, ORF, Arte, WDR, NDR, RTL, and many more.



13:15 LECTURE – Terra Mater’s plans and ideas on ‘Impact Producing & Green storytelling’

by: Wolfgang Knopfler (Executive Producer, Terra Mater Studios, Austria)

A film is an ideal tool to elevate a topic and do have an impact. What can you do that your film has the impact you aim for? Wolfgang will explain with a few examples what can be done and what has been achieved. He will talk about the new reality that films with a mission find it hard to get distribution and what can be done to overcome these obstacles in terms of finding to new ways to get your film to the audiences and the power of green story telling.

Wolfgang Knöpfler is an accomplished documentary filmmaker who’s films have been Oscar short listed, Emmy nominated and won Sundance. The films he has worked on have changed the world for the better. He will talk about the power of film as a medium that can change public opinion and even laws and suggest ways to make your film and impact campaign a success.



14:30 WORKSHOP - SIGMA; Hybrid in focus

By Jeffrey van Houten

For many years, we relied on manual focus lenses to capture wildlife footage, and while this approach is still widely used, today's technology offers a range of focus control options that enhance our ability to get the perfect shot.

As wildlife filmmakers, we often work in diverse and challenging environments, where we may need to quickly lock onto fast-moving subjects, like a leaping squirrel, or set a fixed focus when leaving a camera in the forest for days.

In this workshop, we'll cover the benefits of autofocus versus manual focus and explore SIGMA's autofocus options, giving you a chance to test them firsthand.

From a young age, Jeffrey developed a passion for nature and photography, often exploring the Veluwe with his camera. This interest grew into a love for ecology, leading him to study Forest and Nature Management at Wageningen University. During his studies, he worked on the film 'WILD' and later received a mentorship at National Geographic, starting as a camera assistant on 'Silence of the Tides.'

Since then, nature filmmaking has captivated him, and he has been involved in projects like 'Our Nature' and 'The Wild North Sea'.



15:45 WORKSHOP - Audio technology and cinematic 360 sound design

By Offspring Films - Sam Hodgson & Tom Payne

Join the producers of Apple TV's latest landmark natural history series Earthsounds for behind-the-scenes insight into the making of the award-winning series.

With over 3000 hours of specially recorded audio, captured on all seven continents, the team used new microphone technology and field craft to capture the sounds of the planet like never before. From the bizarre courtship calls of the Atlantic walrus to the slurping sounds of American Cottonwood trees sucking up water from their roots – the shows are packed full of sonic surprises. Mixed in Dolby atmos, the series takes viewers on acoustic journeys around the world, from the Australian Forests to the Arctic Circle

SAM HODGSON, Series Producer

Sam is an award-winning Executive producer and script writer whose shows have been nominated for 5 BAFTAs and won multiple RTS Awards. A Zoology graduate with a passion for storytelling, he started his career as a radio journalist before moving into wildlife filmmaking, producing series for the BBC, National Geographic, Sky and Apple TV+. Whilst at the BBC Natural History Unit he produced the award-winning Bill Bailey's



Jungle Hero, telling the story of Alfred Wallace, the co-discoverer of evolution by natural selection. He has been a key part of the team at Offspring for ten years and has overseen multiple projects. Earthsounds is the second landmark series he has series produced for Apple TV+.

TOM PAYNE, Series Director

Tom is a BAFTA and RTS winning Series Director with nearly 20 years' experience delivering high quality factual content. In his time at Offspring, Tom has been integral in developing, pitching, and producing genre re-defining natural history - 'Earth at Night in Colour' and 'Earthsounds' (Apple TV+). Previously at the BBC he played a key role in creating a new live natural history brand ('Big Blue Live' and 'Wild Alaska Live'), negotiated access to some of Papua New Guinea's most isolated tribes (Seven Wonders of the Commonwealth) and trekked across vast deserts to deliver lifechanging medical aid (Big Red-Nosed Desert Trek). Tom is a key member of Offspring's team, helping to create ambitious, modern and compelling wildlife television.



FLAMINGO AWARD CEREMONY NOVEMBER 9

TIMETABLE

7:30pm	Doors Open
8pm	Flamingo Award Ceremony
9:15pm	Drinks & DJ Sierk Zee
11:30pm	Time to go

DRESSCODE:

Party Chic with a touch of pink

LOCATION:

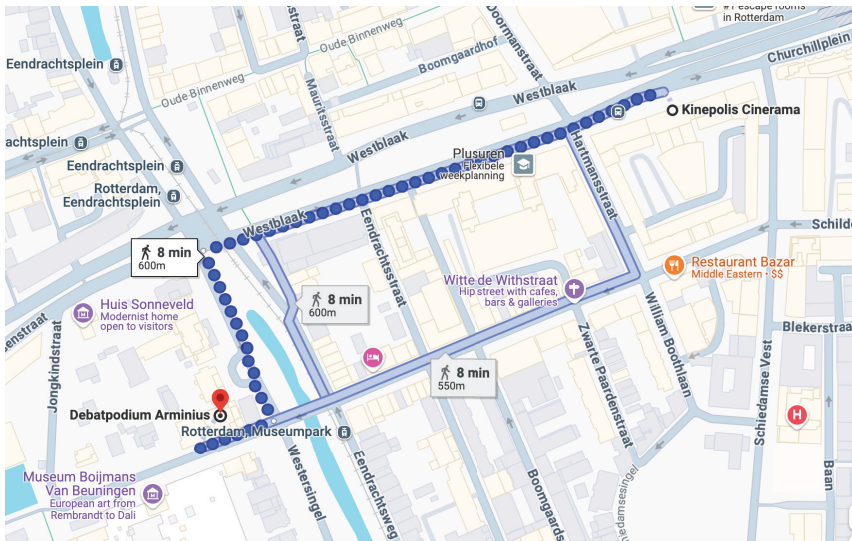
Arminiuskerk
Museumpark 3
Rotterdam



ROUTE

1. When you leave Cinerama, turn left and follow the road
2. When you're get to the second intersection, make sure you cross over and turn left.
3. When you walk straight forward you'll see the Arminiuskerk on your left.
4. Turn right around the corner and there you will see the entrance. There will be a WFFR banner, so you know exactly where it is!

Scan your route



FLAMINGO AWARD CEREMONY NOMINEES

BEST SHORT

- Earthsounds - Justin Anderson, Dan Perowne, Joe Stevens, Natasha Fellowes, Carina Thomas & Tom Payne
- Did Darwin get it wrong - Oliver Cummins
- Artemis - Martijn Veldhoen

CINEMATOGRAPHY

- Fiery Fox - Dmitry Shpilenok
- De Wilde Noordzee - Mark Verkerk, Peter van Rodijnen en Klaudie Bartelink
- A call from the Wild - Asgeir Helgestad

ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR

- Among the wolves - Tanguy Dumortier
- The Hummingbird Effect - Doug Shultz & Ann Johnson Prum
- A Cheetah's pride – Two Mothers, Nine Cubs - Hansa Winshaw

AWARENESS

- Wilding - David Allen
- My Sweden - Zoltán Török
- De Queeste - Kees van Berchum

VAN LAWICK CONSERVATION

- A Life Among Elephants - Nigel Pope
- Het vergeten leven van Nederland - Rik van der Linden
- Mongolia – Valley of the Bears - Hamid Sardar

PEOPLE & NATURE

- In the footsteps of Giants - Fried Jan van den Eerenbeemt
- De Verwonderaars - Rik van der Linden
- De natuur bestaat niet - Nathalie Faber

CHILDREN'S

- Butterfly Journey - Paul Phelan
- Spy in the Ocean - John Downer
- Marmots on Toast (short) - Yaz Ellis & Jack Mifflin

NEWCOMER

- De Verwonderaars - Rik van der Linden
- Heggeweer – De natuur van de boeren - Erik den Boer & Bram Sturm
- The Dingo Fence (short) - Kate Church

INDEPENDENT PRODUCTION

- Did Darwin Get it Wrong? (short) - Oliver Cummins
- Het Vergeten Leven van Nederland - Rik van der Linden
- De Biesbosch: Natuur in beweging - Bas Kakes

FLAMINGO GRAND PRIX

- De Wilde Noordzee - Mark Verkerk, Peter van Rodijnen en Klaudie Bartelink
- Lions of the Skeleton Coast - Will & Lianne Steenkamp
- Among the Wolves - Tanguy Dumortier & Olivier Larrey

ACT LIKE A LOCAL

Cinerama is situated in the centre of Rotterdam.

There are a lot of restaurants nearby, but how to find the best picks? Let's help you out to make a choice which is good for you and good for nature.

Here's a selection of our favorite delicious vegetarian choices.

SLA (nieuwe binnenweg)

Best take away vegetarian salads

Spirit (mariniersweg)

All organic and vegetarian foodbuffet

Wunderbar (witte de withstraat)

Vegetarian food & drinks

Frietboutique (Witte de withstraat)

Famous Organic fries for take away

NRC Café (Witte de withstraat)

Lunch, dinner and late night drinks

Vegan Pizza Bar (Hoogstraat)

Dine inn, or take out

Vegan Junk Food Bar (Schiedamse vest)

Name says it all. Dine inn.

Hopper coffee & bakery (Schiedamse Vest)

Organic lunch & coffee



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SIGMA



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