

“Sonic Sea” Showing at the Criterion Theater

The Emmy Award-winning documentary “Sonic Sea” will be shown at the Criterion Theater in Bar Harbor on August 7th at 7 p.m. A panel discussion with experts in ocean ecology will follow the 60-minute film. This event is free and offered to the community by Acadia Senior College.

Our oceans cover 71% of the Earth's surface and contain 97% of its water. The health of our oceans is critical to life on this planet. Did you know that noise pollution is a major factor that threatens ocean ecology? Human-made noise from shipping, oil and gas exploration, and naval sonar impairs the ability of whales, dolphins, fish, and other marine life to communicate, find food, and breed.

As the makers of the film “Sonic Sea” point out: “Oceans are a Sonic Symphony. Sound is essential to the survival of marine life. But man-made ocean noise threatens this fragile world.” The documentary explores this “endless barrage of noise. . . from Atlantic to Pacific to the wild Arctic.”

“Sonic Sea” is the winner of Emmy Awards for Best Nature Documentary and Best Music and Sound. It was also nominated for Best Graphic Design and Art Direction. The film, written by Mark Monroe and directed by Michelle Dougherty and Daniel Hinerfeld, has earned honors at film festivals nationwide.

Narrated by Rachel McAdams, the film features appearances by noted scientists from NOAA, OrcaLab, National Geographic, National Resources Defense Council, and International Fund for Animal Welfare. Environmental activists Sting and Jean-Michel Cousteau also appear. For more information, visit <http://sonicsea.org/>

Following the screening, Steve Katona, former president of College of the Atlantic and co-founder of Allied Whale, will moderate a panel discussion. Panelists include Sean Todd of Allied Whale and several people involved in making this important documentary. Steven Honigman was Chief Legal Officer of the Department of the Navy and a founding member of Quieter Oceans LLC.

Joel Reynolds, the Western Director at the National Resources Defense Council, has argued cases on behalf of environmental and community groups, and led campaigns to preserve birthing lagoons of gray whales, reduce underwater noise pollution, and halt construction of Pebble Mine in Alaska. Captain Robin Tyner is a retired Navy oceanographer who facilitated the creation of the Navy's Task Forces on Climate Change and Energy.

Acadia Senior College promotes knowledge, interaction, stimulation and fun for people over 50. “We are so fortunate to live in this beautiful place, surrounded by the ocean,” said an ASC Board member. “We are reminded daily that any threat to these waters is a threat to our planet and to the lives of our children and grandchildren. We hope “Sonic Sea” will bring greater awareness to our community about noise hazards in our underwater environment.”