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## New Quebec-made motion picture documentary on the ocean provides important messaging for climate change

Mike Cohen  
Nov 4, 2023



Ocean Seen from the Heart provides a true educational experience.



With climate change such a important subject globally, the new documentary motion picture *Ocean Seen from The Heart* (*L'Océan vu du Coeur*) is a solid educational piece of film which had its premiere Nov. 2 at CINEMANIA and hits theatres Nov. 10.

Distributed by Maison 4:3, the film is directed by Iolande Cadrin-Rossignol and Marie-Dominique Michaud. I was fortunate enough to get an advance copy to screen. The benefit here in that i I can take notes, pause scenes and rewind when necessary.



A scene from the ocean in Tahiti.

The film is also in competition at CINEMANIA, which shows movies in French with English sub-titles, in the Documentaries and Quebec Films sections. Produced by Marie-Dominique Michaud and Chantale Pagé of JANE LOSA Films, it invites us to revisit our relationship with nature, the ocean and life itself. We are all part of this oceanic space, sailing together on the pirogue of the future. One of the key personalities interviewed for the piece is Hubert Reeves, a prominent Canadian astrophysicist and popularizer of science who sadly passed away a few weeks ago at the age of 91. So these interviews he did with the directors marked his last ever



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The late Hubert Reeves.

"I had the pleasure of knowing Hubert for over 20 years," said Cadrin-Rossignol. "I live my mourning by perpetuating his thought and his commitment from the bottom of my heart."

"My love and gratitude for him are infinite," added Michaud. "I only hope that this film will do him credit, and that his unique, luminous and wise voice will be heard and translated into concrete action."

In the film Reeves, a Université de Montréal and McGill grad, invites viewers to rediscover what threatens the ocean, but above all, its phenomenal resilience, provided we help it to recover! To do this, he surrounded himself with scientists, explorers, thinkers and activists, all of whom are putting their energy into helping it regenerate, They include: Tomatoa Bambridge (anthropologist), Sandra Bessudo (bioplogist), Jonathan Balcombe (ethologist, author, lecturer), Gilles Bœuf (biologist), Valérie Cabanes (international lawyer), Mario Cyr (underwater cameraman, explorer), Chloé Dubois (Ocean Legacy Foundation), Laetitia Hédouin (CNRS researcher), Frédéric Lenoir (sociologist, philosopher), Uapukun Mestokosho (activist filmmaker), Lyne Morissette (biologist), Hinano Murphy (deputy director GUMP research station), Claire Nouvian (Founder BLOOM), Daniel Pauly (marine biologist), Christian Sardet (molecular biologist), Silla Watt-Cloutier (activist, Nobel Peace Prize 2007). They all take viewers on a fascinating journey of discovery of a little-known giant, filled with beings of astonishing intelligence and sensitivity.

From its depths and icy shores to its sunny beaches and cloud formations, these experts and explorers lead us to realize that the Ocean is at the very heart of the planet's entire ecology and climate. Although the ocean has long seemed unalterable, our actions are already having terrible and irreversible effects on it, impacting the beings that inhabit it, and all those who depend on it - in other words, each and every one of us.



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Filmed over more than a year in Quebec, British Columbia, Ontario, France, the United States, Colombia and French Polynesia, the two directors have succeeded in drawing up a vibrant panorama of the state of affairs on a global scale.

We learn a lot about whales, sharks and coral. Did you know, for instance, that when whales die their bodies sink to the seafloor, begins to decompose and their carcass provides a sudden, concentrated food source and a bonanza for organisms in the deep sea.? Whales enrich the ecosystem around them by falling to the depths of the ocean when they die, serving as a feast for a “bewitching menagerie of strange organisms”



The St. Lawrence River in Quebec City.

We are shown the work of trawlers and how fish are caught. “The methods we use to catch fish are not the most humane,” says Balcombe, citing suffocation and more.

Of course this film focuses a lot on the pollution of the ocean. Dubois illustrates this very clearly through a series of questions. How many tons of plastics are in the ocean and how did it all get there? Why is ocean plastic a global problem? What are some facts about plastic pollution in our oceans and on our shorelines? Are we eating

Microplastics? How should we deal with the recovered plastic from beach cleanups?

Says Dubois: “Ninety million tons of plastic pollution will end up in our oceans by 2030.”

Another commentator in the film asks: “How can it be that the planet’s destruction is not recognized as a crime?”

The film also educates us about rāhui which, in essence, is an area of land or water with a temporary limit on collecting a resource, such as a particular fish or fruit. In time, once the resource has had the opportunity to replenish, the rāhui is lifted. The word rāhui has many meanings in Polynesia. It can refer to a management system, a practice, a place, a belief, a law, or a lens through which related actions are assessed. The concept of rāhui has existed in Polynesia—the more than 1,000 islands from New Zealand in the southwest, to Hawai’i in the north, to Tahiti in the southeast—since before Europeans arrived in the South Pacific. These islands share similar languages and cultures and enjoy a long history of trade and connection.



One of the concluding remarks in the film is this: “Our goal must be that earth does not become uninhabitable.”

The film was released in France on September 13 on a total of 67 screens and is currently playing in 196 theatres throughout the country. It was also recently awarded the ADEME Coup de cœur prize at the Atmosphères Festival.

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