

Houston Underwater Film Festival 2024  
Midtown Arts & Theater Center Houston  
April 6-7, 2024

For tickets and more information [huff.hups.org](http://huff.hups.org) or scan the QR code



**Saturday, April 6, 3:00 PM**

Raffle drawings held at the end of the show

**Protect and Respect the Oceans - Environmental Films**

1. Mangroves of Raja Ampat

Matthias Michael Edling, Sweden

*Raja Ampat holds some of the best diving in the world and is also home to Yangefo or Tanjung Putus as the locals call it. A fantastic island filled with mangroves and an abundance of life amongst the roots. The trees, birds, and reefs. Simply a must-visit when in the area!*

2. The Noble Pen Shell

Ciril Mlinar, Slovenia

*The noble pen shell *Pinna nobilis* is a long lived Mediterranean endemic species, considered one of the biggest bivalve molluscs in the Mediterranean Sea. As a filter-feeder, it plays a key ecological role, removing large amounts of detritus and organic matter, contributing to water clarity. Unfortunately, in recent years it is struggling to survive...*

3. Isla de Magia

Casiano Perez Diaz, Antonio Miguel Perez Diaz, Spain

*Welcome to "Isla de Magia", a short film filmed entirely on the Canary Island of La Gomera in 2022 and in which we invite you to explore and discover the wonder of life. In a world where time seems to be running faster and faster, it's easy to lose sight of what really matters: the beauty of nature and the infinite amount of experiences we have at our fingertips. This short film is a call to adventure, an invitation to get out of our comfort zone and enter a world of possibilities. Every day is an opportunity to discover something new, to learn something different, to immerse ourselves in the immensity of*

*nature and let ourselves be surprised by its beauty.*

4. Veo,Veo! (I Spy!)

David Valverde Burguillos, Spain

*Veo Veo is an informative project to show everything that ordinary people do not usually see below the horizon line. We see the beach, we see the sea, we see the water... but what lies beyond in the depths? Dive with me and discover the underwater wonders of the Mediterranean. We must pay attention to the small details, to the immensity of a blue full of color, to things that are not what they seem, even where nothing seems to live, and yes, unfortunately, also to things that should not be in our minds.*

*And you? What do you see?*

5. Sound Immersion

Jean-Hugues Beauval, France

*Welcome to an extraordinary world where noise becomes imaginary.*

6. Above & Below

Antonia Maria Josefina Ackermans, The Netherlands

*Above and Below tells the story of Laura, Pablo and their dog ChauCha who, after witnessing the devastating decline of coral reefs in the Pacific coast of Costa Rica, decided to turn the tides and revive the dying coral reefs of Marino Ballena National Park.*

7. Dream Corals

Luca Keller, Germany

*Across the globe, coral reefs are dying. But there is one place, as far away from modern civilization as you can get, that still shelters vibrant and healthy corals. Escape into the magical underwater world of Ataúro, a remote island in Timor Leste, where corals are thriving. But don't be fooled; here, reefs are also facing immediate danger.*

**Short Video - Any film up to 3 minutes**

1. The Bahamas

Olivier Bourgeois, Andorra

*The Bahamas is made up of 700 islands, waters are beautiful green and blue. In 1958, the Bahamas was the first country to establish a marine protected area: the Exumas Cays Land and Sea Park, marking the beginnings of marine conservation. Despite considerable efforts to preserve marine fauna, the Bahamas are unfortunately not immune to ocean warming. The underwater landscapes are breathtaking but you will see for yourself in this film that coral bleaching is becoming more and more numerous. "THE BAHAMAS" is the third and last part of the triptych of subaquatic poems "Blue Paradises Season 2".*

2. Raja Ampat: Sea of Hope

Rodrigo Echeverri, Singapore

*This film shows the wonder of the last paradise on earth: Raja Ampat. A place where endangered creatures thrive in hope of a better future.*

3. Fakarava - South Pass

Gilles Charvet, France

*Dive in the South pass of Fakarava with hundreds of Sharks – one of the biggest density of sharks in the world.*

4. Beneath the Blue - Kisite Island

Shazaad Kasmani, Kenya

*Diving Kisite Island, Kenya.*

5. A Tour of Padre Nuestro Cave

Wyatt Fritz, USA

*Padre Nuestro is a cavern located in the Padre Nuestro Botanical Park in Bayahibe, Dominican Republic. Indiana University has been studying the cavern complex as a Taino water-gathering site since 1996. This video-tour of the cavern promotes the site's accessibility for the touring public, as well as its archaeological integrity, points of interest, and the Center for Underwater Science's recurring annual research as a part of its Living Museums in the Sea Field School.*

6. Twisting Tunnels- A Journey Into Tasmania's Caverns

Amy Lawson, Australia

*Dive into some of the most mysterious caverns and cave system in the world. Tasmania's rocky limestone shores have created some of the most spectacular dive sites you can imagine. We explore Tasmania's largest cave system, but it's not just inside the systems that are so magical, what awaits at the exit will blow your mind!*

7. Dieppoise Wreck, New Caledonia

Nicolas Job, New Caledonia

*Nicolas Job is a french professional underwater filmmaker. In 2011, with a solid field experience in the maritime field, he created the HEOS Marine audiovisual agency, based in Brest, France. HEOS Marine is specializing in maritime photo reports and corporate short films. In 2016, HEOS Marine won a project to make a film on the Educational Managed Marine Area in the Marquesas Islands. Once there, he falls in love with the Pacific Ocean. He decided, one year after, to move with his wife and their three children to New Caledonia where he currently lives, to explore the strong potential of the Pacific Ocean.*

8. Diving in Triton Bay

Thummayut Wattanawongwan, Thailand

*Underwater world of Triton Bay, Indonesia.*

9. This is Force Blue

Robert Whitney, USA

*A 3-minute distillation of just some of the marine conservation deployments FORCE BLUE Special*

*Operations veterans have made since the organization became operational in 2017.*

## **Art House Flicks - Unusual Underwater Films**

### 1. The Magic Triangle

Alfred Schaschl, Austria

*Ice and cold characterize our daily existence in my own country. Surely there is a mysterious place - called the magic triangle. That place knows neither space nor time - it is an authentic and boundless existence - a pure illusion - a place where I and the miracles of the oceans play the leading part. Some day in the future we will confess that our reality is an even bigger illusion than the world of dreams and magic....*

### 2. Dear Ocean

Giovana Roskosz Reis, Brynne Rardin, USA

*The story of a young woman who trusted faith over fear and found her true purpose underwater.*

### 3. I Dream In Colour Again

Marcell Nikolausz, Germany

*This very personal short film is about the difficult time of Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown, when I was dealing with a slight depression and how scuba diving and underwater and underwater filming helped me out of the Covid-blues.*

### 4. Axinos

Anna Maria Kakona, Calliopi Villy Kotoula, Greece

*A little girl tries her best to protect her beloved sand sea turtles from the busy summer beach.*

### 5. The Lost Beach Towel

Myk Eff, Canada

*Beach towels get blown out into the ocean by the wind, where they submerge into the depths and merge with the fish who eat or get tangled up in them. Eventually, of course, due to the circularity of environmental systems, humans sailing above eat the contaminated fish, who are increasingly becoming mutated by their beach towel diet.*

### 6. The Great Connection

Christen Bach, Germany

*As a fiber optic cable suddenly appears at the bottom of the ocean the mythological creatures gather to debate: Will this be their salvation? Or will the teeth of this thing cause nothing but tears?*

### 7. Jack Brian

Marc Pedrals Prat, Spain

*Fictional story of a young 25-year-old pilot, who is killed in the Battle of Britain and falls into the sea from where, after dying, he tells us his thoughts from the depths. Recorded entirely underwater of the Costa Brava. 100% underwater film.*

### 8. Aquapella

Karen Edwards, USA

*Caught on video, my underwater friends singing an aqua-pella.*

9. Strangest Things

Dustin Adamson, USA

*An underwater short playing off of Netflix series Stranger Things. This short film shows some of the most interesting small critters found underwater with artificial sound effects.*

Meet the Filmmakers, April 6, after the show ~6:00 PM

Raffle drawings are held just after the program in the theater. Then, join us after the Saturday performance for informal conversation with film directors, HUFF organizers and attendees at a nearby watering hole nearby. TBA.

## **Sunday, April y, 3:00 PM**

### **Made in Texas – Films by Texas Filmmakers**

1. Big Thrills Little Thrills

Bert & Candace Campanelli, USA

*Campanelli Family Dive trip to Central Visayas Region of the Philippines Nov. 2023.*

2. An Ode to Dive Travel

Paul Cater Deaton, USA

*For 35 years, Underwater Filmmaker Paul Cater Deaton has been getting his passport stamped in far-flung ports of call around the world and bringing back the stories. PCD offers "An Ode to Dive Travel" as a loving homage to his passion.*

3. The Treasure of Cocos Island

Jennifer Opiela-Miksch, USA

*Cocos Island has ignited imaginations for centuries, inspiring writers, filmmakers and treasure hunters. The treasure it holds is now in danger and must be protected, before it is gone.*

4. Ouch! Don't Touch!

Betsy Beasley, USA

*Beware what you touch!*

5. Anilao Follies

Dennis Deavenport, USA

*Strange things are happening underwater at Anilao.*

6. Gravity

Craig Beasley, USA

*Scuba diving is not easy. It takes money and time and sometimes it can be less than thrilling. This film asks the question "Why do we do it?"*

## **Dance and Free Diving – Underwater Dance and Free Diving**

### 1. From Pain to Beauty

Elena Del Mar, Spain

*It is still an experimental dance and we strongly suggest not to imitate it.*

*Elena Del Mar's underwater dance is realized between 10 and 15 metres underwater for a period of 1.30/2.00 minutes per session, with the help and supervision of two assistant freedivers, using only the lung and breathing abilities of the underwater dancer, without auxiliary oxygen. The aquatic scenes have no choreography or techniques of terrestrial dance; they are the result of the dancer's spontaneous movements in connection with the Atlantic Ocean. Also for this reason, the dancer decided not to use a diving mask or nose clip, thus turning into a real sea creature. In some scenes some weights were used to stabilize the dance, in others the dancer does not carry any weight. Movements have not been sped up or slowed down, the rhythm is totally natural and original. This particular dance is the purest form of meditation Elena has ever experienced.*

*Not all things can be explained. This movie is based on a true story.*

*"This is the story of a woman whose heart was ripped out.*

*But the Ocean gifted her with a new one.*

*With this new heart, she felt free for the first time.*

*And then, she began to dance..."*

### 2. Ambient Light

Sasha Krasilnikova, Russian Federation

*Artistic underwater music clip.*

### 3. Sunken Treasures of Love

Andreas Schumacher, Germany

*A love story produced on Malta.*

### 4. Sirenes

Alessandro D'Auria, Italy

*Mermaid dance.*

### 5. Dance with Diatomée

Marianne Aventurier, Alex Voyer, France

*Free dive from the Diatomée.*

### 6. Entre 2 Eaux (Between 2 Waters)

Caroline Ragusa, France

*Chiara is standing there, alone with herself, until she meets Nero, her double and her opposite at the same time. This story is a deep immersion at the root of our origins, an ode to life.*

## **Animation – Underwater Animation**

### 1. True Love

Sylvia Tops, Belgium

*A mermaid swims to a speed dating. Amazingly, no mermaid man is interested in her. When she loses all hope, something completely unexpected happens.*

### 2. Robbie & Mollie

Kids 'n Tricks, Germany

*Robbie the seal and Mollie the seagull are living the good life by the sea. But dangers have been lurking on the beach and in the water for some time now. It's not natural enemies that they now have to fear, it's mainly plastic rubbish from humans that collects in the sea and threatens their habitat.*

### 3. Cold Blooded

Anna Argiros, United Kingdom

*Cold Blooded is the story of a man whose holiday relaxation is interrupted when a fish in need asks him for help.*

### 4. Luciferin

Bruno Urzi, United Kingdom

*A scientist wakes up disoriented following a mysterious accident. As he delves deeper into the lab he encounters a shocking entity and he is faced with the horrors of his own creation.*

### 5. Little Shorts - Caring for our Planet

Carolina Mariana Feity, Argentina

*Little Shorts - Caring For Our Planet is a animated short film written, drawn and told by children*

### 6. Water

Raúl Alejandro, Robin Morales Reyes, Mexico

*Water, the perfect fabric that crosses everything and everyone, which is present in every landscape, in every being, in every thing and in everything we love and see. The water dances through this world and flows at its perfect rhythm, until the hand of man interrupts that journey... can we be part of that journey in a natural way? Are we on time?*

### 7. Dance in the Water

Ebrahim Ashourdan, Iran

*The fish is trying to reach the aquarium.*

## **Feature Length – Any film up to 5 minutes**

### 1. Strawberry Fields

Juan Francisco Rodriguez, Chile

*A journey into the underwater world of Quadra Island in British Columbia, Canada, where strawberry anemones cover the entire seafloor. This short documentary-style film captures the beauty and biodiversity of this unique marine ecosystem. Amidst the red and pink anemones, curious creatures*

*go about their daily lives. As night falls, the ocean's mysteries deepen and cephalopods appear, cuttlefish and octopus emerging from their hiding spots, casting an otherworldly glow with their iridescent displays.*

2. Red Sea Wrecks

Carlos Villoch, Spain

*Explore the mysterious world of shipwrecks in the Red Sea as we journey through this captivating documentary. Delve into the depths to discover the haunting beauty and historical tales that lie beneath the ocean's surface.*

3. Under the Sun

Lufti Tanriover, Turkey

*The beauty the sun creates underwater.*

4. Colorful

Erkan Balk, Turkey

*My work in the Mediterranean between 2022 and 2023 in Turkish waters.*

5. Beneath the Blue Heron Bridge

Justin Perkinson, USA

*Part One of a Nature Vérité documentary short film series about the underwater world "Beneath the Blue Heron Bridge" in Riviera Beach, Florida.*

6. Thresher Shark Malapascua, Filippine

Maurizio Agliani, Italy

*Face to face with thresher sharks.*

7. A Quest for Oceanic Giants

Blane Henderson, USA

*Diving with giant Whale Sharks, the biggest fish in all the seas, is astoundingly exciting! These pelagic, gentle giants aren't easy to find. There aren't many places world-wide to see them on the surface, much less to dive with them underwater. The Galapagos Islands, Darwin Island and Wolfe Island specifically, is a good place to find them. The opportunity, every June through November, to dive with pregnant female whale sharks, is almost a given, usually a fleeting glimpse of one or two over the course of several days. But, this October, 2023, twelve divers had the pleasure, and good fortune to dive with multiple pregnant females over the course of four days!!! There were eight sightings. It was thrilling! This should be on every divers bucket list. Here is the story...*

8. Secret Bay - Camouflage

Vincente Leal, Spain

*Secret Bay - Camouflage shows different forms of visual concealment of the tiniest marine beings and allows us to appreciate the beauty and prodigiousness of one of the most effective survival strategies in the underwater environment.*

9. Still Diving: The Cinematography of Robert Yin

Robert Yin, USA

*Robert Yin began diving in 1962. And he's still diving. This is his story.*



## **Awards Reception, Sunday April 7, ~5:45 PM**

Join us immediately after the Sunday performance for awards, conversation with film directors, raffle and sale of underwater photographs to benefit Houston Underwater Film Festival. Held in the Gallery across the breezeway from the theater in the Match. Cash bar and cocktail buffet. The reception is open to all and the buffet requires a ticket ([huff.hups.org](http://huff.hups.org)).