

INFORMATION FEATURE

Nature, Disney-Style

Disney nature revives tradition of documentary excellence

By Lori Dance

Seeking to capitalize on the recent success of nature documentaries, Disney looked back at its own long-dormant True-Life Adventures division—which not only garnered eight Academy Awards from 1948 to 1960, but also fostered fond memories for generations of schoolchildren—to inspire the first Disney-branded film label in over 60 years.

"Nature invents the most beautiful stories," says Jean-François Camilleri who, besides having been involved with the Academy Award-winning film *March of the Penguins*, is executive vice president and general manager of Disney nature. "So in a place like the Disney Studios, where storytelling is key, we are going to go and... bring them to the big screen. This was a vision of Walt Disney back in 1948, and this is the vision of Disney nature today."



Director Alastair Fothergill

For its first film, *EARTH*, the Disney nature team looked no further than directors Alastair Fothergill and Mark Linfield, the creative team behind the Emmy Award-winning *Planet Earth* series, for assistance. "I think *EARTH* is a perfect film to start the Disney nature series... because it is a portrait of the whole planet," Fothergill asserts. "In over five years, we filmed at over 200 locations in 64 countries worldwide and employed 60 cameramen... Nobody in the history of cinema has ever had so much time, resources, and talent brought together for one true-life feature."

"Nature invents the most beautiful stories"

Disney nature is developing numerous titles concurrently and plans to release at least one feature-length documentary each year. *Oceans*, slated for 2010, will rely on new technology to capture detailed underwater drama where few have previously ventured. *Big Cats*, to be released in 2011, follows three species as they protect and teach their cubs on the great plains of Africa. And the directors of *EARTH* will reunite for 2012's *Chimpanzee*, shot over three years in the tropical jungles of the Ivory Coast and Uganda.

To find out more about the Disney nature brand or to download educational materials, visit disneynature.com



We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.

- Native American Proverb

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"ABSOLUTELY THRILLING, DON'T MISS IT!"
Teri Hart, THE MOVIE NETWORK/FAMILY CHANNEL

Disney nature earth

NARRATED BY JAMES EARL JONES

DISNEY NATURE PRESENTS "EARTH" A BBC, GREENLIGHT MEDIA, DISCOVERY CHANNEL CO-PRODUCTION
BBC NATURAL HISTORY UNIT IN ASSOCIATION WITH DISNEY NATURE EARTH CAMERA TEAM EDITED BY MARTIN ELSBURY
STORY BY ANDREW WILSON KATE HOPKINS AND TIM OWENS PRODUCED BY AMANDA HUTCHINSON MANDY KNIGHT EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS GEORGE FENTON
PERFORMED BY THE BERLINER PHILHARMONIKER ORCHESTRA MUSIC BY LESLIE MEGAHEY ALASTAIR FOTHERGILL MARK LINFIELD COSTUME DESIGNER MELISSA CARON AMANDA HILL MICHAEL HENRIKSSON
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MIKE PHILLIPS ANDRE SKOLEV STEFAN BITTEN WAYNE GARVE MARTYN FREEMAN AND NIKOLAUS WEL PRODUCED BY ALIX TIDMARSH AND SOPHOKLES TASCIOULIS
DIRECTED BY ALASTAIR FOTHERGILL AND MARK LINFIELD

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INFORMATION FEATURE

Three Families, One EARTH

Disney nature's first film explores the animal kingdom from pole to pole

By Lori Dance

On April 22, Disney will celebrate Earth Day with the premiere of the first film in its Disney nature series. Narrated in thrilling detail by James Earl Jones, *EARTH* follows the journeys of three animal families as they interact with the ever-changing world around them.

On a group of Nordic islands is where you'll meet the polar bears. The world's largest land predators travel hundreds of miles for something to eat, yet they don't drink water. A male ventures far to hunt as a mother emerges from a snow den with her two cubs. The pack ice melts earlier each year, and food is becoming a challenge.

To visit the next family, you'll travel far south as an elephant mother guides her tiny calf across the Kalahari Desert in search of fresh water, of which an adult can drink 50 gallons each day. In this dry season, however, thick clouds of dust threaten to separate them, and they are forced to share what little refreshment they find with hungry lions.

Finally, you'll witness an epic 4,000-mile migration. In tropical waters, a humpbacked whale calf receives over 600 quarts of milk each day, but its mother is starving. The pair set out on the longest journey undertaken by any marine mammal to the southernmost Antarctic waters to feed on krill and small fish before they turn around and journey back to the Equator.

The supporting cast of this story includes, among over 40 other animal species, some painfully adorable mandarin ducklings who, at their mother's urging, fling themselves 30 feet from their nest to the ground. Will they fly? Will they bounce? You'll just have to wait until Earth Day to find out...

To check out more exclusive and super-cute behind-the-scenes footage of the film's three main families, visit disneynature.com/earth.

Trees for Tickets

Plant yourself in front of *EARTH*, and Disney nature will plant a tree on Earth

By Lori Dance

Disney and Metro have a convenient truth for you: for every ticket purchased during the opening week of *EARTH*, being released across North America on Earth Day (April 22), a tree will be planted in your honour.

"We couldn't think of a better way to launch the new Disney nature banner, and to celebrate the spirit of the film and Earth Day at the same time," says Dick Cook, chairman of The Walt Disney Studios.

Trees will be planted in the Brazilian Atlantic Forest which, at only 7 percent of its original capacity, is considered the most endangered rain forest in the world.

Disney is overseeing their planting and care, and Metro is contributing advertising space to support the program.

For more information, including ticket availability at your local theatre, visit disney.com/earth.

