



2019 CONSERVATION FILMMAKER WORKSHOP

Presenters and Panelists

Alison Barrat | VP of Production & Development, Love Nature

CFW Session: *Pitch Panelist*

Alison is the VP of Production and Development for Love Nature, a joint venture between Blue Ant Media and Smithsonian Networks offering wildlife and nature fans the world's largest library of 4K natural history programming. She has a B.Sc. in Zoology, with a focus on animal behavior, and an M.A in film and documentary production. Over the last 20 years, Alison has produced films for PBS, National Geographic, The Smithsonian Channel, Discovery Channel, and Animal Planet among others. She is an Emmy and multi award-winning filmmaker. Alison grew up in Scotland, an experience that shaped her views on nature. She is a passionate conservationist and specializes in creating strategic communications campaigns that result in tangible conservation impact.

Sirjaut Kaur Dhariwal | Program Development Associate Manager, Smithsonian Networks

CFW Session: *Pitch Panelist*

Sirjaut is in program development, working in conjunction with production companies and other departments within Smithsonian Networks to see films from conception to completion. Having started off in production, she can recognize important stories and help shape them to become assets to Smithsonian Channel's programming slate. Previously, Sirjaut has produced independent environmental documentaries that have premiered at film festivals and aired on networks including PBS. She holds a Masters of Fine Arts in Film and a Bachelor of Science in Zoology.

Jeff Hertrick | Director, Digital Video Operations, National Geographic Partners

CFW Session: *Pitch Panelist*

Jeff has over 30 years of award-winning video production experience, including the last 16 years at National Geographic. Currently responsible for video production operations - Jeff has also led National Geographic news and magazine documentary digital production that appears on its website, YouTube and other platforms. In addition to overseeing internal production, he has hired freelancers around the world for short-form video storytelling. Past work has included day-to-day managing of National Geographic's YouTube publishing at its inception, producing for the Nat Geo Channel, Senior Producer for Discovery Science Channel, and news

reporting/producing/editing at several TV stations in Washington, DC, Georgia, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, where he resides in Shepherdstown with his husband.

Neil Losin | Co-founder, Day's Edge Productions

CFW Session: *The Business of Documentary Film Production*

Neil is an award-winning documentary filmmaker based in Miami, Florida. Before making films, Neil earned his Ph.D. in Biology at UCLA and studied wild animals around the world. Now, through their company Day's Edge Productions, Neil and his business partner Nate Dappen produce broadcast and web documentaries about science, nature, conservation, and adventure.

Mark Madison | Historian, US Fish & Wildlife Service

CFW Session: *The History of Conservation Filmmaking*

Mark is one of the founders of the ACFF and has been on its Selection Committee for the last 15 years. He has taught Environmental Film at Shepherd University for the last 10 years. His day job is Historian for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service where he oversees all interpretation, displays, and a half million artifacts in the museum at the USFWS National Conservation Training Center. He has degrees in Biology and a PhD in the History of Science from Harvard University. Prior to his current role he spent 3 years doing tropical reforestation as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Philippines and taught at Harvard and the University of Melbourne (Australia).

Josh Murphy | ACFF 2019 Green Fire Award winning director for *Artifishal*

CFW Session: *Closing Keynote Address*

Josh is an award-winning director and producer whose work includes commercials, branded content, television, short and feature narrative film and documentaries. He is the recipient of North American Snow Sports Journalist Association's Bill Berry Award for Modern Media, the Harold Hirsch Award for Film and Broadcast, and was a finalist for the Kenneth Rainin Foundation Filmmaking Grant for narrative film.

Francis Ramirez-O'Shea | Producer

CFW Session: *Finding Your Path in Non-fiction Production*

Francis has over 12 years of experience working in non-fiction production in diverse capacities including line producer, field producer, supervising post producer to name a few. She has worked on programs that have aired on The National Geographic Channel, Nat Geo Wild, The Smithsonian Channel, PBS, and varying film festivals including Sundance. She has also produced digital content for ESPN and TedActive. Francis has a passion for telling stories that help educate and advance our collective exploration of issues around conservation, natural history, science, technology, race, and culture. Francis is currently a post producer at Symbio Studios. She also enjoys volunteering her producing and photography skills for non-profits and encouraging visual storytelling for social justice

Tria Thalman | Executive Producer for Natural History, Smithsonian Networks

CFW Session: *Notes from the Network: Taking Your Film from Rough Cut to Final Cut*

Tria considers herself one of the lucky ones: someone who knew early in life what she wanted to do and has happily followed that path for 25 years. In her current role she helps develop and oversee a broad slate of wildlife films for Smithsonian Channel US and their international networks. She works with production companies to help shape their films through development and production, and gets deep in the weeds with scriptwriting if needed. But, a producer at heart, she's happiest when in the field. Before joining Smithsonian Channel she worked as a freelance producer creating content for National Geographic, Discovery, Nat Geo Wild and Animal Planet. She has a bachelor's and a master's degree in zoology from the University of Cambridge and studied film at the University of Bristol before moving to the United States in 1995.