



Dear Fellow Ocean Film Lovers:

On behalf of the Dana Point Film Festival (DPFF), we are so excited to bring you our lineup of inspirational, educational, and entertaining Ocean Films. In our inaugural year, we have over 45 hours of screenings over four days, running May 4-7th. We will host and celebrate dozens of domestic and international filmmakers, speakers, and artists - It is exciting!

DPFF is a “community” event focused on marine life and the oceans, examining our relationship with this magnificent wonder which is so worthy of our attention, care, and gratitude. The overwhelming support and enthusiasm of the warmhearted and ocean-loving residents of Dana Point and the surrounding communities made this come to fruition - Thank you!

As a local grom growing up here, educated at San Juan Middle School, Marco Forster, and then as a graduate of Dana Hills High School (Go Dolphins!), I was extremely fortunate to experience a childhood filled with all the magical things and friendships that led me to this venture and mission. Before, during, and after school, I surfed Strands or Creek, body whomped at every chance I could, sailed Hobie Cats, dove, fished, and explored our underwater kelp forests and coves. I was a hyperactive, adventurous, bright-eyed kid constantly on the go. I landed my first dream job flipping burgers at the iconic Monarch Beach Club – free food and Surfing during my breaks - bliss!

Now, as a lifetime Sr. entertainment executive, ocean, outdoor, and action sports filmmaker /producer, I am thrilled to return home. I am honored to be DPFF’s, Founder and Managing Director.

Film Festivals are a great way to unite a community and to bring attention to missions that truly count. We love and cherish our Pacific Ocean, our coast, and our beaches, and when we see our neighboring whales and our dolphins, they bring magic and joy to our souls. We honor them as mascots, name parades after them, build statues of them, and commission institutes to study them; AND now we at DPFF celebrate them in Film.

Let's not forget Surfing and all the legends, stories, and history unique to our beloved coast: Endless Summer & Bruce Brown, Hobie Alter, Dicky Metz, Steve Pezman, Phil Edwards, Joyce Hoffman, Gordon "Grubby" Clark. With countless Master Shapers, Dana Point is the epicenter of Surf Publishing, Filmmaking, and Innovation. It is in the City's DNA. Dana Point's neighboring cities share this rich history and love for our oceans too. As a former Dana Point, Laguna Niguel, Laguna, San Juan Capistrano, and San Clemente resident, I know this is a tight, fun-loving, coastal community, and our ocean and outdoorsy nature unite us.

Dana Point Film Festival aims to entertain you, inspire you to further your education, and encourage you to be a conservationist and steward of ocean ecosystems and issues. We will celebrate amazing internationally acclaimed filmmakers, and, foremost, we will have FUN! We welcome everyone near and far to participate in and celebrate the Dana Point Film Festival.

It all starts on May 4th, 2023, and I look forward to seeing you all at the Inaugural Dana Point Film Festival. Come be a part of this vibrant ocean community!

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Founder & Managing Director