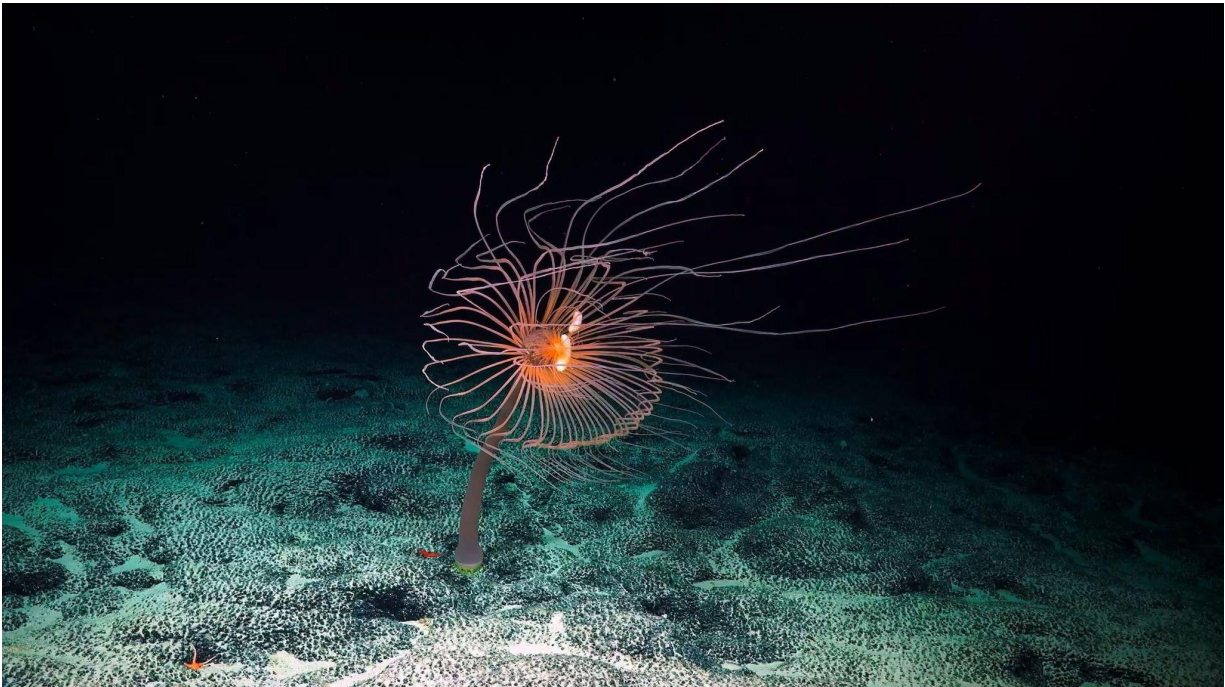


**Sundance  
Film Festival  
2023**

# DEEP RISING

**Directed by:** Matthieu Rytz

**Runtime:** 93 minutes



**\*\* Official Selection – 2023 Sundance Film Festival \*\***

Press Materials: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19zCnV76rCEZy65ib2TOiDxSje4-QkkxX>

**PUBLICITY CONTACT**

Organic Publicity

Kara MacLean

[Kara.maclean@organic-publicity.com](mailto:Kara.maclean@organic-publicity.com)

**SALES CONTACT**

Roco Films

Annie Roney

[annie@rocofilms.com](mailto:annie@rocofilms.com)

## SUNDANCE SCREENINGS

### Press Screening

Sunday, Jan 22nd - 3:00pm, Holiday Cinema 3

### Public Screenings

Friday, Jan 20th - 8:50pm, The Ray Theatre, Park City (WORLD PREMIERE)

Saturday, Jan 21st - 6:45pm, Grand Theatre, Salt Lake City

Wednesday, Jan 25th - 6:00pm - Sundance Mountain Resort

Thursday, Jan 26th - 6:00pm - Redstone Cinema 7, Park City

Saturday, Jan 28th - 11:30am - Holiday Village Cinema 1, Park City

---

## SHORT SYNOPSIS

*DEEP RISING is a tale of geopolitical, scientific and corporate intrigue: investigating the future of the world's energy crisis and how it is currently tied to the fate of the deep ocean floor, which is intricately tied to our survival.*

*5 years after Anote's Ark, Matthieu Rytz returns with this up-to-the-minute tale of geopolitical, scientific, and corporate intrigue that exposes the machinations of a secretive organization empowered to greenlight massive extraction of metals from the deep seafloor that are deemed essential to the electric battery revolution. Narrated by Jason Momoa, Deep Rising illuminates the vital relationship between the deep ocean and sustaining life on Earth. The documentary also follows mining startup The Metals Company, as it pursues funding, public favor, and permission from the International Seabed Authority to mine wide swaths of the Pacific Ocean floor. Rytz's fly-on-the-wall access observes extraction companies as they co-opt scientific studies and deliver pitches to investors, proposing how the costs of industrializing our Earth's last pristine environment can be justified to access metals they claim will benefit all of mankind. As oil conglomerates pivot investments to deep-ocean mining, Deep Rising examines humanity's destructive pattern of extracting materials for profit and asks why we don't choose, instead, to develop abundant resources to solve our energy problems.*

---

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

*"Before I share with you why making Deep Rising is so important, let me introduce myself. Over the past decade, I have been telling stories about our changing climate. My previous project, Anote's Ark, is an award-winning feature film and VR experience that surveys the fate of the Republic of Kiribati as rising seas threaten the island nation's existence. While making that documentary, I quickly realized that in order to address our climate crisis, we must imperatively*

*protect our planet's biodiversity — especially our oceans.*

*A month after Anote's Ark premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2018, I started developing a new film about the complex issues related to deep-sea mining. I intuitively knew that I was committing to and embarking on a long-lasting project, but I didn't fully realize that I was opening a Pandora's box that would reveal one of the most important — and untold — environmental stories of our time.*

*Over the next few years, the fate of the deep ocean will be decided by a handful of people pulling the strings behind closed doors. Hundreds of billions of dollars are currently being spent on the development of large-scale, battery-based energy infrastructures that require massive amounts of metal extraction, which in turn engender colossal environmental costs. And as the world celebrates our slow transition away from fossil fuels, some major oil and gas conglomerates are currently diversifying their investments in order to refurbish their offshore infrastructures. They're gearing up to strip mine the deep ocean and secure an access to the world's largest deposits of*

## **LONG SYNOPSIS**

*the much-needed metals used in battery chemistry.*

*The lithium-ion revolution might well be based on a destructive and inadequate technology, spearheaded by an industry aggressively lobbying for dirty energy that can be controlled, instead of democratizing access to sustainable resources such as graphene or hydrogen.*

*I strongly believe that without a real paradigm shift on the horizon, we will keep extracting raw materials from our fragile biosphere, making a planetary cataclysm all but inevitable. My film will push the narrative much further, bringing to light the fundamental failure of our extraction system by focusing on a very simple and verifiable truth: that we have created an infinite growth model on a finite planet.*

*Let's be clear here: We are at a fundamental crossroads and cannot allow more extraction to produce energy if we wish to secure our future as Homo sapiens as part of our remarkable biosphere. Ultimately, Deep Rising will plant seeds of hope and inspire by making clear that a green revolution is still within reach if we're willing to radically put an end to our destructive behaviors and create a truly regenerative economic and social architecture."*

**- Director/Producer Matthieu Rytz**

### **BIOSMATTHIEU RYTZ - Director/Producer**

Matthieu Rytz is a producer, curator, photographer and award-winning film director. A visual anthropologist by training, his passion for storytelling has led him across the globe to witness and document complex human and environmental stories. Matthieu specializes in creating multidisciplinary, multichannel projects using film, still images and virtual reality; using whatever medium best serves the story.

### **JASON MOMOA – Executive Producer, Narrator**

Jason Momoa is a global movie star, entrepreneur, and activist, who continues to captivate audiences through his incredible work on and off-screen. Momoa and his production company, On the Roam, bring a unique and beautiful perspective to storytelling through their cinematic and human approach.

In addition to his film and television career, in the Summer of 2022, the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) appointed Momoa as its official ambassador for Life Below Water. With a deep passion for environmental sustainability, Momoa founded Mananulu, an aluminum-bottled water company, on a mission to end single-use plastic water bottles.

### **SHANNON O'LEARY JOY – Executive Producer**

President of the EarthSense Foundation and an ocean and environmental philanthropist, Shannon serves on the boards of Sylvia Earle's Mission Blue, WildAid, Oceans5 and Compassion for Addiction. Shannon served as an executive producer on many noteworthy documentaries, including Chasing Coral, Mission Blue, Anote's Ark and Sharkwater Extinction.

### **SHARI SANT PLUMMER - Executive Producer**

Shari Sant Plummer Executive Producer Code Blue Charitable Foundation. She also serves as secretary/trustee of the Summit Charitable Foundation, board member on the Sylvia Earle Alliance and vice president of Seacology. Shari was an executive producer on Chasing Coral, Mission Blue, Anote's Ark and Sharkwater Extinction.

### **DONA BERTARELLI - Executive Producer**

Dona Bertarelli is a sportswoman, investor and philanthropist who has dedicated nearly two decades to protecting ecosystems by creating large-scale marine protected areas. With her children and husband, Dona founded 'Sails of Change', a foundation dedicated to the protection and regeneration of biodiversity. Sails of Change's activities focus on the goal of fully or highly protecting at least 30% of global ocean and land by 2030. Sails of Change raises environmental awareness and promotes positive change at many levels, including connecting with a wide public through art, sports and education.

### **ANNIE RONEY - Executive Producer**

After nine years working for a top industry distributor, Annie founded ro\*co films in 2000 with two complementary ideas. The first is the belief that a well-told, well-researched and emotionally-driven documentary can challenge the way people think about issues in every corner of the globe. The second is that, to be entrusted with the distribution of these stories, ro\*co needs to be in service to

the filmmaker first and foremost. ro\*co has distributed award-winning docs including 18 Oscar-nominated feature documentaries, such as Born Into Brothels, The Invisible War, Cartel Land, Life Animated, Knife Skills, Human Flow, An Inconvenient Sequel, RBG and Virunga.

#### **ADDISON FISCHER - Executive Producer**

Mr. Fischer is a member of Ocean5 and the Co-founder and President of Planet Heritage Foundation. In his professional life, Mr. Fischer is a computer entrepreneur, the Founder of VeriSign and was formerly the co-owner of Duquesne Capital Management. Mr. Fischer serves as a director of The Jane Goodall Institute and the East West Institute, and is on the advisory boards of the Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC), the Amazon Conservation Team and the Sylvia Earle Foundation.

#### **SÉBASTIEN AND JULIE LÉPINARD - Executive Producers**

Sébastien and Julie founded the Erol Foundation, a philanthropic endeavour to fund economic equality and sustainability Erol has awarded grants to such good-deed projects as the Amazon Conservation Association and Room to Read; the last works to increase literacy among girls in developing countries. The couple's portfolio leans toward fresh innovation and thoughtful teamwork.

#### **JIM ANGELL - Executive Producer**

Jim is director of Conservation and Board Member Paul M. Angell Family Foundation Jim's work at the Paul M. Angell Family Foundation focuses primarily on supporting efforts to protect and conserve the world's ocean habitats, coral reefs, and apex predators whose survival is imperilled by overfishing and global climate change. Prior to joining the Foundation, Jim worked as an attorney for nearly two decades for Earthjustice, a public interest environmental law firm.

#### **LAURA CLARKE – Co-Executive Producer**

Laura Clarke heads up the impact and engagement campaign. She is a British-born, Australian-based, celebrated communications director. She is also co-founder of the Palau Pledge, which holds the honor of being 2018's most-awarded communications campaign in the world. Laura has held senior communications roles in London, Hong Kong and Sydney, creating high-profile campaigns for some of the world's largest brands and institutions. She lived in Palau for three years, during which time she established a local and global team to combat the impact of unsustainable behavior on the Pacific island nation.

#### **PAUL SHARP – Co-Executive Producer**

Paul Sharp will lead the creative agency to deliver the impact campaign idea. Paul is an Anglo-Australian Creative Director at the acclaimed international branding agency, Someone. His work has won creative accolades at the top international creative awards including Cannes, D&AD and TED Ideas Worth Spreading, and he has won the highest accolades in effectiveness. A passionate environmental advocate with a long history of support for enviro-causes both as activist and creative. Paul cycles everywhere.

#### **WOLFGANG KNÖPFLER – Co-Executive Producer**

Wolfgang joined Terra Mater Studios in 2013 and since then he played an important part in producing several award-winning natural history documentaries. Among others he produced the Oscar-shortlisted feature documentary, "The Ivory Game" and the Sundance Audience Award-winner, "Sea of Shadows". Wolfgang brings his own flair and creativity to his work. He is able

to advise and recommend on every aspect of production: be it complex post-production routes, or moving a film crew through some of the remotest and toughest places on Earth.

## **CREW**

### **SYLVAIN BELLEMARE - Sound Designer**

Sylvain Bellemare is a Canadian sound editor and sound designer, best known as the supervising sound editor on *Arrival* (2016), for which he won the BAFTA Award for Best Sound and the Academy Award for Best Sound Editing. He frequently works with Quebec filmmakers Philippe Falardeau and Denis Villeneuve, and recently collaborated with Matthieu Rytz on his first feature film.

### **ÓLAFUR ARNALDS - Composer**

Ólafur Arnalds is an Icelandic multi-instrumentalist, composer and producer known for the albums, 'Eulogy for Evolution', 'For Now I Am Winter' and 'Re:member'. Arnalds also earned acclaim for scoring in the films 'Another Happy Day' and 'Gimme Shelter' and in BBC TV series 'Broadchurch'. His atmospheric, melancholic yet powerful musical creations will be a perfect fit in the context of the deep sea.

### **ELISA BONORA - Editor**

Elisa's first breakthrough in long format editing occurred when Oliver Stone asked her to edit *COMANDANTE*, a feature length documentary about Fidel Castro. In 2011, she edited her second Oliver Stone's documentary, *SOUTH OF THE BORDER*, which premiered at the Venice Film Festival and 2012. She then worked on the Oscar shortlisted documentary *BLACKFISH* and *THE IVORY GAME*. In 2016 Elisa edited the 2020 Emmy photography nominated *GHOST FLEET*.

### **Dr. HELEN SCALES - Co-Writer**

Helen Scales is a marine biologist, writer and broadcaster. Her books about the ocean include the *New York Times* 2021 top summer read *The Brilliant Abyss* and the Guardian bestseller *Spirals in Time*. She writes for the *Guardian* and *National Geographic Magazine*, and collaborates on ocean projects with artists, musicians, photographers and filmmakers. She teaches at Cambridge University, is a storytelling ambassador at the Save Our Seas Foundation and science advisor for the ocean conservation charity Sea Changers. Helen divides her time between Cambridge, UK and the wild, west coast of France.

### **FÉLIX PHARAND - DESCHÊNES - Planetary Visualization**

Félix has helped define the visual narrative of the anthropocene. This his work has been used by National Geographic World Economic Forum the United Nations the Stockholm Resilience Centre the BBC and the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation.

## **SUBJECTS**

### **SANDOR MULSOW – Subject, Adviser / PhD. Marine Geology**

Sandor has more than 15 years of experience in International Management Marine Sciences around the world. He has built an experience in providing support for the implementation of decisions by governing bodies of the UN and is the former Director of Environmental Management and Mineral Resources of the International Seabed Authority. (2013 - 2018). He has received multiple awards from prestigious institutions such as the International Atomic Energy Agency, Boston University Marine Program, Principate of Monaco and the Woods Hole institute.

## **CREDITS**

### ***DEEP RISING***

A FILM BY

MATTHIEU RYTZ

NARRATED BY

JASON MOMOA

In Association with

PLANET HERITAGE  
FOUNDATION  
FONDATION EROL  
SAILS OF CHANGE

Produced by

MATTHIEU RYTZ

Executive Producers

JASON MOMOA  
ADDISON FISCHER  
OLIVIA FISCHER  
SÉBASTIEN LÉPINARD  
JULIE LÉPINARD  
SHARI SANT  
SHANNON O'LEARY JOY  
TIFFANY SCHAUER  
DONA BERTARELLI  
JIM ANGELL  
ANNIE RONEY

Co-Executive Producers

LAURA CLARKE  
PAUL SHARP  
WOLFGANG KNÖPFLER  
HEATHER SMITH  
GEORGE DUFFIELD

Narration written by

HELEN SCALES  
MATTHIEU RYTZ

Narration inspired by the book

THE BRILLIANT ABYSS BY  
HELEN SCALES

Music by

ÓLAFUR ARNALDS

Sound Design

SYLVAIN BELLEMARE

Edited by

ELISA BONORA, ACE

Additional Editing

MATTHIEU RYTZ  
DAVID GRAY

Cinematography

MATTHIEU RYTZ  
WILLIAM MACKENZIE  
DIEGO PEQUEÑO  
SPENCER PETER  
WANGARE

Planetary Visualization

FÉLIX PHARAND-  
DESCHÊNES

Additional Writing

JANE MANNING  
PAUL SHARP

*DEEP RISING WAS MADE POSSIBLE WITH THE SUPPORT OF PLANET HERITAGE  
FOUNDATION EROL FOUNDATION SAILS OF CHANGE PAUL M. ANGELL FAMILY  
FOUNDATION OUR CHILDREN FOUNDATION EARTH SENSE FOUNDATION CODE BLUE  
FOUNDATION NIA TERO FOUNDATION EACH FOUNDATION LA MOBILIÈRE*