



San Diego Film Foundation presents
Exclusive San Diego Screening
CHASING CORAL
Official Selection 2017 Sundance Film Festival
Part of the Film Insider Screening Series

The SFFF Film Insider Screening Series features 6 private film screenings with a cocktail party, Q&A with special guests and post champagne reception. The film selections are curated by Executive and Artistic Director of the Festival, Tonya Mantooh. The 5th film in the series takes place Tuesday, June 20th and will feature the documentary **Chasing Coral**. The screening will be followed by a discussion with Zack Rago who is featured in the film.

ABOUT CHASING CORAL:

Coral reefs around the world are vanishing at an unprecedented rate. A team of divers, photographers and scientists set out on a thrilling ocean adventure to discover why and to reveal the underwater mystery to the world. **CHASING CORAL** is a film directed by Jeff Orlowski and produced by Larissa Rhodes, as an Exposure Labs production. It was filmed over three years, with 650+ hours underwater, includes footage from over 30 countries, and was made with the support of over 500 people around the world.

More Info: <http://sdfilmfest.com/chasing-coral-june-20th-film-insider-series/>

What people are saying:

An “emotional race against time” – *The New York Times*

“A triumph of both visual and narrative storytelling.” – *The Economist*

“Gorgeous Underwater Exploration is ‘The War Room’ for Environmental Advocacy Docs” – *Indiewire*

“[a] powerful wake-up call” – *Hollywood Reporter*

“Chasing Coral is a landmark film for activism.” – *rogerebert.com*

WHERE: Location Provided with RSVP

WHEN: **Tuesday, June 20, 2017**

5:00-5:30 pm Press Check-in

5:30-6:30 pm Cocktail Party/Red Carpet Photos

6:30-8:30 pm Film Screening & After Screening Discussion

DISCUSSION: Tonya Mantooh, Artistic and Executive Director of the SFFF
Zack Rago, featured in *Chasing Coral*

MEDIA Attendance RSVP: Cindy Saylor, cindy@sdfilmfest.com

MEDIA Coverage Interest: Susan Clausen theatersusan@gmail.com

Quote from Director of Chasing Coral, Jeff Orlowski

“A couple of years ago I got an email out of the blue from a man named Richard Vevers. He attached two photos - one of a healthy coral reef and one of a dead coral reef. And when I saw those photos - the light bulb immediately went on. If you can document that change - you can reveal this to the public in a powerful way. So we knew from the start it was something we wanted to be involved in.....I feel like as filmmakers - we are translators for the scientific community. We know that the oceans are changing, and more than anything I feel a responsibility to capture it because we know it is happening” - Director Jeff Orlowski

Zack Rago Bio - featured in the film and will be a part of the post-film talkback

Zack Rago's passion for the ocean began in the Hawaiian Islands where he spent many childhood summers under the waves of the Pacific. His infatuation with coral led to a position in the reef aquarium industry for 4 years before bringing his passion to Teens4Oceans. Zack received his degree in Evolutionary Biology & Ecology from the University of Colorado at Boulder. As a talented reef aquarist and long time scuba diver, Zack believes that experience is the best teacher. Through hands-on research opportunities and experiencing the underwater world, Zack truly believes that we can cultivate a generation of educated, empowered and inspired Ocean Stewards. As the Research and Outreach Coordinator, Zack hopes to introduce youth to the beauty and complexity of our oceans while creating the same appreciation and love for coral reef ecosystems that he had as a child.

About the San Diego Film Foundation

The San Diego Film Foundation (SDFF) is a 501(c)3 dedicated to making a difference through film. We believe that film can be transformative and we are bound together through human connection. Our mission is to use film to explore issues of global impact, to create dialog, to encourage self-reflection, and ultimately to develop empathy and understanding in an increasingly diverse and complex world.

The San Diego Film Foundation brings the finest independent cinematic storytelling from around the world to San Diego each year. We present films that make a difference through a robust variety of events and programs *including*:

- The San Diego International Film Festival (Oct. 4-8, 2017)
- FOCUS on Impact Film Tour for highschool students (Spring 2017)
- FOCUS on Impact Artist Residencies for highschool students (Fall 2017)
- Film Insider Screenings (Feb-July, 2017)
- Industry Insider Series (Patrons Only)
- And The Award Goes To...Oscar Awards Viewing Party Annual Gala