

Powerground

The Life and Breath of the World

30 minute Documentary Film, HD

Acclaimed Cascadian writers and ecologists rethink how we can win back the Earth in a time of Eco-crisis

with
Trevor Carolan

Appearances by Wade Davis, Rex Weyler, Joanne Kyger, Hugh Brody, Robert Bringhurst, Eve Joseph, Liz McDowell, Eric de Place and others

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Climate change, global warming, deforestation—with so many conflicting messages, has the millennial generation already heard enough about the environmental crisis? Many are confused and wonder if it has simply gotten too complicated to win back the Earth.

This documentary film faces up to the sea of chatter. Narrator and director Dr. Trevor Carolan works with an international network of writers, ecologists and planners of sustainable communities. They join him in sharing critical ideas about eco-interconnectedness and the power of *place*—the concept Nobel Prize economic laureate Jeffrey Sachs argues is “the emerging meta-narrative for the 21st century.” These visionaries have stories to tell about their relationship with the land, showing how language and literature, songs and poetry, bring us close to the truth of a place and its problems. That place is North America’s west coast *bioregion*, Cascadia.

Shaped by a rugged wilderness beauty and inclusive cultural mosaic, eco-ideas and activism from Cascadia have exerted a major global impact since the founding of Greenpeace here in the 1970s. But even this ecologically-attuned area has conflicts and it’s difficult not to feel voiceless sometimes. But as author Frank Stewart notes, “There are many kinds of activism. One of the most powerful is activism of the ethical imagination.”

This film seeks insight into what living in a genuinely sustainable way and “treading lightly on the earth” can mean. In sharing their reflections, guests including filmmaker *Hugh Brody*, poet *Joanne Kyger*, eco-activist *Rex Weyler*, Indigenous leader *Gabriel George*, and authors *Wade Davis* and *Robert Bringhurst* speak to the deeper nature of interconnectedness—reminding us of the traditional role of writers and artists in inspiring reverence for our threatened Blue Planet. They remind us, “we are a part of our place, and our place is a part of us.”

Powerground asks questions. The viewer’s journey is our journey. With original soundtrack by Andrew Collins, we want viewers to look at ecological consciousness and practical eco-solutions in a fresh light. Using the new language of an environmental awareness that is already overdue, these are stories that offer insight and the power of practical solutions in a time of deepening eco-insecurity.

Production Team

TREVOR CAROLAN, Writer, Director

Guest editor of the eco-lit anthology *Cascadia: The Life and Breath of the World*, Trevor Carolan has worked as media advocate on behalf of Pacific Coast watershed issues and First Nations land claims. A former elected Councillor in North Vancouver, he earned his Ph.D. in Australia for studies in Literature, Ecology and Ideas of the Sacred in International Relations. He worked with the XV Olympic Winter Games in Calgary, has published 18 books, and teaches at University of the Fraser Valley in B.C., Canada. See www.trevorcarolan.com



Trevor Carolan

EILEEN MENDEZ, Editor

Eileen Mendez studied film at UFV and works with CIVL public radio in the Fraser Valley. A working mother of three, she lives in Surrey, B.C. .



Eileen Mendez

ANTHONY PERZEL, Cinematographer

Veteran former producer with OMNI-Video and instructor at the Banff Centre's Electronic Film & Media Program, Perzel worked on over 100 film productions there and on the series *Chapters of the Wild*. His documentary *In a Sacred Way We Build* depicts the innovative design & construction of the Seabird Island Elders Housing and Healing Garden project in the Fraser Valley.



Anthony Perzel (Anna Perzel)

MEGAN RUSSELL, Cinematographer

Currently studies film at the School of Motion Picture Arts, Capilano University, and previously at UFV. Her work includes production of a travel documentary on San Francisco, 2014.



Megan Russell

ROB SIENIUC, Production Consultant

Architect, Environmental Designer and founding principal of Broadway Architects, Rob Sieniuc specializes in environmentally-based commercial, recreational and residential architecture and eco-projects for communities, government, and First Nations in western and northern Canada. His essay on Chief Dan George, *Sacred Ecology and Sustainable Environmental Design* appears in *Cascadia*. He lives in Vancouver. See www.broadwayarchitects.com



Rob Sieniuc (Broadway Architects)

STEPHEN DOUGLAS JACKSON, Cinematographer

Stephen Douglas Jackson studied film theory at University of the Fraser Valley and trained as a video technician in the workforce. He has made music videos, ad campaigns, and short films.



Stephen Douglas Jackson

PERRINE ANGLY, Artwork

A sculptor and painter, Angly lives near Paris. Her work has been exhibited in France, Belgium and Canada. She has lived in Victoria and travelled widely in western Canada and the U.S.



Perrine Angly

VINCENT E. VARGA, Cinematographer

Member of The Umbrella Collective, a group of young artists in the media industry that undertakes projects in the music, commercials and features industry. Directed the 2013 short film *Paint Me a Picture* that screened internationally. Production crew credits include *Heartland*, *Interstellar*, and *Hell On Wheels*. He lives in Lethbridge and Calgary.



Vincent Varga (Umbrella Collective)

ANDREW COLLINS, Composer, Guitar

Andrew Collins is a musician who writes, plays and records classical and jazz-based guitar material. Originally from London he lives on Vancouver Island and writes/records for film/video producers. Recent projects include material for the National Theatre Live team in London, England and alternative energy researchers and developers in the U.S. See www.andrewcollinsbandcamp.com



Andrew Collins (Megan Russell)

VALERIE FRANKLIN, Production Intern

The Managing Editor of *The Cascade* at University of the Fraser Valley and a skilled researcher and graphic designer, Val Franklin is committed to environmental discourse and literature.



Valerie Franklin

Meet the Characters

REX WEYLER, Co-founder Greenpeace International

Writer & ecologist, his book *Greenpeace: How a Group of Ecologists, Journalists and Visionaries Changed the World*, is the organization's definitive history. His co-authored *Chop Wood, Carry Water: A Guide to Finding Spiritual Fulfillment in Everyday Life* is a modern classic. He is active in campaigns to preserve rivers and forests, to stop whaling, sealing, and toxic dumping.



Rex Weyler (Greenpeace International - Deep Green Blog)

JOANNE KYGER, Poet

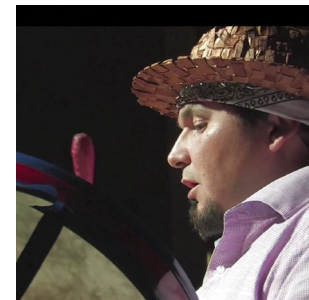
A prominent American poet for more than 40 years, Kyger is the author of over 20 books and has been an inspiration to countless writers. Associated early in her career with Beat literature, she is a colleague of many naturalists and environmental activists. She lives near San Francisco and teaches often at the Jack Kerouac School, Naropa University in Boulder.



Joanne Kyger (Trevor Carolan)

GABRIEL GEORGE, Sacred Trust Project Manager

The grandson of Chief Dan George and a Sacred Trust Project Manager for Culture and Language for the Tsleil Waututh Nation in North Vancouver, Gabriel George is a gifted First Nations storyteller, actor, and member of the federal Truth and Reconciliation Commission.



Gabriel George (Anthony Perzel)

ROBERT BRINGHURST, Poet, Typographer, Linguist

Poet, translator, typographer, cultural historian, and linguist, Robert Bringhurst's books on Haida mythology and storytelling have placed him among the leading public intellectuals in North America. He has published over a dozen books of poetry and the acclaimed prose works *The Tree of Meaning: Language, Mind and Ecology* and *Everywhere Being Is Dancing: Twenty Pieces of Thinking*. He lives on Quadra Island, B.C.



Robert Bringhurst (Megan Russell)

HUGH BRODY, Anthropologist, Author, Filmmaker

Educated at Oxford, Brody taught at Queen's University, Belfast and Cambridge prior to arriving in Canada in 1969. An anthropologist, writer, and film-maker, he has been involved extensively in land rights and aboriginal research in the USA, India, Australia, Southern Africa, and Canada. A Canada Research Chair at UFV, his books include *Maps and Dreams*, *Living Arctic* and *The Other Side of Eden*. His films include *The Washing of Tears*, *Time Immemorial*, *Inside Australia* and *Tracks Across the Sand*.



Hugh Brody (www.iidf.co.uk)

WADE DAVIS, Ethnobotanist, Anthropologist, Author

A scientist and advocate for bio-cultural diversity, Wade Davis has been explorer-in-residence at the National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C. and frequently presents documentary specials on public television. A renowned ethnographer, he holds a PhD from Harvard and is the author of nine books. He recently joined University of B.C. as a professor of anthropology and is based there at the Liu Institute for Global Issues.



Wade Davis (Stephen Jackson)

LIZ McDOWELL, Business Development Consultant

Executive director of Conversations For Responsible Development (CRED) B.C., Liz McDowell worked in sustainability and climate change research at Geneva with the U.N. Institute for Training and Research, and is former chair of the Green Jobs Alliance focusing on youth unemployment in London, U.K.



Liz McDowell (credbc.ca)

ERIC de PLACE, Sightlines Institute, Seattle

A widely-respected speaker and media analyst, Eric de Place is researcher, writer, and policy specialist who spearheads Climate and Energy Policy initiatives with Sightlines Institute, Seattle. An authority on issues connected to fossil fuel transport including carbon emissions, railway congestion, and economics.



Eric de Place (Kim Goldberg)

EVE JOSEPH, Poet, Author

Raised in North Vancouver, her first book of poetry *The Startled Heart* was nominated for the Dorothy Livesay Award. Her second, *The Secret Signature of Things* was shortlisted for the Victoria Butler Prize. In 2010 she received the 2010 Malahat Creative Non Fiction Prize. She was married into the Squamish First Nations community for 25 years, and lives in Victoria.



Eve Joseph

ARNOLD SHIVES, Painter, Printmaker

One of Canada's most respected landscape artists and mountaineers, Arnold Shives lives in North Vancouver and exhibits internationally. See *Alpine Anatomy: The Mountain Art of Arnold Shives*.



Arnold Shives (Richard Mantegna)

COLIN JAMES SANDERS, PhD: Psychotherapist

Colin Sanders is a professor with City University of Seattle, Canada, and is Director of the B.C. Master of Counselling Programs. He works with narrative, collaborative, social justice, and liberation perspectives and practices. He studied with Allen Ginsberg and writes on modern literature and Beat Poetics



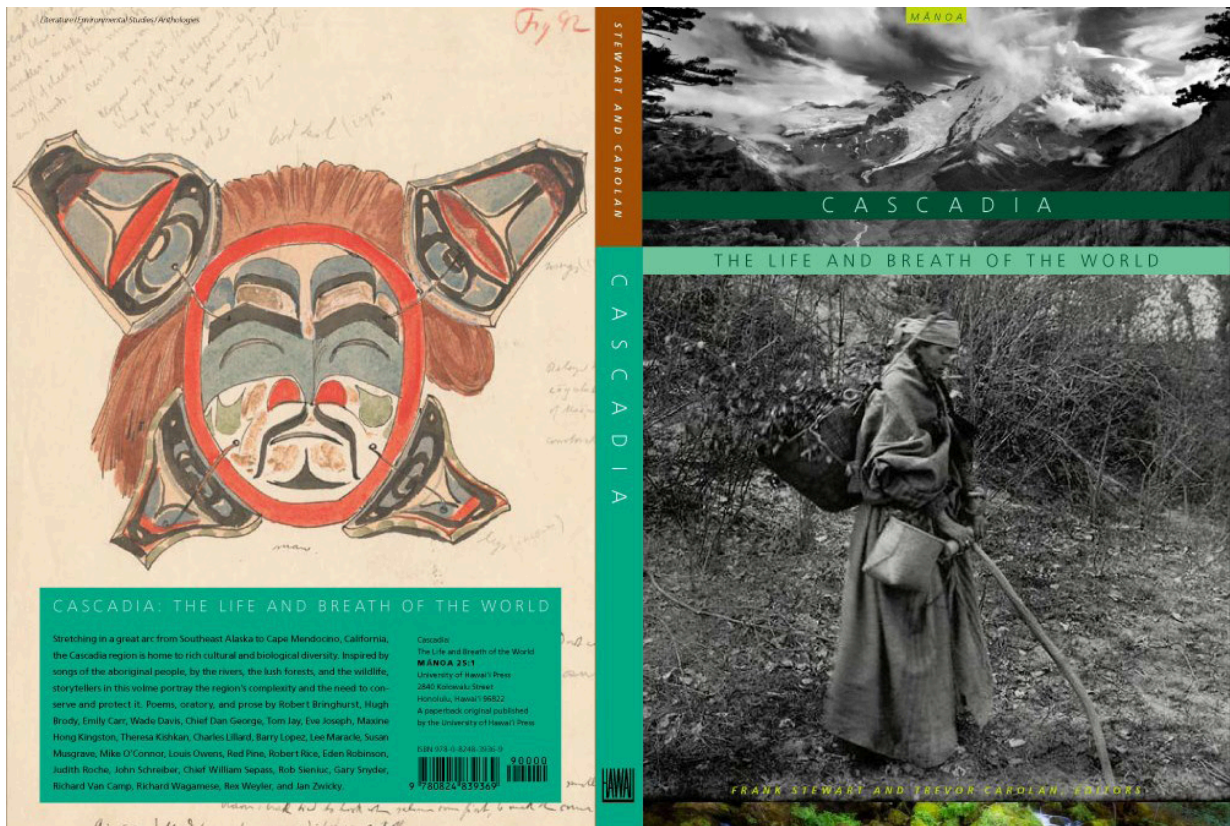
Colin James Sanders

Acknowledgements

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Cover Photo Credits (top to bottom)

1. Moon Over Mt. Baker, Washington (*Tim Snyder*)
2. Rex Weyler (*Univ. of Fraser Valley*)
3. Breaching Humpback, (*Media.audleytravel.com*)
4. Wade Davies (*Megan Verhey*)
5. Joanne Kyger (*Trevor Carolan*)
6. Robert Bringhurst (*Galiano Literary Festival*)
7. Gabriel George (*James MacLennan*)



Cascadia: The Life and Breath of the World, Manoa Journal, July, 2013