



Beneath the Sea  
March 27, 28, 29, 2020  
Meadowlands Exposition Center  
Secaucus, New Jersey

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# International Film Festival

**Saturday, March 28, 2020, 8:30 p.m.**

**Hilton Meadowlands Hotel**

Jonathan Bird, tonight's emcee, was born in Big Spring, Texas in 1969. He earned a BS in Electrical Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts, and an MS in Ocean Engineering from the University of New Hampshire. He combined his passion for photography with diving and soon became serious about underwater photography. He began speaking in schools to spread his passion for protecting the oceans, and soon his school lectures were so popular that they were getting in the way of his "real" job as an engineer at Raytheon. He began learning underwater video so that he could make a video version of his lecture to reach more schools. Twenty five years later, Jonathan is one of the most influential and well-known ocean educators in the world, with millions of viewers on television and the Internet watching his educational series: *Jonathan Bird's Blue World*.



**A** Beneath the Sea Diver of the Year and a long time closed circuit rebreather diver, Laurent Ballesta was the first man to bring back pictures of the Coelacanth photographed in their ecosystem. Laurent has many times taken pictures of species not yet described. The naturalistic and artistic approaches intertwine within his work and Laurent's work is a testimony to the remaining extraordinary rich, yet still, unknown life underwater, and to his endeavor to contribute to a global inventory of marine biodiversity. Tonight Laurent will show: *Filming: 700 Sharks Out of the Dark*



**J**onathan Bird is a Beneath the Sea Diver of the Year and our emcee this evening. Throughout the 1990s, he expanded his ocean career, both as an assignment still photographer and a cinematographer. He won his first Emmy in 1995. In 2004, he produced his first film for National Geographic Television (Sharks of the Ocean Desert). He was the producer, director, and director of photography. Recently Jonathan and his producer wife Christine entered into collaboration with noted filmmaker Howard Hall and his producer wife Michele. What you will see this evening is an extraordinary glimpse of the potential this collaboration has produced: *Secrets*



**G**eorgienne Bradley is a filmmaker and producer. This music video produced by Georgienne was written and performed by Stephanie Quayle. They met on a plane, became fast friends, Georgienne convinced Stephanie to learn to dive and then brought her on an expedition she hosted in Fiji. Stephanie was so smitten with the ocean world, and so taken with Georgienne's anti-shark finning campaigns that she wrote this song. They then decided to create this music video: *Big Blue Town*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Maria Hults, Multi-Mediahouse, 631.728.2285, [mediahouse5309@Gmail.com](mailto:mediahouse5309@Gmail.com)

Jill Heinerth is a Beneath the Sea Diver of the Year in addition to being a cave diver, filmmaker, and author of international repute. More people have walked on the moon, than have been to some of the remote places Jill Heinerth has explored on earth. Jill is a veteran of over twenty-five years of scientific diving, filming/photography and exploration on projects with National Geographic, NOAA, various educational institutions and television networks worldwide. Recognized as one of the planet's great underwater explorers, her expeditions include the first dives inside Antarctica icebergs and record breaking scientific missions in deep underwater caves around the world. In recognition of her lifetime achievement, Jill was appointed as the inaugural Explorer in Residence for the Royal Canadian Geographical Society She is also no stranger to the Beneath the Sea stage having appeared here on many an occasion. It goes along with her cave diving reputation that this evening Jill once again takes us into an overhead environment with her latest exploration: *Under Thin Ice*



Nickolas Konstantinou is a career scuba diver and underwater photographer. He made his first dive to 80 feet two days before he was born with his mother marine biologist Eugenie Clark, aka "The Shark Lady." Niki co-produced his first short film "Pee Wee Goes Hawaiian" with actor Paul Reubens. The film was aired on the Late Night Show with David Letterman. While operating Sea Sage Diving Center in Kauai, Hawaii, Niki helped coordinate underwater productions such as *Picture Perfect Hawaii*, Jack McKenney's *Dive to Adventure* TV series, CBS's 50th anniversary Pearl Harbor special, Discovery Channel's Ultimate Guide to Sharks and feature films, "Millennium" and "Spy Kids". For the last fifteen years, Niki has been working in Las Vegas at "O" by Cirque du Soleil as a safety diver and artist handler. Tonight Beneath the Sea has the privilege of showing you his unique perspective: *O from Below*



Michel Lebreque and Julie Ouimet are Explorers Club Fellows, Associate Members of the Boston Sea Rovers, and co-owners of N2Pix. They are frequent expedition leaders and guest speakers at film festivals throughout Canada, the US, and Europe. They are also co-founders of an international underwater film festival. They are a photography/videography/technical diving dynamic duo! Their film this evening is: *Freaks*



Brian Skerry is a photojournalist specializing in marine wildlife and underwater environments. Since 1998 he has been a contributing photographer for National Geographic Magazine covering a wide range of subjects and stories. Brian has also worked on assignment for or had images featured in magazines such as Sports Illustrated, The NY Times, The Washington Post, Paris Match, Esquire, and Audubon. Brian is the author of 11 books including the acclaimed monographs Ocean Soul and SHARK. Brian is an 11-time award winner in the prestigious Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition. Brian is the Explorer-In-Residence and a Trustee at the New England Aquarium. Tonight Brian will show us his film: *Reflections*



Internationally acclaimed artist Wyland shares his vision on how art and music are powerful mediums to connect people to conservation today. The fact is art and music have always had a profound impact on civilization. Art is an international language that is understood instinctively by people around the world. Art throughout history has reflected the times and today's environmental challenges are embraced by artists who find creative ways to educate and inspire the public about the issues facing the health of our planet today. Art and music may play one of the most important roles in sharing both the beauty and destruction of our water planet. Wyland's hope is that when people see the beauty in nature they'll work to preserve it. Tonight Wyland will show us his: *Blues Planet*

