

2026 GREEN SCREEN FILM SERIES at the Napa Library

By Susan Crosby

Ta-da! Free-to-the-public, content-rich, hope-inducing documentaries are back! This month, the Napa Public Library, in partnership with Napa's volunteer climate action group, Napa Climate NOW!, enters its third season of the Green Screen Film Series.

The screenings will take place in the Community Events room at the Coombs Street library at 2:00 pm on four Sunday afternoons. The films cover a wide range of topics. Some show the natural world at its most lyrically beautiful, others include satire and humor; some are set in the US, others are international. Come and be surprised at how simple some of the solutions are – and sometimes, how ancient.

In film after film, we see the wonders of the natural world, and the deep, non-negotiable truth that we are part of it. Conservation and preservation are acts of self-preservation, too. These films are invitations to join with others around the world to look the facts in the face and not turn away. People everywhere are finding solutions.

January 25, a double feature with a focus on water:

Brave Blue World (54 minutes). This award-winning documentary takes an optimistic look at the new technologies and ancient practices used by communities across five continents to save and manage water. Narrated by Matt Damon, co-founder of Water.org.

Reviving Rivers (25 minutes). Some of the best solutions for water security come from people who live close to the land. Here, a doctor comes to a remote area of Rajasthan, India, to treat villagers and learns that water is needed more than medicine. "If Earth is sick, nobody is healthy."

February 22, a triple feature examining the grim reality of waste, then highlighting effective ways to confront it:

Eating Our Way to Extinction (35 minutes). This film is an unblinking look at the effects our food choices have on the natural world and all living things – and how we can help.

A World Without Waste: Circular Economy (48 minutes). Have your eyes snapped open by images of trash mountains now piling up around the world. Take heart – there are ways we can change that.

Imagine an Economy Where You Don't Have to Buy Anything (4 minutes). “Sharing economies” in North and South America – some traditional, others newly formed – bring people together to reduce waste and save money by sharing or trading all sorts of things.

March 22, a double feature about over-consumption:

Buy Now! The Shopping Conspiracy (84 minutes). Be offended by the way corporations distort the truth of their manufacturing practices by greenwashing, manipulating facts, and telling consumers to recycle. Delivered with humor and satire, it's an instruction manual for how not to be “played” by businesses that would rather fool their customers than change their own behavior.

The Story of Stuff: Electronics and e-waste (7 minutes). This animated film about the waste generated by our devices offers a compelling conclusion: Extended Producer Responsibility. “You made it, you deal with it.”

April 12, two films that showcase the astonishing resilience of the natural world:

Wilding (72 minutes). Set in England, this is a personal account of a dying estate inherited by a young family who allow it to revive on its own. A film of stunning beauty, it's a visual homage to the animals and birds that rewild the land when given the chance.

Water Harvester (26 minutes). When Brad Lancaster learned that more rain fell annually on the city of Tucson than the residents use, while the city was paying millions to pump water uphill from the Colorado River, he began an undercover

experiment that transformed his neighborhood. The *before-and-after* photos he made over a decade dazzled the City Council.

Actions You Can Take

- Please mark your calendars for all four Sundays and join us at the library.
- Come to our Napa Climate NOW! retreat on Saturday, January 17th, to learn how you can get involved with our Green Screen Film Series and other activities. Contact Chris Benz at christinabbenz@gmail.com for details.

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Napa Climate NOW! is a local nonprofit citizens' group advocating for smart climate solutions based on the latest climate science, part of 350 Bay Area.

Info, napa.350bayarea.org

Photo credit: Submitted

Photo caption: Brave Blue World will be shown on January 25 at the Napa Library.

