

# MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## SCIENCE ON SCREEN: RARELY SHOWN FILMS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TROPICAL RESEARCH CAPTURE THE LIVES OF SCIENTISTS AND SEA CREATURES IN THE 1930S

**Museum presents screening with live music and discussion with scientist Howard Rosenbaum and aquanaut and filmmaker Fabien Cousteau**

**Sunday, February 25, 2018, 2:00 p.m.**

Astoria, New York, February 1, 2018—William Beebe, a famed ecologist, ornithologist, and ichthyologist from New York City, made record-setting ocean dives in the 1930s in his steel-walled Bathysphere to discover marine organisms. Beebe led the field research team the Department of Tropical Research (DTR) which was part of the New York Zoological Society, now known as the Wildlife Conservation Society headquartered at the Bronx Zoo. The DTR was comprised of women and men, scientists and artists, some of whom went on to Hollywood fame. Among them were Ruth Rose and Ernest Schoedsack who made *King Kong*. Another member, Floyd Crosby, got his first professional experience behind a movie camera on a 1927 expedition to Haiti; he would later be known for his luminous black-and-white cinematography of *Tabu* and *High Noon*. On Sunday, February 25, as part of its ongoing series *Science on Screen*<sup>®</sup>, the Museum of the Moving Image will present **Of the Deep: Films by the Department of Tropical Research**, a program of rare documentary films that Crosby and other DTR members shot—some of which have not been screened since the DTR members showed them in their lifetimes—followed by a discussion with oceanographic explorer and filmmaker **Fabien Cousteau**, grandson of Jacques Cousteau, with conservation biologist and marine mammal researcher **Howard Rosenbaum** of the Wildlife Conservation Society and the American Museum of Natural History. The program will be introduced by **Jon Forrest Dohlin**, the Director of the New York Aquarium where the Bathysphere is on view.

The films in this program show the marine landscape as it was almost 90 years ago, featuring coral reefs, barracuda, octopus, and other sea creatures. They also show William Beebe and members of his crew at work, particularly Gloria Hollister who set a record for a deep-sea dive completed by a woman when she descended more than 1,000 feet deep in the 1930s. The film program, running approximately 40 minutes, will be accompanied live by multi-instrumentalist High Water.

“Of the Deep” will be presented in the Museum’s majestic Redstone Theater (36-01 35 Ave, Astoria, Queens, NY). Tickets are \$15 with discounts for Museum members, students, and seniors. To purchase advance tickets and for more information, visit [movingimage.us/scienceonscreen](http://movingimage.us/scienceonscreen).

The Museum’s *Science on Screen* series, an initiative of the Coolidge Corner Theatre Foundation supported by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, brings together scientists and filmmakers and is organized by Sonia Epstein, Executive Editor of *Sloan Science & Film*. Previous events have featured venomous snail researcher Mandë Holford in conversation with Isabella Rossellini about her “Green Porno” series, Alex Rivera with human-robot specialist Wendy Ju talking about his thriller *Sleep Dealer*, and screenwriter Jim Taylor with bioethicist S. Matthew Liao talking about *Downsizing*.

**About the speakers:**

Fabien Cousteau is an oceanographic explorer, conservator, and filmmaker who grew up on his grandfather Jacques Cousteau’s ships. Cousteau led the longest scientific expedition on the world’s only underwater marine laboratory, living underwater for 31 days. He has studied sharks, coral reefs, and worked to restore ecosystems. Cousteau has used film underwater to study marine animals, and has collaborated to produce television specials such as *Attacks of the Mystery Shark* (National Geographic), *Mind of a Demon* (CBS), and *Ocean Adventures* (PBS). Cousteau is founder of the Ocean Learning Center, which raises awareness and leads initiatives to help preserve marine habitats and life.

Howard Rosenbaum is the Director of the Wildlife Conservation Society’s Ocean Giants Program and has more than 25 years experience in marine mammal research and conservation activities involving a number of large whale and dolphin species. His research interests involve the application of current techniques in molecular biology to the conservation of wildlife. In addition to his position at the Wildlife Conservation Society, Dr. Rosenbaum is a Senior Scientist at the American Museum of Natural History, is on the United States delegation to the International Whaling Commission, and is a faculty member at Columbia University.

Jon Forrest Dohlin is a Vice President of the Wildlife Conservation Society and the Director of the New York Aquarium, where he oversees the care and exhibition of its animals and conservation programs. Under his leadership, the Aquarium is nearing completion of the \$150 million "Ocean Wonders: Sharks!" exhibit which will introduce visitors to New York City’s marine wildlife and the work WCS researchers are doing to protect it. The Aquarium is also beginning construction on a \$100 million rebuild of the areas damaged by Hurricane Sandy, which will include resiliency measures to protect the facility in future weather events.

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**Press contact:** Tomoko Kawamoto, [tkawamoto@movingimage.us](mailto:tkawamoto@movingimage.us) / 718 777 6830

**Press coverage is invited. To RSVP, please email Tomoko.**

### About Museum of the Moving Image

Museum of the Moving Image (movingimage.us)–based in Astoria, New York–advances the understanding, enjoyment, and appreciation of the art, history, and technology of film, television, and digital media. In its stunning facility, the Museum presents exhibitions; screenings of significant works and discussions; education programs that serve more than 50,000 students each year; and collects and preserves moving-image related artifacts.

### About the Wildlife Conservation Society

The mission of the Wildlife Conservation Society is to save wildlife and wild places worldwide through science, conservation action, and education. To achieve this mission WCS, based at the Bronx Zoo, harnesses the power of its Global Conservation Program in nearly 60 nations, in all the world's oceans, and in its five wildlife parks in New York City. WCS combines its expertise in the field, zoos, and aquarium to achieve its conservation mission.

### About the Fabien Cousteau Ocean Learning Center

The Fabien Cousteau Ocean Learning Center (OLC), is an international 501(c)(3) organization founded by the eldest grandson of the legendary ocean explorer, Jacques Cousteau. Fabien Cousteau launched the OLC in 2016 to fulfill his dream of creating a vehicle to make a positive change in the world. The OLC's mission to raise awareness, educate, and inform all citizens of the world of ways to protect and preserve the planet's waters, coastal areas, and endangered marine habitats and marine life.

### About *Sloan Science & Film*

*Sloan Science & Film* (scienceandfilm.org) is a comprehensive website published by the Museum of the Moving Image and edited by Sonia Epstein that explores the intersection of science and film. *Science & Film*, which receives support from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, frequently publishes articles and interviews with scientists and filmmakers, commissions critical pieces by scientists, and provides educational resources to accompany science-themed narrative films.

## **MUSEUM INFORMATION**

Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday, 10:30 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, 10:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Museum Admission: \$15 adults (18+); \$11 senior citizens (65+) and students (18+) with ID; \$7 youth (ages 3–17). Children under 3 and Museum members are admitted free. Admission to the galleries is free on Fridays, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Film Screenings: Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays, and as scheduled. Unless otherwise noted, ticket are \$15 adults / \$11 Standard members, seniors and students / \$7 youth 3–17 / Free for members at the Film Lover and Kids Premium levels and above. (Tickets for New Releases are discounted for Museum members.) Advance purchase is available online. Ticket purchase may be applied toward same-day admission to the Museum's galleries.

Location: 36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street) in Astoria.

Subway: M (weekdays only) or R to Steinway Street. Q (weekdays only) or N to Broadway.

Program Information: Telephone: 718 777 6888; Website: movingimage.us

Membership: <http://movingimage.us/support/membership> or 718 777 6877

Museum of the Moving Image is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and has received significant support from the following public agencies: New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; New York City Council; New York City Economic Development Corporation; New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; Institute of Museum and Library Services; National Endowment for the Humanities; National Endowment for the Arts; and Natural Heritage Trust (administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation). For more information, please visit [movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us).