

World Premiere 'The Thin Green Line'

This is YOUR chance to get involved and make a difference to fellow Rangers working in some of the most difficult and dangerous places in the world. The ultimate in Film Premieres to celebrate the first *International Day of the Ranger* takes place on 31st July 2007!

Sean Willmore is a Park Ranger working in Warrigine Park in Victoria, Australia. He is also a man on a Mission – to tell the story of rangers working around the world and bring that story to the wider community, revealing the real picture behind the postcards of international parks and reserves. In doing so Sean also wants to raise lots of money for the dependents of those rangers killed in the line of duty.

In 2003 Sean met fellow rangers from across the globe at the International Ranger Federation Congress at Wilson's Promontory National Park, near Melbourne, Australia. Here he encountered people from very different backgrounds, but found they had far more in common than they had separating them. Sean was inspired by his experience at the Congress to travel the globe to meet rangers and to make a film showing their struggles and triumphs.

The Aim

In developing countries, conservationists are all too often on the front line. Rangers in these places face genuine life threatening situations; battling poachers, protecting wild creatures and enduring often extreme elements. By filming rangers at work Sean wanted to create a different way of looking at the wonders of our world and communicating the daily threats to its very survival.

On Location

Sean spent over a year filming the lives and stories of rangers on six continents and in nineteen countries. There were some incredible experiences: volcanoes, ascents by horseback in Chile and Argentina, a charging elephant in South Africa, drowning rivers in Costa Rica, Mountain Gorilla protection in the volatile Virungas of Uganda, helicopter rescues in the Rockies, dangerous anti-poaching patrols and chases in South Africa, Galapagos, Uganda and India, not to mention violent threats by rebel soldiers, antagonistic poaching communities and protesting fishermen.

These experiences embrace the life stories and challenges facing Rangers around the world, global colleagues who often have to cope with corruption, poor re-sourcing, ignorance, politics and greed.

A Human Tale

This documentary distances itself from the cute, cuddly or dangerous animals seen in traditional wildlife documentaries. The animals become the backdrop for the human face of conservation. The aim of the film is to highlight the dedication and fragility of 'The Thin Green Line' in the hope that others will join Rangers to save our endangered wildlife, cultures and habitats. Each and every Ranger has threads to add to the story, from different locations, personal histories, cultural influences and political environments.

World Wide Premiere

The film had a 'first viewing' at the IRF Congress in Stirling, Scotland in June 2006. Since then it has very much caught the imagination of the press and the public in Sean's native Australia. The film has been transformed into a professionally edited, full post production feature and is now ready for a mass global launch on 31st July - International Day of the Ranger!

The film is a totally non-profit venture. All profits from sales will go to Rangers on the frontline, including via the International Ranger Dependency Fund, which supports the families of rangers who have lost their lives, or those rangers who have been severely injured in the line of duty. The documentary is a world first showing the human story of frontline conservation on six continents.

How You Can Help

Sean has put everything he has into this project, literally! He sold his car and re-mortgaged his house three times to make the film. He is obviously passionate and committed but needs you to step up and get involved in this positive conservation project!

You can get involved and support the Project in the following ways:

- Be part of the World Wide Premiere on July 31st 2007 that will see 50 countries and up to 500 locations will launch the film on the one night, in locations all over the globe. You can be a part of it. How?
- Host your own Green Carpet Gala Thin Green Line premiere on the same night. Rangers and communities around the world are being asked to organize and host their own premiere, why not be part of it and host your own? It's easy!! It can be a private premiere for families and friends or a public event. Registration forms are on line- www.thinggreenline.info. When you register you will receive a hosts package with all the info you need.
- Buy a copy of The Thin Green Line final release and invite your friends around to watch it. Collect lot of funds and send them in as soon as you can. The DVD will be available online in May at www.thinggreenline.info
- If you cant organize your premiere why not turn up and show your support at one of the premieres? You can register your interest to participate at www.thinggreenline.info where you'll receive updates
- There will be a live web update page as people send in their totals on the night.

So lets all come together to help rangers around the world and conservation on this historic night for the ranger community. You can do your bit!

- Article by Countryside Management Association for -

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The Thin Green Line
International Ranger Documentary