

# SCINEMA

## INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FILM FESTIVAL 2018

### ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM (G) RUN TIME 140mins

#### **GRASSROOTS** (Australia) 19:10 mins Best Documentary

**Directed by** Frank Oly  
**Produced and Written by** Tegan Nock

As a soil specialist, Guy Webb has spent years, searching for ways to improve the health of Australia's degraded farming soils. When he stumbles upon a piece of microbial research that is a breakthrough in soil science, he inadvertently becomes responsible for ensuring that this essential knowledge is not lost. With the help of the farmers around him, he sets himself the challenge to take scientific knowledge and transform it into a practical technology to be used across the globe.

Grassroots follows Guy Webb and his friends, unlikely heroes on a quest to bring a genuine climate change solution to the world.

**Jury comment:** *This story of farmers turned accidental activists is one you want to share with everyone you know. It shows that science shouldn't remain in the arena of labs and academics – instead it shows that people who need this technology can go out and fight for it.*

#### **NATURE CALLS** (Australia) 3:00 mins

**By** Harry Vincent

*Nature Calls* depicts Mother Nature as a real person walking amongst us. Having ignored her warning signs for many years, we are getting close to the point of no return - without her we will perish.

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for the  
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#### **PLANET EARTH II: GRASSLANDS** (UK) 59:00 mins Special Jury Award

**Directed and Produced by** Chadden Hunter

Grasslands cover one quarter of all land and support vast gatherings of wildlife, but to survive here animals must endure the most hostile seasonal changes on the planet. From Asia's bizarre-looking saiga antelope to the giant anteaters of Brazil, grassland animals have adapted in extraordinary ways to cope with these extremes. In the flooded Okavango, lions take on formidable buffalo in epic battles, on the savannah bee-eaters take advantage of elephants to help catch insects and, on the freezing northern tundra, caribou embark on great migrations shadowed by hungry Arctic wolves.

**Jury comment:** *Visually stunning, with writing to aspire to, BBC Earth and the stories they tell are truly one of the jewels of documentary making in the world. This wonderful effort is no exception.*

#### **THE KINGDOM – HOW FUNGI MADE OUR WORLD** (Australia) 52:00 mins Best Film

**Directed by** Annamaria Talas, Simon Nasht (Australia)

**Produced by** Susan MacKinnon (Australia), Anne Pick, Bill Spahic (Canada)

Hidden from sight is the Kingdom of Fungi that rules life on land. It's an alien world with the largest and oldest organisms alive today. It was fungi that made life possible on a barren planet and it was fungi that brought life back to Earth after the last mass extinction event. By looking at fungi in the context of evolution and natural history, scientists are making discoveries that will change our lives. Some fungi will save us, others will threaten us and we are just beginning to understand which is which.

**Jury comment:** *This film takes us on a wonderfully creative journey from the beginning of time to the present, revealing the hidden world of fungi with beautiful cinematography.*

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