

A Film by Sylvie Rokab

LOVE THY NATURE

With Liam Neeson
as the voice of Sapiens



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LOVE THY NATURE



Short Synopsis:

We've lost touch with nature. This disconnect hurts our health, dulls our spirit, and threatens our future. Narrated by **Liam Neeson**, *Love Thy Nature* is a cinematic journey through the beauty and intimacy of our relationship with the natural world. And it shows that a renewed connection with nature is key not only to our well being, but also to solving our climate and environmental crises.

Medium Synopsis:

We've lost touch with nature. This disconnect hurts our health, dulls our spirit, and threatens our future. Narrated by **Liam Neeson**, *Love Thy Nature* is a cinematic journey into the beauty and intimacy of our relationship with the natural world. With mesmerizing artistry and fascinating details, the film explores how nature nourishes us.

Neeson is the voice of Homo Sapiens – our collective humankind – who, in the past few thousand years, has come to believe that we are separate from nature. This mind-set has caused us to disrupt billions of years of evolution, causing a mass extinction of species and threatening the survival of the human race.

Love Thy Nature shows that a new era of connectedness with the natural world is key to ensuring our species' future. This era might just be dawning: A new science called biomimicry taps into nature's four billion years of R&D for some of the most brilliant cutting edge inventions, pointing to a new highly advanced technological age – The Biological Revolution.

In the medicine, doctors are unveiling new findings on the role of nature in sustaining and healing the human body. And experts have discovered that just spending time in nature promotes healing, emotional stability, connectedness, and even neurological health in children.

Through Sapiens' journey, the film reveals how a relationship with nature ignites a sense of meaning and wonder so profound that it touches us at the very core of what it means to be human.

Traversing the globe, *Love Thy Nature* shares the dazzling spectacles of our planet while revealing how a deeper connection with nature transforms us as people and communities. And that transformation inspires us not only to restore our ecosystems, but also our human family, and ourselves.

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Director's Statement

There are many films that have been addressing our environmental crisis. While they play a crucial role in raising awareness, for years I had yearned to find a film that looked at the root cause of that crisis – our feeling separate from nature – and inspired a renewed sense of connection with the natural world.

Born in Rio de Janeiro and raised by parents who were nature-lovers, I was a lucky kid, with the Atlantic forest as my teacher, healer, and playmate. Everything in the natural world fascinated me, so a dreamy weekend was one spent sharing with my school buddies the wild workings of nature.

As an adult – and a filmmaker – my fascination with and desire to share nature only grew, but it also came with a deep sadness as I witnessed the relentless destruction of so many natural places and beings. I wondered... how could anyone possibly let this happen? If people loved nature as much as they love their children, would we still allow its destruction? These thoughts and emotions became the seed for *Love Thy Nature*.

Through the transformation of Liam Neeson's character "Sapiens," the film invites viewers to "fall in love" with nature. My wish is that they come to realize that a deeper connection with the natural world won't just ignite a desire to protect it, but ultimately, allow them to experience a new level of meaning, connection, and fulfillment in their own lives.

As I engage with audiences after our festivals' screenings around the world, I'm elated to find a spark of transformation, shining in unique and delightful ways.

When I hear a middle-age man thanking me for the "love fest" or a college student sharing that the film helped her set a new course for her life, or the story of a shy 7-year old, who, right after watching the film, threw himself in the arms of a stranger, I'm both gratified and grateful beyond belief.

I wish them – and you – Nature.

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BIOGRAPHIES



SYLVIE ROKAB, MA— WRITER, DIRECTOR, PRODUCER, CINEMATOGRAPHER, EDITOR

Sylvie Rokab is an Emmy nominated, award-winning documentary filmmaker with over 20 years experience as a producer, director, cinematographer, editor and writer in film and television.

Sylvie started her career editing shows for HBO and Comedy Central and later moved on to serve as a director of photography on projects for PBS and the Travel Channel. Rokab directed, wrote, and line-produced the award-winning Discovery Health Channel, series *House of Babies*, on natural childbirth. She also produced and directed *Innervation*, an award-winning feature documentary on sexual abuse, described by critics as “gripping” and “brave.” Her latest film *Love Thy Nature* – narrated by Liam Neeson – earned 25 awards and will soon open in theaters

Committed to giving back, Sylvie has lent her talents as a writer and director to award-winning PSAs which aired on CNN, MSNBC, and FOX as well as ABC, CBS and NBC affiliates. In 2009, she received an Emmy nomination for *A Life Back*, a PSA on addiction recovery. Sylvie has been a recipient of several grants and has earned Telly, Aurora, and Communicator Awards among others. She holds an M.A. from Barry University and studied film production at NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts.

A native of Rio de Janeiro, Sylvie currently resides in Los Angeles, having made the U.S. her home for 25 years. Raised by French and Italian parents born in Egypt, she is fluent in five languages and a worldwide traveler. Thanks to her eclectic, multi-cultural background, Sylvie embraces universality in her filmmaking and seeks to inspire a global audience.



TAMRA RAVEN – CO-PRODUCER

Tamra’s producing for film, TV and multi-media includes the award-winning feature film *A Walk Into The Sea: Danny Williams and The Warhol Factory* as well as all episodes of Disney’s *The Science of Imagineering* series. A documentary she directed and produced, *Rats To Roses* (profiling the importance of community gardens and the forces that all too often threaten their existence) was nominated for a NY Emmy, won a Showtime award and later aired on the Sundance Channel (*The Sierra Club Chronicles*, hosted by Daryl Hannah).

Tamra also directed and produced *A New Hope*, a documentary about teens in Israel who are working to demonstrate peaceful co-existence as an achievable reality. She won a Telly Award for a promo series she produced and directed. TV production includes work for A&E, ABC, AMC, Disney, The History Channel, The Biography Channel, VH1, Court TV, TLC, MTV, MSG, Oxygen and more. Additional projects include producing a web-series about animal rescue sponsored by Dawn, worldwide travel documentaries (EquatorHD), and international film festival campaigns for ReelzChannel. Tamra also worked with *Love Thy Nature* advisory board member Holly Mosher on her documentary *Bonsai People*.

LOVE THY NATURE

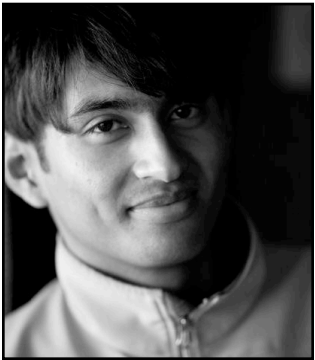


ELANE SOUDA – CO-PRODUCER

With more than 30 years expertise in the arts, nonprofit administration, and fundraising, Elaine is a sought-after communications, media, and design consultant.

Elaine is a dynamic champion for *Love Thy Nature*. As Co-Producer, she brings passion and talent to her many roles as script editor, creative consultant, fundraiser, film festival liaison, social media expert and writer. The project is the perfect complement to her life's work and her lifelong commitment to environmental causes.

She earned her BFA in acting and theater arts from Florida State University. After moving to New York City, Elaine studied with Uta Hagen, Mira Rostova, and at the Actor's Studio. She is an accomplished painter and studied at the Art Students League in New York City where she received merit scholarships to study with Robert Beverly Hale and Richard Pousette-Dart.



ROHAN CHITRAKAR – CINEMATOGRAPHER

Rohan Chitrakar has been working as a Director of Photography on documentary films for 10 years. Through his film projects, Rohan has captured stunning images in remote locations around the globe: from Canada, to Chile, Nepal, India and Myanmar. His goal is to capture visually the beauty in all human beings and their environment.

His films include: *Nutshimit: On the Land* – a documentary film about the semi-nomadic hunting people of Labrador, Canada and their struggles to continue living off their land and preserve their culture; *Following the Ninth* – a feature documentary that follows the adoption of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony by victims of civil conflict across the globe; and *Little White Flowers* – an award-winning short film loosely adapted from the writings of Washington Irving and Edgar Allan Poe.

Born in Kathmandu, Nepal, Rohan's career in film began with a strong interest in the visual arts. As a student, he was trained in painting, sculpture, and photography. He later attended Boston University to study Cinematography and received an MFA in 2006. Rohan is currently based in Los Angeles, California.



FRANÇOIS-PAUL AÏCHE – COMPOSER

Composer and pianist François-Paul Aïche was born in Marseille, France in 1977. Upon receiving his Baccalauréat in music and literature, he went on to study composition, orchestration and harmony at the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston, from which he graduated in 2001 with a degree in Film Scoring and Music Production & Engineering.

His composition work has been featured in commercial campaigns such as Martel XO, Levis, Nissan, Axe, Nike and others, in video games like *The Matrix: Path of Neo* and *Spiderman 3*, in TV shows like *Phenomenon*, *Majors and Minors*, and movie trailers such as *Water For Elephants* and *The Fifth Estate*.

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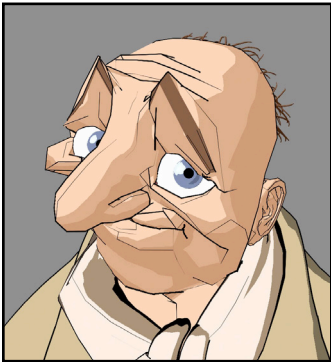


DARIUS FISHER – ASSOCIATE PRODUCER, VFX ARTIST

Darius Fisher is the producer and editor of several award-winning films on subjects ranging from alternative energy to peace in the Middle East. He also provides boutique style post-production and visual effects services for feature films and documentaries.

Darius is the founder of Digital Neural Axis (DNA), a production facility based in Topanga Canyon, Los Angeles. A graduate of Sussex University, England, he earned a B.A. in French, and European Studies. In the mid nineties Darius was based in New York City where he worked as an editor, motion graphic designer and visual effects artist.

After founding DNA he moved to Los Angeles to work on major films as a digital artist and VFX supervisor and producer. Among some of DNA's projects were *The Aviator*, *The Last Samurai*, *Superman Returns* and *Real Steel*. He was the online editor and post supervisor on a number of award winning documentaries including, *Encounter Point*, *Fuel*, *Budrus*, *Bhutto* and most recently a documentary feature called *The Big Fix* that premiered at the 2011 Cannes Film Festival. He also produces and co-produces documentaries.



KEITH ENGLISH – 3D ANIMATOR

In an animation career spanning 20 years, Keith has worked on a wide range of productions including developing product for a multitude of Film Festivals, Cartoon Network, Disney, and Jim Cameron; was commissioned to create an animated work for a John Lasseter tribute; animated a main character in Sam Raimi's *Drag Me to Hell*; was working with Michael Jackson on *Thriller* for the Michael Jackson's *THIS IS IT* stage show (when Michael passed away) and completed concept design work and previsualizations for the producers of Sony's *Fall from Grace* (2014), conceptualizing how a six-winged angel and a 12 winged angel would levitationally swordfight in

The Chamber of Creation.

Keith has taught animation and Visual Effects for the Digital Media Academy at Stanford University, at other prestigious universities and at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories where he brought all of their animators under the umbrella of one animation software. He recently directed an award winning short about Mercedes and the first car journey ever, *Around the Benz* and is working on pre-production for two animated features, film festivals and documentaries. In addition to feature and documentary work, Keith is currently developing his own quirky, irreverent animation series based on his nostalgic view of his beloved Britain – *Lower Piddle*.

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CAST & EXPERTS

Narrator (as "Sapiens")

Liam Neeson

Experts / Interviewees

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Dayna Baumeister, PhD | Co-Founder – Biomimicry 3.8 |
| Brian Swimme, PhD | Cosmologist |
| Andy Lipkis | Founder – TreePeople |
| Philip Barr, MD | Integrative Medicine |
| Duane Elgin | Social Scientist, NASA Consultant |
| Stephen R. Kellert, PhD | Social Ecology Scholar, Yale University |
| Evon Peter | Gwich'in, Alaska Indigenous Leader |
| Jean Shinoda Bolen, MD | Psychiatrist, Jungian Analyst |
| Jay Harman | Biomimicry Scientist |
| Elisabet Sahtouris, PhD | Evolutionary Biologist |
| Julian Walker | Mind-Body Healer |
| Alex Zaphiris, MD | Integrative Medicine |

Cast (partial list)

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Demi Jiova | Digital glass scientist |
| Jason Her | Anxious office worker |
| Terrance Murphy | Stressed man in city time lapse |
| Tyler Cook | Rock climber |
| Dillion Skelton | Digital kid; water fight kid |
| Krista Tiffin | Digital kid; water fight kid |
| Danielli Amorim | Yogi in natural pool; poster woman |
| Cassandra Vega | Girl in white dress in forest; sick girl in bed |
| Jorge Correa Da Silva | Agrarian ancestor |
| Marek Probosz | Scientist inspired by Morpho butterfly |
| Karel Curras | Dad with toddler in the ocean |
| Emma Amelia Curras | Toddler w/ dad in ocean; w/ mom on grass |
| Lizette Padilla | Sick girl's mother, grieving 9/11 woman |
| Malu | Toddler eating salad; with dad on river rock |
| Raquel Kel A. Santos | Mom w/ running toddler |
| Rafael Fonseca Silveira | Dad w/ running toddler |
| Carmen Tavares C.A. | Woman recovering from surgery |
| Suellen Romani | Nurse |
| Fernando Barone | Man walking on river rocks; diving |
| Candance Camcron | Mother swinging and kissing child |

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Production Team

Director, Producer, Writer Sylvie Rokab

Writer, Dramaturgist Fernanda Rossi

Cinematographers Rohan Chitrakar
Sylvie Rokab
Eriberto Almeida Jr.

Co-Producers Tamra Raven
Elaine Souda
David Garfield Roland

Composer François-Paul Aïche

Associate Producers Darius Fisher
Sheila Laffey
Patrick Rokab
Andreas Gilb
Suzanne Gazda
Jennifer Ingle

Line Producers Kerri Thomas (Hawaii)
Kristin Tiesche (San Francisco)
Roberto Rokab (Alaska)
Luciana Pereira Protásio (Rio de Janeiro)
Celso Woltzenlogel (Vassouras, Brazil)
Jennifer Ingle (Los Angeles)
Marko Sanginetto (Miami)
Guy Nockels (Namibia)

Advisory Board Holly Mosher
Carole Dean

Additional Cinematographers Rob Sweeney
Wes Malkin
Gerry Daniel Velazquez

Casting Director Maria O'Driscoll

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Science Advisors Dayna Baumeister, PhD
Peter Vukusic, PhD
Linda Eremita

Advisory Board Holly Mosher
Carole Dean

Researchers Neila Columbo
Adam Salkin
Roma Sur

Production Coordinator Lucy Engelman

Additional Camera Operators Kristin Tieche
Luca Chiari

Assistant Camera Scott O'Neill
Alessandro R. Leão

Still Photographers Eriberto Almeida Junior
Roberto Rokab
Marilee Frazier Koch

Gaffers Gareth Taylor
Jeff Noble
Jason Goodhue
Dan Schmeltzer
Gerry Polinsky
Alessandro R. Leão

Grips Trevor Tobie
Michael Spurling Jr.

Safety Supervisor / Rigging Grip Bob Gaines

Sound Recordists Celso Bulgatti
Daniel Scuffle
Aaron Muncy
Patrick Selvage
Gabriel Vidauri
Jeff Hayash

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Jib Operator Victor Pancerev

Storyboard Artist Alberto Verdeja

Make-up Artists Eric F. Aber-Athar
Juliana Monteiro

Assistants to the Producer Lauren Lillie
Eyoälha Baker
Lucy Engelman

Wildlife & Nature Guides Eric Berlow
Jeremia Amutenya
Golfriedt Apollus

Post-Production Team

Visual Effects Supervisor Darius Fisher

Animators Mauro Contaldi
Keith English

Digital Intermediate Prehistoric Digital, Santa Monica, CA

Colorists Kevin Cannon
Chris Hall

DI Producer William Adashek

Editor Sylvie Rokab

Online Editor Josef Sipkins

Time Lapse Editors Todd Segal
Eriberto Almeida Jr

Assistant Editor Patrick Owens

Digital Imaging Technician Henry Ledesma

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Re-recording Mixer Michael Perricone C.A.S.

Supervisor Sound Editor Jeremy Grody

Sound Designers Dan Kremer
Claes Nystrom
Aaron Steinberg

Sound Mixers Aaron Steinberg
Jeremy Grody
Isai Espinoza

Trailer Composer & Singer Lisbeth Scott

Marketing Team

Poster Art & Graphic Design Marcus Alonso

Social Media Strategists Leah Lamb
Joyce Liu Countryman
Julia Walsh
Brad Wilke

Social Media Specialists Elaine Souda
Patrick Owens
Ilan Behar
Tamra Raven

Website Developers Marcus Alonso
Allison Kiessling
Daniel Boyles
Steve Tchorzewski

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Outreach Team

Outreach Producers Matthew Chandler
Shelly Ericksen
Maggie Jane Cech
Michelle Fawcett

Theatrical Coordinator Amy Segal
Kelly Soule

Coordinator Jenny Ishammar

Outreach Researchers Emma Piper-Burket
Faith Eselé
Allison Erica Wolf
Claire Hard
Jenny Ishammar

Outreach Consultants Caitlin Boyle

Distribution Strategist Peter Broderick

Additional Distribution Consultants Jon Reiss
Mitch Levine

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This film was shot at the following locations:

UNITED STATES

California Los Angeles
Santa Monica
Malibu-Point Dume
Los Olivos
San Francisco
San Rafael
Mill Valley
Muir Woods National Monument

Alaska Prince William Sound
Katmai National Park
Anchorage
Seward

Florida Miami & Beaches
Jonathan Dickinson Park
Everglades National Park

New York New York City

Connecticut New Haven

Hawaii Hilo Forest Reserve
Kailua-Kona

BRAZIL

State of Rio de Janeiro City of Rio de Janeiro
Corrêas
Vassouras
Visconde de Mauá

Minas Gerais Maromba

NAMIBIA Etosha National Park
Omaheke

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS Virgin Gorda

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PRODUCTION NOTES

by Director Sylvie Rokab

Liam Neeson Breathes Life into Love Thy Nature

When it was time to choose a celebrity as the voice of *Love Thy Nature*, Liam Neeson came to mind as my top choice. One obvious reason is that he's a brilliant Academy-Award nominated actor, internationally recognized for his work in both major studio blockbusters and acclaimed independent features. Another reason is that his voice is so gorgeous – gentle and soothing while strong and resonant – it can silence any room.

But the main reasons I felt Liam Neeson was an amazing fit for this film are his kindness, generous nature, and passionate drive to make a difference. One need only look at the multitude of causes that Liam embraces to realize the beauty of his essence. It's that essence I kept hearing on our film...

So, I sent an email to his agent and decided not to pursue anyone else until I heard back. And when I learned that Liam had accepted my invitation, I was beyond elated... I couldn't have dreamt of a more beautiful validation for our film!

In our recording session in New York, Liam breathed life into "Sapiens" with extraordinary talent (yes, our documentary has a "character"). Also to no surprise, he was kind, down-to-earth, and just absolutely delightful to work with.

Giraffes Made to Order

When filming in Namibia, my photographer Eriberto and I told our warden that we would love to film animals against the setting sun, but we knew it might be difficult, given that A. we had to find the animals and B. we only had 20 minutes before sunset.

"What animals would you like?" asked the warden. Surprised by the question, I said "Well, if I could be picky, I would choose a giraffe... that long beautiful neck against the sun would be amazing."

"No problem," the warden said nonchalantly. "Hop on the truck." We did, looking at each other in disbelief.

The warden sped off as if he were running from a mob and then drove over a huge expanse of dried salt, which made us feel like we were being taken to some other planet. Sure enough, we did spot giraffes way in the distance. But by then, the sun was almost setting. So, we found ourselves debating A. how fast could we get close enough for a good shot before sunset and B. how close could we get before the giraffes start sprinting away.

With everything at stake, we hoped for the best and drove on another few minutes before stopping the truck to start filming. It seemed right on cue... We rolled cameras and captured the most majestic scene of an orange sun setting behind giraffes in a distant African plain.

PS. No animals were ever disturbed in our production.

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QUOTES

“Breathtaking ... Enthralling! It will replenish your hope in mankind and nature. A must see for everyone, young and old!”

Avi Offer – Rotten Tomatoes

“*Love Thy Nature* will light up your neurons, change your breathing, and deeply connect you to those you’re with. The story will stay with you for a long time, because it’s yours.”

Wallace J Nichols, PhD – Author of *Blue Mind*

“*Love Thy Nature* is an urgent but stunningly beautiful meditation on our connections to the natural world ... everyone should see this profound, timely, and extraordinary film.”

Joel Reynolds - Western Director, NRDC

“An inspirational work of art by a consummate filmmaker whose heart will move you deeply.”

Michael Charles Tobias

“Seducing viewers with exceptional production quality, riveting cinematography, and narration by Liam Neeson as the character Sapiens (mankind), Rokab’s message is one of hope rather than blame. We can learn from the natural world and help the planet right itself, even amid the destruction fueled by global warming, factory farming, and other ills of the industrial age.”

Mona M. De Crinis – Palm Springs Life