



A Paradise Filmworks International Production
in Association with
Rhino Films and Earthworks Films



Running Time 72 minutes

Contact: Kristin Cooney
thedarkhobby@rocofilms.com



80 Liberty Ship Way, Suite 8 Sausalito, CA 94965
415.209.3909

Synopsis

Today Hawaii is ground zero in the worldwide struggle to save reef wildlife. *The Dark Hobby* follows a group of Native Hawaiian Elders, conservationists and scientists who will stop at nothing to ensure the survival of these stunning tiny creatures that are targets of a global trade worth \$4 - 5 billion. These heroes valiantly fight reef degradation, exploitation, and ensure the survival of marine habitat and species.

In the spirit of *Blackfish* and *The Cove*, *The Dark Hobby* is an expose of the death of exotic fish, the reef and the ocean at the hands of the aquarium trade. When most people see beautiful fish in aquariums, they don't realize how the sea creatures got there. Ornamental fish are a key part of the marine wildlife hierarchy living on the reef. Some species have already been driven to extinction, while others are severely diminished by collectors. The exotic fish are herbivores who live by eating the algae growing on the coral, this maintains balance in the ocean's ecosystem. Reefs produce 50% of Earth's oxygen. Without these fish, reefs die of algae overload, and over 2/3 of the aquarium trade's catch are herbivores. When these fish are taken off the reef, the coral dies. Reef demise is a microcosm of death in our oceans.

When collectors loot the fish for hobbyists' tanks, some even use cyanide to stun the fish, and dynamite to blow up the coral. Collectors cut their fins, pierce their swim bladders with needles, starve them and seal them in plastic bags to ship globally with only a minimum of water to survive on their way to retail sale and mainland mortality. 90% of these creatures die within a year of capture, creating a demand for replacement. They live for decades in the wild. Recent scientific research confirms that fish have feelings, experience pain, recognize human faces, communicate, make plans together to hunt and sing various emotions!

Among *The Dark Hobby* Producers are Benjamin Zuckerman, UCLA Professor Emeritus of Astro Physics and former Sierra Club Director, and Robert Wintner, renowned marine activist and founder of Snorkel Bob's Hawaii. Academy Award winner Maria Florio and Stephen Nemeth, Founder of Rhino Films are Executive Producers. William Haugse, Academy Award nominee for *Hoop Dreams*, edited with Timothy Kettle. The Humane Society of the United States, PETA, and other organizations are featured in *The Dark Hobby* and are partnering in efforts to alert people globally to what has gone too long undetected underwater but will no more. The aquarium trade has decimated reef species and habitat for decades with no limits, no limit on the number of catchers, and no constraint on rare, endemic or vanishing species. Reef advocates fight to end aquarium extraction from natural habitat. Reef-based tourism generates about a billion annually in Hawaii alone. At any given moment, 28 million fish are in the aquarium trade pipeline from point of capture to home-hobbyist tank.

Filmmakers Message

I went snorkeling on the Big Island in Hawaii in a spot where I'd been snorkeling daily seventeen years before. I was stunned to find hardly no beautiful fish in the water. Years earlier there were scores swimming around you, even touching your legs. Now there were two. This had just happened to us at three Maui snorkel spots a few days earlier, and I thought, "The fish will be on the Big Island, maybe we're just in the wrong place?" But there were no fish here either.

Stunned, we walked back into the Snorkel Bob's shop to return our rented gear. I asked the girl at the counter, "Where are all the fish?"

She replied, "That's exactly what the owner of our shop keeps asking. There's a bunch of his books over there. Check them out!"

I did, the books were filled with breathtaking photographs of exotic species. Soon after I was speaking with Robert Wintner, AKA *Snorkel Bob* by phone. He is a dedicated activist who has been fighting to protect the fish for years, mounting campaigns and putting political pressure on local governments and the State. When I heard about the dire situation Hawaii's precious fish population is in, I felt sick. They are being taken from their natural home, enduring pain, and even death. The fish population is being wiped out, and we and future generations are being robbed of a precious part of nature. In the future, will we only see these species in glass aquariums? Scientific research now shows that fish sing and even recognize themselves in the mirror, passing an intelligence test suggesting they are self-aware.

When I learned of the connection these fish have to the reefs, ocean and our planet's oxygen, I realized they are critical to us all, as are the coral reefs that that are also being decimated. So with the help of many caring talented filmmakers, we produced *The Dark Hobby* to bring this travesty to the world's attention. It is critical that we save these fish. *This is not just a problem in Hawaii, but all over the world.*

Paula Fouce - Director / Producer

CAST

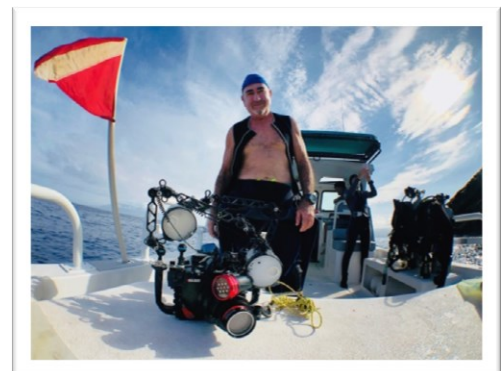
Kimokeo Kapahulehua – *Hawaiian Kapuna (Sage Elder)*



Kimokeo Kapahulehua is an esteemed kapuna, working with the land and people for decades, including the fish people. He was named the 2004 Volunteer of the Year by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation for helping preserve, protect & promote the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary. The Kimokeo Foundation is a lasting legacy to perpetuate Hawaiian culture. Kimokeo does tireless service for the community & resources, from Hawaiian outrigger canoe voyaging, revitalizing an ancient fishpond, & educating thousands about Hawaiian culture. He is a force of nature.

Robert Wintner – *Executive Producer, activist and author*

Robert Wintner is also Snorkel Bob, Hawaii's largest reef outfitter and lead dog on the campaign to end the aquarium trade in Hawaii for many years. He is dedicated to reef recovery and the global campaign. Wintner's 20 books are recognized for excellence and include 5 volumes of reef photography focused on reef culture and characters of Hawaii, the Great Reef, the Virgins, Fiji, Tahiti, Palau & Cuba (*REEF LIBRE, An In-Depth Look at Cuban Reefs*



& *The Last, Best Reefs in the World*). He is heard around Hawaii and the world. His fiction has appeared in *Hawaii Review* (University of Hawaii) & *Sports Illustrated*. His novel, *In a Sweet Magnolia Time* was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and a PEN/Faulkner Award.

Wilfred Kaupiko – *Mayor of Miloli'i*



Willie is a Hawaiian cultural practitioner, activist and the Mayor of Miloli'i, Hawaii's last working fishing village on the Big Island's So. Kona coast. Willy went to Lahainaluna High School and served in Vietnam. On Oahu he was a lifeguard, beach boy, tended catamarans of the day & paddled for the Waikiki Beach Boys. He returned to Miloli'i to help his parents' business and raise his family. Willy is an avid ocean activist and active member of the Hau'oli Kamana'o Church. He advocates for environmental & animal conservation causes that protect precious natural resources in Miloli'i Village & surrounding waters.

Kaimi Kaupiko – *Marine Wildlife Activist*

Kaimi Kaupiko is Willie's son. In Miloli'i, he's taught youth educational programs for years, fostering an environment that motivates future generations with opportunities that foster prosperity. Miloli'i has rich marine resources & families with pride in Hawaiian culture. Kaimi runs Fishing Family Camps, where the community celebrates traditional fishing culture and marine stewardship. He and others established the Miloli'i Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area to improve sustainable management, & teach marine monitoring & traditional opelu fishing - a mackerel type fish that comes in when yellow tangs clean the reef's algae. This fishing defers to traditional mating & spawning seasons and pono (righteous) practices, ensuring the opelu is abundant & Miloli'i's primary subsistence.



Gail Grabowsky, Ph.D. – *Marine Biologist*



Gail Grabowsky is an Associate Professor and Director of the Environmental Studies program at Chaminade University in Honolulu. She has served as a member of the State Environmental Council & the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Council. Gail has been Associate Director of the Pacific Symposium for Science and Sustainability & won awards for teaching, research, community service, swimming, and outrigger canoe racing. Her interests include developmental & evolutionary biology, invertebrate zoology, ecology, biomechanics & environmental science.

Ben Williamson – *Animal Activist*

Ben Williamson (London School of Economics) made headlines at seven for winning a contest at a local McDonald's—the food chain he would crusade against as an adult in PETA's McCruelty campaign, which sparked protests. As PETA's senior international media director, Ben worked with media outlets on groundbreaking work, including FOX News, the BBC, & The Washington Post. His op-eds have appeared in The Independent, International Business Times, Newsweek, & USA Today. His interviews include Al-Jazeera, the BBC, & CNN. Ben now serves as Programs Director for World Animal Protection U.S.



Jessica Wooley — *Hawaii House of Representatives*



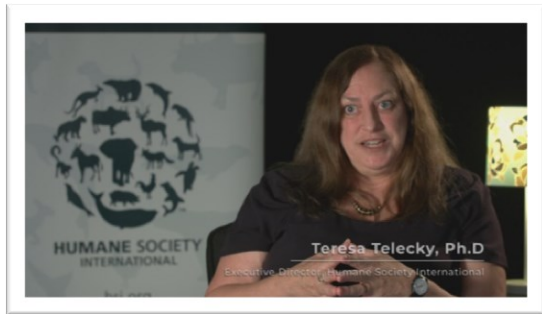
Jessica Wooley (UC Berkeley, law) practiced for the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii under AmeriCorps. In Hawaii she created Access to Justice programs increasing legal services for people in need, & became Deputy Attorney General, representing the Clean Water, Drinking Water, & Wastewater Branches for the Dept. of Health. Focusing on law enforcement, she prosecuted the biggest environmental administrative cases. She is a Conservation member of the advisory group for the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. Jessica served 3 terms as a Hawaii State House Representative & served as Director, Office of Environmental Quality Control through 2015.

Jonathan Balcombe - *Ethologist*

Jonathan is an ethologist & author who serves as Director of Animal Sentience with the Humane Society Institute for Science and Policy, & Dept. Chair for Animal Studies with Humane Society University. He lectures on animal behavior & their relationship with humans. He is the Associate Editor of Animal Sentience. He earned his BS in biology at York University, Master in biology, Carleton University, and Ph. D in ethology (animal behavior) at the University of Tennessee. He worked for The Humane Society, U.S., & Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, & PETA. His latest book is *What A Fish Knows, the Inner Lives of Our Underwater Cousins*.



Teresa Telecky – *Vice President Humane Society International*



Teresa Telecky, Ph.D. is Vice President of the Humane Society International (HSI)'s Wildlife Dept. An expert on the UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, she is Director & Vice President of the Species Survival Network. She has authored scientific papers on animal behavior & endocrinology & HSI technical reports and was a post-doctoral fellow with the National Science Foundation & the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science at the National Institute for Basic Biology in Okazaki. Teresa specializes in international wildlife trade & wrote the Wild Bird Conservation Act halting wild bird trafficking for the pet trade.

Rene Umberger – *Marine Wildlife Activist*

Rene Umberger is a coral reef wildlife advocate, she founded For the Fishes to reduce marine aquarium trade impact & promote reef stewardship. In marine tourism she developed operational protocol in fragile reef environments for diver & snorkeler assisted marine debris removal of abandoned fishing gear from Hawaii reefs. Her work supported Hawaii's strongest protections for reef wildlife in Maui County & county resolutions on Kauai & Hawaii Island, to end the trade. For Humane Society International, she authored, A Review of the Coral Reef Wildlife Trade in Hawaii.



Kealoha Pisciotta – *President of Mauna Kea Anaina Hou*

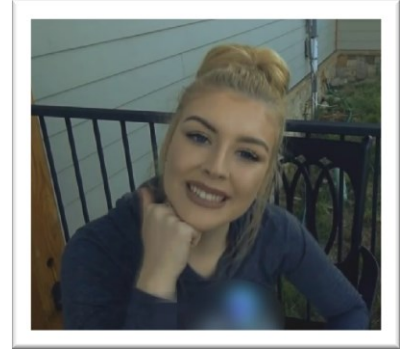


Kealoha Pisciotta is the President of Mauna Kea Anaina Hou and is the spokesperson for the Mauna Kea Hui, the people and organizations who have been actively protecting Mauna Kea, the mountain volcano on Hawai'i, the Big Island, one of the most sacred sites in Native Hawai'ian culture now threatened by the construction of a Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT).

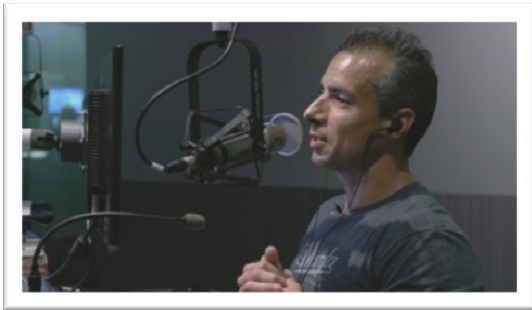
Kealoha founded the marine protection group Kai Palaoa in Hawai'i, and promotes the principles of Aloha Aina and Kapu Aloha to protect, conserve, and restore the abundance of the land and the ocean life through policy.

Taylor Nicole Dean – YouTube Celebrity

Taylor Nicole Dean is a You Tube star and influencer, and was recently featured on VICE documentaries. She has been called the Queen of the genre known as “PetTube”. Taylor is known for her love of animals and is an avid pet advocate boasting over two million followers. One of Taylor’s interests are fish, she is known for sharing her experiences keeping saltwater fish and has informed of the hazards it poses to reef wildlife.



A Martinez – Radio Talk Show Host



A Martinez is the host of *Take Two* on KPCC 89.3 FM. Born in LA A grew up in Koreatown, played baseball for L.A. City College then earned his journalism degree at Cal State Northridge. On 710 KSPN’s “In the Zone”. A does sports-talk radio broadcast to all of Los Angeles and does pre and post-game shows for many of L.A.’s professional and college sports teams. A is known for being the long-time host of the shows, “Laker Line” and “Dodger Talk.”

CREW

Maria Florio - Executive Producer

Producer/Director Maria Florio, President of Earthworks Films, Inc., co-directed and co-produced *Broken Rainbow*, Academy Award winner for Best Documentary Feature. Her film, *Tibet: Cry of the Snow Lion*, won numerous festival awards. *Big River Man* earned 4 stars, from the N.Y. Times and won awards at Sundance and other festivals. Maria produced, Olivia Newton-John and Amazon John Easterling executive-produced, and John Maringouin directed. She was Creative Producer of *No Asylum: Anne Frank* & many other films, including *Man Up and Go* with Bacon Murphy Films.



Stephen Nemeth – Executive Producer



Stephen Nemeth founded Rhino Films, which originated as a division of the record label Rhino Records. Steve produced many films & works with Amnesty International through Artists for Amnesty on human rights. His Producer credits include: *The Sessions*, *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, *Why Do Fools Fall in Love*, *Dogtown* and *Z Boys*, & *What We Do Is Secret*. He executive produced *War/Dance*, Academy Award nominee, Best Documentary; *Fuel*, Audience Award, Sundance; *Flow*; *Pick Up The Mic*, Toronto Int. Film Festival premiere; and *Climate Refugees*, Sundance premiere.

Paula Fouce - *Producer, Director, Writer*

Paula grew up in Los Angeles spending time backstage in her grandfather's and father's historical theatres, the Million Dollar and Mayan, vaudeville and film showcases. They were pioneers of Spanish language television in the US. She studied in Nepal through Pitzer College, Claremont, then worked in the Himalayas and South Asia.

Paula produced and directed *No Asylum: The Untold Chapter of Anne Frank's Story*, (Roco Films, PBS stations) which screened at the United Nations, Geneva by Cine-ONU on International Holocaust Remembrance Day. She produced and co-directed *Song of the Dunes*, (PBS stations); directed and produced *Not in God's Name: In Search of Tolerance with the Dalai Lama*, (PBS stations). Paula directed and produced *Naked In Ashes*, a critically acclaimed film on India's yogis; and produced and directed *Origins of Yoga: Quest for the Spiritual*. She authored the book, Not in God's Name: Making Sense of Religious Conflict and co-authored Shiva (1996, White Orchid Press). Paula was Vice President and Director of KRCA, a TV station in LA from 1990 -1997 (now under new management). She is President of Paradise Filmworks International, and was Co-Chair of the Southern Asian Art Council at Los Angeles County Museum of Art.



William Hauge - *Editor, Co-Producer, & Writer*

Bill was nominated for an Oscar for *Hoop Dreams*, & an Emmy for *The Last Days of Kennedy and King*. He is a member of the ACE & received the American Cinema Editors Eddie Award & many awards. *Sunset Story*, (ITVS/PBS) won a jury prize at Tribeca, & Audience Award at the LA Film Festival; *Naked in Ashes*; (“beautifully crafted”, LA Times); *Stevie*, Lions Gate, dir. by Steve James, & *Unprecedented: Cattle Annie and Little Britches* starring Rod Steiger & Diane Lane. Credits as director and editor include *Breakfast in Bed* with John Ritter. He edited with Orson Welles & John Cassavetes.

Tim Kettle – *Editor, Co-Producer*



Tim (MA, University of Texas) worked with Texas PBS, is a member of the Directors Guild of America, & has served as Producer, Director, Assoc. Director & Editor on: *That's Incredible*, *Those Amazing Animals*, *Circus Of The Stars*, *Academy Awards*, *Prime Time Emmys*, *Daytime Emmys*, *People's Choice*, *Kennedy Center Honors*, *Rock and Roll Hall of Fame*, *Comedy Central Roast*, *CNN Heroes*, *Dr. Phil* and *Oprah Winfrey*, *BET Honors*, & *Critics Choice*. Film producing credits including *Not in God's Name*, (PBS stations), *Origins of Yoga*, *Naked in Ashes*, *Song of the Dunes*, (PBS stations) & *No Asylum* (PBS stations).

Luciano Storti – Composer



Luciano Storti is an Italian-born, Award-Winning Composer. He was awarded a Swiss State Scholarship, obtained Diplomas in Pianoforte Performance from the Konstanz Music Conservatory, Germany and graduated Magna Cum Laude in Film scoring & Songwriting at the Berklee College of Music. In LA, Luciano studied contemporary composition under Daniel Kessner and Liviu Marinescu at Cal State Northridge, obtaining a Master of Music in Modern Classical Composition. He has scored numerous films, including the multi-award winning underwater TV series *Water Colours* and *The City Under the Sea*, for National Geographic Television. He scored the documentaries *Song of the Dunes*, *Not in God's Name*, *No Asylum*, and the feature film, *Cold Cabin*. Other media includes trailers for all books in the acclaimed, New York Times best-selling series, *The School for Good and Evil*, by author and Filmmaker Soman Chainani.

Benjamin Zuckerman - Co-Producer

Ben is an astrophysicist and emeritus professor in UCLA's Department of Physics & Astronomy. He graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard. Ben's work focuses on formation & evolution of planetary systems around stars. He co-edited 6 books including *Human Population and the Environmental Crisis*, & developed and taught the UCLA Honors course, "The 21st Century: Society, Environment, Ethics". He has served on the Board of Directors of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, Sierra Club & the Wildlife Waystation. Ben was awarded the Helen B. Warner Prize for Astronomy and Guggenheim Fellowship for Natural Sciences, US & Canada.

Michael X. Flores – Additional Editor

Michael Flores (MFA, U.S.C.); was awarded the John Frankenheimer Directing Scholarship; National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts Entertainment Scholarship; and was a Film Independent Project: Involve fellow. He was mentored by Jeffrey Blitz, director of the Academy Award nominated *Spellbound*. Mike edited the *Cost of Living* (Student-EMMY TM); and wrote & directed the award winning, *Esperando* (Waiting/ Hoping). He was assistant editor on Jean-Michel Basquiat: *The Radiant Child*; *One Lucky Elephant*; Nick Broomfield's, *Sarah Palin: You Betcha!*

George R. Pierce - Co-Producer

George Pierce was noted in Forbes as a Top-10 Financial Advisor in the United States. He has served as a former member of the Board of Directors for The Morris Foundation as well as The Gorillas in the Mist Foundation. A lifelong conservation and wildlife enthusiast, George lives in the Pacific Northwest.



FOR THE PRESS







THE DARK HOBBY

AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT THE CAMPAIGN TO END THE AQUARIUM TRADE'S DAMAGE TO REEF SPECIES AND HABITAT



**ALL THE PRETTY FISHES
AND THE PRICE PAID TO TANK THEM**

THE DARK HOBBY.COM

f /TheDarkHobbyFilm/

PARADISE FILMWORKS INTERNATIONAL PRESENTS THE DARK HOBBY

FEATURING A MARTINEZ, JONATHAN BALCOMBE, KEITH CHRISTIE, PAUL COX, GAIL GRABOWSKY, KAIMI KAUPIKO, WILLY KAUPIKO, TERESA TELECKY, TAYLOR NICOLE DEAN
RENE UMBERGER, YVONNE WARE, ROBERT WINTNER, JESSICA WOOLEY, KIMOKED KAPAHULEHUA, KEALOHA PISCIOTTA, CORY HEARST AND BEN WILLIAMSON

DIRECTED AND PRODUCED BY PAULA FOUCE WRITTEN BY WILLIAM HAUGSE AND PAULA FOUCE EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ROBERT WINTNER, STEPHEN NEMETH AND MARIA FLORIO

CO-PRODUCED BY BENJAMIN ZUCKERMAN, WILLIAM HAUGSE AND TIM KETTLE EDITED BY WILLIAM HAUGSE AND TIM KETTLE ADDITIONAL EDITOR MICHAEL FLORES

ORIGINAL MUSIC BY LUCIANO STORTI ADDITIONAL MUSIC BY BENJAMIN FLORIO RE-RECORDING MIXER LUCIEN PALMER ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS KRYSTLE KLEIN AND GEORGE PIERCE

UNDERWATER VIDEOGRAPHY KEITH CHRISTIE CINEMATOGRAPHY BY EVAN SPENCER BRACE, COLE CHRISTIE, ROBERT HAYES, ANNIE MCEVEETY AND CHRISTOPHER TUFTY