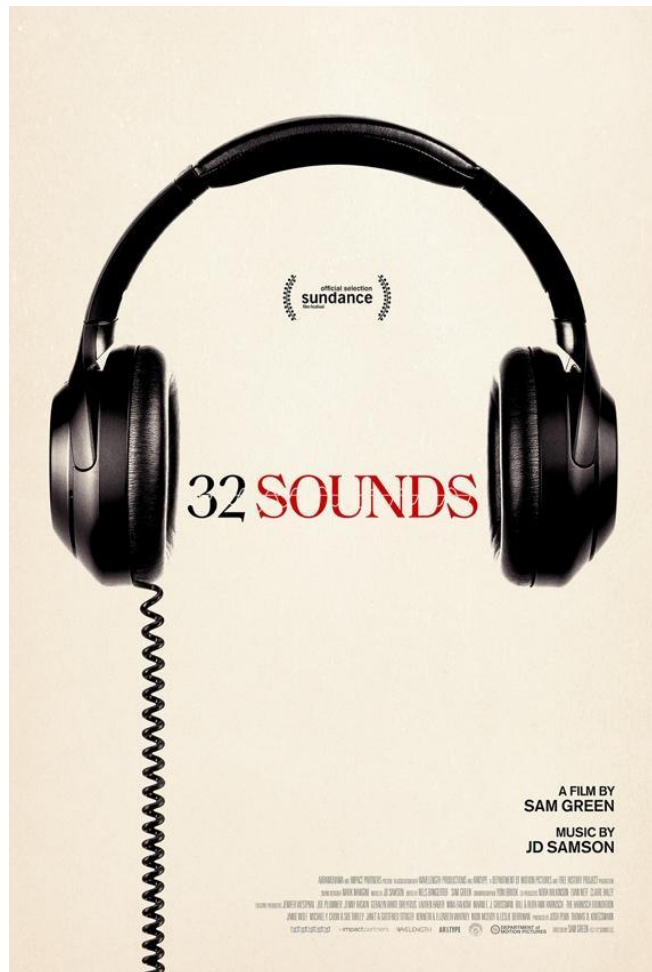




Impact Partners Presents
A Department of Motion Pictures and Free History Project Production
In Association with Wavelength Productions and ArkType

32 SOUNDS



Directed by Sam Green
Featuring music by JD Samson
RT: 99 Minutes
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LOGLINE

An immersive feature documentary and sensory film experience that explores the elemental phenomenon of sound and its power to bend time, cross borders, and profoundly shape our perception of the world around us.

SYNOPSIS

32 Sounds is an immersive feature documentary and profound sensory experience from Academy Award-nominated filmmaker Sam Green (*The Weather Underground*, *A Thousand Thoughts*) featuring original music by JD Samson (Le Tigre, MEN). The film explores the elemental phenomenon of sound by weaving together 32 specific sound explorations into a cinematic meditation on the power of sound to bend time, cross borders, and profoundly shape our perception of the world around us. Join Oscar-nominated filmmaker Green as he takes the audience on a journey through time and space — exploring everything from forgotten childhood memories, to the soundtrack of resistance, to subaquatic symphonies — and experience in new ways the astonishing sounds of our everyday lives. *32 Sounds* investigates the mysterious nature of perception and the subtle yet radical politics that arise from sensation and being present in one's body.

32 SOUNDS VERSIONS

For clarity, *32 Sounds* exists in several unique and equally exciting forms:

Theatrical Version: This version plays like other movies on standard theater speakers but is designed for a more immersive audio experience. This will be the most common version used during the theatrical run of the film.

Theatrical Headphones Version: This version plays in regular movie theaters, but each member of the crowd is given their own set of headphones for a special immersive binaural audio experience. This version played at SXSW 2022 and will be available at the Film Forum.

Live Version: For this version, Sam Green narrates live and JD Samson plays music live and each audience member receives their own set of headphones for an enhanced binaural audio experience. This version started touring the world in 2022 and will continue for several years. This version sold out 7 shows at the BAM Fisher performance space in March 2022 as well as other shows around the world.

Virtual / Streaming Version: This version, which world-premiered at the 2022 Virtual Sundance Film Festival, is designed for a Streaming. It will have an enhanced binaural audio experience for those who choose to watch it with headphones but will also work great on any speakers or computer.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

As its name makes immediately clear, *32 Sounds* is a project about sound. It deeply explores the phenomenon of sound through 32 specific sonic experiences, ranging from the mournful tones of the San Francisco foghorns to the sound of Philip Glass playing piano, and from church bells ringing in Venice to the sound of Deaf sound artist Christine Sun Kim signing in

ASL. Together, these experiences coalesce into a larger meditation on the ephemeral nature of sound, taking the audience on a journey through time, space, cultures and species.

One of the great creative challenges with *32 Sounds* is the meta quality of the piece: it is a piece that is about sound, and the form itself is focused on the experience of listening closely and feeling deeply. So, in setting out to make *32 Sounds*, I began really thinking about how people engage sonically with film. I became interested in tinkering with that relationship and trying to create a piece that could move people sonically in a way that most films work visually.

This film asks you to do some things, very gentle stuff like close your eyes at certain points, or feel free to make some sounds yourself in another moment. It's all part of trying to scramble the normal relationship between viewer and film and open-up space for audiences to truly engage with their ears.

In the same vein, we worked hard with Mark Mangini — our sound designer who has done a lot of the most expansive sound work in film, including with his most recent project *Dune* — to create a variety of different mind-blowing sonic experiences for the film. Due to the film's subject being sound, it was essential create unique and highly immersive mixes for the film's different future homes, creating sound experiences that are unique and powerful regardless of the setting.

In select theaters, *32 Sounds* will screen with special headphones that the film team travels with and provides to theatergoers. The film includes a lot of binaural sound – a kind of spatial sound technology that gives the listener a much clearer sense of space - so the film works especially well with these headphones. Similarly, the eventual streaming version of the film will be available to watch with binaural sound for those who choose to watch it with headphones.

We also worked hard with Mark Mangini to create a 7.1 Surround Sound Mix that will knock your socks off, without headphones involved at all.

It's important to us that *32 Sounds* is accessible for D/deaf audience members and those with hearing loss, as well as blind and low-vision audience members. We have worked with Matt Lauterbach of All Senses Go on our access strategy, and he has developed rich and detailed closed captioning. The audio description was developed and recorded by Cheryl Green and Thomas Reid.

It's our hope that *32 Sounds* can define a new way of listening to narrative entertainment. In making this film, we have been inspired by many people who think deeply about sound, but these words from Randy Thom have been a particular inspiration: "We are fundamentally emotional creatures who struggle to be rational, and sound plays the role of the puppeteer, pulling our strings more deeply and compellingly than perhaps any other sense. Odd then that we don't take it seriously." Our hope is that after *32 Sounds*, audiences will leave the theater and never hear the world in the same way again.

- Sam Green

SUBJECTS

Edgar Choueiri - Professor at Princeton and Director of Princeton's Electric Propulsion and Plasma Dynamics Laboratory and the 3D Audio and Applied Acoustics Lab

Annea Lockwood - Experimental composer and musician born in New Zealand and based in New York State

Cheryl Tipp - British Library's Curator of Wildlife & Environmental Sounds

Mazen Kerbaj - Lebanese artist and musician based in Berlin

Fred Moten - Poet and cultural theorist, Professor in the Departments of Performance Studies and Comparative Literature at NYU

Joanna Fang - Foley artist, currently Senior Foley Artist at Sony Playstation

Christine Sun Kim - Deaf sound artist based in Berlin, has shown in the Whitney Biennial and countless major museums and galleries, performed at the Superbowl and is repped by Ghebaly and White Space.

FILMMAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Sam Green (Director | Writer | Editor) is a New York-based documentary filmmaker. Green's most recent live documentaries include *A Thousand Thoughts* (with the Kronos Quartet) (2018), *The Measure of All Things* (2014), *The Love Song of R. Buckminster Fuller* (with Yo La Tengo) (2012), and *Utopia in Four Movements* (2010). With all of these works, Green narrates the film in-person while musicians perform a live soundtrack. Green's 2004 feature-length film, *The Weather Underground*, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, was nominated for an Academy Award, was included in the Whitney Biennial, and has screened widely around the world.

JD Samson (Composer | Performer) is best known as leader of the band MEN and for being one-third of the electronic-feminist-punk band and performance project, Le Tigre. For more than a decade JD's career as a visual artist, musician, producer and DJ has landed her at the intersection of the music, art, activism, and fashion. During that time she has toured the world, produced songs for Grammy award winning artists, written for publications such as Huffington Post, Talkhouse, and Creative Time Review, created multi-media artwork, hosted documentary programs, acted, modeled, and engaged in direct support with a wide-range of progressive social and political causes. JD is now an Assistant Arts Professor at NYU's Clive Davis Institute of Recorded Music.

Josh Penn (Producer) is a producer with the Department of Motion Pictures. He has been nominated for an Oscar for Best Picture, Outstanding Producer at the Producer's Guild Awards and won a Peabody Award. He has premiered a dozen films at Sundance since 2012, garnering 5 awards from the festival. He has produced BEASTS OF THE SOUTHERN WILD,

(Sundance Grand Jury Prize, Cannes Caméra d'Or, and four Oscar nominations, including Best Picture), MONSTERS AND MEN (Sundance Special Jury Prize), the series PHILLY D.A. (Gotham and Peabody Award Winner), 32 Sounds, A THOUSAND THOUGHTS, WENDY, USERS (Sundance 2021 Best Directors Award), and FAREWELL AMOR, among others. He was an Executive Producer on PATTI CAKE\$, WESTERN (Sundance Special Jury Prize), and BLOODY NOSE EMPTY POCKETS and a Co-Producer on THE GREAT INVISIBLE (SXSW Grand Jury Prize). Josh has served as a mentor for places ranging from The Sundance Institute to Film Independent to NYU to AFI. In 2018, Josh became a member of the Academy of Motion Pictures and Sciences. Outside of his work in film, Josh has worked in politics including lead roles on the digital teams for both of the Obama Presidential campaigns.

ArKtype/Thomas O. Kriegsmann (Producer) specializes in new work development and touring worldwide. His past work includes projects with Kaneza Schaal, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Peter Brook, Victoria Thierrée-Chaplin, Yael Farber, Anna Deavere Smith, Annie-B Parson & Paul Lazar, Lisa Peterson, Peter Sellars, Julie Taymor, John Cameron Mitchell and Tony Taccone. Recent premieres include 600 HIGHWAYMEN's *A Thousand Ways*, Bryce Dessner's *Triptych (Eyes Of One On Another)*, John Cameron Mitchell's *The Origin Of Love*, Kaneza Schaal & Christopher Myers' *Cartography*, Sam Green & Kronos Quartet's *A Thousand Thoughts*, Big Dance Theater / Mikhail Baryshnikov's *Man In A Case*, and Nalaga'at Deaf-Blind Theater's *Not By Bread Alone*. Ongoing collaborations include 600 HIGHWAYMEN, Big Dance Theater, Rude Mechs, Adrien M. & Clare B., Noche Flamenca, Toshi Reagon, and Compagnia T.P.O. Upcoming premieres include Scott Shepherd's *This Ignorant Present* w/Malthouse, Sam Green's *32 Sounds*, Karen O & Lila Neugebauer's *Forget About You* and Nora Chipaumire's *Nehanda*. He is a founding member of CIPA (The Creative & Independent Producer Alliance).

Nels Bangerter (Editor) is the award-winning documentary film editor of *Cameraperson*, *Let the Fire Burn*, *Dick Johnson is Dead*, and *The Hottest August*. He has been nominated for two News & Documentary Emmys, he is a two-time winner at the Cinema Eye Honors for Best Editing, and he has won four International Documentary Association awards. Nels has also been an advisor at the Sundance Edit Labs, as well as for Firelight Media, SFFILM, BAVC, and Film Independent.

Yoni Brook (Cinematographer) is a filmmaker and cinematographer. As a director, his films have screened at Sundance, Berlinale, New York and Toronto Film Festivals, True/False, and IDFA. His credits include the 8-part docuseries *Philly D.A.* (PBS/Topic, Gotham Award Winner, Best Breakthrough Nonfiction Series), *Menashe* (Independent Spirit Nominee, A24, dir. Joshua Z Weinstein) and *Valley Of Saints* (Independent Spirit Nominee, Sundance World Dramatic Audience Award Winner, dir. Musa Syeed). His directorial debut, *A Son's Sacrifice* won Best Documentary Short at the Tribeca Film Festival, IDA's Best Documentary Short, and broadcast on PBS Independent Lens.

Mark Mangini (Sound Design) is an Oscar winning (*Dune & Mad Max Fury Road*) and five-time Oscar nominated Sound Designer known for films including *Dune*, *Blade Runner 2049*, *Star Treks I,IV,&V*, *The Fifth Element*, and *Gremlins*. He has spent his 45-year career in Hollywood imagining and composing altered sonic realities for motion pictures. He is a frequent lecturer, an outspoken proponent for sound as art and a guitarist/songwriter with compositions in *sex, lies and videotape*, *Star Trek IV*, *Picard*, and others. He is a member of SAG, SMPTE, and ASCAP.

ABOUT ABRAMORAMA

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Made with the generous support of IMPACT PARTNERS and its following members:

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Ian Darling
Barbara & Eric Dobkin
Natasha & David Dolby
Lauren and John Driscoll
Embrey Family Foundation
Nina & David Fialkow
Scott & Molly Forstall
Marni E.J. Grossman
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Pierre Hauser
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Lessing Stern
Kent Thiry & Denise O'Leary
Katrina vanden Heuvel
Unseen Hand LLC
Wadsworth & Wadsworth
Jamie Wolf
Christine Woodhouse & Seth Woodhouse

32 Sounds was commissioned by
STANFORD LIVE, Stanford University
THE ARTS CENTER at NYU Abu Dhabi
GEORGIA TECH ARTS
GREEN MUSIC CENTER of Sonoma State University
ARIZONA ARTS LIVE! at University of Arizona
COUNTERFLOWS FESTIVAL

and developed through a creative residency at Mass MoCA, North Adams, MA.
This project is supported in part by THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

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Music Courtesy of

"I Feel Love"

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Performed by Donna Summer
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"Give Me Love"
Written by Cerrone, Premilovich, Alain Wisniak [ASCAP]
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"Mango Drive"
Performed by Rhythm & Sound
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Special Thanks
Joe Bini
Catherine Galasso
Ernst Karel
Laura Kuhn
Mark Mangini
Jim Koester & Elizabeth Pasquale
Blythe Taplin Penn
Jean Tsien

Thanks
Abramorama
Richard Abramowitz
Michael Albergo
Laura Barger
Louis Black and Collins Swords
Bill Bragin
Alasdair Campbell
Dave Cerf
Edgar Choueriri
Susan Coyle
René de Guzman
Brendan Doyle
Sandi Dubowski
Michael Dwyer
Kristy Edmunds
Skip Elsheimer
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Pete Sillen
Nadia Sirota
Patty Suarez
Randy Thom
Saori Tsukada
Pat Walters
Tom Welsh
Chi-hui Yang
Jacob Yarrow
Ed Yim

This film was inspired by *Thirty Two Short Films About Glenn Gould* (1993) by François Girard, which was in turn inspired by *The Goldberg Variations* by Johann Sebastian Bach (1741).