

A film by Ben Kalina

SHORED UP

When human nature and the force of nature collide.



MANGROVE MEDIA PRESENTS SHORED UP FROM DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER BEN KALINA
JEN SCHNEIDER EDITOR MARC D'AGOSTINO COMPOSER PAUL DAMIAN HOGAN DIRECTOR OF ANIMATION ANTONIO SANCHEZ
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER BRIAN NEWMAN CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS BARBARA ETTINGER JAMES MURDOCK SVEN HUSEBY ASSOCIATE PRODUCER MORGAN BEARD

www.shoredupmovie.com



Film Synopsis

Shored Up is an urgent call to action in the face of accelerating sea-level rise, presenting the devastation of Hurricane Sandy as a window into the future.

Set in Long Beach Island, NJ and the Outer Banks of NC, the film explores the political conflicts and personal stakes of communities along the shore. *Shored Up* talks to scientists, politicians, residents and a wide range of experts to expose major shortcomings in coastal management and the immediate need for change. Filmed over three years and culminating in the impact of Hurricane Sandy, it becomes an eerie foretelling of the storm's devastation and a witness to its dramatic aftermath. *Shored Up* is a look at what happens when we ignore the realities of geology in our drive to inhabit and profit from our coastlines.

If our love affair with a view of the horizon and our urge to build bigger and higher are a cocktail leading coastal communities to the edge of disaster, then *Shored Up* is a tonic to awaken us to the crisis we face. From a feature documentary to an interactive website, mobile app and game, *Shored Up* develops across platforms to immerse us in the sand, waves, storms and history of our romance with the wild. It is a story told by the people and communities who are witness to rising seas on barrier islands, the most dynamic land-form in nature, the thin strips of sand where climate science and politics collide. For surfers and activists like Jon Coen and John Weber the force and impact of the ocean is clear: the storms that create the best surfing waves are also the storms that threaten to drown their communities. From the surfers of Long Beach Island to the scientists and politicians of the Outer Banks of North Carolina, *Shored Up* tells a complex story that will surprise and engage viewers and users all along our coasts. You can only tread water for so long on a coast that's going under, and *Shored Up* is provocative look at the choices we have to make where human nature and the force of nature collide.

Our story begins on the barrier island Long Beach Island (LBI), one of New Jersey's first beach resort communities. On a typical summer day waves lap gently on beaches covered with sunbathers while ice cream and sunblock flow by the gallon. But during the winter nature takes over as Nor'easters and an occasional hurricane batter the island, shifting mountains of sand, destroying homes and sometimes cutting the island to pieces. And on LBI, behind the tourist shops, ice cream parlors and sheen of happiness the decade-old battle between surfers and the Army Corps of Engineers over beach replenishment is playing out. As an engineering approach, beach replenishment is designed to protect property and infrastructure from erosion. But replenishment, like many engineering solutions has unexpected consequences like buried and altered surf breaks, dramatic increases in neck and back injuries and a scoured and damaged sea floor ecosystem. For surfer/conservationists like Coen and Weber these impacts are bad enough. But beach replenishment also masks a much larger problem. Replenishment and other forms of coastal engineering (like groins and jetties) are part of massive cycle of unsustainable development which is leaving us exposed to unimaginable risk up and down the coast. As legislatures re-write laws to ignore sea level rise, beach replenishment has morphed from a method to keep sand on the beach and tourists on their towels into a dangerous game of chicken with nature.

From LBI *Shored Up* travels to the Outer Banks of North Carolina to explore the issue that is the wild card in any conversation about beach erosion and the coasts: sea level rise. For decades progressive regulations in North Carolina have limited coastal engineering projects to protect and preserve coastal inlets and islands from overdevelopment. But as an ascendant Tea Party flexes its newfound political muscles in the state those policies are now under assault. The drama unfolds during the Coastal Resource Committee's annual meeting as pro-development lobbyists bury the Committee's own science panel recommendations, ignoring scientific consensus in favor of pro-development policies. Prominent scientists including Orrin Pilkey, Stan Riggs and Rob Young parry with mayors and business advocates Harry Simmons and Tommy Thompson as the science panel's role in policy-making is methodically undermined. As the debate intensifies, national press coverage from Scientific American to the Colbert Report brings this once obscure skirmish to light. But as a thoughtful policy debate is engulfed in nonsensical political rhetoric, consensus implodes and the waves keep creeping closer.

Along its journey between LBI and the Outer Banks, *Shored Up* interweaves the history of development along the Atlantic coast through interviews with historians, citizens and mayors including Deborah Whitcraft, Margaret Schram and Jonathon Oldham. With its broad scope and specific storyline *Shored Up* identifies a new flash point in the politics of climate change on the local, regional and national stage. With millions of citizens living at or near sea level there is an urgent need for a plan. Few of those living on the coast would deny that the seas are rising, so what's standing in the way of a common sense, shared vision for the future of our coasts? *Shored Up* is there to find out.



Ben Kalina, Director & Producer

Ben is a film director and producer whose work focuses on the intersection of science, culture and the environment. He directs and produces original documentaries, narrative shorts and cross-media projects as well as client-driven video productions. Ben has worked for years with Nijji Films on the documentaries *Two Square Miles* and *A Sea Change*, two award winning films which have been successfully deployed for environmental justice and education, and both of which have been nationally

broadcast in the U.S. Among his current projects Ben is currently directing and producing *Shored Up*, which explores the Army Corps' controversial and ongoing beach replenishment project along the New Jersey Shore. In addition to his documentary work Ben has won several international awards for his short narrative film, *Diorama*.

Brian Newman, Executive Producer

Brian Newman is the founder and CEO of Crowd Play, LLC a recently funded start-up launching a mobile application called Flicklist in 2013. He is also the founder of Sub-Genre Media, a film and new media production, distribution and marketing company. Brian has served as CEO of the Tribeca Film Institute, president of Renew Media and executive director of IMAGE Film & Video. He blogs about film and new media at www.Sub-Genre.com

Jen Schneider, Director of Cinematography

Jen Schneider is a cinematographer based in Philadelphia. Her credits as Director of Photography include *Anderson Monarchs*, a Sundance Grant-funded feature documentary about an all-girls soccer club in South Philadelphia, which was selected to participate in this year's Good Pitch program at Tribeca and is produced by Green Film Company (Freakonomics, By the People, For the People); "The_Source", an interactive web series currently in development, awarded Best Drama and Best in Fest at LATV Fest, Best Drama at ITVFest, and was official selection at New York Television Festival; "RADAR," nominated for Best Documentary of 2010, a series of 3-minute webisodes on Babelgum that highlight the innovations and creative practices of emerging artists.

Marc D'Agostino, Editor

Marc D'Agostino is a director and editor working in both fiction and documentary. He wrote, directed and edited the pilot for *The Source*, a sci-fi web series (Best Drama at the Independent Television Festival and at LATVFestival, where it also won the Fest's Grand

Prize). The project has since been in development at Lionsgate. Most recently, Marc was the assistant editor for 9.14 Pictures' (*Rock School, The Art of the Steal*) newest film, *The Atomic States of America*, which was in the U.S. Documentary Competition at Sundance in 2012. Marc has an MFA in Film and Media Arts from Temple University.

Ian Markiewicz, Sound, Lighting, 2nd Camera

Ian Markiewicz is an independent filmmaker, artist, and university instructor interested in exploring the potency of independent media as a tool for social and environmental advocacy, cultural confluence, artistic vision and collaboration, and emotive storytelling. Ian teaches courses in film production and screenwriting at The University of the Arts and Temple University in Philadelphia and works as a freelance filmmaker in a range of capacities on projects and productions throughout the greater Philadelphia area. He spends most of his summers teaching students from around the world at the New York Film Academy programs in Paris, France, Budapest, Hungary, and Harvard University.

Alex Tyson, Trailer Editor

Alex Tyson is an artist working with film production, video graphics and sound arts. His work on the Oscar and Emmy nominated documentary *Gasland* earned him the 2011 Cinema Eye Honor for Outstanding Graphics. The film was also awarded the Lennon/Ono Grant for Peace and Special Jury Prize at Sundance Film Festival. Independently, his short films have been shown at festivals and galleries including The Philadelphia Film Festival, Independent Festival of Cinema Technology, Palm Springs International, Prince Music Theater Festival, Boston Underground Festival, Elektra Montreal, Bowerbird A/V, iGallery NYC and Fleischer/Ollman Gallery. His recent short film *Baroque Suite* (co-written with composer Troy Herion) and is currently premiering at festivals worldwide.

Caroline Savage, Outreach and Community Engagement

Caroline was born in Ismailia, Egypt and lived overseas often until she was 12. She holds a BA in Art History, a BFA in Photography and a MFA in Filmmaking from the San Francisco Art Institute. She has taught at SF State, SFAI, UArts, Temple, Dickinson College and Arcadia University, both Photography and Film. For 11 years she was Program Director at the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, managing the state public funding for Media Arts, Visual Arts, Interdisciplinary Arts, Service Organizations and Fellowships for Individual Artists. Currently, Caroline coordinates the operations at PIFVA and oversees the Cinema Speakeasy, Finishing Funds, Speedcrewing programs, and services to artists. Her recent consulting has been in the arena of community engagement and audience development for non profits and filmmakers with educational, social justice and environmental change projects.



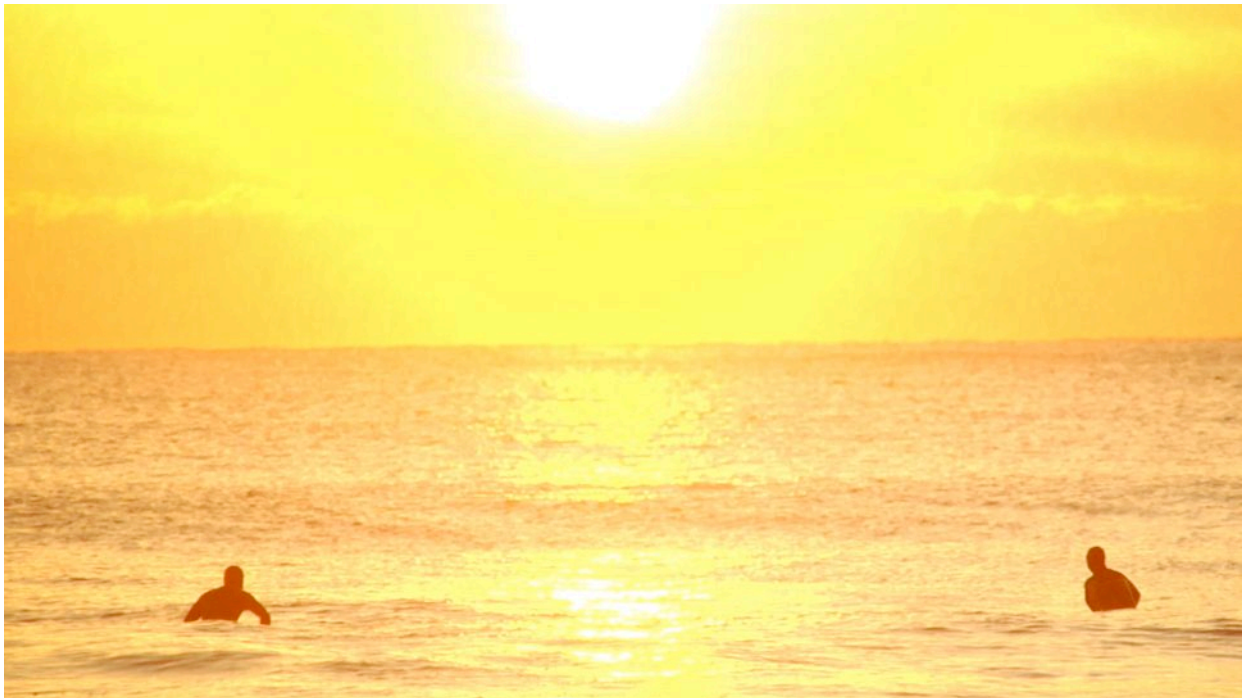
Holgate, Long Beach Island, Post-Sandy



Army Corps Beach Replenishment Project, Beach Haven, Long Beach Island



Surfing at Harvey Cedars, Long Beach Island



Sunrise in Harvey Cedars, Long Beach Island

Press:

New York Times

“A Film Festival With More of Everything”

Shored Up to premiere at the rapidly growing Montclair Film Festival, New Jersey’s destination fest.

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/21/nyregion/at-montclair-film-festival-more-films-more-locations-more-days.html?_r=1&

Asbury Park Press

“Filmmaker to discuss coastal development during Science Saturdays”

Ben Kalina will discuss Shored Up at the Long Beach Island Foundation’s Science Saturdays presentation on “Coastal Development and the Force of Nature”

<http://www.app.com/article/20130411/NJLIFE/304110067/Filmmaker-to-discuss-coastal-development-during-Science-Saturdays?gcheck=1>

New York Times

“Documentaries Thrive in Sandy’s Ruins”

John Anderson’s article about films produced in the wake of Sandy starts and ends with Shored Up – the only feature film in the bunch.

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/03/movies/documentaries-in-the-wake-of-hurricane-sandy.html?_r=0

The Associated Press

“Superstorm Moves Film from Theoretical to Concrete”

This story went on the AP wire on Thanksgiving day. By the end of the weekend it had been picked up by nearly everyone: the Wall Street Journal, Boston Globe, Miami Herald,

BBC, YahooMovies, and more. <http://movies.yahoo.com/news/superstorm-moves-film-theoretical-concrete-170325649.html>

Southern Fried Science

Our friends at Southern Fried Science have great things to say about Shored Up!

<http://www.southernfriedscience.com/?p=11748>

Press Contact:

For all press inquiries, please contact:

Morgan Beard morgan@sub-genre.com

SHORED UP

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DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER **BEN KALINA**

CINEMATOGRAPHER **JEN SCHNEIDER**

EDITOR **MARC D'AGOSTINO**

ORIGINAL SCORE **PAUL DAMIAN HOGAN**

DIRECTOR OF ANIMATION **ANTONIO SANCHEZ**

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER **BRIAN NEWMAN**

CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS **BARBARA ETTINGER
JAMES MURDOCK
SVEN HUSEBY**

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER **MORGAN BEARD**

FEATURING (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

ANNA YURGELONIS	ORRIN PILKEY
LISA CORDOVA	TRACY SKRABAL
DEB WHITCRAFT	JOHN WEBER
JONATHAN OLDHAM	CHRIS MANTHEY
JON COEN	KATE SWEENEY
JAY MANN	HOWARD MARLOWE
NORBERT PSUTY	STEWART FARRELL
KATHLEEN WHITE	STEVE ELLIS
MARGARET BUCHHOLZ	TIM DILLINGHAM
JIM TITUS	BEN HORTON
E. ROBERT THEILER	KATHLEEN WHITE
KEITH WATSON	TANCRED MILLER
ROB YOUNG	TOMMY G. THOMPSON
STAN RIGGS	DAVID ROUZER
HARRY SIMMONS	ROB JACKSON
CAROLYN JUSTICE	ANDREW CUOMO

ANIMATION PRODUCED IN ASSOCIATION WITH CONSULATE

DRAWINGS **ANTONIO SANCHEZ
BRYAN PETERS**

MOTION EFFECTS **LEONARDO APONTE
CHRISTINA MANSI
MATT MONSON
ANTONIO SANCHEZ
MIKE STOLZ
MATT TODER**

ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR OF ANIMATION **CHRISTINA MANSI**

ANIMATION POST SUPERVISOR **CHARLYN DERRICK**

ADDITIONAL CINEMATOGRAPHY **MARC D'AGOSTINO**
JULIA FULLER
CAMERON HICKEY
BRUCE JAMES
BEN KALINA
IAN MARKIEWICZ
ROB NICHOLS

UNDERWATER CINEMATOGRAPHY **ALEX DEPHILLIPO**

HELICOPTER PILOT **JIM MILLER**

SOUND MIXER **BEN KALINA**

ADDITIONAL SOUND RECORDISTS **LUCAS ANDREI**
CHARLES BOURIL
MARC D'AGOSTINO
CHRISTOPH GELFAND
ANDREW POAG

ADDITIONAL EDITING **SCOTT CALVERT**
BEN KALINA
JEN SCHNEIDER
ALEX TYSON

EDITING ASSISTANT **ADAM LEDERMAN**

SOUND DESIGN **RICHARD Q. KING**

RE-RECORDING MIXERS **RICHARD Q. KING**
JOHN BAKER

DIGITAL COLOR CORRECTION PROVIDED BY
WARNER BROS. MOTION PICTURE IMAGING

DIGITAL COLORIST **SCOTT GREGORY**

SPECIAL THANKS **AUGIE MELENDEZ**
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TRAILER PRODUCER **STEVEN ANDERSON**

TRAILER EDITOR **JASON BIERFIELD**

TRAILER SOUND MIXER **JUAN CAMPOS**

TRAILER COLORIST **KELLI KRYSH**

FUNDRAISING CONSULTANT
CAROLINE SAVAGE

OFFICE INTERNS
HAILEY BARGER
KATIE ANDREWS
PAUL WALLASH

POST PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
NOAH ROSS

POSTER ART
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"HEAVY TIDE"

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ANGELA ALSTON
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