



HOW DEEP IS YOUR LOVE

A film by Eleanor Mortimer

World Premiere: True/False Film Festival 2025

Other relevant & upcoming festivals

CPH:DOX
Margaret Mead
San Francisco Film Festival
Hot Docs
DocVille
Zurich Film Festival
Bergen International Film Festival

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Year: 2025
Countries: UK
Runtime: 100 mins
Format: 4K 1.85:1, Dolby Atmos, Dolby 7.1, Dolby 5.1
Languages: English

LOGLINE

With deep-sea mining looming, biologists race to collect and name the undiscovered species of the abyss, the last wilderness on earth.

SYNOPSIS

HOW DEEP IS YOUR LOVE follows biologists as they explore the deep sea, where 70% of our planet lies hidden. As they uncover mesmerising creatures and ecosystems thriving in darkness, a looming threat emerges: the prospect of deep-sea mining in this untouched wilderness. This film weaves wonder with urgency, challenging us to balance the drive for resources with the intrinsic value of an ecosystem. As we journey through this breathtaking realm, we are left to ponder – how deep is our love?

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

As a filmmaker I always search for ways big ideas can be explored by paying attention to the small. This is what first drew me to the taxonomists studying strange (and often tiny) animals from a part of the world which, though still unexplored, is under threat. The deep sea is a last frontier of human discovery - a vast unknown habitat covering sixty percent of the earth's surface, yet the majority of the animals who live there are unknown.

The meticulous process of describing and naming these animals is time-consuming and often overlooked. As I started to look into taxonomy it fascinated me how much time and attention (months on end) a scientist would spend observing every detail of a worm or a tiny crustacean, even when the funding to do so had run out. It felt like an act of love. Meanwhile I was hearing mining company executives in interviews talking about the deep sea as a desert with hardly any life and I knew I had to bring to audiences' attention the work of the scientists, that they too may fall in love with the animals of the deep.

From the moment I started thinking about this film I always imagined the animals' perspective on our various attempts to explore their world – what would a remotely operated vehicle from a science ship look like for animals used to perpetual darkness for centuries? One of the hurdles of making this film was that humans and deep sea animals cannot be alive in the same space - a challenge for a filmmaker wanting audiences to connect with both. I decided to use the imaginative space of the film to bring the deep sea animals into the human landscape, an inverse of the human exploration of the deep.

For me this is the power of films and this is what humans have going for us – the imagination – the ability to imagine a different way of being, another way of operating; a future in which we can coexist with other beings, even with entities we don't yet understand.

Eleanor Mortimer - [Headshot File](#)

Eleanor is a documentary filmmaker from the UK whose work centres on re-imaginings of the world through unusual, hidden or overlooked perspectives. A directing graduate of the National Film & Television School (UK) and National Geographic Storytelling Fellow, her first film TERRITORY screened at over fifty festivals including Sundance, winning the 'Best Short Documentary Award' at Hot Docs, a Grierson nomination & Vimeo Staff Pick. She went on to make SEAFARERS (New York Times Op Docs), BIRD (Channel 4 Random Acts), BUBBLE (Best Short Documentary, Festival dei Popoli, Aeon Video & Vdrome), and LUMA (Dokufest Kosovo). Alongside her independent work Eleanor makes commissions for galleries, publishers and TV & teaches filmmaking to community groups and in film schools. HOW DEEP IS YOUR LOVE is Eleanor's debut feature and biggest filmmaking adventure yet, for which she is grateful to have had support from the Sundance Institute, Sandbox Films, BFI Doc Society and Rooftop Films.



Jacob Thomas - [Headshot File](#)

Jacob Thomas is an award-winning producer and Sundance Producers Summit Fellow. His 2019 feature, PERFECT 10, written and directed by Eva Riley won the Discovery award at the BIFAs in 2020. Alongside Alexandra Breede, he produced MAKING NOISE QUIETLY (2019) directed by Dominic Dromgoole.



Jacob graduated with an MA in producing from the National Film and Television School in 2015. Where he produced NORTH (2015), written and directed by Phil Sheerin starring Barry Keoghan, a finalist for a student Academy Award and winner of Best Short at Galway Film Fleadh. He also produced animated short SEA CHILD (2015), directed by Minha Kim which won several awards, and co-produced documentary short TERRITORY (2015), directed by Eleanor Mortimer, which screened in competition at Sundance and won best short documentary at Hot Docs.

He has participated in the Next Wave Genre Lab, iFeatures and MicroWave feature development schemes, and has been selected for documentary development programmes by the Sundance Institute and the Redford Foundation. Jacob has mentored young filmmakers through the Random Acts 'First Acts' short film programme, and has taught at London Film School and London Film Academy.

CREDITS:

Production Companies: Luna Films and Ngauruhoe Films

Sandbox Films Presents

In Association with BFI Doc Society Fund

A Luna Films & Ngauruhoe Films Production

Directed & Written by	Eleanor Mortimer
Produced by	Jacob Thomas
Executive Producer	Jessica Harrop
Executive Producer	Luke W Moody
Co-Producer & Science Advisor	Muriel Rabone
Featuring	Belen Arias Lupita Bribiesca-Contreras Bethany Fleming Eva Stewart
Editor	Nicole Halova
Supervising Editor	Maya Daisy Hawke
Composer	Fraya Thomsen
Sound Design	John Cohen
Cinematography	Eleanor Mortimer
Supported by	Sandbox Films, BFI Doc Society Fund, Sundance Documentary Film Programme, Rooftop Films.
Labs & Forums:	Camp 4Science (AFO Czech Republic), Sundance Producers Summit (2022).

PROMO STILL

[Google Drive Link](#)

About Sandbox Films

Sandbox Films is an award-winning documentary studio that illuminates the art and beauty of scientific inquiry. Sandbox Films provides creative and financial support for artist-driven documentary projects that explore the world (and beyond) with curiosity, creativity and humanity. Founded in 2020, Sandbox Films' slate of critically acclaimed films includes Academy Award-nominated FIRE OF LOVE; Sundance Jury Prize winners ALL LIGHT, EVERYWHERE and NOCTURNES; Werner Herzog's FIREBALL, Penny Lane's CONFESSIONS OF A GOOD SAMARITAN and Emmy-winning FATHOM; and most recently, ANDRÉ IS AN IDIOT, winner of the 2025 US Documentary Audience Award and Jonathan Oppenheim Editing Award at Sundance. These and other Sandbox Films documentaries have found extensive audiences via Apple TV+, Hulu, National Geographic Documentary Films, NEON and Netflix, and in movie theaters internationally. Based in New York City, Sandbox collaborates with visionary filmmakers, scientists and production partners anywhere.

About Doc Society

Doc Society is an innovative global non-profit working with the boldest and most inspiring filmmakers all over the world. Beyond the right to self-expression we are focused on the right of all citizens to access media in the public interest - and building the global ecosystem that makes that possible.

We are experts in the production and impact distribution of non-fiction storytelling. Since 2005 we have funded 600+ narrative projects and regranted \$22M in over 40 countries. In addition to grant making and supporting the creative process, we help artists and journalists develop impact strategies and connect with communities and allies beyond the media industry and across civil society.

In the UK Doc Society is a delegate partner of the British Film Institute, supporting and enabling independent non-fiction film by UK filmmakers, and running a dedicated support programme. Doc Society's latest initiative is the Democracy Story Unit, a cultural strategy initiative that supports transformative storytelling to advance more just and inclusive societies, and better futures for all.

About Luna Films

Luna makes documentary films which connect us to each other as well as to animals, plants, other planets, landscapes, microscopic creatures, and to our own forgotten pasts & imagined futures.

About Ngauruhoe Films

Ngauruhoe Films was established in 2015 to develop and produce emotionally powerful feature films with visionary directors. Ngauruhoe is the name of a mountain in Aotearoa which translates from te reo Māori as 'throwing hot rocks'. This dynamic and disruptive creative principle is at the heart of the company's ambitions. Ngauruhoe Film produced the BIFA winning PERFECT 10 (2019) written and directed by Eva Riley and has recently completed the documentary HOW DEEP IS YOUR LOVE with director Eleanor Mortimer.