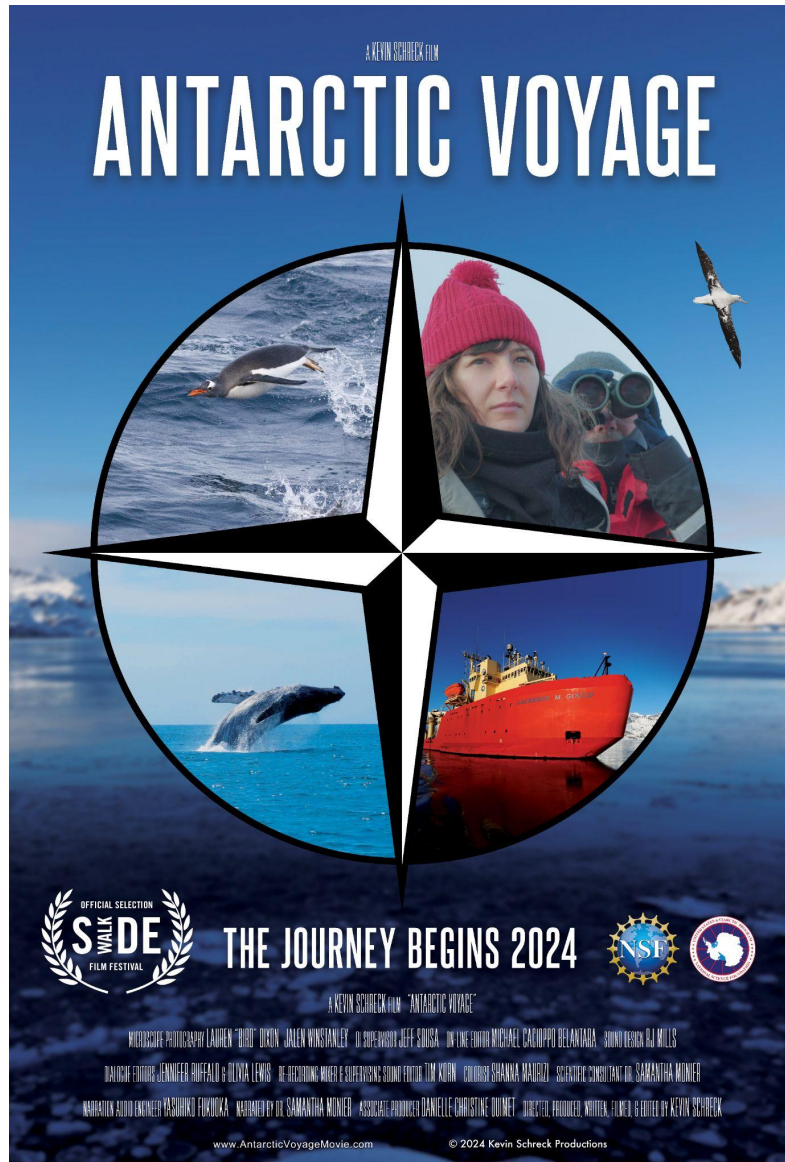


Kevin Schreck Productions *presents*
ANTARCTIC VOYAGE



48 mins - 2024 - Color - English/Spanish - Aspect Ratio = 16:9

GENRE: **Documentary/Adventure/Science/Nature**

FESTIVAL INQUIRIES & MEDIA CONTACT

Kevin Schreck Productions

Attn: Kevin Schreck

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SYNOPSIS:

Antarctic Voyage is a new documentary from award-winning filmmaker Kevin Schreck about a biological research expedition to the remote island of South Georgia, starring charismatic field biologist, Dr. Samantha Monier. Part modern-day adventure film, part visual tone poem, *Antarctic Voyage* sheds a light on the current state of the polar region's majestic wildlife, and the intrepid explorers who are dedicated to preserving and understanding what remains of our fragile, vital natural world, all through a refreshingly unconventional manner from the standard nature documentary genre.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT:

As a child, the stories that most inspired me as a child were true stories, especially those of the natural world. Sir David Attenborough, Jane Goodall, and Carl Sagan were hugely formative in my appreciation for not only understanding nature and science, but also discovering a zeal for communicating these topics. Most importantly, they taught me the importance of finding the humanity and aesthetic value in these big themes that relate to us all. When I was offered the chance to make a wildlife documentary at sea in the Antarctic while being funded by the National Science Foundation, and having full creative control on the film's vision, it was a dream come true. *Antarctic Voyage* is a milestone in my career as a non-fiction filmmaker. While I hope that I can make even more films about the natural world while satisfying my goals and instincts as a visual artist, I also know that there will likely never be another project exactly like this one.

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Kevin Schreck



Q&A with the Director Kevin Schreck

1. How did you get involved with the project?

My friend, Samantha Monier, was applying for grants from the National Science Foundation to conduct research on predator associations between marine mammals and seabirds around the island of South Georgia. This expedition would be for her Ph.D. thesis, so it was an important opportunity, and research on those species hadn't been conducted during the austral winter in over thirty years. Despite this historic research, the NSF, understandably, said that although the research was important, the public would not likely read an academic paper on this data. They required a public outreach angle to qualify for the grant. We needed an accessible, entertaining way for the general public to understand what was happening down there. Luckily, Sam and I were friends, and her idea was to hire me to make a documentary about the expedition. Of course, I jumped at the chance to make this dream project into a reality.

2. What was the most challenging aspect of making this film?

With our low budget, I was the only filmmaker aboard, and prepared to be in charge of directing, interviewing, cinematography, and sound all simultaneously. However, the biggest challenge was, due to severe storms, thousands of flights were cancelled and delayed on the day we were to leave for Chile — including our own initial flight. As a result, a large amount of my gear, my entire wardrobe and supplies, and some scientific instruments were lost in transit, and we would be unable to receive that luggage until after the voyage. I had to improvise a new way of making this film with very limited resources and only the simplest of gear while at sea for a month. But challenges like these help us grow as filmmakers, and I was up to the challenge. We still made the movie the way we wanted to make it.

3. How did you achieve the tone of the film?

To make this movie, I had less than 1% of the budget of a David Attenborough wildlife documentary made by the BBC. But this wasn't a bad thing. While I greatly admire and am inspired by the way they make their majestic films, I prefer to embrace the gritty, tangible, human experiences in non-fiction cinema. I like documentaries that look and feel like documentaries, rather than those that feel too over-produced and sanitized. So it has a more *cinéma vérité* quality to it than the usual science documentary, both due to the limited budget and missing gear, but also due to my own artistic leanings. I wanted it to feel like you were really on the ship among the scientists and crew members, awestruck by the scope and scale of everything visible our vessel alone. We have to adapt to our surroundings and thrive within limitations.

4. What should viewers expect when watching the film?

Antarctic Voyage is a modern-day adventure film on the high seas, an investigative wildlife documentary, and something of a visual tone poem that allows the audiences to find their own meanings in the vast images and sounds. In hindsight, as I was editing *Antarctic Voyage*, I realized that this film had a lot less in common with standard, modern science or nature documentaries (as much as I appreciate them), and had a lot more in common with more experimental, avant-garde, and much older works of cinema and visual art. After a preview screening, one person told me it felt like, "2001: A Space Odyssey set in the Antarctic," which we both understood as a major compliment. But I think people of all ages and in all cultures will find something that resonates with them, whether it's the intimate human stories, the gentle humor, or the natural beauty onscreen.

5. What's next for you? Are there any projects you're working on?

I'm currently in post-production on and seeking completion funds for *Enongo*, a biographical documentary about a rapper, producer, and Ph.D. candidate, Enongo Lumumba-Kasongo, better known by her stage persona, "Sammus." A considerable amount of the documentary is animated in hand-drawn styles, and it will be the first feature-length movie of any genre with an animation team entirely comprised by Black women animators, each of them telling the story of our remarkable, relatable protagonist in their own, unique style. *Enongo* is a portrait about finding identity and joy as an artist, and a very personal film for all of us. I'm also in the midst of a currently-unannounced film about animation history, and I may have another project or two waiting in the wings... I'm lucky to keep very busy doing what I love as my career, and hope to sustain that while telling impactful stories that resonate with audiences.



CREATIVE TEAM



Kevin Schreck | Director, Producer, Writer, Cinematographer, Editor
Originally from Minneapolis, Minnesota, Kevin Schreck is an award-winning documentary filmmaker and film educator located in Brooklyn, New York.

At 23 years old, Kevin's first major feature-length documentary, *Persistence of Vision* (2012), made its premiere, and has screened at over 100 international film festivals and institutions to wide acclaim. His subsequent films include *Tangent Realms: The Worlds of C.M. Kösemen* (2018), *The Duck of New York* (2023), and *Antarctic Voyage* (2024). His next project, *Enongo*, is a biographical animation-documentary hybrid about rapper/producer/Ph.D. candidate, Enongo Lumumba-Kasongo, better known by her stage persona, Sammus. The film is currently in post-production.

As an educator, Kevin has taught filmmaking masterclasses at major universities in Australia, Denmark, and across the United States. Since early 2018, he has been a teaching artist and mentor at Reel Works, an after

school program which provides free film education to New York students from underrepresented communities and low-income backgrounds.



Dr. Samantha Monier | Protagonist, Narrator, Scientific consultant

As a teenage New Yorker, Samantha loved musical theater, a passion which honed her skills in communication and connecting with audiences. Her quest for adventure eventually led her to becoming a field biologist.

At Bard College (where she met fellow student and filmmaker Kevin Schreck), Samantha studied the behavior of lemurs in Madagascar. She achieved her Master's Degree at Columbia University while conducting cognitive research on an island population of Rhesus monkeys. Her Ph.D. thesis at the CUNY Graduate Center & the College of Staten Island concerned relationships between marine mammals and seabirds off the coast of California and in the Southern Ocean. When the National Science Foundation wanted a public outreach angle in order to fund the Antarctic expedition, it was Samantha's idea to have a documentary made, and reached out to Kevin Schreck. The collaboration resulted in both her doctorate and the making of our documentary, *Antarctic Voyage*.



CREDITS

Directed, Produced, Written, Filmed, & Edited by
Kevin Schreck

Associate Producer
Danielle Christine Ouimet

Narrated by
Dr. Samantha Monier

Narration Audio Engineer
Yasukiho Fukuoka

Scientific Consultant
Dr. Samantha Monier

Sound Design
RJ Mills

Re-Recording Mixer & Supervising Sound Editor
Tim Korn

Colorist

Shanna Maurizi

Dialogue Editor

Olivia Lewis

On-Line Film Editor

Michael Cacioppo Belantara

DI Supervisor

Jeff Sousa

Microscope Photography

Lauren "Bird" Dixon

Jalen Winstanley

Pre-Production Assistant

Marcus Cochran

Spanish Translations

Bella Zinca