



DENIS DELESTRAC / BIOGRAPHY

Denis Delestrac (France, 1968) is one of a wave of non-fiction feature filmmakers reaching large international audiences through mainstream theatres and broadcast distribution. The force with which Delestrac exposes controversial issues has sparked public debate and influenced political decision-making internationally, positioning him as one of the most influential investigative filmmakers this past decade.

Denis Delestrac made his debut in non-fiction filmmaking in 2001 and signed over a dozen documentaries. Among his credits are IMAX blockbuster MYSTERY OF THE NILE (2005) and the award-winning PAX AMERICANA AND THE WEAPONIZATION OF SPACE (2009), his first investigative film. Shot over three years with unprecedented access to the US Air Force Space Command, this film earned Delestrac international attention.

SAND WARS (2013) was his next film, and the first in a long line of environmental investigations. The winner of 16 international awards, including a Gold Panda, a Greenpeace Prize and a Gemini Award, it was translated into more than 40 languages, reaching over 120 millions of viewers worldwide. It led the United Nations Environmental Program to condemn sand mining, and influenced local and international policy-making. A landmark film for resources' management and architecture studies curriculums, "Sand Wars" is still taught in colleges and universities around the world.

Uncovering issues hidden in plain sight became one of Delestrac's key interests and signature abilities. His films are a genre in themselves; eco-thrillers which gradually unravel complex international mechanisms with impact on economy, society and nature. His skill to make thrilling narratives around difficult and seemingly tedious topics has earned him international recognition over the years.

BANKING NATURE (2015) revealed financial speculation on endangered species. The film was invited to environmental and regular film festivals alike, and received 12 awards, including the FIGRA Impact prize. In FREIGHTENED (2016) he explores the invisible yet destructive impact of cargo shipping. More recently, he exposed the impact behind gold mining in THE SHADOW OF GOLD (2018), and uncovered the new gold rush for underwater riches in SUNKEN ELDORADO (2019).

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Delestrac signed CAPTAIN'S DREAM in 2018, a poetic account of 100 artists and scientists from all over the world to Antarctica, where they trigger a debate on the future of Humanity's shared spaces. This film marks a turning point in Delestrac's storytelling, which shifts from investigative to human-driven narratives.

In 2017, Delestrac was invited to become a member of the European Film Academy, to work – among others – alongside Wim Wenders, Claude Lelouch, Ridley Scott, and Pedro Almodovar to promote European cinema in the world.

Denis Delestrac is a graduate from the Toulouse Faculty of Law and obtained a Master in Journalism at the University of Dallas. He made his first steps in journalism in the United States, as a photojournalist - and later as a writer - covering the 1992 Los Angeles riots, the Waco siege in 1993, and the 1992 presidential elections. In the last two decades, Delestrac has published in several North American and European publications such as "Le Monde", in France.

Delestrac's books collaborations include "The War and Environment", which provides a critical analysis of the devastating consequences of war on the environment. Along with Delestrac, contributors include writers and activists like Robert Fisk, Margaret Mead, Pierce Brosnan, Vandana Shiva and Jane Goodall. "Creuser jusqu'où?" examines our society's addiction to mining resources and the limits of economic and natural growth. "The Future Society" is a prospective work in collaboration with Pritzker Prize laureate Alvaro Siza, "father of the Internet" Vinton Cerf, and longtime friend, Prof. Noam Chomsky. Delestrac's next books will include a second collaboration with Prof. Chomsky (2020) and a thriller on sand (Randomhouse, 2021).

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Member of the European Film Academy
- Member of the International Documentary Association
- Member of the International Federation of Journalists
- Founding member of The Barcelona International Documentary Club
- Member of the collège audiovisuel de la Société Civile des Auteurs Multimédia

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

FEATURE-LENGTH DOCUMENTARY

FILM	YEAR	POSITION
ONE (IN PRODUCTION)	2021	Director, writer, producer
SUNKEN ELDORADO	2019	Director, writer
THE SHADOW OF GOLD	2019	Director, writer
CAPTAIN'S DREAM	2018	Director, writer, producer
FREIGHTENED	2016	Director, writer
BANKING NATURE	2015	Director, writer
SAND WARS	2013	Director, writer, associate producer
PAX AMERICANA	2009	Director, writer, associate producer
MYSTERY OF THE NILE	2005	Writer, assistant director

SELECTED AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS

Whistler Film Festival (Canada) | **Best Documentary 2009** |
Sishuan TV Festival (China) | **Gold Panda for Best Nature & Environment Protection 2013** |
Eko Film Festival (Czech Republic) | **Best movie - Inspiration Category 2013** |
Festival du Film Vert (Switzerland) | **Greenpeace Prize 2014** |
Wild Screen Festival (UK) | **Nominated for Environment & Conservation Category 2014** |
San Francisco International Ocean Film Festival (USA) | **Environment Award 2014** |
Banff World Media Festival (Canada) | **Best Environmental and Wildlife Film 2014** |
Gemini Award (Canada) | **Best Documentary – Nature & Science Category 2014** |
Blue Ocean Film Festival (USA) | **Nominated for Marine Science Category 2014** |
Barcelona International Environmental Film Festival (Spain) | **Best documentary 2015** |
Wild and Scenic Film Festival (USA) | **Best Film Award 2015, Honorable Mention 2015** |
Green Me Film Festival (Germany) | **Best Film Award 2015** |
FIGRA Festival du Grand Reportage d'Actualité (France) | **Impact Prize 2015** |
Ahvaz International Science Film Festival (Iran) | **IX Ahmed Attia Award 2015** |
Expo Milano (Italia) | **Winner 2015** |
Kuala Lumpur Eco Film Fest (Malaysia) | **Best Full Length Documentary 2015** |
City of Innsbruck (Austria) | **Grand Prize Winner 2015** |
Planet in Focus Festival of Toronto (Canada) | **Best International Feature Award 2015** |
FICMA (Spain) | **Golden Sun 2015** |
Emys Foundation (Spain) | **Special Prize 2015** |
Life Sciences Film festival (Czech Republic) | **Forestry and Wood Sciences Award 2015** |
Festival du Film Vert (Switzerland) | **Greenpeace Prize 2016** |
FIGRA Festival du Grand Reportage d'Actualité (France) | **Impact Prize 2016** |
Prix Tournesol du Documentaire Vert (Switzerland) | **Tournesol Award 2016** |
Deauville Green Awards (France) | **Golden Green Award 2016** |
DIG Awards (Italy) | **Finalist 2016** |
Another Way Film Festival (Spain) | **Best Film 2016** |
Grand Prix Écrans Publics (France) | **Award 2016** |
Japan Prize NHK (Japan) | **2nd Prize - Welfare Education Category 2016** |
Deauville Green Awards (France) | **Green Award 2018** |
Festival of Environmental Films Chefchaouen (Morocco) | **Lifetime Achievement Award 2019** |
On Art Film Festival (Poland) | **Green Award 2019** |
Monte Carlo 33rd International URTI (Monaco) | **Grand Prix for Author's Documentary** |
Cayman International Film Festival (Cayman Island) | **Best Environmental Film** |

OFFICIAL SELECTIONS AND OPENING FILMS

PAX AMERICANA (2009)

IDFA Amsterdam (Holland) | Official selection 2009 |
FIPA (France) | Official selection 2010 |
Thessaloniki Documentary Festival (Greece) | Official selection 2010 |
Victoria Film Festival (Canada) | Official selection 2010 |
Planet Doc Review Film Festival (Poland) | Official selection 2010 |
« DOXA » Documentary Festival (Canada) | Official selection 2010 |
London International Documentary Festival (UK) | Official selection 2010 |
Sci-Fi London (UK) | Official selection 2010 |
Madrid International Documentary Festival (Spain) | Official selection 2010 |
Encounters International Documentary Festival (South Africa) | Official selection 2010 |
Oxdox International Documentary Festival (UK) | Opening Film 2010 |
DocAviv International Documentary Festival (Israel) | Official selection 2010 |

SAND WARS (2013)

Melbourne Environmental Film Festival (Australia) | Official Selection 2013 |
Kuala Lumpur Eco Film Fest (Malaysia) | Official Selection 2013 |
Eko Film Festival (Czech Republic) | Official Selection 2013 |
Green Film Festival (Argentina) | Official Selection 2013 |
Japan Prize NHK (Japan) | Official Selection 2013 |
Planet in Focus Film Festival (Canada) | Official Selection 2013 |
Hawaii International Film Festival (USA) | Official Selection 2013 |
Orlando Film Festival (USA) | Official Selection 2013 |
San Sebastian Surfilm Festival (Spain) | Official Selection 2013 |
Festival du Film Vert (Switzerland) | Official selection 2014 |
FIGRA Festival du Grand Reportage d'Actualité (France) | Official selection 2014 |
Wildscreen Festival (UK) | Official selection 2014 |
Wild and Scenic Film Festival (USA) | Official selection 2014 |
FIGRA Festival du Grand Reportage d'Actualité (France) | Official selection 2015 |
Green Me Film Festival (Germany) | Official selection 2015 |
Cayman International Film Festival (Cayman Island) | Official selection 2015 |
Green Film Festival (Argentina) | Official Selection |

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SAND WARS (CONTINUED)

Festival de Cine Verde de Barichara (Colombia) | Official Selection 2013 |
Filmambiente (Brazil) | Official selection 2013 |
Escales La Rochelle (France) | Official Selection 2013 |
Sichuan TV Festival (China) | Official Selection 2013 |
Festival du Film d'Environnement de Paris (France) | Official Selection 2014 |
Washington DC Environmental Film Festival (USA) | Official Selection 2014 |
Sao Paulo Ecofalante Environmental Film Festival (Brazil) | Official Selection 2014 |
Cinema Planeta (Mexico) | Official Selection 2014 |
Festival de Cine de la Naturaleza y del Hombre (Spain) | Official Selection 2014 |
Mokpo Ocean Film Festival (South Korea) | Official Selection 2014 |
Ocean Film Festival (USA) | Official Selection 2014 |
Maremostra International Film Festival (Spain) | Official Selection 2014 |
40 Fathoms Film Festival (South Africa) | Official Selection 2014 |
International Film Festival Of Patmos (Greece) | Official Selection 2014 |
Bahamas International Film Festival (Bahamas) | Official Selection 2014 |
Brampton Film Festival (USA) | Official Selection 2014 |
Corvallis Environmental Center Eco-Film Fest (USA) | Official Selection 2015 |
California Film Institute Youth Environmental Forum (USA) | Official Selection 2015 |
Ocean Film Festival (USA) | Special Screening 2015 |

BANKING NATURE (2015)

DREFF (Dominican Republic) | Official Selection 2015 |
Melbourne Environmental Film Festival (Australia) | Official Selection 2015 |
Byron Bay Film Festival (India) 2015 | Official selection |
Ficma Latam (Mexico) | Official selection 2015 |
CineEco Seia (Portugal) | Official selection 2015 |
Matsalu Nature Film Festival (Estonia) | Official selection 2015 |
Filmambiente Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) | Official Selection 2015 |
Naturvision Film festival (Germany) | Official selection 2015 |
Global Film Festival (Germany) | Official selection 2015 |
Festival de Namur (Belgium) | Official selection 2015 |
Ahvaz International Science Film Festival (Iran) | Official selection 2015 |
IDFA Amsterdam (Holland) | Official selection 2015 |
VIFF (Canada) | Official Selection 2015 |

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BANKING NATURE (CONTINUED)

Frontline Club London 2015 (UK) | Premiere 2015 |
ZAGREBDOX (Croatia) | Official selection category "Controversial Dox" 2016 |
Green Film Festival in Seoul (Corée) | Official selection 2016 |
Addis International Film Festival (Ethiopia) | Official selection 2016 |

FREIGHTENED (2016)

DREFF (Dominican Republic) | Official Selection 2016 |
Planet in Focus Film Festival of Toronto (Canada) | Official Selection 2016 |
FICMA (Spain) | Golden Sun 2016 |
San Francisco Green Film Festival (USA) | Official Selection 2016 |
Docs Barcelona (Spain) | Official Selection 2016 |
Docs Barcelona-Medellín (Colombia) | Official Selection 2016 |
Vancouver International Film Festival (Canada) | Official Selection 2016 |
DocsMX (Mexico) | Selection Breaking Docs 2016 |
KLEFF (Malasia) | Official Selection 2016 |
Innsbruck Nature Film Festival (Austria) | Official Selection 2016 |
CAMINA-MONFIC (Uruguay) | Official Selection 2016 |
Green Fest (Serbia) | Official Selection 2016 |
Docs Barcelona-Valparaíso (Chile) | Official Selection 2016 |
Films for Transparency (Panama) | Official Selection 2016 |
Sheffield Doc (UK) | Official Selection Environmental Jury 2016 |

CAPTAIN'S DREAM (2018)

CineEco Seia (Portugal) | Official selection 2018 |
Cinemare Festival (Germany) | Official selection 2018 |
Festiver Festival (Colombia) | Official selection 2018 |
FICMA (Spain) | Official selection 2018 |
Re-Generation (Spain) | Official selection 2018 |
ECOCUP Environmental Film Festival | Opening film 2019 |

SHADOW OF GOLD (2019)

Hot Docs Film Festival (Canada) | Premiere 2019 |