

# GREEN SCREEN

INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE FILMFESTIVAL ECKERNFÖRDE  
from **SEPTEMBER 07th 2020**

## **Laudatio**

## **Best Film**

### **„My Octopus Teacher“**

**Director:** Pippa Ehrlich, James Reed

**Script:** Craig Foster, Pippa Ehrlich

**Cinematography:** Roger Horrocks, Craig Foster

**A SEA CHANGE PROJECT and OFF THE FENCE Production**

The Jury unanimously selected this film as Best Film of the Festival.

Human and other animal characters appear differently here than in wildlife films we are used to. Here it is the human who is 'humanized', as an individual in need of protection and healing; an animal – an octopus – is the healer, remaining perfectly foreign and unknowable, in its own world and in its own time. And yet the communication between human and animal is undeniable.

The underwater photography in the mysterious world of the kelp forest – discovered with and through human protagonist Craig Foster – is world class. The story, filmed over a year, seems to chug gently along, but do not be deceived! The film is extremely precisely and sensitively edited.

The music reflects and enriches the narrative, almost omnipresent, often barely noticeable, never intrusive. If viewers are deeply moved by the end of the film, then that may be because its theme, finally, is love; and the transience, and thus the preciousness, of all forms of life, and of all relationships.

The Festival's Award for Best Film goes to MY OCTOPUS TEACHER.