



## The 4th Annual Imagine Science Film Festival

**October 14<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 2011**

Manhattan | Brooklyn | Queens

The festival is just around the corner and this year's film program is the largest to date, including 80 films from 15 different countries. With new events, panels and receptions, this year's festival promises to be an exciting eight days filled with science and cinema.

Aging, immortality, and space are the program themes, with evenings devoted to avant-garde science shorts, documentaries, real footage from lab experiments, discussions about humanizing science through its depiction in film, and an afternoon of child-friendly science based films.

ISFF screenings will take place at venues throughout the five boroughs of New York, opening at Museum of Moving Image on October 14<sup>th</sup> and commencing at Symphony Space on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Other venues include indieScreen, Anthology Film Archives, the New York Hall of Science, CUNY Graduate Center, The Bell House, and the New York Academy of Science.

The cover photograph of the ISFF Film Guide was created by one of this year's Artists in Residence, Vincent Fournier. For a complete festival schedule and details about each film, visit our website to [download the ISFF 2011 Film Guide](http://www.imaginesciencefilms.com/festival/tickets-and-showtimes): [www.imaginesciencefilms.com/festival/tickets-and-showtimes](http://www.imaginesciencefilms.com/festival/tickets-and-showtimes)

**If you would like to request a press pass or need more information, please contact: [press@imaginesciencefilms.com](mailto:press@imaginesciencefilms.com)**

## **New to the Festival**

### **Google Search Stories**

**Google** has created a new video series called **Search Stories** about people whose searches lead to astonishing innovations and entertaining discoveries. Topics range from searching for new sources of energy, to locating and surfing on a 1,000 year-old wave. These video portraits give intimate glimpses into the lives of real people whose curiosity has led them on life-changing adventures. **Imagine Science Films will highlight selected films from Google Search Stories at this year's festival, such as a piece about Caroline Moore, an amateur astronomer, who became the youngest person to discover a supernova.**

**Imagine Science Films** extends a special thank you to **Google** for contributing to this year's festival. We look forward to screening the **Search Stories**. To learn more about the project and to see other videos that have been released online, please visit: [www.google.com/insidesearch/stories.html](http://www.google.com/insidesearch/stories.html)

### **Guest Country Initiative**

**October 18th, 2011 | 8PM**

As part of the Imagine Science Guest Country Initiative, a Mexican film night "Ciencias Cinematograficas" will be held, Tuesday October 18<sup>th</sup>, at indieScreen in Brooklyn. The program will include films by Mexican filmmakers that highlight scientific innovations and technology.

But the Mexican celebration does not end there. An after-party at Cantina Royale will feature art installations, a DJ, and the video premiere from a new project uniting science and art: The Clipperton Project. The Clipperton Project is selecting 16 artists and scientists from 6 different countries to live and work together on the Clipperton Islands for 3 weeks. Located 1,250 km off the coast of Mexico, Clipperton scientists will research a variety of environmental issues like climate change and the biosphere. Clipperton artists will consecutively produce work based on their individual journeys and the history of the island.

For more information, please visit:

<http://imaginesciencefilms.com/outreach/guest-country-2011-mexico/>

### **Artists in Residence Selected for 2011**

Every year, Imagine Science Films invites an **international group of artists and scientists, whose work exemplifies a marriage between science and the creative process**, to be in the Imagine Science Artists in Residence program.

The ISFF Artists in Residence will be featured in our video blog Portrait Series and interviews with each artist will be incorporated into the festival program.

**The work of two Artists in Residence will be screened during the film festival.**

### **October 17<sup>th</sup> | 8PM | The Bell House**

Two video pieces by **Catherine Chalmers**, *The Chosen* and *We Rule*, will be part of a short film program called **Controlled Experiments** that depicts real footage and unseen data from experiments and research.

For more information about the films, please visit their individual film pages online:

<http://imaginesciencefilms.com/2011/09/ant-leafcutters/>

<http://imaginesciencefilms.com/2011/10/we-rule/>

### **October 15<sup>th</sup> | 8PM | Anthology Film Archives**

Vincent Fournier's video piece *Man Machine* will be showcased in a short experimental film program called *Avant-Garde Science*. To learn more about this video piece, please visit: <http://imaginesciencefilms.com/2011/09/man-machine/>

For a complete list of this year's Artists in Residence, please visit:

<http://imaginesciencefilms.com/program/artists-in-residence/2011-artists-in-residence/>

## **Festival Jury**

This year, the Imagine Science Film Festival Jury consists of four members: **Carl Zimmer** (science journalist and author), **David Eagleman** (neuroscientist and writer), **Darcy Kelley** Professor of Biological Sciences at Columbia University), and **Robb Moss** (documentary filmmaker and Harvard Professor).

For a more detailed biography of each jury member, please visit:

<http://imaginesciencefilms.com/festival/jury/>

## **New Awards for Filmmakers**

**This year, ISFF has selected over 50 short films to be considered for 3 different awards.** The jury will select one winner and two honorable mentions for each award. In total, the jury will select **3 winners and 6 runners-up.**

For the fourth consecutive year, founding sponsor Nature joins us in celebrating films that best exemplify scientific rigor in the arts. Chief Editor of Nature Medicine, Juan Carlos Lopez, will host the ISFF Mexican Short Film Program at indieScreen. October 18th, 2011. Nature will also host the official closing award ceremony at Symphony Space Thalia Café on October 21st, 2011.

A brief description of each award:

### **The Scientific Merit Award**

*Sponsored by Nature*

Cash Prize \$2,500

*“Best short that incorporate science in a compelling narrative”*

### **The Scientist Award**

*Sponsored by AAAS/Science*

Cash Prize \$1,000

*“Best short that depicts a scientist in an accurate and original way”*

### **Visual Science**

*Sponsored by Imaginal Disc*

Cash Prize \$1,000

*“Best short that depicts a science in a visually-engaging manner”*

## **Festival Program Highlights**

### **Opening Night at Museum of the Moving Image**

#### **October 14th, 2011 | 8PM**

The opening night of the Imagine Science Film Festival will be hosted by Museum of the Moving Image, featuring a very special screening of the sci-fi drama, “Mr. Nobody.” This will be the New York premiere of the Belgian feature, directed by Jaco Van Dormael and starring Jared Leto and Diane Kruger.

The film opens in the year 2092 when we see Nemo (Mr. Nobody) as a 117 year-old man and the last living mortal. When asked by his doctor to recount his life story, Nemo (Mr. Nobody) guides the audience on a non-linear journey through different stages of his life. But as the story evolves, his memory begins to fail, and it becomes increasingly difficult to be certain which was his real life and which is a product of his imagination.

Mr. Nobody is framed by scientific theories and ideas about cognition and memory. Through Nemo (Mr. Nobody)’s description of his past, the possibility of multiple dimensions is explored and the main purpose of Nemo’s existence is revealed.

### **Musical Performance by Victoire**

#### **October 17th, 2011 | 8PM | The Bell House**

**Victoire** will perform at this year’s festival, following a short film program called Controlled Experiments, hosted in partnership with the Secret Science Club.

**Victoire** was dubbed “**an all-star, all-female quintet**” by Time Out New York and the New York Times, the New Yorker, and NPR named Cathedral City as one of 2010’s best classical albums of the year.

Founded by composer/keyboardist Missy Mazzoli, the band features Olivia De Prato (violin), Eileen Mack (clarinet), Lorna Krier (keyboards) and Eleonore Oppenheim (double bass). They create a stirring blend of winds, strings, keyboards and lo-fi electronics, performs Mazzoli's distinct blend of dreamy post rock, quirky minimalism and rich romanticism.

## Celluloid Science: Humanizing Life in the Lab

**October 20, 2011 | 7PM - 8:30PM New York Academy of Sciences**

Science & the City and ISFF will present a panel discussion about scientific storytelling through film. Moderating this panel will be *A Planet of Viruses* author Carl Zimmer. Panelists include: Sean Carroll, PhD (evolutionary biologist and founder of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Documentary Institute), David J. Heeger, PhD (neuroscientist who studies the brains under the influence of cinematic stimuli), Darcy Kelley, PhD (biologist at Columbia University), and Valerie Weiss, PhD (scientist and award-winning writer and director, *Losing Control*).

## Retrospective Night

**October 19th, 2011 | 7PM | CUNY Graduate Center | FREE**

Legendary filmmaker Joel Schumacher will present his classic feature film *Flatliners*, starring **Kiefer Sutherland, Kevin Bacon, and Julia Roberts**.

*Flatliners* explores the realm of the afterlife through the story of medical students whose experiments with near death experiences go awry. After stopping and starting their own hearts, the students begin having flashes of walking nightmares from their childhood. The visions intensify and the medical students are forced to go deeper into the death experience to find a cure.

**A post-screening panel discussion, moderated by Radiolab host Jad Abumrad**, will further explore the scientific theories addressed in *Flatliners* and the science of death. **Panelists include Director Joel Schumacher, Dr. Benjamin Abella, and Christian Macedonia, M.D.**

For more information, please visit:  
<http://imaginesciencefilms.com/2011/09/flatliners/>

## Science for Nanos

**October 14th, 2011 | 8PM | New York Hall of Science | FREE**

Using film as a tool for communicating complicated scientific theories and discoveries to children, ISFF will screen a kid-friendly short film program. The screening includes more than 16 short films that explore science in a fun and accessible manner.

## ISF at the Euroscience Open Forum 2012

**In collaboration with the University of College Dublin, Imagine Science Films will program the first dedicated science film festival to be held in Ireland.**

The festival will be part of the Euroscience Open Forum (ESOF), July 11th – 16th, 2012. ESOF is Europe's largest international science conference where leading scientists, researchers, industry professionals and policy makers discuss new discoveries.

UCD Imagine Science Film Festival is a national exploration of science through film and digital media. Working with Irish partners from the science, media and film sectors, the festival will showcase films that demonstrate how science impacts our lives.

ESOF will address major global challenges including: Energy Environment and Climate Change, Food and Health, Science and Culture, Science Reshaping the Frontiers of Knowledge, and Information and Science Education.

For more information, please visit: <http://imaginesciencefilms.com/outreach/isff-2012-dublin/>

## ISF Sponsor Chroma celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**Chroma is celebrating its 20th year as the world's leading manufacturer of optical filters and lenses for scientists and artists.** They specialize in manufacturing interference filters for the ultra-violet, visible and near-infrared portions of the spectrum, including bandpass, multiple bandpass, and long and short pass filters, as well as beamsplitters, dichroic mirrors and laser rejection filters. For more information, please visit: <http://imaginesciencefilms.com/2011/10/chroma-celebrates-20th-anniversary/>