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Witness the Extraordinary Bond Between Man and Whale in *Nature: Patrick and the Whale*

Premieres Wednesday, February 21 at 8/7c on PBS ([check local listings](#)), pbs.org/nature, [YouTube](#) and the [PBS App](#)

For years, Patrick Dykstra has traveled the globe following and diving with whales, learning how whales see, hear and perceive other creatures in the water. But then Patrick has a life changing experience in Dominica - a close encounter with a sperm whale he names “Dolores.” With breathtaking underwater footage, witness the attempts to communicate and understand each other in ***Nature: Patrick and the Whale***, premiering Wednesday, February 21 at 8/7c on PBS ([check local listings](#)), pbs.org/nature, [YouTube](#) and the [PBS App](#).

Weighing more than 15 tons, a sperm whale has a brain larger than any other animal on earth and is considered one of the more social whale species. Over the years, Patrick has worked with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to learn how whales communicate, how they perceive other creatures in the water, and how they behave in his immediate presence. With sensitivity and experience, he gets closer to whales than nearly anyone else, leading to once-in-a-lifetime experiences and personal bonds with specific whales.

Follow Patrick as he undertakes an adventure to find “Dolores” again, to ask her to take a camera down into the depths. She and another female sperm whale called “Can Opener” help Patrick show us the hidden world of her species while respecting their boundaries. With the

help of his friends more than 250 times his weight, Patrick explores their fascinating nature attempting to shine a light on the sperm whale's intelligence and complexity, as well as highlighting its current and past relationship with humankind. ***Nature: Patrick and the Whale*** explores the psychology of a man who has sacrificed everything in his single-minded quest to connect with and understand one of the biggest creatures in the ocean.

"I've been fascinated by whales since I was teenager visiting the Smithsonian, discovering how little we actually know about these creatures," said Patrick Dykstra. "I made it my mission to go out and find whales in the ocean and spend as much time with them as possible. The encounters I've been privileged to experience have been humbling and have taught me that we can never truly comprehend these highly sensitive giants with our intellect, but only with our emotions."

"***Patrick and the Whale*** is that rarest of films, where the science becomes the driving force for an emotional journey," said director Mark Fletcher. "There is never a dull moment, and we feel by the end that we better know whales, language, and even ourselves."

Nature: Patrick and the Whale is a production of Terra Mater Studios in association with The WNET Group. The documentary is directed and edited by Mark Fletcher and produced by Walter Köhler and Wolfgang Knöpfler. James Reed, Alexander Nanau, Dinah Czezik-Müller, Michael Frenschkowski, Sabine Holzer and Martin Mészáros are Executive Producers. Presented by Patrick Dykstra. For ***Nature***, Fred Kaufman is Executive Producer, Bill Murphy is Series Producer and Janet Hess is Series Editor. ***Nature*** is a production of The WNET Group.

Support for ***Nature: Patrick and the Whale*** was provided in part by Bradley L. Goldberg Family Foundation, Perpetual Kindness Foundation and Sun Hill Renewal Fund. Series funding for ***Nature*** is made possible in part by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, The Arnhold Family in memory of Henry and Clarisse Arnhold, The Fairweather Foundation, Kate W. Cassidy Foundation, Charles Rosenblum, Kathy Chiao and Ken Hao, Sue and Edgar Wachenheim III, Filomen M. D'Agostino Foundation, Lillian Goldman Charitable Trust, Gregg Peters Monsees Foundation, Koo and Patricia Yuen, Sandra Atlas Bass, and public television viewers.

Since 1982, ***Nature*** has pioneered a television genre that is now widely emulated in the broadcast industry, bringing the natural world to millions of viewers. The series has won more than 700 honors from the television industry, the international wildlife film communities and environmental organizations, including 21 Emmys and three Peabodys. ***Nature*** is available for

streaming concurrent with broadcast on all station-branded PBS platforms, including [PBS.org](https://www.pbs.org) and the [PBS App](#), available on iOS, Android, Roku streaming devices, Apple TV, Android TV, Amazon Fire TV, Samsung Smart TV, Chromecast and VIZIO. Classic episodes are available on various [FAST channel platforms](#) and on [PBS Passport](#).

Websites:

pbs.org/nature; facebook.com/PBSNature; twitter.com/PBSNature; instagram.com/pbsnature; youtube.com/naturepbs, tiktok.com/@pbsnature, #NaturePBS

About The WNET Group

[The WNET Group](#) creates inspiring media content and meaningful experiences for diverse audiences nationwide. It is the community-supported home of New York's [THIRTEEN](#) – America's flagship PBS station – [WLIW21](#), THIRTEEN PBSKids, WLIW World and Create; [NJ PBS](#), New Jersey's statewide public television network; Long Island's only NPR station WLIW-FM; [ALL ARTS](#), the arts and culture media provider; newsroom [NJ Spotlight News](#); and FAST channel PBS Nature. Through these channels and streaming platforms, The WNET Group brings arts, culture, education, news, documentary, entertainment and DIY programming to more than five million viewers each month. The WNET Group's award-winning productions include signature PBS series **Nature**, **Great Performances**, **American Masters** and **Amanpour and Company** and trusted local news program **NJ Spotlight News with Briana Vannozzi**. Inspiring curiosity and nurturing dreams, The WNET Group's award-winning Kids' Media and Education team produces the PBS KIDS series **Cyberchase**, interactive **Mission US** history games, and resources for families, teachers and caregivers. A leading nonprofit public media producer for more than 60 years, The WNET Group presents and distributes content that fosters lifelong learning, including multiplatform initiatives addressing poverty, jobs, economic opportunity, social justice, understanding and the environment. Through Passport, station members can stream new and archival programming anytime, anywhere. The WNET Group represents the best in public media. Join us.

About Terra Mater Studios

Terra Mater Studios is an internationally acclaimed production and distribution company renowned for its premium content for cinema, TV, and digital media. Their portfolio spans a wide range of content, including blue-chip TV documentaries in the nature and science genre, feature documentaries, factual entertainment series, fiction projects, and the development of innovative programs. In the realm of factual entertainment, their content covers a broad spectrum, from lifestyle and culture to historical and socially relevant topics, primarily developed for the German market. Terra Mater Studios places a strong emphasis on impact producing, as evident in HYPERLINK "<https://www.youtube.com/c/TerraMaterOfficial>" award-winning feature documentaries like "The Ivory Game" and "Sea of Shadows," as well as their own [YouTube channel](#), Terra Mater, which provides educational content through wildlife and conservation videos. Beyond traditional content production, Terra Mater Studios is committed to knowledge sharing and offers Science-Communication Workshops under the brand "Terra Mater Mindcollider" for both the scientific and business communities. They are also a founding member of the European training center, the International Screen HYPERLINK "<http://www.terramater.com>" Institute (ISI). Studios is a subsidiary of Red Bull. Learn more about Terra Mater Studios: www.terramater.com

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