

Water Makes Us Wet!

An Ecosexual Adventure
Pollination Productions



A Film by
Beth Stephens & Annie Sprinkle

Producers
Beth Stephens, Annie Sprinkle, Keith Wilson

Featuring
Beth Stephens, Annie Sprinkle

Narrated by
Sandy Stone

Executive Producers
Xandra Coe & Judy Meath

Logline

Two women and their dog Butch explore the pleasures and politics of water while on a road trip that climaxes in a shocking event that reaffirms the power of water, life and love.

Short Synopsis

With a poetic blend of curiosity, humor, sensuality and concern, this film chronicles the pleasures and politics of H₂O from an ecosexual perspective. Travel around with Annie, a former sex worker, Beth, a professor, and their dog Butch, in their E.A.R.T.H. Lab mobile unit, as they explore water in the Golden State. Ecosexuality shifts the metaphor “Earth as Mother” to “Earth as Lover” to create a more reciprocal and empathetic relationship with the natural world. Along the way, Annie and Beth interact with a diverse range of folks including performance artists, biologists, water treatment plant workers, scholars and others, climaxing in a shocking event that reaffirms the power of water, life and love.

Long Synopsis

With a poetic blend of curiosity, humor, sensuality and concern, this film chronicles the pleasures and politics of H₂O from an ecosexual perspective. Former sex worker, Annie Sprinkle, dyke professor, Beth Stephens, and their dog Butch take on questions about the complex history and politics of water on a quirky adventure across the Golden State in their E.A.R.T.H. Lab mobile unit. On a journey that spans the sacred and the profane, tragedy and comedy, they meet with an array of water experts, activists, spiritual advisors and regular folks, seeking the truth about our relationship to water. They hike into the remote site of Nestle’s dubious water bottling racket. They play in the family pool where Annie gave her first blowjob. They commune with elephant seals, consult an oracle, and plunge a toilet. Beth anoints a parched shrub with water from her nostrils. They contemplate the flavor bouquet of drinking water made from wastewater. They even crash San Francisco’s Pride Parade with erotic water chants. The resulting assemblage of facts, thoughts and feelings about water composes a messy ecosexual philosophy about the intimate and life-giving qualities of the most vital liquid on Earth. Ecosexuality shifts the metaphor “Earth as Mother” to “Earth as Lover” to create a more reciprocal and empathetic relationship with the natural world. When their road trip climaxes in a shocking event, their affectionate partnership with the Earth saves the day, reuniting their family and affirming the power of water, life and love.

Bios

Annie Sprinkle and Beth Stephens

Beth Stephens & Annie Sprinkle have been partners and collaborators for 16 fertile years. Annie was a sex worker who morphed into an internationally known performance artist touring one-woman shows about her life in sex and a feminist post porn pioneer. Beth was a feisty punk rocker dyke turned interdisciplinary artist and professor at UCSC exploring themes of gender, queerness and feminism. In 2008, Beth and Annie married the Earth and came out as ecosexuals. Their “Ecosex Manifesto” launched a movement and they officially added the E to GLBTQI-E. Their award winning documentary film about coal mining, *Goodbye Gauley Mountain—An Ecosexual Love Story* is available on iTunes and from Kino Lorber. They just finished a new environmental doc film, *Water Makes Us Wet—An Ecosexual Adventure*. Currently they are working on a book about their work, “Assuming the Ecosexual Position” for University of Minnesota Press. Their visual art, films and performances were presented the world’s biggest best art exhibit, Documenta 14 in 2016-2017. These girls have gone green and are dirty and proud.

Keith Wilson

Keith Wilson is a filmmaker, cinematographer and visual artist based in San Francisco. His films have been exhibited at Sundance, the Berlinale, South by Southwest, Documenta and the U.S. National Gallery of Art. His most recent film, *THE TREE*, premiered at the 2017 DOC NYC Film Festival and was exhibited as a storefront installation at Artist Television Access in San Francisco. Keith was Director of Photography and Producer for *INTERIOR. LEATHER BAR.* directed by James Franco and Travis Mathews, which premiered at Sundance and was released theatrically by Strand Releasing. He is the recipient of two KRF grants from the San Francisco Film Society and is a member-owner of New Day Films, a 40 year-old documentary distribution cooperative where he served on the Steering Committee. His artist book press *Breezy Circle* recently participated in the 2017 San Francisco Art Book Fair and his publications have been exhibited at the Gagosian Gallery, The Beinecke Library at Yale University and the Brandhorst Museum in Munich. Keith grew up in a cul-de-sac in suburban Atlanta and received in MFA in Film Production from the University of Texas-Austin. <http://www.wall-eye.com/>

Jordan Freeman

Jordan is an independent videographer based in New York City. He was a primary videographer for the film *Coal Country*. He has also worked with Coal River Mountain Watch, the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition documenting events for web release. Originally coming to the Coal River Valley from Los Angeles, CA in 2005, Freeman has

spent the last seven years documenting the unfolding controversies surrounding coal mining throughout Appalachia. His most recent film, Goodbye Gauley Mountain, was produced by Beth Stephens and has played at festivals around the world, and screened at the Reina Sophia.

David Benjamin Steinberg

David Benjamin Steinberg is a versatile composer for television and film. He has scored a range of projects, from Imagine Entertainment's critically acclaimed feature film, "Inside Deep Throat", and World of Wonder's Emmy Award-winning films "The Last Beekeeper" and "Out of Iraq", to Bravo's multi Emmy-nominated series "Million Dollar Listing". He composed the score for HBO's multi-Emmy nominated doc, "Mapplethorpe: Look at the Pictures", which premiered at Sundance 2016. He has also recently completed scoring HBO's "Every Brilliant Thing", documenting the hit off-Broadway one-man play. He also scored "Gender Revolution" in 2017, a timely documentary for Nat Geo channel. Most recently, he completed the score for Lifetime's original feature movie "Menendez: Blood Brothers", depicting the infamous 1989 Menendez Murders.

Jeremiah Moore

Sound designer, mixer and sound artist Jeremiah Moore is known for his sensitive and listening-centered approach to sound production. His work has appeared in documentary films Miracle In A Box, Key of G, feature film Cherish, theater productions Merchant of Auschwitz (Denver Drama Critics Circle award for best sound design), permanent museum exhibits Prehistoric Journey at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, the Detention Barracks at the Angel Island Immigration Station Museum, and various art gallery installations. He has collaborated with filmmakers John Korty, Ellen Bruno, and Felicia Lowe, artist Su-Chen Hung, jazz trumpeter Derek Banach, and radio producers The Kitchen Sisters. He has created sound design for many commercial clients such as Nike, Microsoft, Toyota, Palm, AMD, SEGA, Levis, Universal Pictures Home Entertainment, and Disney. He currently serves as co-chair of Bay Area Sound Ecology (BASE), organizing BASEbot listening salons, public soundwalks and other projects in the San Francisco Bay Area. BASE is the Bay Area chapter of the World Forum on Acoustic Ecology (WFAE).

Robert Arnold

Robert Arnold, founder of Lateral Films, is a filmmaker based in the San Francisco Bay Area. His recent films include Annabelle (2012), There's No Sound in My Head (2010), and All Animals (2009), which won the Director's Choice Award at the San Francisco International Festival of Short Films 2009. In 2007, Robert's feature-length documentary, The Key of G, won the Golden Gate Award for Best Bay Area Feature Documentary at the San Francisco International Film Festival, and aired nationally on

PBS. Robert also works as a freelance cinematographer, editor, and colorist. His editing work includes *Sins Invalid* and *This Dewdrop World* (both 2013) and *Families are Forever* (also 2013), which premiered at the Frameline Festival. His work as a colorist can be seen in *Interior.Leather.Bar* (Sundance 2013), *Hotel 22* (Sundance 2014) *Slomo* (2013, shortlisted for an Oscar), *Top Spin* (2014), and *The Immortalists* (2014), among many others.

Sandy Stone

Sandy Stone is an American academic theorist, media theorist, author, and performance artist. She is currently Associate Professor and Founding Director of the Advanced Communication Technologies Laboratory (ACTLab) and the New Media Initiative in the department of Radio-TV-Film at the University of Texas at Austin. Stone is considered a founder of the academic discipline of transgender studies.

Guillermo Gómez-Peña

Guillermo Gómez-Peña is a Chicano performance artist, writer, activist, and educator. He is a founding member of the art collective *Border Arts Workshop/Taller de Arte Fronterizo* and director of the performance art troupe *La Pocha Nostra*. Continually developing multi-centric narratives and large-scale performance projects from a border perspective, Gómez-Peña creates what critics have termed “Chicano cyber-punk performances” and “ethno-techno” art.

Reverend Billy Talen

Billy Talen is a performance artist that created *Reverend Billy and the Stop Shopping Choir*, an activist performance art community with 50 performing members and a congregation in the thousands. They are wild anti-consumerist gospel shouters and Earth loving urban activists who have worked with communities on four continents defending community, life and imagination.

Donna Haraway

Donna Haraway is a Distinguished American Professor Emerita in the History of Consciousness Department and Feminist Studies Department at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She is the author of numerous books and essays that bring together questions of science and feminism, such as *"A Cyborg Manifesto: Science, Technology, and Socialist-Feminism in the Late Twentieth Century"* (1985) and *"Situated Knowledges: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspective"* (1988).

Butch the Dog

Butch Butch is a black lab that Beth and Annie adopted via Golden Gate Rescue, October 2014 at eight months old -- In October 2016 Butch bolted from the wreckage of their camper van at the scene of their wreck. He was lost for five days, wandering in the fields along the I-5 near Bakersfield, CA. Beth Annie and Butch were reunited on November by a wonderful doggie detective who put together their lost dog flyer with posts on Facebook. Butch is a great dog, he loves treats, chasing his balls and barking at anyone who comes in the door.

Featured Interviews & Performances

Sandy Stone
Helen & Newton Harrison
Dragonfly aka "Justice Jester"
Guillermo Gómez-Peña
Ballitronica
Saul Garcia Lopez
Judy Dunaway
Reverend Billy Talen
Donna Haraway
Jonathon A. Smith
Jeff Brown & Faerthen Felix
Penny Slinger
Mark Readdie
Gary E. Petersen
Stephen A. Hogg
Don Canestro
Lora & Andrew Malvani
Lucille Malvani
Steve Loe
Vincent Barrigan
Natalie Silver & Josie Clerfond
Xandra Coe
Katie Alderman
Kristin Lostetter
Thomas German
C. Stanton
Jorge Molina

List of scenes

Intro Desert Walk
Water Flashback
Water activists
Rev Billy
Donna Haraway
Drought
Protest
Toilet Plunging
Wastewater Treatment Plant
Ocean Beach
Leaving for the Road Trip
Sagehen Creek Reserve
Penny
Boulder Creek
Big Sur
Monterey Water Treatment
Elephant Seals
Cambria
Hearst Castle
Granada Hills Pool
Annie's Mom
San Bernardino/Nestle
Annual Burger
Spa Hotel Hot Springs
Salvation Mountain
Neti Pot
Lake Tenaya
Wreck
Earth Wants to Break-Up
Finding Butch
Adopt a Drain
SF Pride

Director's Statement

Water Makes Us Wet flowed from various impulses: a deep concern for the natural world, a love of water, an appreciation for the possibilities of performance art, and our

adventurous, creative partnership. The documentary is our attempt to compassionately co-align queer perspectives and environmental action. It also is part of our ongoing efforts to explore and expand what can be considered erotic and sexy. We believe, as filmmakers, activists, and artists, that the environmental movement is in desperate need of narratives that don't only offer doom, gloom, and guilt but also offer sensual pleasures and joy within environmental action.

The experience we try to communicate with *Water Makes Us Wet* is that of possibility. While this documentary highlights environmental dangers and corporate irresponsibility, it's also about beginnings, change, and how we can better love and nurture the creatures and ecosystems we share our lives with.

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