

Independent Documentary from Seattle Filmmaker wins 'Best Documentary' at the Treasure Coast International Film Festival in Florida

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The newly released independent documentary *Woke Up Alive* (www.wokeupalive.com), filmed on location in Israel from 2006-2008, has won 'Best Documentary' at the 2010 Treasure Coast International Film Festival in Port St. Lucie, Florida.

Woke Up Alive chronicles filmmaker Mark Blacknell's journey of self-discovery across Israel and takes a closer look at how the natural world is affecting peace in the region. The film captures the ideas of such figures as the 14th Dalai Lama (while lecturing in Jerusalem), Dr. Yossi Leshem (world-renowned Israeli peace activist and naturalist), Amotz Zahavi (the grandfather of the Israeli nature movement), and an entire host of Arab, Jewish, and Christian characters who all share surprisingly lucid insights into one of the most controversial, symbolic, and potentially dangerous places on Earth.

The musical score for *Woke Up Alive* features the ambient sounds of acclaimed Israeli band Digital Samsara, masterfully blended with stunning visual images of the country's most naturally mystifying places.

In addition to winning 'Best Documentary' at the Treasure Coast International Film Festival, *Woke Up Alive* has also been given official selection at film festivals occurring later this year in Ireland, England, Wales, and South Africa. *Woke Up Alive* has also been entered into the Seattle International Film Festival (SIFF) and results are pending.

Seattle resident Michael Poggenburg edited and co-directed *Woke Up Alive* and is currently volunteering with 911 Media Arts Center, a local nonprofit supporting the creative use of media for communication and art. Executive producer and co-director Mark Blacknell currently resides in Maui.

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