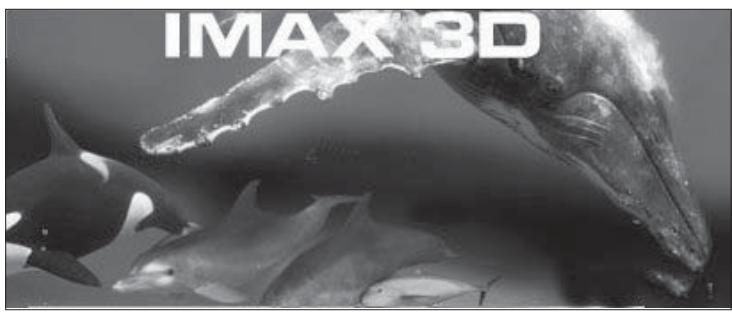


# Profiles & Reviews

## Our Tribe Too—Review of Dolphins and Whales: Tribes of the Ocean 3D



By Pamela Richmond-Sherlock

In October I enjoyed pre-viewing the documentary, *Dolphins and Whales: Tribes of the Ocean 3D* at Sacramento's Esquire IMAX theatre where we also had the chance to talk to Gavin McKinney. For those of us who are used to the highly dramatic adventure and nature shows that proliferate on cable and satellite networks, this film may fail to impress. However, for me the beauty lies in its simple presentation of Cetacean/Sirenian species, known more commonly as whales and dolphins as well as manatees (aquatic relatives of elephants!).

Director Jean-Jacques Mantello and cinematographer Gavin McKinney are known for *Sharks 3-D* and *Ocean Wonderland*. In this latest documentary, they spent over two years traveling through at least eight countries, were in the water for 20,000 hours, resulting in 100 hours of footage pared down to a mere 42 minutes—yet the film goes by all too swiftly.

Amazingly up-close shots, taken at some risk, range from the Southern Right to Killer, Beluga, and Pilot Whales to Risso's, Spotted, and Bottlenose Dolphins, and even the humble and gentle Manatee. Instead of shooting with standard IMAX 3-D equipment, McKinney and Mantello used high-definition cameras for greater mobility and to create less disruption as they swam alarmingly close to these leviathans.

McKinney told us that filming was a mix of "euphoria, frustration and panic." Getting accidentally bumped by a whale was akin to having a bowling ball land on the leg! The 3-D effect allows the audience to experience what it is like to swim amongst these giants of the sea.

Sparkling effervescent water particles and bubbles float toward us seemingly inches away along with myriads of fish. A lone and somber whale's eye gazes into our own eyes, and the rose-colored barnacles, scars, deep ridges and folds in its skin are near to our touch.

Narrated by Daryl Hannah (formerly the mermaid in *Splash*), each "tribe" is featured by a slide presentation with its common name followed by its scientific name. The videography of each is notable for the lack of seeing a human element. Risso's Dolphins play games with one another, bumping each

other, tagging, and playfully swimming away. Spotted Dolphins enjoy a more intricate game of catch using a bit of algae, clearly illustrating their intelligence. Most poignantly we watch both Right Whales and Humpbacks with their calves -- the latter of which are 14 feet at birth. The tenderness and nurturing of the females in the first few days after they give birth as they nose their infants up to the surface of the water to breathe is evident without much voice-over.

Highpoints for me were witnessing a Fin Whale eat an entire school of fish in one gulp juxtaposed with a manatee slowly nibbling on sea greens. Hannah conveys simple points of interest about their communication, social interaction, or physiological features during each "slide" and subsequent video but does not overwhelm the audience with too many facts and details. Rather, we simply experience the beauty of swimming next to these creatures and being a part of their world.

This is a magical documentary, one that the whole family will enjoy. On the night I attended, children as young as five and six were there watching raptly along with adults of all ages. There is little to no violence except when allusions are made to dolphin and whale hunting or their extinction by other human factors. This is not a documentary that attempts to shock us with blood and gore.

The purpose is clearly to educate and delight and to reach the heart of the viewer. Presented by Jean Michel Cousteau (the son of Jacques Cousteau), *Dolphins and Whales* encourages us to enter into an alien and beautiful world that is dying. The script informs us of the extent to which each type of dolphin and whale is endangered, but I did not feel that the film was heavy handed in

this regard. At the end, the status of each endangered marine mammal scrolls by, concluding with a web address for more information about dolphins and whales and how to help in efforts to save them. Hearing that there are approximately 3,000 manatees left in the Florida Gulf is sobering, but the beauty and grace of these featured creatures encourages us to take action in a heart-felt way.

The Esquire IMAX Theater is located at 1211 K Street, Sacramento, CA. Tickets at [www.imax.com/sacramento](http://www.imax.com/sacramento) or by calling (916) 443-IMAX. Movie times/dates fluctuate through December 2009, so go online to check schedules.



Gavin McKinney and Pam Richmond at IMAX screening of *Dolphins and Whales: Tribes of the Ocean 3D*.

Photo by Chad Sherlock

## Bull Elephants Need Your Help

The largest and most magnificent land mammal, regarded by observers in the wild as an "awesome sight" -- the bull elephant in captivity epitomizes all that is wrong with captive breeding programs which produce almost as many bull elephant calves as females.

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Every friend of PAWS donates one buck, money used for habitat enclosures (fencing), barns, transportation costs involved with rescue, and veterinary care of captive bulls. Email [tross@pawsweb.org](mailto:tross@pawsweb.org), /745-2606.



Bob and Laurie Kliss create their own Kliszewski glass art. Photo by Sandy Carriger for the Gold Country Times

## Sacramento Arts Festival

By Sandy Carriger  
Staff Writer

October 2nd thru 4th celebrated the 12th annual Sacramento Arts Festival and was held at the Sacramento Convention Center. Artists hailing from all over California as well as from Oregon and Washington displayed their creations. Everything was available to purchase from whimsy to fine art works. I strolled the aisles, booth by booth, chatting with some of the artists whose works caught my eye. The exhibitors consisted of 225 craftspeople and fine artists original works in several medias; ceramics, fiber (wearable and decorative), furniture, glass, jewelry, leather, metal, paintings, photography, sculpture and wood. I was able to photograph some beautiful pieces and caught some of the artisans in action, sculpting or drawing. We were also treated to some wonderful entertainment on the main stage of jazz and blues by GG Amos Band (blues trio), Kurt Ribak Quartet (jazz) and Dirk K (jazz guitar). Plenty of food and drink were available, too!

In this day and age of the 3r's (reduce, reuse and recycle), I was particularly impressed with the artists who used recycled materials to create their masterpieces. I stopped to chat with JoAnne Hunot ([www.lostandfoundangels.com](http://www.lostandfoundangels.com)). She is an assemblage artist who makes angels and other objects from everyday items she finds at thrift stores, antique stores and garage sales to honor the women in our lives. She can turn a discarded pan and a couple of old spoons into a work of art! JoAnne is also one of the organizers of the art festival. I had the pleasure to chat with Jhaya E. Warmington ([www.jhaya.com](http://www.jhaya.com)), a sculptor who now hails from the bay area. She creates from recycled items, wood shavings, twigs, corks, bottle caps and assorted other items she finds or has given to her. Her horse and other animal sculptures are what caught my eye. Jhaya likes to capture the American rural west through her art by incorporating modern urban objects.

Josh Cote ([www.cotesculpture.blogspot.com](http://www.cotesculpture.blogspot.com)) is a wire sculptor. His pieces are made from recycled aluminum, copper or steel wire manipulated with just a needle nose pliers! Fiber artist, Pamela Day ([www.poozles.com](http://www.poozles.com)) makes wearable art from recycled wool, cotton and Sari Silk from Nepal and displayed some gorgeous handbags and hats.

I chuckled and admired the whimsy of others. Like Chris Efstratis' ceramic head sculptures ([www.chrisefstratis.com](http://www.chrisefstratis.com)) done in bright colors on a large scale (up to 6 feet tall) with comical overtones. Chris is Sacramento born and raised. He not only sells his works, but gives pottery lessons as well. Bill Coleman of Custom Furniture Art and Accessories will measure and carve your posterior into his benches for actual custom fit seating.

Bob and Laurie Kliss ([www.klissglass.com](http://www.klissglass.com)) create their own Kliszewski glass art. Each piece is hand made in beautiful shapes and colors. Fun Santa's were on display by Shelie and Richard McCall ([www.stonesoupsantas.com](http://www.stonesoupsantas.com)). Shelie sculpts the polymer clay head, hands and face and creates the vintage costumes, while Richard creates the forms and does much of the assembly. Lisa Paige

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