

COLLECTIVE EYE, INC. PRESENTS

A film by Taggart Siegel

QUEEN OF THE SUN:

WHAT ARE THE BEES TELLING US?



Directed by: Taggart Siegel

Produced by: Jon Betz

Original Musical Score by: Jami Sieber

Foreign Sales Agent: Ro*co Films

82 Min. – Not Rated

Without bees, Albert Einstein said, “man would only have four years of life left.” From the director of *THE REAL DIRT ON FARMER JOHN* comes a profound, alternative look at the tragic global bee crisis. Juxtaposing the catastrophic disappearance of bees with the mysterious world of the beehive, *QUEEN OF THE SUN* weaves an unusual and dramatic story of the heart-felt struggles of beekeepers, scientists and philosophers from around the world. Featuring Michael Pollan, Gunther Hauk and Vandana Shiva, *QUEEN OF THE SUN* reveals both the problems and the solutions in renewing a culture in balance with nature.

“Queen of the Sun: What are the bees telling us?” received the Documentary Channel’s Grand Jury Prize for Best Documentary, Honorable Mention at the 2010 Nashville Film Festival. Siegel’s previous film, *The Real Dirt on Farmer John*, won 31 film festival awards and was theatrically released around the world. It was broadcast worldwide and was aired in 2007 on *INDEPENDENT LENS*. *The Real Dirt on Farmer John* was written up by Roger Ebert for its U.S. theatrical release as “A loving, moving, inspiring, quirky documentary” and by former Vice-President Al Gore as “Unbelievable special... a real and gripping story with insight and humor.”

NOTABLE QUOTES FOR *QUEEN OF THE SUN*

★★★★ “On this fascinating new documentary... Taggart Siegel circled the globe to interview the world's most passionate beekeepers, and their testimonials make this an irresistible romance about the essential role that honeybees play in maintaining earth's fragile ecosystem... a cautionary tale with a hopeful outlook.”

-Jeff Shannon, *The Seattle Times*

“Queen of the Sun is stunning... as soulful as it is scientific, as uplifting as it is alarming. Siegel sets himself and his film apart with exquisite cinematography and awe-inducing visual artistry. B+.”

-Christine Champ, *Film.com*

“A wild, entertaining and thoughtful documentary... You are engulfed by wonder.”

-Michael Van Baker, *The Sun Break*

“Queen of the Sun breathes love and hope into the catastrophic crisis inundating our oldest domesticated animal, the honey bee. I was moved from tears to hope as the film gently offered next steps anyone could take to make the world a better place...”

-Barbara Booth, *Santa Fe Waldorf School*

“Inspiring, humbling, thought provoking, entertaining, and beautifully shot, this film does much more than introduce the current crisis faced by the bees. *Queen of the Sun* is a call for cultural renewal, for a holistic and compassionate understanding of these amazing creatures.”

-Rebecca Briggs, *Biodynamic Farmers & Gardeners Association*

“I never thought that a documentary about honeybees would make me both laugh and cry-but filmmaker Taggart Siegel’s *Queen of the Sun* is one such film.”

-Dennis Hartley, *Hullabaloo*

ABOUT THE FILM

50 WORD SYNOPSIS

Queen of The Sun is a profound, alternative look at the bee crisis. Juxtaposing the catastrophic disappearance of bees with the mysterious world of the beehive, QUEEN OF THE SUN weaves an unusual and dramatic story of the heart-felt struggles of beekeepers, scientists and philosophers from around the world.

100 WORD SYNOPSIS

Without bees, Albert Einstein said, “man would only have four years of life left.” From the director of THE REAL DIRT ON FARMER JOHN comes a profound, alternative look at the tragic global bee crisis. Juxtaposing the catastrophic disappearance of bees with the mysterious world of the beehive, QUEEN OF THE SUN weaves an unusual and dramatic story of the heart-felt struggles of beekeepers, scientists and philosophers from around the world. Featuring Michael Pollan, Gunther Hauk and Vandana Shiva, QUEEN OF THE SUN reveals both the problems and the solutions in renewing a culture in balance with nature.

150 WORD SYNOPSIS

In 1923, Rudolf Steiner, a scientist, philosopher & social innovator, predicted that in 80 to 100 years honeybees would collapse. His prediction has come true with Colony Collapse Disorder, where reports continue to surface that bees are disappearing in mass numbers from their hives with no clear single explanation. In an alarming inquiry into the insights behind Steiner’s prediction Queen of The Sun examines the dire global bee crisis through the eyes of biodynamic beekeepers, scientists, farmers, and philosophers. On a pilgrimage around the world, the film unveils 10,000 years of beekeeping, highlighting how our historic and sacred relationship with bees has been lost due to highly mechanized industrial practices. Featuring Michael Pollan, Vandana Shiva, Gunther Hauk and beekeepers from around the world, Queen of The Sun weaves a dramatic story which uncovers the problems and solutions in renewing a culture in balance with nature.

862 WORD SYNOPSIS

Queen of The Sun is an in-depth investigation to discover the causes and solutions behind Colony Collapse Disorder; a phenomenon where honeybees vanish from their hives, never to return. *Queen of The Sun* follows the voices and visions of underrepresented beekeepers, philosophers, and scientists around the world, all struggling for the survival of the bees. While other bee films focus exclusively on commercial beekeepers, this film emphasizes the biodynamic and organic communities who have differing opinions from many commercial beekeepers and are overlooked in other films.

Queen of The Sun reveals bees as a barometer of the health of the world. Bees fly millions of miles to keep the earth in bloom and have provided humans with honey, wax and pollination for our food for over 10,000 years. Through animation and illuminated imagery, *Queen of The Sun* uncovers how bees were highly revered by the Egyptians, Mayans and Greeks, but the bond between humans and bees, once a sacred partnership is now a complicated, profit-driven, industrial enterprise.

Queen of The Sun draws from the insights of Rudolf Steiner an Austrian scientist who, in 1923, predicted that in 80 to 100 years, bees would disappear. Steiner said: “The mechanization of beekeeping and industrialization will eventually destroy beekeeping.” Gunther Hauk, our main character and a protégé of Steiner’s, against all odds, begins to build the first bee sanctuary in the world. Surrounded by industrial agriculture, he is creating a 600-acre farm to help support the bees in crisis. Through his insights, we are launched into a journey around the world to uncover the compelling perspectives concerning the complex problems bees are facing such as malnutrition, pesticides, genetically modified crops, migratory beekeeping, parasites, pathogens and lack of genetic diversity from over queen breeding. Seeking answers through unique and unusual beekeepers and scientists who have heart-felt respect for their bees we confront and address the harsh realities causing the bees to disappear. *Queen of The Sun* finds practical solutions and discover the deep link between bees survival and our own.

Queen of The Sun is unique in its approach: while investigating the apocalyptic crisis affecting the bees, it balances the dark reality we face with both the secret wonder of the beehive and the good humor of real, devoted beekeepers. It is neither a dour, nor a dire predictor of gloom. The film weaves the ‘beauty with the beast’: landscapes and beescapes contrast chillingly with the harshness of the Monsanto-dominated global agriculture. The expertise of the scientists and philosophers is clear as they present their cases in an easy-to-digest, unfolding manner, complemented by artful animation and clear compelling imagery.

The characters in *Queen of The Sun* share a common belief that solutions to the bee crisis lie in a renewal of agriculture and beekeeping that supports the needs of the bee and therefore supports the planet. While their solutions are simple and practical, they are not

easy. *Queen of The Sun* demonstrates their immense efforts to rebuild a community in balance with nature.

Queen of The Sun presents a compassionate inquiry into the struggle of commercial beekeepers who, when faced with skyrocketing demand and staggering losses, do their best with the methods they were taught, often unaware that their standard practices are seriously flawed. For example, artificially bred bees are malnourished on a diet of high-fructose corn-syrup, are confined in plastic hives and are transported thousands of miles, bombarded by exhaust fumes, only to be over-worked in crops soaked in pesticides. A stunning revelation- that to manufacture a single non-organic cotton tee shirt, one third of a pound of pesticide is used- underscores the sheer volume of toxic chemicals commonly being applied to crops. Because of these conditions, the exhausted and weakened pollinators become easy prey for mites, climate change, environmental radiation, viruses, air and water pollution, and the challenging effects of genetically modified crops.

Media amplifies alarm about the worldwide collapse of bee colonies and scientists hunt for a silver bullet cure. In the meantime, bee advocates strive to renew a culture that takes its cues from the hive. They have wisely recognized that the bees, themselves, are our guides and they have looked to the bees' example of collaboration and community as the model for their own actions. Einstein was right: it is impossible to change any problem by using the same tools that created it. With that in mind, ***Queen of The Sun*** highlights non-traditional approaches that do much to create positive global change.

The world is at an opportune moment to see the film. The current possibility for positive change and the universal commitment to saving our planet's future are linked. ***Queen of The Sun*** mirrors the hopefulness of this time of volatile transformation and reassessment. The optimistic response of those who saw ***The Real Dirt on Farmer John*** leads us to believe that people are ready to confront the decline of the honeybee population and its dire consequences and to embrace the changes illuminated in the film. It is the positive and hope-laden message of ***Queen of The Sun*** that opens its viewers' minds to the real possibility of a sustainable, healthy and verdant future.

FULL REVIEWS

THE SEATTLE TIMES

“Local talent worked on this fascinating new documentary from Taggart Siegel, the Portland-based director of the "The Real Dirt on Farmer John." Siegel circled the globe to interview the world's most passionate beekeepers, and their testimonials make this an irresistible romance about the essential role that honeybees play in maintaining earth's fragile ecosystem. It's also a cautionary tale with a hopeful outlook, as eco-friendly trends signal a revival of bee colonies decimated by pesticides and "monoculture" crop farming. Siegel is scheduled to attend.”

-Jeff Shannon, *The Seattle Times*

FILM.COM

“These days you don't have to be a beekeeper to have heard the bad-news buzz about bees. "Apocalypse of the Honeybees," "Bees Vanish" ... you've read the headlines, or if you haven't, you can watch them flash past in the first minutes of director Taggart Siegel's documentary *Queen of the Sun*. Colony collapse has become a worldwide epidemic. Or in layman's terms, honeybees have suddenly and inexplicably vanished from their hives across the globe. Bees pollinate 40% of our food, yet in the U.S. alone we've lost 50 million colonies containing 50,000 to 60,000 bees each.

With scary statistics like these and insights from the scientific community, Siegel issues a wake-up call to audiences. Molecular biologists, entomologists, biodynamic beekeepers, philosophers, and more bee experts and environmental activists weigh in on the dilemma, pointing their collective finger at the culprits behind the bee-pocalypse, culprits like queen inbreeding and artificial insemination, pesticides, and -- the biggest offender -- monoculture farming. The film delivers some disturbing revelations like this shocker: High-fructose corn syrup, the ubiquitous sweetener found in soft drinks and processed food, is actually injected into honey bees. Why do HONEY bees need corn syrup? Apparently it's a way to awaken and strengthen migratory colonies that have traveled miles to pollinate monoculture crops like those cultivated by many California almond growers. Siegel's message, and its urgency, is loud and clear: Playing god with nature has its price. The need for change is also urgent, and a particular challenge for commercial beekeepers who risk bankruptcy if they alter their business model.

Siegel's film -- as every environmental documentary truly should -- also touches on hopeful trends like rooftop and backyard beekeeping (a locally outlawed practice Manhattanites are petitioning to legalize). The film also outlines what concerned humans can do to help their bee brethren, from consuming pesticide-free food to growing bee-friendly gardens. (If you've missed anything during the documentary just look for the how-to-help list at the end.) Lovely, brushed pastel watercolor illustrations depicting the marriage flight of a queen bee, cute black-and-white bee cartoons, and other animated segments explain how hives function for those who need a crash course.

These storytelling techniques may seem like standard fare to documentary fans, but

Siegel sets himself and his film apart with exquisite cinematography and awe-inducing visual artistry, like a chestnut and ochre-colored bird almost invisible among deep purple, raspberry-red-tipped flower petals. Iridescent sapphire and orange, ivory, and yellow -- every bloom is a multihued, exotic beauty shot close-up in crisp detail. And everything is beautifully lit, from trees sparkling with a kaleidoscope of sunshine to glossy amber shades of honey spilling from a glass jar against a black backdrop. The sublime luminosity adds to the spiritual side of a documentary that worships the sacredness of all the bee queens of the sun -- like the woman whose transcendental image opens the film. Swathed in a swarm of bees she bows and sways in a reverent dance. *Queen of the Sun* is as soulful as it is scientific, as uplifting as it is alarming. After watching it, you too may catch the beekeeping bug (I think I have)."

-Christine Champ, *Film.com*

THE SUN BREAK

Remember the bee crisis? I still remember the peculiar mixture of disbelief and shock that arrived with the news. Bees, such indomitable, energetic creatures, were mysteriously dying off. And you know what? The epidemic is still in full swing: The U.S. honeybee population may be in terminal decline.

At the final screening of *Queen of the Sun* at SIFF, I spoke with Portland filmmakers Taggart Siegel and Jon Betz about their wild, entertaining, and thoughtful documentary on global bee health and welfare. Local note: cellist Jami Sieber did the score. (They're working on a theatrical release, so stay tuned. I vote for "Mead Night" at Central Cinema.)

Siegel mentioned he remembers the shock to his system when he first saw an article on colony collapse disorder, years ago. At the time, his daughter was three years old, and he had visions of the fruitless, un-pollinated world that might await her.

Bee fact! "The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that about one-third of the human diet is derived from insect-pollinated plants and that the honey bee is responsible for 80 percent of this pollination." No bees, no almonds, apples, avocados, blueberries, cantaloupes, cherries, cranberries, cucumbers, sunflowers, watermelon....

I know, if you survey a shelf of recent documentaries, you might be tempted to conclude that the jig is up, and we might as well all look into assisted suicide. We plunge from crisis to crisis, from peak oil, global warming, and global economic meltdowns, to food that's killing us, superbugs, and the autism epidemic.

But while *Queen of the Sun* opens with colony collapse, and spends time rounding up the likely suspects (varroa mites, the acute paralysis virus), Siegel and Betz have really made a poignant film about relationships. Siegel said that while he started making the film as a response to the crisis, he soon realized that human-bee relations (out of balance as they are currently) was his real, more instructive subject, not a parade of people saying, "There's a real problem here! And here's how we solve it." He and Betz decided that there was an untold love story that needed telling, instead.

And they would add one more twist. "The bee is the point-of-view character," explained Siegel. And he has followed through on that--the camera often zooms through fields at bee-height, your eye attracted by vibrant colors. And bees in close-up or en masse appear in scene after scene with the human "supporting characters," as Siegel calls them. They are beekeepers (commercial, backyard, and rooftop), farmers, philosophers, scientists, celebrities (Michael Pollan, Vandana Shiva), artists, and educators.

Some of the most memorable moments in the film are between bees (watching the waggle dance, or a swarm), bees and people (a 70-year-old German yogi-professor-beekeeper uses his enormous yogic mustache to tickle his bees, another refers proudly to his "good girls") and people (the New Zealand bee-keeping family, the autistic gardeners). Gradually, you are engulfed by wonder, what Betz sums up as: "Bees are just amazing!"

This is counterposed to our kneejerk, masters-of-the-universe reaction to diagnose CCD and move on. *Queen of the Sun* offers a counter narrative--if anything, the bees diagnose us. Betz said they made a decision to avoid a more politically activist stance because they are in essence promoting more of a philosophic shift, something they hope has a longer shelf-life than crisis-of-the-week.

In 1923, Rudolf Steiner gave a series of lectures on bees, the film notes, in which he predicted our imposing an ill-fitting industrial culture on bee cultivation would end up destroying the bees' own successful, adaptive culture. (Steiner said a lot of things, but there's a deeply, embarrassingly human truth to his criticism of our attempt to modernize bees for productivity, when they are still our leading models for density, sustainability, and allocation of resources.)

The film is sympathetic to this insight, and contrasts biodynamic bee-raising approaches that ask first, "What would a bee like?" with the commercial system which ships bees around like migratory workers. The critique is explicit: Siegel and Betz are not equating the treatment of bees and migrant workers, they're inspecting a process in which everything from bees to people is treated like a just-in-time widget.

But Siegel's approach (as in his previous film, *The Real Dirt on Farmer John*) is not to let outrage about bees subsisting on high fructose corn syrup and antibiotics, exposed to pesticides and viruses, and worked to death (draw parallels if you want) steal focus and paralyze. Siegel doesn't expect our industrial agriculture machine to change overnight, but he does present an alternative. Why, he asks, couldn't four mega-farms, even if they are devoted to monoculture, create at their intersection a bee sanctuary where bees could live all year round?

The quirkiness, too, of Siegel's beekeeping interviewees becomes a statement. It's heart-warming, absolutely, to see how genuinely his people talk about their life with bees, but it's also a response to corporatized ideology.

They're more stewards than owners, for one, and for another, in dedicating themselves to this form of service, they've been freed to be whoever they want to be (bees have a very tolerant dress code). It's the opposite of what you might expect--we talk about bee "drones" after all--but that just underscores what Siegel said he learned taking his camera to the field to follow bees around: "There's *a lot* going on there."

- Michael Van Baker, *The Sun Break*

BIODYNAMIC FARMING & GARDENING ASSOCIATION

“Through fantastic coincidence, I was fortunate to be in Seattle this weekend for a screening of Taggart Siegel and Jon Betz’s new film, *Queen of the Sun*, at the Seattle International Film Festival. Inspiring, humbling, thought provoking, entertaining, and beautifully shot, this film does much more than introduce the current crisis faced by the bees. *Queen of the Sun* is a call for cultural renewal, for a holistic and compassionate understanding of these amazing creatures.

As predicted by Rudolf Steiner in 1923, bees today face dire threats, as evidenced by the growing problem of colony collapse disorder (CCD), where entire colonies of bees suddenly disappear. Pesticides and herbicides attack these crucial pollinators, weakening them in many ways and potentially hampering their ability to find their way back to the hive. Extensive swathes of monocultured crops destroy bee habitat by providing food for only several weeks out of the year. The transitory nature of modern pollination services moves bees from almond fields to citrus groves all over the country, allowing diseases to move from hive to hive with unprecedented quickness. Artificial insemination of queens eliminates their natural procreative flights, during which queens are inseminated by many drones, an instinctive ritual that ensures genetic diversity within the colony.

Modern agriculture has turned bees into mere “tools” for pollination services. Like many other issues coming to light with industrialized agriculture, this mechanization of bees appeared to work for some years, but is now creating critical problems as we see massive colony die-offs. In the question-and-answer period after the film, director Taggart Siegel spoke of fear he felt when he heard the quote by Albert Einstein that, without bees, “man would only have four years of life left.” The lives of human and bees are so integrally intertwined that resolving the crisis requires more than quick fixes, but rather a genuine cultural renewal.

Those who have seen Siegel’s prior work, *The Real Dirt on Farmer John*, will likely recognize the quirky, yet truly inspiring, nature of the film. From an artist dancing with bees, to a French beekeeper who practices yoga meditation with his bees, to leading sustainable agriculture advocates and thinkers such as Michael Pollan, Raj Patel, and Vandana Shiva, *Queen of the Sun* provides a diverse and holistic view of the issue.

One also sees in the film the prominent and crucial role of biodynamics in understanding and responding to this crisis. Biodynamic beekeeper Gunther Hauk, author of *Toward Saving the Honeybee* and founder of Spikenard Farm Honeybee Sanctuary, provides many insights about how we might observe, help, and build relationships with the bees.

Also featured are biodynamic beekeepers Michael Thiele of the Melissa Garden honeybee sanctuary and Jacqueline Freeman.

This is a meaningful, necessary film — one that deserves the wide attention given to other documentaries like *Food, Inc.* The film is a project of Collective Eye, a non-profit community of filmmakers. Word of mouth and grass-roots efforts can help this film succeed and get its critical message to as wide an audience as possible. It was very interesting to note that many of the questions after the screening were directed to the question: “how can we help get this out there?” We are working to figure out how we can help, and we encourage you to comment and provide suggestions.”

-Rebecca Briggs, *Biodynamics Farming and Gardening Association*

SANTA FE WALDORF SCHOOL

Through your lens, you captured the present-state crisis threatening our entire planet. From biodynamic beekeeper, Gunther Hauk's lifetime of study and practice to Rudolf Steiner's depth of foresight and wisdom, from beekeepers in Australia to New York, your documentary breathed love and hope into the catastrophic crisis inundating our oldest domesticated animal, the honey bee. I was moved from tears to hope as the film gently offered next steps anyone could take to make the world a better place--from eliminating harmful herbicides on lawns and farms to reading Steiner's lectures on bees.

-Barbara Booth, *Santa Fe Waldorf School*

HULLABALOO

I never thought that a documentary about honeybees would make me both laugh and cry--but northwest filmmaker Taggart Siegel's *Queen of the Sun* is one such film. Appearing at first glance to be a distressing, hand-wringing examination of Colony Collapse Syndrome, a phenomenon that has puzzled and dismayed beekeepers and scientists alike with its accelerated frequency of occurrences over the past decade, the film becomes a sometimes joyous, sometimes humbling meditation on how essential these seemingly insignificant yet complex social creatures are to the planet's life cycle. We bipeds might harbor a pretty high opinion of our own place on the evolutionary ladder, but Siegel lays out a convincing case which proves that these “lowly” insects are, in fact, the boss of us.

It turns out that there have been voices in the wilderness over the years (aside from the constant and reassuring hum of our busy little trans-global pollinators) trying to get that message across; although they have been largely ignored (until now, of course--when it's too late). Albert Einstein once said: “If bees die, man will only have four years of life left.” As early as 1923, Austrian philosopher-scientist-social thinker and biodynamic agriculturalist icon Rudolph Steiner warned that within 100 years, without careful cultivation and continued awareness of the delicate symbiotic relationship we share with them, the honeybees would simply begin to dissipate (silly Rudy). In his film, Siegel documents how, in the 80-odd year interim between Steiner's dire prediction and the mounting evidence that it is becoming a sad fact, we have plowed ahead in our typically

clueless fashion, taking and taking and not giving enough back (I know...familiar story). Siegel rounds up the usual suspects, like mite infestations, pesticides, and the use of domesticated colonies in mechanized industrial pollination (especially in regards to mono-cropping, for which the bees are sometimes fortified with corn syrup, of all things).

While there are a lot of revelations here that are likely to piss you off (and once again make you curse the ubiquitous corporate bottom line) it's not all gloom and doom, however. Siegel offers up some hope, as well. In countries where toxic pesticides are currently banned, Colony Collapse Syndrome has been virtually non-existent (surprise surprise). There are some delightful interludes with, well, "unique" individuals who have an upbeat, purely philosophical/spiritual perspective on the human-bee connection. And perhaps most importantly, we meet people who are proactively working on solutions; biodynamic beekeepers, organic farmers, and some urban beekeepers in the heart of the Bronx who are risking actual imprisonment for maintaining their rooftop hives (obviously, there are some ridiculous laws that are screaming to be stricken from the books). The film is beautifully photographed, well-paced and features a lovely score by Jami Sieber. I'll tell you one thing-you'll never take that jar of honey for granted again.

*-Dennis Hartley, **Hullabaloo***

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY



For 25 years, Taggart Siegel has produced and directed Emmy-nominated, award-winning documentaries and dramas that reflect cultural diversity with absorbing style. From spiritual elders struggling to preserve traditions in alien environments to marginalized youth surviving hostile streets, the subjects of his films present vital perspectives rarely seen on mainstream media. Broadcasted and distributed worldwide, Siegel's films bring compelling voices and visions to a global audience. **The Real Dirt on Farmer John**, Siegel's critically acclaimed documentary about a maverick visionary farmer, won 31 international film festivals awards and was released theatrically around the world. Siegel's other award winning films, **The Split Horn** and Emmy nominated **Between Two Worlds**, capture the struggle of Hmong Shamans trying to maintain their ancient traditions in America, while **Blue Collar and Buddha** explores the dilemma of a community of Laotian refugees adapting to life in a blue-collar mid-western town. Siegel also produced **The Disenchanted Forest**, a documentary about orangutans for National Geographic Television.

Taggart Siegel is the co-founder of Collective Eye, Inc., a non-profit media production and distribution organization based in San Francisco and Portland, Oregon. His most recent film, "**Queen of the Sun: What are the bees telling us?**" is profound, alternative look at the bee crisis.

CREW



PRODUCER: Jon Betz is a Portland-based documentary filmmaker and producer for *Queen of The Sun*. He is a graduate from Rhode Island School of Design where he received the Tiffany Rosen Scholarship Award for Excellence in Narrative Filmmaking and Fine Arts Award for Excellence in Film. Betz's work strives to maintain a high degree of artistic craft while digging deeply into the spiritual, emotional and ethical issues surrounding his characters. *Memorize-you-saw-it*, Betz's award-winning, intimate autobiographical documentary, journals his time as an aid worker living with former-child soldiers in Eastern Uganda. *Memorize-you-saw-it* has screened at educational institutions and public venues, including The Watson Institute at Brown University and The Ivy Film Festival.



COMPOSER: Every so often a musician emerges who manages to speak to the spirit by way of their instrument. Electric cellist and vocalist Jami Sieber reaches inside the soul with compositions that are contemporary, timeless, lush, and powerfully evocative. Her style of performance has been recognized internationally. An innovative

musician, Jami's music moves beyond the surface, seeking and re-seeking her truth by creating musical bridges and connections. Jami's life-long commitment to the environment, social justice, and the healing arts is at the heart of her music, reflecting a deep dedication to the arts as a medium of exploration and awareness of the interconnectedness of all beings. In addition to live performance, Jami has written musical scores for film, theater and dance, possessing an innate ability to use her instrument like a painter, adorning her musical canvas with washes of vivid tones and reflective moods. Jami, at her core, is in a constant state of re-invention which manifests in her music, engaging all of the senses and the depths of the imagination and creating experiences that invite listeners to new realms of perception.



Taggart Siegel, Director (*The Real Dirt on Farmer John*) & Jon Betz, Producer film a costumed couple at the “Beekeeper’s Ball to Legalize Beekeeping” in Manhattan while making **QUEEN OF THE SUN**, a new feature documentary about honeybee decline.

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