

## “DISPATCHES FROM THE GULF”

### A NEW DOCUMENTARY INVESTIGATES THE IMPACT OF THE DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL ON THE GULF OF MEXICO SNEAK PEEK SCREENING VIA LIVE STREAM APRIL 20

NARRATED BY MATT DAMON

To coincide with the sixth anniversary of the spill, a sneak peek screening of *Dispatches From The Gulf* will be broadcast via Live Stream on April 20, 2016 at:  
[youtube.com/c/ScreenscopeJ2PE/live](http://youtube.com/c/ScreenscopeJ2PE/live)

2 pm ET and 7 pm ET

Trailer: [http://youtu.be/p\\_vD9ABHWdA](http://youtu.be/p_vD9ABHWdA)

For more information to receive an online review screener or to schedule an interview contact: Linda Altman  
[Linda@SusanSenkPR.com](mailto:Linda@SusanSenkPR.com); 212-876-5948

#### Logline

**Investigation. Innovation. Discovery.**

The environmental devastation of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010 sparked the largest coordinated oceanic research effort in history as contamination spread across the Gulf of Mexico, an international community of scientists joined forces to understand and mitigate the impacts of petroleum pollution.

*Dispatches from the Gulf*, the newest installment of the “Journey of Planet Earth” series, narrated by Matt Damon, takes viewers on an underwater journey deep below the Gulf of Mexico aboard manned submersibles, on research vessels navigating rough seas, and inside CSI-type laboratories demonstrating how research helps us remedy even our most disastrous failures.

#### Synopsis

- On April 20, 2010, the Deepwater Horizon drilling platform exploded, taking eleven lives and, over the course of 87 days, releasing more than 200 million gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico. The disaster was the largest oil spill in U.S. history and put thousands of communities, millions of citizens, and a vital ecosystem in serious jeopardy.
- Produced by Emmy Award<sup>®</sup>-winning filmmakers Marilyn and Hal Weiner, this illuminating new documentary, *Dispatches From The Gulf*, follows teams of scientists as they investigate the oil spill’s effect on the world’s ninth largest body of water. The group’s ongoing, ultimate goal is to discover new and better ways to mitigate and cope with future spills. Their collective studies have ultimately become the largest coordinated oceanographic research endeavor in history. “*I go out...and try to figure out who’s winning this war of nature versus oil,*” summarizes Dr. Chris Reddy, senior scientist at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, one participating organization.
- Narrated by Academy Award<sup>®</sup> winner, Matt Damon, *Dispatches From The Gulf* is the newest episode in the *Journey To Planet Earth* environmental television series and considers the socio-cultural implications, as well as scientific findings. The documentary examines the impact of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on local communities, from members of the tourism industry to families who rely on seafood such as shrimp and crabs for their livelihood. “*If ever a light bulb went off in all of our minds, it was that our economy is totally dependent on a clean, safe, useable environment,*” stresses Mayor Robert Craft of Gulf Shores, Alabama. “*That is still our biggest concern.*”
- The film also captures instances of exciting innovation: Biologists and oceanographers use remotely operated vehicles and manned submersibles to study the effects of the oil on the ocean floor. Chemists and engineers design new laboratory techniques to understand the impact of the spill on fish species and how chemical dispersants interact with oil.

### **About Matt Damon**

Matt Damon has been honored for his work on both sides of the camera, most recently winning a Golden Globe Award® for Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy for “The Martian.” He is nominated for an Academy Award® for Best Actor in a Leading Role for the same film. Earlier in his career, Damon won an Academy Award® for Best Screenplay and received an Oscar® nomination for Best Actor, both for his breakthrough feature “Good Will Hunting.”

Damon is the co-founder of [Water.org](http://Water.org), a non-profit organization that works to bring safe drinking water and sanitation options to the billions of people on the planet who lack access.

### **About Journey To Planet Earth**

*Journey To Planet Earth* is an award-winning television series that dramatizes new ways of looking at the delicate relationship between people and the world they inhabit. It is designed to help viewers understand the complexities of the most important environmental issues of the 21st century. Through an interdisciplinary approach, these programs reach beyond the physical sciences and draw connections to politics, economics, sociology, and history.

### **About Marilyn & Hal Weiner**

Marilyn and Hal Weiner have produced, written, and directed more than 225 documentaries and several public television series, including “Journey to Planet Earth,” “Women at Work,” and “The World of Cooking” and won Emmy® Awards for “The Earth Summit Pledge” and “Streets of Sorrow.” They’ve also produced three feature films: *Family Business*, *The Imagemaker*, and *K2*.

*Dispatches From The Gulf* is made possible by a generous grant from the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI), with additional funding from the Wallace Genetic Foundation and the Farvue Foundation.

### **About the Funders**

The mission of the **Gulf of Mexico Research Institute** (GoMRI) is to implement an independent research program that will (1) study the effects of the *Deepwater Horizon* incident and the potential associated impact of this and similar incidents on the environment and public health and (2) develop improvements for spill mitigation, oil detection and characterization, and advanced remediation technologies. GoMRI’s goal is to improve society’s ability to understand, respond to, and mitigate the impacts of petroleum pollution and related stressors of the marine and coastal ecosystems.

The **Wallace Genetic Foundation** focuses on improving the quality of life for all people through long-term environmental conservation.

The **Farvue Foundation** is dedicated to finding solutions for a more sustainable environment.

USA, 2016, 56 min

Download the complete **Press Kit** at:  
<http://www.screenscope.com/press.html>

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