

NEWS

EMBARGOED UNTIL AUG. 29, 10:30AM PDT / 11:30AM MDT / 1:30PM EDT

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTARY FILMS DATES
DOMESTIC THEATRICAL RELEASE FOR *BLINK*, FOLLOW UP
FEATURE FROM THE ACADEMY AWARD-WINNING TEAM
BEHIND *NAVALNY*, DEBUTS TRAILER AND KEY ART**

**FILM TO BE DISTRIBUTED BY THE WALT DISNEY STUDIOS OCT. 4 IN
150 THEATERS THROUGHOUT THE U.S. AND CANADA**

**Directed by Edmund Stenson and Daniel Roher and Produced by Melanie Miller
and Diane Becker of Fishbowl Films and MRC, *BLINK* Follows the Pelletier Family
as They Embark on an Epic Journey To Show Their Four Children the Beauty of
the World After Three Are Diagnosed With Retinitis Pigmentosa, an Incurable
Genetic Eye Disease**

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(Telluride, Colo. – Aug. 29, 2024) National Geographic Documentary Films, in partnership with The Walt Disney Studios, announced today that its forthcoming film **BLINK**, which will have its world premiere at Telluride Film Festival this weekend, will debut in a selection of domestic theaters throughout the U.S. and Canada on Oct. 4.

The documentary follows the Pelletier family, who set out on an epic journey to see the beauty of the world when three of their four children are diagnosed with an incurable eye condition. The documentary feature, from directors Edmund Stenson and Academy Award® and BAFTA winner Daniel Roher, is produced by Academy Award- and BAFTA-winning Melanie Miller and Diane Becker for Fishbowl Films, alongside MRC and EyeSteelFilm.

“We all have to live with news that reshapes the life and future we thought we had, but it is how we deal with the unexpected and how we move forward that can define who we are. The Pelletier family’s story offers such an inspiring testament to this idea. Faced with uncertainty and fear, they choose to embrace life and the opportunities it has given them. Our film, set against the wondrous backdrop of their world travels, gently integrates with and observes the family, telling not only a story of childlike wonder and discovery but also of grief and letting go. Indeed, as they come to realize, by embracing the unknown together, a different but beautiful life awaits them. We are so excited to share this story of family resilience and strength, and hope that Blink will resonate with everyone — no matter how big or small, how young or old,” said directors Stenson and Roher.

BLINK will have its world premiere at the 51st edition of the Telluride Film Festival on Friday, Aug. 30. The film will open in over 150 theaters in the U.S. and Canada beginning Oct. 4. Cities include (but are not limited to) Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Washington D.C., Toronto, Houston, Austin, Chicago and the Pelletier family’s hometown of Montreal. **BLINK** will debut on National Geographic Channel and stream on [Disney+](#) and [Hulu](#) later this year. Visit natgeo.film/blink for more details.

“Edmund and Daniel have crafted a true celebration of the natural wonders and beauty of our planet, showcasing how family travel — the highs *and* the lows — can strengthen and deepen human connection,” said Carolyn Bernstein, executive vice president of Documentary Films for National Geographic. “It’s a privilege to witness the Pelletiers face their family’s unique challenges with ingenuity, fearlessness and joy.”

BLINK features French Canadian couple Edith Lemay and Sébastien Pelletier and their children Mia, Léo, Colin and Laurent. Mia developed eye problems at the age of 3 and was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa at age 7, a rare, incurable disease that leads to severe visual impairment. When her younger brothers Colin and Laurent received the same diagnosis, the family’s world changed forever. In the face of this life-altering news, they set out on a journey around the world to experience all its beauty while they still can.

Initially delayed by the global pandemic, the family revised their plans countless times before setting out in March 2022 without an itinerary. They worked together to compile a bucket list of destinations and activities that guided their travels, with no idea too out there: swimming with dolphins, hot air ballooning, surfing, seeing the sunrise on a mountain, and Laurent’s suggestion to drink juice on a camel. “We never found out where this crazy idea came from, but it was very dear to him and made us all laugh,” Lemay said.

The film follows the family over the course of a year as they traverse 24 countries, filling their visual memories with breathtaking locations and once-in-a-lifetime encounters. Their destinations included Botswana, Cambodia, Canada (Montreal and Kuujuaq), China, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Laos, Namibia, Malawi, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Oman, South Korea, Tanzania, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United States (New York City), Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Maximizing their ground transportation, the family avoided flying as much as possible. One of their goals was also to meet people by staying in guest houses and homestays rather than hotels wherever

possible. Throughout their journey, the family's love, resilience and unshakeable sense of wonder ensure that their uncertain future does not define their present.

BLINK features Edith Lemay, Sébastien Pelletier, Mia Pelletier, Léo Pelletier, Colin Pelletier, Laurent Pelletier, François Lemay and Pauline Sirois. The film is directed by Edmund Stenson and Academy Award and BAFTA winner Daniel Roher. It is produced by Academy Award and BAFTA winners Melanie Miller (p.g.a) and Diane Becker (p.g.a) for Fishbowl Films, in association with MRC and EyeSteelFilm. Co-producers include Ann Rogers and Christina Radburn, with Madison Horton and Kelsey van den Bergh serving as Associate Producers. Music is by Tamar-Kali. It is edited by Ryan Mullins and Miranda Yousef (ACE). Jean-Sébastien Francoeur serves as director of photography. Executive producers include Amit Dey and Eyesteel's Bob Moore. Carolyn Bernstein serves as executive producer for National Geographic Documentary Films.

Since its inception in 2017, National Geographic Documentary Films has been lauded around the world for telling timely, gripping and globally relevant stories. It released the Academy, BAFTA and seven-time Emmy® Award-winning film "Free Solo," the Academy Award-nominated and Peabody Award-winning "Bobi Wine: The People's President," the Academy and BAFTA Award-nominated and Peabody and DGA Award-winning "Fire of Love," and the Academy Award-nominated and Emmy-winning film "The Cave." In recent years, the film banner's slate has also included the duPont-Columbia Award and two-time Sundance Award winner "The Territory," BAFTA nominees "The Rescue" and "Becoming Cousteau," Emmy Award winners "The First Wave," "LA 92" and "Jane" and many other critically acclaimed features and shorts.

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About National Geographic Documentary Films

National Geographic Documentary Films, part of a joint venture between The Walt Disney Company and the National Geographic Society, is committed to bringing the world premium feature documentaries that cover timely, provocative and globally relevant stories from the very best documentary filmmakers. Its award-winning and critically acclaimed films reach 300 million people worldwide in 180 countries and 33 languages across the global National Geographic channels and direct-to-consumer platforms Disney+ and Hulu. Recent films include Oscar® nominated *Bobi Wine: The People's President*, Oscar®- and BAFTA-nominated *Fire of Love*, three-time Emmy-award winner *The First Wave*, two-time Sundance-award winner *The Territory*, BAFTA nominees *The Rescue* and *Becoming Cousteau*, and Oscar®- and BAFTA winner *Free Solo*. For more information, visit films.nationalgeographic.com, or find us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#).

About The Walt Disney Studios

For 100 years, The Walt Disney Studios has been the foundation on which The Walt Disney Company was built. Today it brings quality movies, episodic storytelling, and stage plays to consumers throughout the world. The Walt Disney Studios encompasses a collection of respected film studios, including Disney, Walt Disney Animation Studios, Pixar Animation Studios, Lucasfilm, Marvel Studios, Searchlight Pictures, and 20th Century Studios. It is also home to Disney Theatrical Group, producer of world-class stage shows, as well as Disney Music Group.

About Fishbowl Films

Founded by Diane Becker & Melanie Miller in 2009, FISHBOWL FILMS is a full-service entertainment company with a primary focus on developing and producing projects for film and television. Their collective backgrounds with development, production, independent financing, and distribution across all media platforms drives their passion and commitment to nurture and discover original voices in the ever-changing world of entertainment. NAVALNY (CNN/Max/Warner Bros) won the 2023 Academy Award, BAFTA, PGA, and DuPont for Best Feature Documentary. Diane and Melanie were the recipients of the 2020 Sundance Institute/Amazon Producer's Award for WHIRLYBIRD (A&E/Greenwich). Additional credits include: Peabody Award-Winning INVENTING TOMORROW (POV), THE PROGRAM: CONS, CULTS, AND KIDNAPPING (Netflix), EQUAL (Max), ON THE DIVIDE (POV), STUTZ (Netflix), and AMERICAN PAIN (CNN). Their latest releases include Elaine McMillion Sheldon's KING COAL (POV) which premiered at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival and won the 2024 ASC Award for Best Cinematography, and Maggie Contreras' MAESTRA which premiered at the 2023 Tribeca Film Festival, had a limited theatrical run in summer of 2024 and is currently available to watch via Bingeable.

About MRC

MRC is the leading independent entertainment studio which develops, finances, and produces some of the world's most iconic, award-winning, and prestigious television series, films, and non-fiction documentaries with the industry's foremost creative artists. To date, MRC has been nominated for 111 Emmy® Awards, 29 Golden Globe® Awards, 12 Academy® Awards and 2 GRAMMY Awards® and its films have grossed more than \$6 Billion in worldwide box office. MRC Non-Fiction works with a diverse group of artists to develop, finance and produce feature documentaries and docuseries for global audiences who seek enduring and definitive storytelling. Among their projects are "The Sparks Brothers" directed by Edgar Wright, Zackary Drucker's "Queenmaker", "The Last Rider" by Alex Holmes releasing theatrically this summer, as well as Luke Korem's "Milli Vanilli" documentary premiering at Tribeca and the upcoming "Untitled Sly Stone" documentary directed by Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson.

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