

CHRIS PALMER

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Chris Palmer is a professor, speaker, author, and an environmental and wildlife film producer who has swum with dolphins and whales, come face-to-face with sharks and Kodiak bears, camped with wolf packs, and waded hip-deep through Everglade swamps.

Over the past thirty years, he has led the production of more than 300 hours of original programming for prime time television and the giant screen IMAX film industry. His films have been broadcast on numerous channels, including the Disney Channel, TBS Superstation, Animal Planet, and PBS. His IMAX films include *Whales, Wolves, Dolphins, Bears, Coral Reef Adventure*, and *Grand Canyon Adventure*. He has worked with many celebrities, including Robert Redford, Paul Newman, Jane Fonda, Ted Turner, and Ted Danson.

Chris's career as a film producer began in 1983 when he founded the nonprofit organization National Audubon Society Productions, for which he served as president and CEO for eleven years. In 1994, he founded another nonprofit, National Wildlife Productions (part of the National Wildlife Federation, the largest conservation organization in the United States), which he led as president and CEO for ten years.

Chris is currently president of One World One Ocean Foundation, which, thanks to Greg and Barbara MacGillivray, has launched a \$129 million global multimedia and education campaign to restore and protect the health of the world's oceans. He is also president of the MacGillivray Freeman Films Educational Foundation, which produces and funds IMAX films. MacGillivray Freeman Films is the world's largest and most successful producer and distributor of IMAX films.

In 2004, Chris joined American University's full-time faculty as Distinguished Film Producer in Residence at the School of Communication. There he founded, and currently directs, the Center for Environmental Filmmaking, whose mission is to train filmmakers to produce films and new media that effectively strengthen the global constituency for conservation.

His book, *Shooting in the Wild: An Insider's Account of Making Movies in the Animal Kingdom*, was published in 2010 by Sierra Club Books and has been widely praised. Jane Goodall called it "a very important and much-needed book." Now in its second printing, *Shooting in the Wild* pulls back the curtain on the dark side of wildlife filmmaking, revealing an industry undermined by sensationalism, fabrication, and sometimes even animal abuse.

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Profiles about Chris have appeared in many publications, including the *Wall Street Journal* and *The Washington Post*. He has been interviewed on the *Today Show*, ABC Nightline, NPR, the Fox News Channel, and other networks. He publishes articles regularly and currently serves on the board of fourteen nonprofits.

Chris is a frequent keynote speaker at conferences and film festivals, and regularly gives workshops on a variety of topics, including on how to raise money, give effective presentations, network effectively, motivate and engage students, and radically improve one's success and productivity.

Chris and his colleagues have won numerous awards, including two Emmys and an Oscar nomination. Chris has also been honored with the Frank G. Wells Award from the Environmental Media Association, and the Lifetime Achievement Award for Media at the 2009 International Wildlife Film Festival. In 2010 he was honored at the Green Globe Awards in Los Angeles with the award for Environmental Film Educator of the Decade. Recently he received the IWFF Wildlife Hero of the Year Award for his "determined campaign to reform the wildlife filmmaking industry."

In his twenty years before becoming a film producer, Chris was a high school boxing champion, an officer in the Royal Navy, an engineer, a business consultant, an energy analyst, an environmental activist, chief energy advisor to a senior U.S. senator, and a political appointee in the Environmental Protection Agency under President Jimmy Carter. He has jumped out of helicopters and worked on an Israeli kibbutz.

Chris holds a B.S. with First Class Honors in Mechanical Engineering and an M.S. in Ocean Engineering and Naval Architecture from University College London, and a second master's degree in Public Administration from Harvard University where he was a Kennedy Scholar.

Born in Hong Kong, Chris grew up in England and immigrated to the United States in 1972. He is married to Gail Shearer and the father of three grown daughters (Kim, Christina and Jenny). For five years he was a stand-up comedian and performed regularly in DC comedy clubs. He is currently writing a book about a different kind of wild life—his three daughters and how to be an effective father.