



Mission of Mermaids. A love letter to the ocean

a new film by Susan Rockefeller

Director's Statement

Ever since I was a child I've felt connected to water: lakes, rivers, streams—I love to jump in and swim around. But it's the ocean where I go for rejuvenation, revelation, and solace.

A few years ago I co-produced a film called *A Sea Change* which was the first documentary about ocean acidification. Encouraged by its success, I wanted to bring more people into the conversation so I designed a line of jewelry inspired by our seas. I wore a mermaid pin to the opening event for Oceana. When asked about it I explained that I needed to believe in the existence of the mermaid because of what she stands for: Mystery, hope, and a connection between the human world and the one of the ocean.

Impressed with her fortitude and realizing that her presence was following me everywhere, I felt compelled to make a documentary about the mermaid. Half human and half fish, as well as a cross cultural symbol, she seemed the perfect medium to explore the interdependent nature of man and the sea.

Mission of Mermaids is my most personal documentary to date. I wrote and narrated the story with the belief that by bringing myth and science together we could awaken to our connection to our waters. And by doing so, be inspired to protect what is precious—our ocean.

Film description

Susan Rockefeller's latest and most personal documentary, *Mission of Mermaids*, is the representation of the award winning filmmaker, activist, and conservationist's love for our ocean. Using the archetype of the mermaid, the film presents a poetic ode to the sea as well as a plea for its protection.

While capturing the imagination of the audience through the magical mermaid, *Mission of Mermaids* encourages us to take a closer look at the current state of our waters. It also speaks to the scientific and social relevance of the crisis via excerpted interviews with internationally renowned ocean activists such as actor Ted Danson, scientist Daniel Pauley and model/performer Hannah Fraser.

Demonstrating her own commitment to ocean health, Mrs. Rockefeller put together a low carbon-emission film production that is comprised of "found" footage from YouTube videos, scanned images, and archival, licensed, or donated footage and music as well as a day and a half of filming on Long Island.

With the mermaid as our guide, it's Mrs. Rockefeller's hope that we can unite to protect our oceans both to ensure food security for the over one billion people who rely on fish for their primary protein and to preserve them as places of regeneration, beauty, and boundless dreams.