

POINT OF NO RETURN



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Gripping Documentary About Solar-Powered Plane Carries Critical Message Around the World

Honolulu, Hawaii, November 1 — The Hawaii International Film Festival (HIFF 2017) is slated to feature the world premiere of *Point of No Return*, a feature-length documentary that takes viewers behind the headlines of Solar Impulse, the first solar-powered flight around the world, to prove the potential of clean energy.

Billed as one of the great scientific adventure stories of our century, the feature-length film follows pilots Bertrand Piccard and André Borschberg as they take turns battling nature, their own crew, and sometimes logic itself, to achieve the impossible: 26,000 miles, powered only by the sun.

Starting in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, they flew around the world, landing in cities like Ahmedabad, India; Mandalay, Myanmar; Nanjing, China; San Francisco, New York and Cairo.

But their journey wasn't without risks. With the wingspan of a 747 and the fragility of fabric, zero-emission Solar Impulse can be broken with the pressure of a single finger tip, making death a very real possibility throughout the mission. Add Borschberg's five day, five night, 5,545-mile flight from Japan to Hawaii (the longest nonstop solar flight in history), and all bets were off. San Francisco Bay Area-based filmmakers Noel Dockstader and Quinn Kanaly were constantly aware of the danger.

"There's no certainty in the adventure. Or in filmmaking," says Dockstader. "We didn't know if the plane would make it around the world or if we would have a story in the end. It was a moonshot. But we knew we had to try."

For 10 months, Dockstader and Kanaly found themselves on opposite sides of the world (with the plane and at mission control), tracking the unfolding drama in real time—not just to capture an adventure, but also the message about the importance of renewable energy.

"I want this story to give people hope against the huge challenges we're facing today," says Kanaly. "At its core, this film is about the perseverance and courage it takes to make difficult decisions when everything is on the line."

With André Borschberg taking electric propulsion a step further, developing the next generation of electric planes, and Bertrand Piccard spearheading the World Alliance for Energy Efficient Solutions, the filmmakers believe this story is far from over. Their hope is that the inspiration of Solar Impulse's remarkable flight will continue to resonate as the film embarks on its own journey around the world.

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"This was an important moment to capture," says Dockstader. "It reflects what we care about for our families and our planet—that we need to exist in collaboration with nature, not at the cost of it."

It's that shared sense of unity and purpose that has inspired the filmmakers to invite like-minded supporters to join them—not just at the Hawaii premiere, but around the world as they kick off their international tour of festival and theatrical screenings.

ABOUT WORLD PREMIERE

The World Premiere of *Point of No Return* screens Sunday, November 5 at 5:15 p.m and Thursday November 9th at 2:45 PM at the Hawaii International Film Festival. André Borschberg and the filmmakers will be in attendance to participate in "Film For Thought"—a Q&A series designed to inspire critical discourse and community dialogue through the medium of film. "Film For Thought" is presented in partnership with the Hawai'i Council for the Humanities.

The pilots and the filmmakers are available for interviews.

Bertrand Piccard will be offsite at the COP 23 UN Climate Change Conference starting Nov 10th in Bonn, Germany, and is available via Skype for interviews at select times during the festival.

ABOUT THE FILM

Thirteen years ago, Bertrand Piccard and André Borschberg began building what many experts said was impossible — a solar-powered airplane capable of flying day and night. In an unheated, unpressurized cockpit, the solo flight across the Pacific Ocean becomes a feat of endurance unlike any other in aviation history. To succeed, both Piccard, a psychiatrist and balloonist, and Borschberg, an engineer and jet fighter pilot, must set aside their differences and go against the advice of their crew. *Point of No Return* explores what it takes to do something truly groundbreaking, and documents how their journey captivated people around the world. Learn more at pointofnoreturndoc.com.

ABOUT THE HAWAII INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Hitting Honolulu screens from November 2 to November 19, the festival will present 160 films from over 45 countries. Through their programming, HIFF continues to advance understanding and cultural exchange among the peoples of Asia, the Pacific and North America by presenting films from around the world. Learn more at hiff.org.

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