MEDIA KIT

POINT OF NO RETURN

26,000 MILES. FUELED ONLY BY THE SUN.

A FILM BY NOEL DOCKSTADER AND QUINN KANALY

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**Point of No Return**

Documentary, U.S.A., 2017, 95 min., color

Directors: Noel Dockstader and Quinn Kanaly

Shot in-flight and on location around the world in Abu Dhabi, Muscat, Ahmedabad, Varanasi, Mandalay, Chongqing, Nanjing, Nagoya, Hawaii, San Francisco, Phoenix, Tulsa, Dayton, New York, Sevilla, and Cairo.

World Premiere - Hawaii International Film Festival, November 2017

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**TECHNICAL INFO**

DCP, Pro Res | 16 x 9 | HD | English

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“An absorbing documentary”
HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

“A powerful wake-up call to action... Thrilling as any cinematic space oddyssey”
BROADWAY WORLD

“A beautiful document of a dream given form”
FILM THREAT

“At the cutting edge of exploration and renewable energy.”
AL GORE

“This very audacious courage – we need this kind of spirit to change this world.”
BAN KI MOON

“Huge step forward. It’s absolutely extraordinary. It’s pioneering clean energy.”
RICHARD BRANSON

SYNOPSIS SHORT
Soaring at 28,000 feet without a drop of fuel, nothing is predictable. Not the weather, not the technology. And certainly not the fate of a man, alone for five days in a fragile, first-of-its-kind aircraft with nothing but ocean below.

Point of No Return takes you behind the headlines of the first solar-powered flight around the world—where two courageous pilots take turns battling nature, their own crew, and sometimes logic itself, to achieve the impossible. Not just to make history, but to inspire a revolution.

SYNOPSIS LONG
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. With the wingspan of a 747 jet and the weight of a car, Solar Impulse is extremely fragile. High winds or turbulence can snap the wings in two. But the dangerous and historic trip tests more than their technology. In an unheated, unpressurized cockpit, the solo flight across the Pacific Ocean becomes a feat of endurance unlike any other in aviation history.

Technical failures, unplanned landings, and stormy weather put the entire mission in jeopardy and drain the spirits of the team. To succeed, both Bertrand, a psychiatrist and balloonist, and André, 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. People who came out to see the plane land in their cities and watched live from computers at home. It’s a story of hope, courage, and perseverance that gets to the heart of what it will take to solve the biggest environmental threat humans have ever faced.
**Creative partners for over a decade**, filmmakers Noel Dockstader and Quinn Kanaly tell thought-provoking, impactful stories about science, history and exploration. When they learned of Solar Impulse's audacious zero-fuel flight, they knew it had the potential to be one of the most important pioneering adventures of our time—and they felt compelled to capture it.

Over ten months, Co-Directors Noel and Quinn found themselves on opposite sides of the world, tracking the unfolding drama both on the tarmac and at mission control—connected only by their cell phones and a shared vision for the film.

Prior to embarking on POINT OF NO RETURN, Dockstader and Kanaly's collaborative works at Far West Film, (San Francisco, CA) have been broadcast in the US and internationally on National Geographic, Discovery, Smithsonian, and PBS. Previous films include *Extreme Ice* for PBS/NOVA, following photographer James Balog as he documents the effects of melting ice sheets and glaciers around the world, and *Collapse*, a two-hour special for National Geographic based on the book by Pulitzer Prize-winning author, Jared Diamond. Other documentaries for National Geographic's award-winning “Explorer” Series include *How to Build an Ancient Man, Search for the Head of John the Baptist, Death of the Iceman, Mammoth Mystery, Search for Amelia Earhart*, and *Peru: Mass Grave Mystery*.

**QUINN KANALY**

“At its core, this film is about the perseverance and courage it takes to make difficult decisions when everything is on the line. When we look at the mountain of challenges facing us this century, we want this story of ingenuity and grit to give people hope.”

**NOEL DOCKSTADER**

“There’s no certainty in adventure. Or in filmmaking. 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.”
The psychiatrist and the engineer. On the surface, pilots Bertrand Piccard and André Borschberg couldn’t be more different. But through hardship, conflict, and incredible risks, the two men staked their lives on Solar Impulse and forged a powerful bond. Their partnership ensured that each man, on their own in the air for days at a time, was never truly alone.

BERTRAND PICCARD
Pilot, Initiator
Born into a line of world-famous explorers, Bertrand feels the pull of the impossible. His love of adventure propelled him to be the first in history to circle the globe in a balloon. Now with his zero-fuel flight, he has an even more ambitious goal: to show the world the potential of clean energy. As his team faces a series of potentially devastating challenges, Bertrand’s pioneering spirit must keep the project from falling apart.

ANDRÉ BORSCHBERG
Pilot, Co-founder
There is nothing André can’t fly. And while Solar Impulse heads into the unknown, his fighter-pilot past and intimate knowledge of the plane’s engineering make him a natural fit for a mission filled with calculated risk. Navigating the journey’s longest and most dangerous leg—five days and nights alone over the Pacific—André will face the most difficult decision of the project. And perhaps his life.

THE TEAM
Though the cockpit of the Solar Impulse has room for only one person, it carries on its historic flight the hearts and hopes of more than 120 scientists, experts and engineers.

Friendship, respect and an unshakable belief in the potential of clean energy helps this extraordinary crew stick together through a decade’s worth of technological setbacks and triumphs, sacrifices and delays. Charged with keeping two pilots alive and an experimental plane on course and in the air, their tireless hard work fuels the mission. And it just might change our world.
As light as a family car, with the wingspan of a 747. Solar Impulse is a marvel of aeronautical engineering. And a dangerous gamble.

Its delicate frame could snap in two. Its custom tech could fail mid-flight. Its batteries could die in cloud cover or darkness. A thousand miscalculations could ground Solar Impulse before it reaches its goal. But for the team behind this revolutionary aircraft, the message—and the hope it carries to a world facing an environmental crisis—is well worth the risk.
FEATURING
Bertrand Piccard
André Borschberg
Michèle Piccard
Auguste Piccard
Jacques Piccard
Yasemin Borschberg
Ella Borschberg
Raymond Clerc
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Executive Producer / Lori Joseph

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Piccard Family
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Shutterstock
Solar Impulse

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SPECIAL THANKS
The Solar Impulse 150 person team and partners
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REZO / Jean Revillard
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