

# Let's Talk About Water

Film and  
Water Event

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2015  
Delft

PRESS RELEASE

## Let's Talk About Water

### Film and Water Event in its third year

Delft, February 19-20-21 2015

*Dutch water capital again to host cinema and water science festival.*

From Thursday, February 19 through Saturday, February 21, 'Let's Talk About Water' will again be held in Delft, one of the mayor water capitals of the world. The third edition of this Film and Water Event with a variety of documentaries and presentations, will take place at UNESCO-IHE (Institute for Water Education) and

**independent arthouse cinema 'Filmhuis Lumen'. It uses motion picture to spark debate and create awareness of an array of water related subjects, climate change being a prominent one, to students, scientists and the general public.**

**This year Let's Talk About Water presents a four-part program with screenings of documentaries and short films and several guest speakers, all on the topic of how climate change affects this world and its inhabitants, globally, on a continental and regional scale. A workshop with several speakers at UNESCO-IHE (Friday morning, students only) will examine how scientific computation in the world of hydrology can be electrified and made compelling to a wider audience, outside of the scientific community, and often unaware of the efforts and knowledge of water scientists.**

**This edition of Let's Talk About Water has been made possible thanks to the support of Delft-based institutions UNESCO-IHE, TU-Delft en Deltares, and the aid of Filmhuis Lumen. Admission for the two evening screenings at Filmhuis Lumen for students of TU-Delft and UNESCO-IHE and employees of Deltares and the Water Board (Hoogheemraadschap van Delfland) is only €4,50 (half price). The other two sessions can be visited for free, however the Friday morning event at UNESCO-IHE is exclusive to students of TU-Delft en UNESCO-IHE.**

In the screenings at Filmhuis Lumen the viewer travels geographically from Greenland to the South Pacific in documentary 'ThuleTuvalu' (Thursday night) for a present-day look at how climate change, glacial melt and sea level rise affect two very different cultures 2500 miles apart. At a continental scale 'The Great Flood' by Bill Morrison (Friday night) goes back in time to look at a famous flooding that rocked the US continent, when the Mississippi floodwaters erupted over the course of two years in 1927 and 1928. It is an intriguing combination of black and white stock footage, edged with nitrate deterioration from the period, and set to an exquisite jazz score by musician Bill Frisell. The displacement and migrations of thousands of people affected the racial and economic, but also musical history of the United States, creating the Chicago Blues, Rhythm & Blues en Rock & Roll. On Saturday afternoon 'H2O mx' focusses on one magnificent city — Mexico City— built on an ancient lake. It is suffering from flooding in a watershed closed off from the sea, draining its aquifers for drinking water for a parched population and starting to sink into its historic lakebed.

At the workshop on Friday morning (students only), several speakers will talk about the role of film and scientific visualization in water management and communicating. New software tools can create cutting edge and dynamic imagery, important for decision makers, but also very suitable –not unlike cinema– for conveying the story of climate change and the impact it has on our lives – and water knits it all together.

***Venues:***

**UNESCO-IHE** (Institute for Water Education)

Westvest 7

2611 AX Delft

[unesco-ihe.org](http://unesco-ihe.org)

**Filmhuis Lumen** (Delft's independent non-profit arthouse cinema, powered by 120 volunteers)

Doelenplein 5

2611 BP Delft

[filmhuis-lumen.nl](http://filmhuis-lumen.nl)

***More information:***

[www.filmhuis-lumen.nl/LTAW](http://www.filmhuis-lumen.nl/LTAW)

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***detailed information about the program***

Thursday, February 19, 7:30 PM

Screening at Filmhuis Lumen

students\*: €4,50

**ThuleTuvalu**

This documentary chronicles the upheaval in the lives of people from different ends of the Earth who are increasingly bound together by the ongoing process of global warming.

Thule, a small town in northern Greenland, is the world's northernmost inhabited settlement. Tuvalu is one of the world's smallest island nations, covering 700 sq. km in the Pacific Ocean.

As the residents of Thule watch the arctic ice caps melt and their hunting grounds diminish, the people of Tuvalu cope with advancing sea levels and saltwater intrusion. They fear their island will sink into the sea. Older generations in both places want to stay and pass on survival skills to their children, but they realize that if temperatures continue to rise, they must adapt or leave.

Director Matthias von Gunten puts a human face to climate change, flooding and disaster management, connecting two communities confronted with the inescapable fact that they must change the very essence of their existences to survive.

director: Matthias von Gunten – Switzerland, 2014, 98 min – English subtitles

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Friday, February 20, 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Workshop at UNESCO-IHE followed by lunch  
students only (free),

## **Workshop Film, Scientific Visualizations & Water**

### **speakers:**

Linda Lilienfeld – Director of Let's Talk About Water ([letstalkaboutwater.com](http://letstalkaboutwater.com))

Role of historic film in water science

Lenneke Knoop – Business Development and Communication, The Water Channel

([thewaterchannel.tv](http://thewaterchannel.tv))

Role of short films and spots about water

Nick van de Giesen – Professor Water Management, TU Delft

EWater Cycle – Use of 'film' as a communication tool during floods and for disaster risk management

William Veerbeek – Senior Reseacher Flood Resilience Group, UNESCO-IHE  
Flood resilience and challenges in urban flood management

Gennadii Donchyts – Senior Advisor/Research, Deltares  
The power of dynamic earth surface water visualizations / simulation software tools

Additional speakers: Fedor Baart (Deltares, Tides of Alcatraz), Jurjen Wagemaker (FloodTags.com), Kim Anema (UNESCO-IHE, Flood Resilience).

As a film and picture researcher for 40(!) years, specializing in science and history, main organiser Linda Lilienfeld believes in the power of an image to tell a story and move people. With climate change affecting weather patterns and sea level rise, the lives of many people are at risk. In the old days, film could be used for story telling or propaganda – to advise people about soil erosion due to flooding or the importance of the building of big dams. But we have entered a new era where (hydrologic) images can actually be generated in real time by scientific computation and thus simulate or predict reality.

New tools collectively called “Dynamic Earth Surface Water Visualizations” can sometimes be 100 times faster and more detailed than existing models. Area models in the research program 3Di for example, can quite literally map out water flows and the effects of flooding, heavy precipitation and drought, which enables decision makers and civilians to visualize the impact of various climate scenarios and create solutions under extreme pressure.

As Deltares puts it in their brochure about the San Francisco Bay – Delta Community Model: “There is a need for open access, publicly available, integrated modeling platforms to facilitate and enhance interdisciplinary and interagency scientific communication, collaboration and understanding, to face developments due to climate change and management strategies.”

With this workshop there is an attempt to put these great accomplishments in the context of our mutual visual histories.

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Friday, February 20, 7:30 PM  
Screening at Filmhuis Lumen

students\*: €4,50

## The Great Flood

The catastrophic Mississippi Flood of April of 1927, when the Mississippi river broke out of its banks in 145 places and inundated 27,000 square miles to a depth of up to 30 feet, was one of the most destructive river floods in American history.

Part of this flood's enduring legacy was the mass exodus of displaced sharecroppers. Musically, the "Great Migration" of rural southern blacks to Northern cities saw the Delta Blues electrified and reinterpreted as the Chicago Blues, Rhythm and Blues, and Rock and Roll.

Using previously unseen outtakes from newsreel footage, minimal text and no spoken dialogue, filmmaker Bill Morrison reveals a society in the midst of a massive cultural, political and ecological upheaval. Guitarist Bill Frisell's score embodies the catastrophic events and serves as the emotional narrator of the film.

All film documenting this catastrophe was shot on volatile nitrate stock, and what footage remains is pock marked and partially deteriorated. The degraded filmstock figures prominently in Morrison's aesthetic with distorted images suggesting different planes of reality in the story – those lived, dreamt or remembered. We see the images through a prism of history, but one that dances with the sound of modern music.

director: Bill Morrison – USA, 2013, 78 min – English spoken, no subtitles

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Saturday, February 21, 2:00 PM

Screening and discussion at Filmhuis Lumen

free admission

## H2O mx

**Videolink speaker:** Eugenio Barrios – WWF Mexico, Director Water Program

H2O mx uses Mexico City as an environmental case study to meticulously examine water shortage, waste and pollution —as well as their social consequences— through an

examination of the geographical, political and economic challenges. Can a mega-city mobilize its 22 million citizens to become water sustainable?

Built on the basin of a great lake, Mexico City does not have its own water supply. Providing the city's citizens with fresh water from other regions and states each day —and caring for their sewage— is a herculean task. And with a deadline, that experts estimate to be five to ten years in the future, before a water disaster can push the city over the edge, H2O mx makes an urgent call for committed action in order to solve the city's water woes as the city struggles to save itself even as its population grows daily.

Using a visually magnificent and urban panorama, it's an unsettling but beautiful watch as H2O mx combines science, technology, infrastructure and policy discussions with personal stories, to show how everything is connected —and a city's water issues take meanings and shapes even beyond its borders— from dangerous detergent buildup in the clouds to farmers in Mezquital living off wastewater irrigation, to Chalco citizens fending off perennial floods.

director: Jose Cohen and Lorenzo Hagerman – Mexico, 2013, 82 min – English subtitles

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