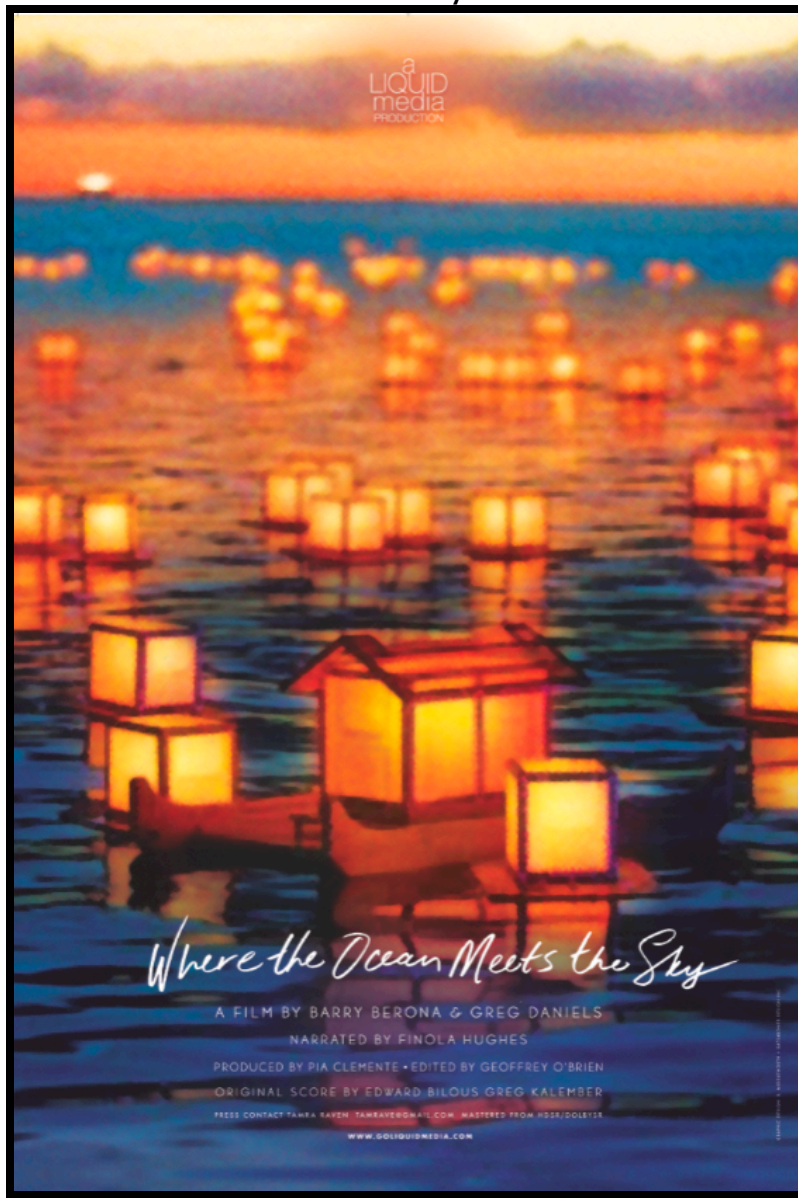


Documentary Short



**Where the Ocean Meets the Sky**  
A Film by Barry Berona & Greg Daniels

Produced by Pia Clemente

For Liquid Media Productions

27 Minutes USA (HDSR, HDcam Dolby, DigiBeta, DVD)

[http://www.goliquidmedia.com/where the ocean meets the sky.php](http://www.goliquidmedia.com/where_the_ocean_meets_the_sky.php)

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## **"Where the Ocean Meets the Sky"**

A Film by Barry Berona & Greg Daniels

### **Capsule Synopsis**

Every year something truly beautiful takes place in Hawaii on Memorial Day. As the sun sets, thousands of paper lanterns are released to the sea in memory of loved ones that have passed. "Where the Ocean Meets the Sky" is a documentary that explores the annual ritual of Lantern Floating both as an instrument in helping people deal with death, and as a unique experience that draws a diverse crowd of people together in the name of Peace.

### **Directors' Statement**

Imagine a diverse crowd of 40,000 people uniting at sunset - everyone with the same intention of honoring the memory of a loved one that has passed. Imagine this peaceful gathering is in such a beautiful location it is often called Paradise. Every year a memorial ceremony called "Toro Nagashi" or "Lantern Floating" actually takes place on the shores of Hawaii - and when thousands of people simultaneously release lanterns into the sea, there is an emotion, a spiritual feeling in the air that is palpable.

Our challenge was how to capture these intense personal feelings of connection as well as the remarkable communal impact this ceremony had on the participants. Whether used as a tool to help in the grieving process, as a unique way to memorialize a loved one, or just to be part of a peaceful ceremony, thousands of people from around the world take part in the ceremony.

Shot in high definition, this short documentary explores the annual ritual of Lantern Floating and the amazing transformations of some of its guests. Interviews were conducted in a unique way so that the subjects are directly addressing the camera. This technique engages the viewer as participants describe their personal experience and the reasons why some were so compelled to attend this stunning ceremony.

# **"Where the Ocean Meets the Sky"**

A Film by Barry Berona & Greg Daniels

## **Credits**

Directed and Photographed by: Barry Berona and Greg Daniels

Producer: Pia Clemente

Editor: Geoffrey O'Brien

Narrated by: Finola Hughes

Original Score: Edward Bilous and Greg Kalember  
@ Smack Music

Producer: Michelle Di Bucci

Narration written by: Katrina Elder

Production Manager: Nicole Ebeo

Prod. Coordinator: George Russell

Camera Dept: Matt Geotz, Steve Dickter, Matt Berner  
August Thurmer, Matthew Medelros

Motion Control: Michael Romano

Gaffer: Dean DesJarlais

Key Grip: Daniel Rosner

Sound Mixer: Mike Bacon

Visual Effects: David Parker @ The Mill

Audio Mix: Joe Dzuban @ Todd AO

Colorist: Matt Turner @ Company 3

## **"Where the Ocean Meets the Sky"**

A Film by Barry Berona & Greg Daniels

### **Filmmakers/Crew Bio**

#### **Barry Berona – Director/Director of Photography**

With an accomplished career as a Director of Photography, Barry got his start as a camera intern on Michael Ballhaus', *Outbreak*. Working his way up from focus puller to camera operator on both commercials and feature films such as John Gaitin's *Dreamer*, Emilio Esteves' *Bobby*, and most recently as 2nd Unit Cinematographer on *Powder Blue*, directed by Timothy Lin Bui, starring Forrest Whitaker and Jessica Biel.

As Barry's feature film credits accrued, his career shooting commercials took off with clients like The United States Navy, Snickers, Coors, Bacardi and State Farm Insurance. Working on more than 300 commercials under such gifted Cinematographers as Vittorio Storaro and Darius Khondji, and traveling the world while being exposed to a great variety of environments and circumstances, he continues to develop his aesthetic and expand his resumé.

Growing up with a race-car driving Dad and spending his childhood shooting 8mm movies at racetracks all around the country, Barry had automobiles in his DNA. So, entering the rarified world of television commercials for the automotive industry was a natural fit. Now taking his place beside the top talent in car commercials, he has shot highly creative and visually stunning spots for Ford, Chevrolet, Renault, Toyota, Honda, Mitsubishi and Alpha Romeo amongst others.

As digital technology exploded, Barry started incorporating CG in his work, combining his extensive knowledge of film and exploring brand new digital imaging, creating extremely imaginative spots. Continually breaking new creative ground with director Paul Street of Believe Media, the two pulled off such visual magic tricks as in the hit Navy commercial where they seamlessly move one actor as multiple characters within and through different scenarios aboard a working aircraft carrier, using motion control, a first on such a vessel.

With a long-lasting love for documentaries and taking much inspiration from filmmakers like Erroll Morris and Ken Burns, Barry answered the call by co-directing and shooting a gorgeous and evocative short film called *The Awakening Fire* about a Buddhist sect, the Shinnyo-En, and their quest and prayer for peace.

## **Greg Daniels – Director/Director of Photography**

Having to move around the country several times as a young boy, Greg discovered that his passion for photography was a way of connecting with each new location. With an old Polaroid camera, Greg would shoot the landscapes and people of each new town he moved to. Limited funds for film however, meant having to determine each shot carefully. Little did he know, this early discipline with composition and exposure was the foundation for his first career as a cinematographer. Working up through the camera ranks, Greg drew from the experiences of working under two Academy award-winning cinematographers and has forged a style of photography where high energy converges with ethereal beauty.

Greg has shot for directors such as Ellen Von Unwerth, Theresa Wingert and legendary filmmaker Errol Morris. Recently collaborating with Paul Santana on an American Lung Association PSA, Greg has tapped the possibilities of the future by combining High Definition camera work with CG effects. The spot earned an AICP award for best PSA in 2006, and has become part of the permanent collection in New York's Museum of Modern Art..

Recently, Greg settled into the role of Director/Cameraman blending his love of photography with the fine distinction of storytelling. Shooting in several countries throughout Asia, South America, Europe and Africa, has lent a worldly perspective to his projects.

## **Pia Clemente – Producer**

Oscar nominated producer Pia Clemente is a writer-producer filmmaker who enjoys working in all film genres. She is grateful to be able to move between documentaries, narrative film, and TV commercial production and post production. Believing in the need for a strong foundation, Pia moved out to Los Angeles in 1995 to attend The American Film Institute where she received her M.F.A.

Upon graduation from AFI, Pia worked as the Line Producer for the independent film, *The Debut*. Born in the Philippines, *The Debut* was a significant film for Pia to take part in. She is constantly looking for projects that speak to the Filipino-American experience.

In 1999, Pia joined Orbit Productions, where she served as Staff Producer. Here she began her expansion into TV commercial production. Since 2002 she has worked in freelance production for commercial companies such as Bob Industries, The Artist Company, Moxie Pictures and Subliminal Pictures. Some of her commercial credits include Volkswagen, Direct TV, Old Navy, Target, Rubbermaid, Bose, HP and Play Station 3.

Among her narrative film credits, Pia produced the short film, *Our Time is Up*, which received an Academy Award nomination for Best Live Action Short. Although it did not win the Oscar, Pia was invited to become a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. She serves on the nominating committees for Live Action Shorts & Animation and Foreign Film.

Pia recently delivered the short documentary *Where the Ocean Meets the Sky*, about the Buddhist ritual of Lantern Floating which takes place every year on Memorial Day in Honolulu, HI. Pia's short documentary from 2007, *Awakening Fire*, is currently on the festival circuit. Pia is also in post production on the feature documentary *Whoo-Ya*, chronicling the birth of FM Rock radio in Southern California.

Pia grew up in New Jersey and studied at Barnard College, Columbia University where she received her B.A. As a student filmmaker, she produced *Christmas in New York*, a short film that won the prestigious Academy Award for Dramatic Short Student Film. Attracted to compelling story telling and the opportunity to collaborate with talented crafts people, Pia feels very fortunate every time she steps on set.

### **Geoffrey O'Brien - Editor**

With a strong narrative style and a musician's instinct for pacing and rhythm, Geoffrey O'Brien has delivered over 25 feature films and documentaries during his 15 years of post production work.

He spent his formative years working in Manhattan on such feature films as MONEY TRAIN, THE JUROR, STRIPEASE, THE DEVIL'S OWN, MONUMENT AVE. and MADELINE. In 1998 he moved to Los Angeles to continue his career in the competitive west coast film community.

His west coast successes include:

The Eddie Murphy comedy LIFE for Universal Pictures, the Cine Award winning Mt. Everest Documentary BEYOND THE SUMMIT for National Geographic, the Crown Heights Documentary INCREASE THE PEACE for Showtime, the snowboarding comedy OUT COLD for Touchstone Pictures, the festival favorite 39 POUNDS OF LOVE for HBO Documentaries, and the Jet Li action thriller WAR for Lionsgate Films. He is currently lending his visual chops to the teen dance film MAKE IT HAPPEN for the Weinstein Company.

The Awakening Fire was Geoffrey's first collaboration with Directors Barry Berona and Greg Daniels. Often compared to BARAKA, this spiritually themed short documentary is an ethereal blend of 'life in and out of balance' visuals interlaced with pertinent and thought provoking interviews. The challenging contrast between these landscapes and the unique musical score forced the filmmakers to adopt an unorthodox storytelling layout. Geoffrey's diverse narrative background allowed him to find the singular story needed to unite the themes presented.