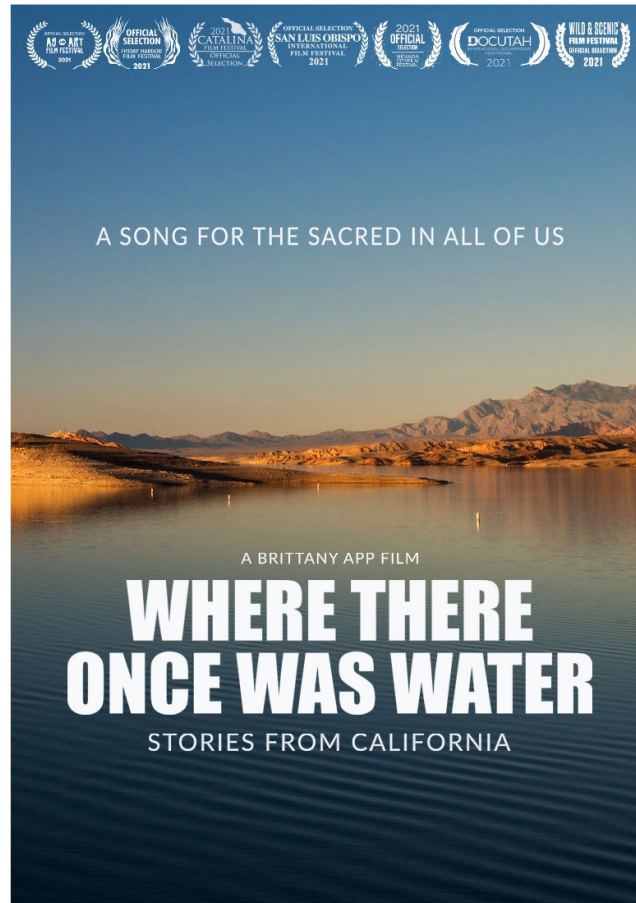


WHERE THERE ONCE WAS WATER



A FILM BY

BRITTANY APP

74 mins / Color / 2021 / English, Spanish Subtitles / U.S.



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FILM FESTIVALS

Wild and Scenic Film Festival
San Luis Obispo International Film Festival
DOCUTAH International Documentary Film Festival
The Ag & Art Film Festival
Fresno State CineCulture Film Series Selection
Friday Harbor Film Festival
The Catalina Film Festival
Nevada City Film Festival
Ojai Film Festival
Colorado Environmental Film Festival
Cambria Film Fest Summerfest
Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment Film Festival
BZN International Film Festival
Flixx Festival
Blue Water Film Festival
The Sacramento International Film Festival
Toronto International Women Film Festival
Wildlife Conservation Film Festival
EarthxTV Encore Screening
Global Freshwaters Summit Closing Night Event
New Haven Documentary Film Festival
Transitions Film Festival

SYNOPSIS

This is a story about water. A song for the sacred in all of us. A documentary centered on solutions. This is a look at the driest of places - California and the Southwest - and the deepest of spaces - our inner worlds and the stories we choose to tell. We are invited to change our perspective, to rewrite our stories, and ultimately, to heal our broken relationships with the natural world.

Where land is desert, and water is scarce, we find hope and resilience in Navajo Nation. Where statewide infrastructure is failing, we find innovation and conservation. Where salmon and beavers are reintroduced into streams, we find restored ecosystems. With reforestation, we find healthier watersheds. In cities, we find urban farmers, healing soil and building community, in conversation with mother earth. Where cattle are managed holistically on grassland, we find cleaner groundwater and healthier springs. Instead of vineyards depleting aquifers, we find biodiversity, responsibility, and hope. Where traditional agriculture has sucked wells dry, we choose a new way forward. And in our own kitchens, we find we have great power, and great choice... to use less, waste less, and ask questions. To choose the water story we tell, one meal at a time.

The choice point has arrived. The old story will bring scarcity. But a new story, one that we can write together, may indeed lead us to abundance and water for all. Only through personal relationship with the sacred can we truly begin to heal. Water is life. Water is love. What can you do, in your life, to be a voice for the water?

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Access to clean water changes a life. After my travels around the world in 2008, this truth became too much to carry without some sort of action on my part. In 2010 I chose to pedal a bicycle across the United States to raise money for WaterAid, an international non-profit working to provide access to clean water and sanitation, globally. In 2013 I began photographing the effects of the drought in my home state of California, through a personal photography project which ultimately became this film. I have since become active with DigDeep, a nonprofit working to provide running water to families in Navajo Nation. There are still over 1.7 million people, right here in the United States, who are living without access to clean running water at home.

Through research, curiosity, and love, I have attempted, with this film, to be in service to the water that gives us life. To tell the story that connects us all ... the story of water. Time is short. The climate has changed. Water is sacred. We must find a new way. We must write a new story. And we must write it together. The choice point has arrived.

Brittany App

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY

Brittany App is a professional photographer with two decades of experience and two circumnavigations of the globe under her belt, and she debuts "Where There Once Was Water" as a first-time Director & Producer. Her passion is water, water access, and ruminants. Brittany is a story-teller, a voice-artist, a professional sheep-shearer, and a self-proclaimed shepherdess-in-training. She lives off the grid in the remote Carrizo Plain, CA – with a rag-tag woolly crew of sheep, duck ducks, livestock guardian dogs, and sunsets that fill the whole sky.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Featuring (in order of appearance)

SETH M. SIEGEL	DAN BEARD	YADA YISRAEL
KANDI (MOSSETT) WHITE	CHIEF CALEEN SISK	SPENCER SMITH
CLAIRE DUBOIS	ANDY LIPKIS	ABBIEY SMITH
GEORGE MCGRAW	BRUCE REZNIK	ARIEL GREENWOOD
DARLENE ARVISO	RON WILDERMUTH	JASON HAAS
CHRIS AUSTIN	KEN MANNING	CHELSEA FRANCHI
ERIC GARNER	KATE LUNDQUIST	NEIL COLLINS
CELESTE CANTÚ	MARK SHEPARD	NATHAN STUART
RONALD STORK	YESHAHYAH YISRAEL	FLORENCIA RAMIREZ
ANITA LODGE	JUDITH YISRAEL	
SHANNON LODGE	CHANOWK YISRAEL	

directed and produced by
BRITTANY APP

edited by
GARRETT "GAR" RUSSELL

original score written & produced by
BRANDON MAAHS

director of photography
BRITTANY APP

written by
BRITTANY APP
GARRETT "GAR" RUSSELL

additional camera
MICHAEL MARIANT
GABBY PAJO
NATHAN STUART
TIMOTHY RAMMING
TONY TRAN
SAMI RAPP
SAMUEL SANCHEZ
JOHN WATHEN

graphics
EMILY HSAIO

narration
BRITTANY APP

production assistants
GABBY PAJO
TONY TRAN
KAORI FUNAHASHI
JOSHUA SIMAS

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ECOLOGISTICS

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fallingrainfilms/pond5, markoconnell, tirdea

MUSIC
music by
BRANDON MAAHS

additional orchestrations by
RONALD HARRIS

score mixing by
GREG SGAMMATO

flute by KATHERINE COPELAND
viola by ALEX MORENO
cello by AKITO GOTO
violin by DIOGO GUAZISKI

woodwinds courtesy of FRESHORCHESTRA
strings courtesy of MUSIVERSAL RECORDING

ADDITIONAL MUSIC

“Deer Spirit”
written & performed by
TROPO

“Let it Gro”
spoken word poem
written & performed by
YESHAHYAH YISRAEL

“Burning on Empty”
written & performed by
FIALTA
fialtamusic.com

“Urban”
written & performed by
CRAIG NUTTYCOMBE

“Do the Best We Can”
written & performed by
FIALTA
fialtamusic.com

“Where There Once Was Water”
music & lyrics by
ERIN INGLISH & ARLO BLAISUS

banjo, vibraphone & lead vocals by ERIN INGLISH
harmony vocals by INGA SWEARINGEN
fiddle by ROSALIND PARDUCCI
mandolin by ARLO BLAISUS
drums & tambourine by STEVE AMADEE
bass by DYLAN JOHNSON

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