



## Whisky Feature Film 'The Water of Life'

### Set for Broadcast Premiere on PBS throughout June 2022

Tuesday, May 31, 2022 (LOS ANGELES, Calif.) — Feature documentary *The Water of Life - a whisky film*, will make its national US broadcast debut across the **PBS Network** in June, 2022.

Shot in six countries, on three continents, over three years, *The Water of Life* (<https://www.wateroflifefilm.com>) tells the story of the creative revolution that saved Scotland's once-flagging whisky industry and turned it into the global titan it is today.

Picked up late 2021 by the network's syndication arm PBS Plus, the 88-minute film will be screened on PBS networks in over 200 markets beginning on June 1. The majority of member stations will premiere in primetime during the week of June 27. PBS will retain the rights to broadcast *The Water of Life* for one year. For one month, June 1 to July 6, 2022, the film will also be available on the PBS website via [pbs.org](https://pbs.org) and the PBS app.

"We are excited to include the delightfully charming film *The Water of Life* in the summer 2022 PBS Plus schedule," said Sarah Bilodeau, program director of PBS Plus, one of the network's syndicated programming services that acquires the rights for PBS's most acclaimed food, travel and culture shows.

*The Water of Life* features a half-dozen distillers and distilleries, but focuses much of its time on the resurrection of the tiny Bruichladdich Distillery on the remote Scottish island of Islay. Under the leadership of entrepreneurs Mark Reynier, Simon Coughlin and whisky legend Jim McEwan, the distillery went from being a mothballed memory to a world-beating innovator in a matter of years... a creative explosion that helped save the struggling economy of the island often called Whisky Island.

The story also features world renowned whisky writer Charles Maclean, MBE; master distiller Billy Walker; master blenders Dr. Rachel Barrie and David Stewart, MBE; and the next generation of innovators like Adam Hannett, Kelsey McKechnie, Liam Hughes, Iain Croucher, and Eddie Brook.

The film was produced by **Blacksmith & Jones**, the production company that Swartz co-owns with producer Trevor Jones. Actress Brittany Curran (*The Magicians*, *Chicago Fire*) served as executive producer. It was co-produced by Special Order and Aurora Films.

“We are very excited to be on PBS because it’s really the gold standard of documentary film in America,” Jones said. “We think it’s a perfect fit because the film is as much a love letter to Scotland as it is to whisky itself and we really tried to create a cinematic portrayal of the beautiful Scottish countryside.”

Curran adds, “We knew that we wanted to make a film that would appeal just as much to people who don’t drink whisky as it would to those who are experts. We shot, scored, and paced the film purposely to bring the audience on a sensory journey as they watch the story unfold. And we think that that’s pretty unique. We’re excited about it as filmmakers and as whisky geeks.”

The film’s original score is composed by James Miller Ingram, producer and multi-platinum recording engineer of Blink 182, Tyler the Creator, Leona Lewis, Avril Lavigne, and more.

Viewers may go to <https://www.pbs.org/show/water-life/> to locate airdates and showtimes on their local PBS member station; please visit <https://wateroflifefilm.com/media> for media info.

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**About PBS / PBS Plus** - PBS Plus is the syndicated programming service for all PBS member stations that seeks general-audience programs with national and regional appeal that supplement PBS's National Program Service for primetime programming. PBS Plus series and specials range from "how-to" programs such as [This Old House](#) and [PBS Food](#) series, to topical news and information programs and arts and cultural shows such as [Austin City Limits](#) and [Bluegrass Underground](#).

**About Blacksmith + Jones** - Blacksmith + Jones is a media production company that puts story first. Their primary focus has been in documentary style television and short-form projects. Principals Trevor Jones and Greg Swartz have decades of experience and have produced shows for NatGeo, Discovery Channel and Animal Planet. They produced and directed The Botanist Gin’s “Spirit of Community” commercial for this year’s Super Bowl. They have been partners for more than 10 years. *The Water of Life* is their first feature documentary.

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