

 

**PICTURE A SCIENTIST**

**YEAR** 2020 **| RUN TIME** 97 mins | **LANGUAGE** English

<https://www.pictureascientist.com/>

**DIRECTED BY IAN CHENEY and SHARON SHATTUCK**

**PRODUCED BY MANETTE POTTLE, IAN CHENEY, and SHARON SHATTUCK**

**DISTRIBUTOR and SALES CONTACT:**

**Ro\*co Films**

Annie Roney

annie@rocofilms.com

**PR CONTACTS:**

Ian Cheney

iancheney@gmail.com

Sharon Shattuck

sharon.shattuck@gmail.com

**TRAILER (embeddable):**

<https://vimeo.com/405966332>

**SYNOPSIS**

PICTURE A SCIENTIST is a feature-length documentary film chronicling the groundswell of researchers who are writing a new chapter for women scientists. A biologist, a chemist and a geologist lead viewers on a journey deep into their own experiences in the sciences, overcoming brutal harassment, institutional discrimination, and years of subtle slights to revolutionize the culture of science. From cramped laboratories to spectacular field stations, we also encounter scientific luminaries who provide new perspectives on how to make science itself more diverse, equitable, and open to all.

**FILMMAKING TEAM BIOGRAPHIES**

**IAN CHENEY**

**Director and Producer**

Ian Cheney is an Emmy-nominated and Peabody Award-winning documentary filmmaker. He has completed nine feature documentaries, including King Corn (2007), The Greening of Southie (2008), The City Dark (2011), The Search for General Tso (2014), Bluespace (2015), The Most Unknown (2018), Picture Character (2019) and Thirteen Ways (2019). His films have premiered at film festivals and theaters worldwide and been released on Netflix, PBS, The Sundance Channel, VICE Media, and other networks. A former Macdowell fellow and Knight Science Journalism fellow at MIT, he lives in Maine.

**SHARON SHATTUCK**

**Director and Producer**

Sharon Shattuck is an Emmy-nominated documentary filmmaker and podcast host. From This Day Forward (2015), broadcast on POV (PBS) and was a New York Times Critic's Pick. She's the co-host of the podcast ‘Conviction: American Panic’ from Gimlet/Spotify, and the co-creator of the New York Times Op-Docs science series ‘Animated Life.' Her work has appeared on PBS, Netflix, National Geographic Channel, The New York Times, Vox, The Atlantic, Vice, ProPublica, Spotify, and Radiolab. She has degrees in forest ecology and journalism.

**MANETTE POTTLE**

**Producer**

Manette Pottle is a documentary filmmaker and producer whose interests focus on equity, bias, climate justice, faith, institutional change, and the intersections between science and personal and collective storytelling. She produced the film *Behold the Earth* (2017) about the evangelical environmental movement, as well as the Camden International Film Festival and its associated artists’ programs at the Points North Institute in Camden, Maine, and the Future of Science Film Fellowship, a program for emerging filmmakers to develop new documentaries about efforts to make science more equitable and inclusive. She received a B.A. in photography and critical theory from Yale University.

**NATASHA BEDU**

**Editor**

A graduate of the American Film Institute, Natasha Bedu served as lead editor on over a dozen episodes of A&E’s Emmy-winning series ‘Intervention,’ and was an editor on the popular Netflix series ‘Tidying Up with Marie Kondo.’ Her most recent project, a documentary series for the newly launched HBO MAX, follows the lives of LGBTQ history’s greatest heroes. Picture a Scientistis her latest feature film work, and she hopes to continue working on projects that explore themes of equality, justice, and the human struggle.

**AMY BRAND**

**Executive Producer**

Amy Brand is a leader in the field of scholarly communication and research information, and the current Director of the MIT Press. She is an associate at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society, and serves on the boards of Crossref, Duraspace, Altmetric, and Board on Research Data and Information of the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine.

**FEATURED SCIENTISTS**

**Nancy Hopkins** is a molecular biologist and professor of biology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She is known for her research identifying the role genes play in longevity and cancer predisposition in adult fish, as well as for her work promoting equality of opportunity for women scientists in academia. She is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

**Raychelle Burks** is a professor of analytical chemistry at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas. Her research focuses on developing low-cost colorimetric sensors for detecting chemicals of forensic interest, including explosives and regulated drugs. As a science communicator, Burks has appeared on the Science Channel's Outrageous Acts of Science, the American Chemical Society’s Reactions videos, Royal Society of Chemistry podcasts, and at genre conventions such as DragonCon and GeekGirlCon. Burks was awarded the 2020 American Chemical Society Grady-Stack award for excellence in public engagement.

**Jane Willenbring** is a geomorphologist and professor of geology at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and director of the Scripps Cosmogenic Isotope Laboratory. Willenbring’s research examines the evolution of the Earth’s surface, especially how landscapes are affected by tectonics, climate change, and life on Earth. She is a 2018 Geological Society of America Fellow, and the recipient of the Antarctica Service Medal and the National Science Foundation CAREER Award.

**ALSO FEATURING:**

**Paula Johnson**

President, Wellesley College

**Robert Brown**

President, Boston University

**Marcia McNutt**

President, National Academy of Sciences

**Mahzarin Banaji**

Harvard University

**Lotte Bailyn**

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Sylvia Ceyer**

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Penny Chisholm**

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Lorna Gibson**

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Ruth Lehmann**

New York University School of Medicine

**Terry Orr-Weaver**

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Mary-Lou Pardue**

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Molly Potter**

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Paola Rizzoli**

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Leigh Royden**

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Joanne Stubbe**

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Sangeeta Bhatia**

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Kathryn Clancy**

University of Illinois

**Adam Lewis**

North Dakota State University (formerly)

**Corinne Moss-Racusin**

Skidmore College

**Azeen Ghorayshi**

Buzzfeed News

**MAJOR FUNDERS**

Heising-Simons Foundation

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation

Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program with support from Sandbox Films

The New York State Council on the Arts

The Wonder Collaborative

Nancy Blachman

**CREDITS**

**Executive Producer**

Amy Brand

**Directed by**

Ian Cheney & Sharon Shattuck

**Edited by**

Natasha Bedu

**Produced by**

Manette Pottle

Ian Cheney

Sharon Shattuck

**Co-produced by**

Oluwaseun Babalola

Irene Yadao

**Cinematography by**

Emily Topper

Ian Cheney

Duy Linh Tu

Michael James Murray

Kelly West

**Co-Editors**

Nina Griffin

Ian Cheney

Jessica Potter

**Consulting Editor**

Jason Rosenfield

**Original Score by**

Martin Crane

**Animation by**

Midnight Snacks

Sharon Shattuck

**Illustrations by**

Sean McElroy

Anya Klepacki

**Principal funding for this film provided by**

Heising-Simons Foundation

**Major funding for this film provided by**

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation

**Additional Funding Provided by**

Nancy Blachman

Anonymous

Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program with support from Sandbox Films

The New York State Council on the Arts

The Wonder Collaborative

The Educational Foundation of America

Chicken & Egg Pictures

Erica Brand and Adam Brand

The Benevity Community Impact Fund

Mar Hershenson

Kate Korsh

Jennifer Kane

**Featuring**

Jane Willenbring, Ph.D.

Lotte Bailyn, Ph.D.

Nancy Hopkins, Ph.D.

Raychelle Burks, Ph.D.

Victor Dzau, M.D.

Paula Johnson, M.PH., M.D.

Kathryn Clancy, Ph.D.

Sylvie Malhotra

Mary-Lou Pardue, Ph.D.

Sylvia Ceyer, Ph.D.

Molly Potter, Ph.D.

Ruth Lehmann, Ph.D.

Leigh Royden, Ph.D.

Penny Chisholm, Ph.D.

Marcia McNutt, Ph.D.

Paola Rizzoli, Ph.D.

Adam Lewis, Ph.D.

Sangeeta Bhatia, Ph.D.

Corinne Moss-Racusin, Ph.D.

Mahzarin Banaji, Ph.D.

Megan Reynosa

Azeen Ghorayshi, M.Sc.

Anonymous

Robert Brown, Ph.D.

Joanne Stubbe, Ph.D.

Lorna Gibson, Ph.D.

Terry Orr-Weaver, Ph.D.

Stephanie MacQuarrie, Ph.D.

Emma Harrison, Ph.D.

Travis Clow, M.S.

**Sound Recordists**

Judith Karp

Djim Reynolds

Justan Ross

Susan Bryant

Andrew Garrison

**Archival Researcher**

Kate Walker

**Colorist**

Alexander Berman

**Post Production Wizard**

Eugene Lehnert

**Re-Recording Mixer**

Eli Cohn

**Dialogue Editors**

Ben Chesneau

Maya Peart

**FX Editor**

Jack Sasner

**Production Assistants**

Dietrich Strause

Colin Cheney

Irene Yadao

Kristina Latino

Sadie Saltzman

Bita Ghassemi

Rachel Hohenfeld

Sharda Karim

D’Quan Rogers

David Brody

Colin Williams

**Researchers**

Claudia Geib

Rachel Swaby

**Associate Producers**

Margaux Sax

Samantha Woods

**Additional Editing by**

Daniel Quintanilla

**Assistant Editors**

Lucy Green

Halle Johns

Camille Gunderson

**Additional Cinematography by**

Taylor Gentry

Kevin Belli

Ben Pender-Cudlip

Dan Lovering

Naiti Gámez

Helki Frantzen

Austin de Besche

Amy Bench

Nathan Dappen

Julie Hotz

Lucy Martens

Brian Henderson

Taylor Krauss

Eduardo Mariota

**Musicians**

Tim Lappin, bass

Alba S. Torremocha, violin

**Drone Operators**

Michael James Murray

Nathan Dappen

Miguel Gutierrez

**Advisors**

Paula Apsell

Sangeeta Bhatia

Katy Chevigny

Elliot Kirschner

Laurie Santos

John Sylvanus Wilson

**Legal Counsel**

Donaldson & Callif LLP

**Insurance**

Allen Insurance

**Mixed at**

Nocturnal Sound

**"Never One Thing"**

Written by May Erlewine, Tyler Duncan

Performed by May Erlewine

Courtesy of Ghostly International LLC

Images of Radcliffe College courtesy of Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University

Image of Radcliffe College courtesy of Patricia Hollander

“Nobel Prize for Men Probing Life’s Secrets” newspaper story courtesy of the Associated Press. Copyrighted 1962. 2142349:0320PF

Image of Francis Crick courtesy of Mark Lieberman and Creative Commons

Image of McMurdo Station courtesy of Reinhart Piuk and the National Science Foundation

Image of seven MIT professors courtesy of Rick Friedman

Flint, Michigan news clip courtesy of Democracy Now and Creative Commons

Youtube videos featuring Raychelle Burks courtesy of the American Chemical Society

**Additional Images & Footage Courtesy of**

Dreamstime • Alamy • Stockfresh • Pond5 • Camden Public Library • U.S. National Library of Medicine of the National Institutes of Health • Getty Images • Science Source • William J. Clinton Presidential Library • MIT Museum • San Francisco Chronicle • The New York Times • The Boston Globe • USA Today • The Associated Press • The Chronicle of Higher Education • The MIT Press • The Harvard Crimson • MIT Tech Talk • The Scientist • Nature • Lisa May • Michael Schwab • Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy • National Science Foundation • National Public Radio • ViacomCBS • Buzzfeed • NASA Armstrong Flight Research Center • NASA Kennedy Space Center • NASA Flickr • Canadian Society for Chemistry • House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology • NBCUniversal Media • WarnerMedia • Fred Rogers Productions • Mr. Wizard Studios • HBO • Nancy Hopkins • Raychelle Burks • Jane Willenbring • Adam Lewis • Allan Ashworth • Mary-Lou Pardue • Corinne Moss-Racusin

PICTURE A SCIENTIST is a fiscally sponsored project of Women Make Movies.

PICTURE A SCIENTIST is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts

with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

With support from IFP