



Last of the Right Whales, inks deal with Off the Fence, the distribution and production company behind BAFTA and Oscar-winning feature documentary My Octopus Teacher.



TORONTO, Wednesday, August 4, 2021: The recently filmed documentary *Last of the Right Whales*, directed by Award-Winning filmmaker Nadine Pequeneza, tells the timely story of the fight to save the North Atlantic right whale. Today, HitPlay Productions announces a deal with production and distribution company Off the Fence behind the BAFTA and Academy Award-winning documentary feature *My Octopus Teacher*. HitPlay has retained rights in North America and has previously confirmed deals with SWR and ARTE, European public service channels in Germany and France; and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) in Canada. The film will be released in theatres this Fall and CBC plans to air the documentary in 2022.

"Last of the Right Whales' is an important story of hope, impact and action, all of which plays into Off the Fence's strengths as a distributor. Nadine and her team at HitPlay Productions have incredible access and use stunning visuals of these Great Whales to reinforce why it's so important we save these animals who are on the brink of extinction. We're very excited to be working with such a talented team and look forward to bringing this project to our international clients," says Loren Baxter, Head of Acquisitions at Off the Fence.

Last of the Right Whales is the story of a disparate group of people - a wildlife photographer, a marine biologist, a whale rescuer, and a crab fisherman – united in their cause to save the North Atlantic right whale. By joining forces these formidable allies are determined to stop the world's first great whale extinction. The film combines the 4K cinematography of a blue-chip nature film with the character-driven, vérité storytelling of a high-stakes drama. With unprecedented access to film the migration of the North Atlantic right whale from their breeding ground off the coast of Florida to their new feeding area in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, this feature documentary brings a message of hope about the most at-risk, great whale on the planet.

Filmmaker and Director Nadine Pequenezza, founder of HitPlay Productions, is a multi award-winning director, writer and producer known for her character-driven stories about social justice. Her films have been shown at festivals across the globe and have received numerous awards and nominations, including Canadian Screen Award for Best Writing in a Documentary Program, a Gold Hugo from the Chicago International Film Festival and a Silver Gavel Award for Media and the Arts from the American Bar Association.

"Off The Fence is the perfect distribution partner for Last of the Right Whales. Loren Baxter and her team have been tracking our progress since the start of production and we couldn't be more thrilled to have them take this incredibly important story into the world." Says Director Nadine Pequenezza.

Further Joanne Jackson, acts as Executive Producer (*The Woman Who Loves Giraffes*, *The Messenger*), and broadcast Executive Producer Sholeh Fabbri (*Entertainment Tonight Canada*) as Impact Producer. The film will be distributed domestically by IndieCan Entertainment, and is set to have a theatrical release in 2022. Partnerships include; international NGO IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare), and Canadian organizations Canadian Wildlife Federation and Canadian Whale Institute. More partnerships to be announced in coming months.

[North Atlantic Right Whales Infographic](#)

[Link to high-quality images](#)

HitPlay Productions:

HitPlay Productions produces critically acclaimed, award-winning feature documentaries and limited series that range in subject matter from disaster response to justice reform, impact investing and wildlife conservation. HitPlay is passionate about telling stories that challenge people to see the world and themselves differently and regularly collaborates with foundations and non-profits to develop film engagement campaigns that promote social and environmental justice. Its projects have been supported by Telefilm, Ontario Creates, National Film Board of Canada, Canada Media Fund, Rogers Documentary Fund, Bell Media Fund, Perspective Fund.

About Off the Fence:

Off the Fence is a leading non-fiction content company of global scale and reach, producing and distributing exceptional factual programming. Owned by ZDF Enterprises since 2019, and established in 1994, Off the Fence is a 360 factual content company. OTF develops, finances, produces and co-produces international non-fiction programmes across a range of genres including Natural History, Science, Travel & Adventure, Lifestyle, History, People & Culture, Crime and Feature Docs.

Produced in association with CBC, SWR/ARTE and with the participation of Canada Media Fund, Rogers Documentary Fund, Telefilm Theatrical Documentary Program, Ontario Creates Film Fund, the Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit, and the Ontario Media Development Corporation Film and Television Tax Credit.

For more *Last of the Right Whales*, please visit its social media:

[Instagram](#)

[Twitter](#)

[TikTok](#)

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[About North Atlantic Right Whale](#)

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