

Vulcan Productions

in association with

Off the Fence

present

NALEDI: A BABY ELEPHANT'S TALE



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Naledi: A Baby Elephant's Tale

SYNOPSIS

Under a blanket of stars on an African night, in the serene grasslands of Botswana's Okavango Delta, something rarely witnessed by humankind is about to happen: the much-anticipated birth of a baby elephant.

An emotional life-or-death drama that champions the struggle of Africa's native elephant population, *Naledi: A Baby Elephant's Tale* tells the urgent story of an international crisis. The big picture is framed, however, by the close-up portrait of a newborn elephant who inspires hope for the preservation of the continent's endangered giants.

Naledi is the newest arrival at Abu Camp, a safari lodge and elephant research center. Naledi's human family stands close by, watching as the adorable infant takes her first stumbling steps, padding aside her mother, Kiti, and bonding with the other females in the herd as they graze on the sweeping savanna. But tragedy intrudes into this idyllic world when Kiti dies unexpectedly, and newborn Naledi's health goes into a downward spiral. She stops eating and begins to lose weight, a decline that requires biologist Mike Chase and his colleagues to take desperate measures to save her.

They succeed, giving this charming and irresistible animal the help she needs to flourish and discover her place in the herd. Inside the camp, Naledi is safeguarded by her herd and nurtured by the soulful bond she has made with her human caretakers, who protect her from poachers and predators. Outside the camp, however, life for Naledi's fellow elephants is fraught with peril.

Naledi's struggle and resilience are not hers alone. Across the continent, her species fights for survival as African elephants fall prey to poachers at the rate of one every 15 minutes, up to 30,000 per year. To fathom the tragic magnitude of this threat, conservationists must understand how many elephants are left on the continent. Part of Chase's mission is to count the remaining herds for the Great Elephant Census, a mammoth aerial survey of the African elephant population. As Dr. Chase flies in a small plane across Africa, he discovers former nature preserves gone asunder and the lifeless bodies of elephants slaughtered for their ivory tusks.

As audiences are drawn in by Naledi's vulnerability and charisma, they come to understand the urgency of the campaign to keep her, and all elephants alive.

This epic portrait of a young elephant mirrors the fight for the survival of the species, revealing a journey of tragedy and triumph that allows us to discover the extraordinary inner life of an animal as complex as any person, and as iconic as Africa itself.

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ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

CAROLE TOMKO (Executive Producer) With over 30 years of experience in developing and producing award-winning content for leading networks, Carole Tomko serves as General Manager and Creative Director of Vulcan Productions. She has worked closely with founder Paul Allen to increase the company's output and scope of films, documentaries, series, digital content, social media and impact campaigns, resulting in numerous awards since she joined in 2013, including an Oscar® nomination for *Body Team 12*. Tomko also oversees all marketing and digital media for the company.

As a President and General Manager of several networks at Discovery Communications, Tomko ran Discovery Health, FitTV and Discovery Kids. As President of Discovery Studios, she developed long and short form content, led Talent Development and Casting, Branded Entertainment, the Discovery Pictures feature documentary division, and Footage and Music services. Tomko has overseen award-winning franchises across the Discovery portfolio, winning dozens of awards. She served as Executive Vice President for Discovery Networks U.S. Production, where she oversaw over 3,000 annual production hours. She sits on the Executive Committee of the Jackson Hole Film Festival and the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center.

ELLEN WINDERMUTH (Executive Producer) Ellen Windemuth is the owner and CEO of Off the Fence, and founded the company in 1994. Under her leadership Off the Fence acquired, produced and co-produced over 6,000 hours of content. Ellen is a seasoned Executive Producer and Distributor, and has produced over 400 hours to date. She is the Treasurer of the Jackson Hole Film Festival Board, and is active in conservation and land development.

HILARY SPARROW (Producer) Hilary Sparrow is a Senior Supervising Producer at Paul Allen's Vulcan Productions. Sparrow has spearheaded projects for the company including [Naledi](#), and television programs such as National Geographic Wild's [Mind of a Giant](#). She spearheaded partnerships and impact campaigns for [Racing Extinction](#), [Girl Rising](#), the three-part PBS series *This Emotional Life* and *Success at the Core*, a web-based toolkit for middle-school educators. Her projects have won numerous awards and nominations including an Oscar® nomination and two News and Documentary Emmys.

EMRE IZAT (Producer) Over the past thirteen years, Emre has produced, directed, and served as a cameraman on award-winning documentary series and specials for multiple global networks including National Geographic, Discovery, History, ID, MSNBC, TLC and PBS. In his early career, he developed numerous wildlife films for National Geographic's Natural History Unit, including *Mystery Gorilla* and *Untamed Americas*, among many others. As head of Off the Fence's Amsterdam production unit, Emre has most recently served as a Producer/Writer for the special *Mind of a Giant*, and as Series Producer and

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Executive Producer on the PBS/National Geographic series *Gorongosa Park: Rebirth of Paradise*.

BEN BOWIE (Co-Director) Ben Bowie is co-founder of Bigger Bang, a media production company. His last feature, *Hawking* premiered at SXSW in 2014. Formerly the managing director of world-renowned Darlow Smithson Productions in London, Ben has conceived and produced numerous programs for PBS, Nat Geo, Discovery and the BBC. He has been nominated for two Emmy Awards and has won many other awards and nominations.

GEOFF LUCK (Co-Director) Geoff Luck has been making award-winning science and natural history programs at National Geographic for over a dozen years. In that time, he has produced, written, shot and edited programs filmed across six continents. He has supervised numerous series and specials for Nat Geo WILD. His work has also appeared on PBS, Sundance, Discovery, Showtime and at the Museum of Modern Art.

NICK URATA (Composer) Nick Urata, front man of the internationally acclaimed band DeVotchK, has scored acclaimed films such as *Little Miss Sunshine*, which garnered four Academy Award® nominations. His other scores include *Fling*, *I Love You Phillip Morris*, *The Joneses*, *Waiting for Forever*, *Father of Invention*, and *Virginia*, starring Jennifer Connelly and Ed Harris. He co-scored *Crazy, Stupid, Love*, starring Steve Carell and Ryan Gosling, and his other work includes scores for *Ruby Sparks*, *Arthur Newman*, *Grassroots*, *What Maisie Knew* starring Julianne Moore, and *A.C.O.D.*, starring Adam Scott, Amy Poehler, Jessica Alba and Catherine O'Hara.

Urata's most recent works include *Whiskey Tango Foxtrot* starring Tina Fey and Margot Robbie, *The Cobbler* starring Adam Sandler and Dustin Hoffman, *Paddington* starring Nicole Kidman, *Focus*, starring Will Smith and Margot Robbie, and *Love the Coopers* starring Olivia Wilde, John Goodman, and Diane Keaton.

PAUL G. ALLEN (Executive Producer) Four decades after co-founding Microsoft, entrepreneur and philanthropist Paul G. Allen is still exploring the frontiers of technology and human knowledge, and acting to change the future. Through his company Vulcan Inc., Mr. Allen is working to save endangered species, slow climate change, improve ocean health, share art, history and film, develop new technology, tackle epidemics, research how the human brain works and build sustainable communities. In all his endeavors, Mr. Allen constantly asks "What if...?" and pushes people to challenge conventional thinking, collaborate across disciplines and reimagine what's possible.

As the idea man and original technologist behind Microsoft, Mr. Allen has used his wealth to expand the horizons of human possibility. All told, Mr. Allen's philanthropic contributions exceed \$2 billion. Even before becoming a member of the Giving Pledge, Mr. Allen committed to giving away the majority of his

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fortune, an endeavor that continues every day. He invests in brain science and robotics research, retail space and outer space, documentaries and feature films, global health and local education.

Mr. Allen is deeply invested locally in his hometown of Seattle and the Pacific Northwest, and has created public spaces including Flying Heritage Collection, EMP and the Living Computer Museum—where people learn and interact with Seattle's historic, cultural and musical heritage. The inaugural Seattle Art Fair put the city on the map as one of the premier art destinations in the country. He also thinks globally, making impact investments that will help developing countries expand their health, infrastructure and nurture a diversified economy.

Many of his ventures were seeded in his youth, and reflect the depth and diversity of his passions. He strives to create a new kind of future — a future that maps the intricacies inside our head, sets hidden talent alight and upends conventional thinking.

If we can understand the mysterious organ, the brain, we can pave the way towards understanding diseases like Alzheimer's. If we can change the economics of space launches, we can change space travel and exploration. If we can get the formula right for a new kind of downtown neighborhood, it becomes a guide for the innovation centers of tomorrow. Mr. Allen is motivated by his commitment to sharing his ideas and discoveries with the world to help catalyze a better future.

JODY ALLEN (Executive Producer) As a philanthropist with an intense passion for wildlife conservation, Jody Allen has dedicated herself to protecting marine life, fighting the trafficking of endangered species, and saving Africa's elephants from extinction.

In addition to serving for more than two decades as CEO of Vulcan, Inc., the company she cofounded with her brother, Paul G. Allen, Ms. Allen also launched and led Vulcan Productions, whose award-winning videos, digital content and documentaries often explore social or environmental issues. Her Executive Producer credits on such work include *Naledi: A Baby Elephant's Tale*, *Mind of A Giant*, *Girl Rising* and *Rx for Survival*, among others. Ms. Allen was also an early champion of the Great Elephant Census – Vulcan's pan-African aerial survey of the continent's remaining savannah elephants, whose data is now informing conservation strategies in several African countries.

Ms. Allen, who left Vulcan in 2015, recently launched the WildLives Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to wildlife conservation and supporting a range of other philanthropic initiatives. She is also co-founder of The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, president of the board of Seattle's EMP Museum, the critically acclaimed museum of popular culture, and president of the board of the Allen Institute for Brain Science.

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An active member of the arts and education communities, Ms. Allen is also recognized for her love of the arts and for her strong leadership skills. She has served on the boards of ArtsFund, the Theatre Communications Group, the University of Washington Foundation, the Museum of Glass, the Los Angeles International Film Festival and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

An avid traveler, Ms. Allen is a member of the Explorers Club and the Royal Canadian Geographical Society.

About Vulcan Productions

Vulcan Productions is dedicated to the power of storytelling. We produce content and large-scale campaigns that entertain, electrify and change the way people understand the world's toughest challenges. Our films, television series and digital content spark ideas and turn action into measurable impact. Founded by Paul G. Allen and his sister Jody Allen in 1997, Vulcan Productions creates content across all platforms, extending the wide-ranging work of Vulcan Inc. in wildlife, science, climate, oceans, education, technology, current social issues, history and the arts. Our award-winning projects include [Racing Extinction](#), Academy Award®-nominated [Body Team 12](#), [We The Economy](#), [#ISurvivedEbola](#), [Girl Rising](#), [The Blues](#) and *Far from Heaven*. Upcoming projects include *Ivory*, *Naledi: A Baby Elephant's Tale*, *Mind of a Giant* and *Unseen Enemy*. For more information on Vulcan Productions and our leadership in generating change through impact storytelling, visit vulcanproductions.com.

About Off the Fence

Established in 1994, Off the Fence is an independent production and distribution company specializing in non-fiction programming for the international marketplace. Off the Fence has won over 90 awards including two Emmy nominations in April 2008. Off the Fence creates and markets programming with a focus on high quality, integrity and innovation. The OTF catalogue contains over 6,000 hours of natural history, science, lifestyle, adventure, history and feature documentaries. The company also develops, finances, produces and co-produces international non-fiction, resulting in over 200 hours of produced and co-productions in the past four years. While developing many films in house, OTF works hands-on with established production companies and talented newcomers to create internationally marketable specials, films and series.

offthefence.com

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About Paul G. Allen and Vulcan's Work in Elephant Conservation

The fight to protect endangered species is a cornerstone of Paul G. Allen's conservation work. His approach to conservation is multi-disciplinary, which allows his company Vulcan Inc. to leverage all of the organization's expertise in technology and data, storytelling and public policy to tackle nuanced global issues. By combining public engagement with data-driven philanthropy, Mr. Allen's goal is to change the value proposition around ivory by simultaneously raising consumer awareness of the threats that wild elephants face due to poaching, and encouraging governments around the world to enact and enforce ivory bans.

Technology and data are key to understanding the extent of the poaching crisis. In 2016, Vulcan will share the results of the Great Elephant Census, the first pan-African aerial survey in 40 years, which will provide accurate data to empower conservation policy and enforcement across Africa. The [Great Elephant Census](#) will also launch a data visualization website in 2016, so that users from conservation scientists to students can explore the census data.

Armed with the knowledge from the census, Vulcan also supports technology and data that helps curb poaching and trafficking at the source. We supported the University of Washington's Dr. Sam Wasser as he tracked DNA from confiscated ivory and identified Africa's [poaching hotspots](#). As a result African parks and reserves were alerted to their vulnerabilities, and traffickers were brought to justice.

Vulcan's approach to poaching is not solely reactive: we want to stop poachers before they kill elephants. To protect the elephant population, Vulcan Technology developed the Domain Awareness System, giving park rangers access to 21st century technology to swiftly address potential dangers before they occur, protecting themselves and wildlife.

Globally, it is time for world governments to put a stop to wildlife trafficking. In Washington State, Paul Allen supported [legislation for I-1401](#), which strengthened penalties for trafficking of 10 endangered animal products, and passed with over 70% support. Oregon and Hawaii are pushing for similar legislation in their states, and Hawaii's protection bill has passed in the House and Senate and awaits a signature from the Governor.

If the world cannot come together and prioritize the protection of Earth's largest land mammal, the future for all conservation is bleak. By supporting innovative technology, scientific research, strong data and powerful storytelling, Vulcan believes that instead of elephants, ivory markets will be faced with extinction and wildlife will thrive.

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CREDITS

A VULCAN PRODUCTIONS FILM

in association with

OFF THE FENCE

Directed by
Ben Bowie
Geoff Luck

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Editors
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Geoff Luck

Music by
Nick Urata

Executive Producers
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Jody Allen

Executive Producers
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Ellen Windemuth

Co-Producer
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Richard Slater-Jones

Additional Editing
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Post Production Coordinator
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Sound Editors
Kate Hopkins - AMPS
Owen Peters
Jonny Crew

Foley Mixer
Phil Jenkins

Foley Artist
Ben Jones

Graphics
BDH

Archive
BBC Motion Gallery/Getty Images
Modern Legacy
Richard Moller/Tsavo Trust
WildAid
WildlifeDirect
CCTV America
KTN

“Naledi”
Written & performed by Akanyang Mosabata

“Mother of Africa”
Performed by Dave Matthews & Vusi Mahlasela

Very Special Thanks
Mike Chase
Kelly Landen
Elephants Without Borders

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Very Special Thanks

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Tsholofelo Kamasena
Witness Keeme
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Wilderness Air
Wilderness Safaris
John Chase Safaris
IUCN
Ann Kingston
Vusi Mahasela
Dave Matthews

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**Very Special Thanks to the Abu Herd
for sharing their story**

**Cathy
Sherini
Lorato
Warona
Paseka
Naledi
Kitimetse**

In memory of

Kitimetse

&

Satao

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