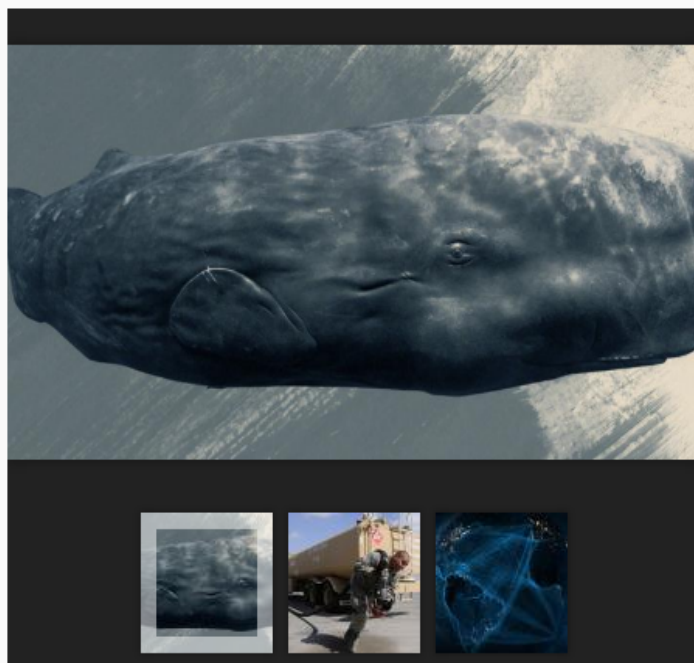


Friday Jul 29 2016 | 2 comments



## Films for a cause: Striving for a quieter, cleaner world

By: Carol Guild, Features Editor



### “Sonic Sea” and “The Burden”

**When:** 7–9 p.m. Thursday, August 4

**Where:** State Theatre, 985 Lincoln Way in Auburn

**Tickets:** \$8 general admission

**Info:** LiveFromAuburn.com or 530-885-0156

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- Irrelevant
- Repetitive
- Inappropriate

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It seems a calm and tranquil place, the ocean. Many flock to its shores in search of serenity. But for its inhabitants, there is no stillness. No quietness.

This is the topic of the film “Sonic Sea,” one of two important films being shown Thursday in a double feature at Auburn Placer Performing Arts Center at the State Theatre in Auburn.

“Sonic Sea” reveals the affects of industrial and military ocean noise on whales and other marine life.

“It’s a little known issue, but has global, serious consequences,” said Daniel Hinerfeld, filmmaker and multimedia and film director with the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC).

Whales and other marine life depend on sound to hunt, migrate, find mates and raise their young, and to avoid predators. Two blue whales can have a conversation even if they’re thousands of miles apart.

Yet, their way of life is being disrupted by the industrialized noise in our oceans, including military sonar and shipping vessels.

“We’re interfering,” said Hinerfeld. “We’re making such loud noises that we’re causing acute trauma. We’re causing mass strandings of whales around the world.” Hinerfeld notes some marked success. “We sued the Navy in federal court in Hawaii and won,” he said. Limits were put on where they could test and train, resulting in the U.S. Navy agreeing to work in other areas to protect marine mammals.

“The other significant noise we deal with is shipping and the number of ships plying in water,” said Hinerfeld. “There are 60,000 at any given moment, putting out 190 decibels of sound. It’s creating a kind of acoustic smog in the ocean, impeding communication and feeding.”

**“It’s creating a kind of acoustic smog in the ocean, impeding communication and feeding.” – Daniel Hinerfeld, filmmaker**