

A Cinema Guild release

IN PURSUIT OF SILENCE



2016 / 81 minutes / DCP / Dolby Digital 5.1
In English and Japanese with English Subtitles
www.pursuitofsilence.com

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SYNOPSIS

IN PURSUIT OF SILENCE is a meditative exploration of silence and the impact of noise on our lives. The film takes us on an immersive cinematic journey around the globe—from a traditional tea ceremony in Kyoto, to the streets of Mumbai, the loudest city on the planet—and inspires us to both experience silence and celebrate the wonders of our world.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

IN PURSUIT OF SILENCE is a meditative film that I also consider a piece of devotional work about a subject that many have tried to encapsulate in some form or another for ages. Rather than encapsulate we've tried in a sense to free it, paying homage to the ineffable qualities of silence.

The film was shot and edited in a way that mimics our experience of the world when we are still; you won't see any crane moves, sweeping drone shots, or pans. The overall rhythm of the film was carefully crafted with the human metabolism in mind. Ultimately, I hope that the film challenges audiences to slow down and on some level make the world new again for them.

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

SXSW 2016
Full Frame 2016
Sheffield Doc Fest 2016
Cleveland International Film Festival 2016
DC Environmental Film Festival 2016
Cinema Eye Honors Nominee, Original Score

CAST & CREW

Directed by: Patrick Shen
Produced by: Patrick Shen, Andrew Brumme, Brandon Vedder
Co-producer: Cassidy Hall
Edited by: Patrick Shen
Cinematography: Patrick Shen and Brandon Vedder
Original Score: Alex Lu
Executive Producers: Andrew Brumme, Larry Finegold
Associate Producers: Michael Coleman, Poppy Szkiler
Editing Consultant: Nathaniel Dorsky

Distribution: Cinema Guild

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Patrick made his feature directorial debut in 2005 with the critically-acclaimed *Flight from Death: The Quest for Immortality* which was hailed by critics as being "one of the most ambitious films ever made" (PBS 106.7 Australia) and "moving and thought-provoking" (NBC). Beautifully photographed in eight different countries and three years in the making, *Flight from Death* was awarded seven Best Documentary awards at film festivals all over the United States.

In 2009, Shen premiered his award-winning *The Philosopher Kings* to sold-out audiences at AFI Docs after which the film opened theatrically in Los Angeles & New York.

Shen's third documentary *La Source* premiered at AFI Docs in June 2012 where it received a standing ovation and a nomination for the Social Impact Award. Narrated by Oscar-nominated actor Don Cheadle, *La Source* tells the story of Josue Lajuenesse, a janitor from Princeton University who returns to Haiti after the 2010 earthquake to bring clean water to his village. *La Source* premiered theatrically in LA and New York in August 2012. Patrick has received a grant from the Fledgling Fund and for the past three years has been selected by the U.S. Department of State and the USC School of Cinematic Arts to participate in the American Film Showcase, a cultural diplomacy program that brings American filmmakers to countries all over the globe to screen their films and conduct filmmaking workshops.

PRODUCTION NOTES

The film was launched with a Kickstarter campaign in 2013, and further helped by a second successful Kickstarter campaign in fall 2014.

Production took place in 8 countries (USA, Japan, UK, Germany, Belgium, China, Taiwan, India) over 2 years.

Highlights from the production include filming in the anechoic chamber at Orfield Labs in Minneapolis (the Quietest Place on Earth), festival season in Mumbai (the loudest city in the world), Alaska's Denali National Park, a tea ceremony at the famous Urasenke Tea House in Kyoto, schools suffering under the elevated train in New York City, inside BMW's "sound cathedral", Trappist and Zen monasteries, and the "silent walker" who walked across America under a vow of silence.

The film begins with 4 minutes 33 seconds of experiential silence as a tribute to composer John Cage's famous composition, 4'33". Cage is also featured throughout the film.

The filmmakers spent one minute of silence with every interviewee before beginning an interview.