



# POINT OF NO RETURN

26,000 MILES. FUELED ONLY BY THE SUN.

A FILM BY NOEL DOCKSTADER AND QUINN KANALY





# POINT OF NO RETURN



INFO

THE FILM

FILMMAKERS

FLIGHT CREW

THE PLANE

CREDITS

**Documentary, U.S.A., 2017, 95 min., color**

**Directors: Noel Dockstader and Quinn Kanaly**

Shot in-flight and on location around the world in Abu Dhabi, Muscat, Ahmedabad, Varanasi, Mandalay, Chongqing, Nanjing, Nagoya, Hawaii, San Francisco, Phoenix, Tulsa, Dayton, New York, Sevilla, and Cairo.

## **Wellington Screenings:**

The Roxy Theatre

Friday, May 18, 8:45PM

Sunday, May 20, 1:45PM

## **Auckland Screenings:**

Loft Theatre

Friday, May 25, 9:15PM

Sunday, May 27, 2:30PM



**\* Filmmakers will be in New Zealand attending screenings in both cities and available for press interviews May 17 to May 26.**

ORDER TICKETS: [docedge.nz/docclone/film/point-of-no-return/](https://docedge.nz/docclone/film/point-of-no-return/)

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## **PRESS INQUIRIES**

[press@pointofnoreturndoc.com](mailto:press@pointofnoreturndoc.com)

## **DISTRIBUTION & SALES**

Dan Braun, Submarine Entertainment  
212-625-1410  
[dan@submarine.com](mailto:dan@submarine.com)

## **GENERAL INFO**

[info@pointofnoreturndoc.com](mailto:info@pointofnoreturndoc.com)

## **FILM WEBSITE**

[pointofnoreturndoc.com](https://pointofnoreturndoc.com)

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## **TECHNICAL INFO**

DCP, ProRes HD | 16 x 9 | English



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***"An absorbing documentary"***

HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

***"A powerful wake-up call to action... Thrilling as any cinematic space odyssey"***

BROADWAY WORLD

***"A beautiful document of a dream given form"***

FILM THREAT

***"At the cutting edge of exploration and renewable energy."***

AL GORE

***"This very audacious courage - we need this kind of spirit to change this world."***

BAN KI MOON

***"Huge step forward. It's absolutely extraordinary. It's pioneering clean energy."***

RICHARD BRANSON

## SYNOPSIS SHORT

Soaring at 28,000 feet without a drop of fuel, nothing is predictable. Not the weather, not the technology. And certainly not the fate of a man, alone for five days in a fragile, first-of-its-kind aircraft with nothing but ocean below.

Point of No Return takes you behind the headlines of the first solar-powered flight around the world—where two courageous pilots take turns battling nature, their own crew, and sometimes logic itself, to achieve the impossible. Not just to make history, but to inspire a revolution.

## SYNOPSIS LONG

Thirteen years ago, Bertrand Piccard and André Borschberg began building what many experts said was impossible—a solar-powered airplane capable of flying day and night. With the wingspan of a 747 jet and the weight of a car, Solar Impulse is extremely fragile. High winds or turbulence can snap the wings in two. But the dangerous and historic trip tests more than their technology. In an unheated, unpressurized cockpit, the solo flight across the Pacific Ocean becomes a feat of endurance unlike any other in aviation history.

Technical failures, unplanned landings, and stormy weather put the entire mission in jeopardy and drain the spirits of the team. To succeed, both Bertrand, a psychiatrist and balloonist, and André, an engineer and jet fighter pilot, must set aside their differences and go against the advice of their crew.

Point of No Return explores what it takes to do something truly groundbreaking, and documents how their journey captivated people around the world. People who came out to see the plane land in their cities and watched live from computers at home. It's a story of hope, courage, and perseverance that gets to the heart of what it will take to solve the biggest environmental threat humans have ever faced.



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**Creative partners for over a decade**, filmmakers Noel Dockstader and Quinn Kanaly tell thought-provoking, impactful stories about science, history and exploration. When they learned of Solar Impulse's audacious zero-fuel flight, they knew it had the potential to be one of the most important pioneering adventures of our time—and they felt compelled to capture it.

Over ten months, Co-Directors Noel and Quinn found themselves on opposite sides of the world, tracking the unfolding drama both on the tarmac and at mission control—connected only by their cell phones and a shared vision for the film.

Prior to embarking on POINT OF NO RETURN, Dockstader and Kanaly's collaborative works at Far West Film, (San Francisco, CA) have been broadcast in the US and internationally on National Geographic, Discovery, Smithsonian, and PBS. Previous films include *Extreme Ice* for PBS/NOVA, following photographer James Balog as he documents the effects of melting ice sheets and glaciers around the world, and *Collapse*, a two-hour special for National Geographic based on the book by Pulitzer Prize-winning author, Jared Diamond. Other documentaries for National Geographic's award-winning "Explorer" Series include *How to Build an Ancient Man*, *Search for the Head of John the Baptist*, *Death of the Iceman*, *Mammoth Mystery*, *Search for Amelia Earhart*, and *Peru: Mass Grave Mystery*.



## QUINN KANALY

"At its core, this film is about the perseverance and courage it takes to make difficult decisions when everything is on the line. When we look at the mountain of challenges facing us this century, we want this story of ingenuity and grit to give people hope."



## NOEL DOCKSTADER

"There's no certainty in adventure. Or in filmmaking. We didn't know if the plane would make it around the world or if we would have a story in the end. It was a moonshot. But we knew we had to try."



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**The psychiatrist and the engineer.** On the surface, pilots Bertrand Piccard and André Borschberg couldn't be more different. But through hardship, conflict, and incredible risks, the two men staked their lives on Solar Impulse and forged a powerful bond. Their partnership ensured that each man, on their own in the air for days at a time, was never truly alone.



## BERTRAND PICCARD

Pilot, Initiator

Born into a line of world-famous explorers, Bertrand feels the pull of the impossible. His love of adventure propelled him to be the first in history to circle the globe in a balloon. Now with his zero-fuel flight, he has an even more ambitious goal: to show the world the potential of clean energy. As his team faces a series of potentially devastating challenges, Bertrand's pioneering spirit must keep the project from falling apart.



## ANDRÉ BORSCHBERG

Pilot, Co-founder

There is nothing André can't fly. And while Solar Impulse heads into the unknown, his fighter-pilot past and intimate knowledge of the plane's engineering make him a natural fit for a mission filled with calculated risk. Navigating the journey's longest and most dangerous leg—five days and nights alone over the Pacific—André will face the most difficult decision of the project. And perhaps his life.

## THE TEAM

Though the cockpit of the Solar Impulse has room for only one person, it carries on its historic flight the hearts and hopes of more than 120 scientists, experts and engineers.

Friendship, respect and an unshakable belief in the potential of clean energy helps this extraordinary crew stick together through a decade's worth of technological setbacks and triumphs, sacrifices and delays. Charged with keeping two pilots alive and an experimental plane on course and in the air, their tireless hard work fuels the mission. And it just might change our world.



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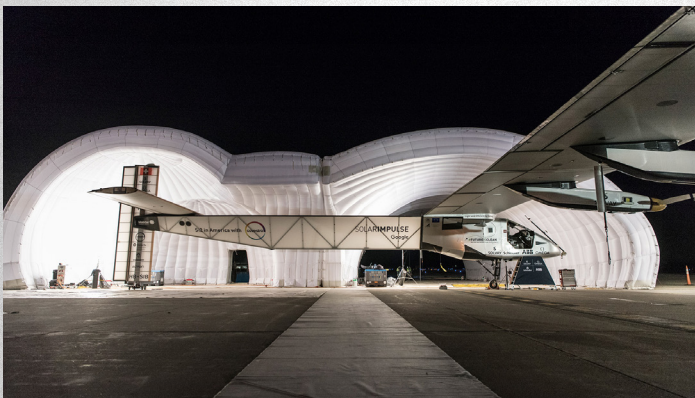
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**As light as a family car**, with the wingspan of a 747. Solar Impulse is a marvel of aeronautical engineering. And a dangerous gamble.

Its delicate frame could snap in two. Its custom tech could fail mid-flight. Its batteries could die in cloud cover or darkness. A thousand miscalculations could ground Solar Impulse before it reaches its goal. But for the team behind this revolutionary aircraft, the message—and the hope it carries to a world facing an environmental crisis—is well worth the risk.





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## FEATURING

Bertrand Piccard  
André Borschberg  
Michèle Piccard  
Auguste Piccard  
Jacques Piccard  
Yasemin Borschberg  
Ella Borschberg  
Raymond Clerc  
Christoph Schlettig  
Phillipe Manuel  
Michael Anger  
Eleonora Grava  
Robert Fraefel  
Tamara Tursijan  
Michael Mcgrath  
Luc Trullemans  
Wim De Troyer  
Nils Ryser  
Peter Frei  
Marcus Basien  
Markus Scherdel  
Gregory Blatt  
Alan Eustace  
Thomas Seiler

## PRODUCERS & DIRECTORS

Noel Dockstader  
Quinn Kanaly

## EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

Ian Reinhard  
Angus Macqueen  
Dana Nachman

Dan Braun

## STORY CONSULTANTS

Jessie Deeter  
Freida Lee Mock

## CINEMATOGRAPHY

Mathieu Czernichow  
Yoann Le Gruiec  
Daniel Meyers  
Payam Azadi  
Noel Dockstader

## ADDITIONAL CINEMATOGRAPHY

La Souris Verte  
Jón Björgvinsson

Noemi Renevey  
Antoine Bosson

## EDITING

Jean Kawahara  
Christie E. Herring  
Noel Dockstader

## MUSIC

Dave Tweedie

## ASSOCIATE PRODUCER & ASSISTANT EDITOR

Michelle Sosa

## HD FINISHING

Zap Zoetrope Aubry  
Productions, San Francisco

## COLORIST

Leo Hallal

## ONLINE EDITOR

Ashley Pagán

## POST PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR

Kim Aubry

## GRAPHICS & ANIMATION

ALLIED  
Visual Effects Supervisor /  
Darren Orr  
Visual Effects Producer /  
Gordon Wittmann  
Motion Graphics Artists /  
Joe Macken & Ben  
Kopman  
Executive Producer /  
Lori Joseph

## ART DIRECTOR

Paul J. Bartlett

## RE-RECORDING MIXER

Paul James Zahnley, CAS

## SOUND EFFECTS EDITORS

Lisa Devon  
Tyler Hafer

## AUDIO POST PRODUCTION

Disher Music & Sound,  
San Francisco

## TRANSLATIONS

Mary Gribbin  
Nicole Olivier

## ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE & PHOTOGRAPHS

Borschberg Family  
Piccard Family  
Getty Images  
Gene Carl Feldman, NASA  
The Garfield Kennedy  
Company  
Musée du Léman  
Shutterstock  
Solar Impulse

## NEWS REPORTS

ABC 15 Arizona  
Al Jazeera  
Arirang News  
BBC  
CBC  
CBS / Local 12 Cincinnati  
CNN  
Euronews  
France 24  
RTE News  
Solar Impulse  
WDTN Dayton, 2 NEWS

## LEGAL SERVICES

Justine Jacob /  
Blyth, Lee & Jacob

## DISTRIBUTION ADVISOR

Dan Braun /  
Submarine Entertainment

## BRAND & MARKETING

Khadija McMahan

## CONSULTING PRODUCER

Corey Tong

## ADDITIONAL PUBLICITY

After Bruce PR / Eesel  
Borlasa,  
Tracy Nguyen-Cung  
Lance Rae  
Kim Dixon, Carol Green /  
Dominion3 Public Relations

## SPECIAL THANKS

The Solar Impulse 150  
person team and partners  
The Swiss Embassy  
Gedeon programmes -  
Stéphane Millière /  
Diane Riethof  
REZO / Jean Revillard  
Ronachan Films  
Solar Impulse Foundation /  
World Alliance for Efficient  
Solutions  
HIFF presented by  
Halekulani / Anderson Le  
and Anna Page  
Larsen Associates PR,  
San Francisco  
Shirley Dockstader and  
Ed Lane  
Rodgers and Mary  
Dockstader  
Matt Dockstader  
Karen, Covey and Sam  
Dockstader - Cowen  
Louise, Joe, and  
Julia Dockstader  
Steve and Brent Kanaly  
Max, Rowan and  
Greta Stepanian  
Tania and Michael  
Stepanian  
Evan and Curt Herberts  
Steve Eagleton  
Nancy Saslow  
Nicole Olivier  
Phil Borges  
Tierney Thys  
Brook Holston  
Jonathan Halperin  
Kim Shelton