
A DOCUMENTARY MOVEMENT

Rivers of Life

One-Sheet

*Leave-behind · Documentary series · Returning
format*

Created by Tan

Feature chapters · Returning series format · Rights of Nature

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For commissioners · impact funders · co-producers · nations

Logline

A group at a turbulent point in their relationships sets out to visit a river the law now calls a person — and returns having learned to speak her language. Rivers of Life is a poetic documentary movement following the rivers the world has granted legal personhood, one river at a time — weaving science, myth, spirituality and Indigenous wisdom into the raw adventure of the road.

■ *“What if the living world were kin?”*

— Unifying question

Format

Form	Feature documentary chapters · returning series
Genre	Poetic doc · adventure · rights of nature
Tone	Malick by way of the open road
Engine	Caravan journey + river + human confluence
Philosophy	Two-Eyed Seeing (Etuaptmumk)
Status	Ch. I complete · Ch. II–IV seeking finance

Chapter status

- ◆ CHAPTER I · COMPLETE — The Magpie (Muteshekau-Shipu), Québec. Feature finished; trailer live.
- ◆ CHAPTER II · READY — The Wabigoon, Ontario. Mercury, Grassy Narrows, personhood case. Research complete.
- ◆ CHAPTER III · SLATED — Whanganui / Te Awa Tupua, Aotearoa. First river on Earth as legal person.
- ◆ CHAPTER IV · SLATED — One of: Ganga & Yamuna · Atrato · Klamath (partner-led selection).

Why it travels

- ◆ One completed, festival-ready proof chapter — risk already de-risked.
- ◆ Ownable returning format on the defining eco-legal story of the century.
- ◆ Global map: 7+ landmark recognitions across 5 continents; infinite runway.
- ◆ Audience bridge: prestige doc viewers + Indigenous rights + adventure/road audiences.
- ◆ Impact pathway built in: nations, guardians, foundations, companion book.

Key themes

- ◆ Rights of Nature — legal personhood as lived experience, not headline.
- ◆ Limnology as love language — confluence, eddy, tributary, dam.
- ◆ Two-Eyed Seeing — science and Indigenous knowing held together.
- ◆ Transformation — the voyage remakes the travellers.
- ◆ Unity without erasure — many becoming one, remaining many.

Comps

My Octopus Teacher (intimacy with the non-human) · Planet Earth craft · Nomadland / Into the Wild road spirit · Malick poetic register · Fire of Love / Free Solo (adventure + soul) — told as a movement, not a one-off.

The ask

Production finance and co-production for Chapters II–IV; broadcast / streamer commission interest; impact and foundation partners; Indigenous nation and guardian relationships for each river. Full package and footage access available under conversation.

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