



**Film Society of Lincoln Center – Mountainfilm Series**

**LIVING DOWNSTREAM by Chanda Chevannes**

Canada, 2010, HD, color, 55 min.

Screening October 20 at 2pm at the Walter Reade Theater  
Followed by a 45-min Q+A moderated by Mountainfilm director David Holbrooke.

Click here for [multi-city US tour dates](#)  
National broadcast on Outside TV: November 2012

**Director Chanda Chevannes and Dr. Sandra Steingraber are available for interviews and will attend the October 20 screening. Limited numbers of screeners and Dr. Steingraber's book are available for interview purposes.**

Based on ecologist and cancer survivor Dr. Sandra Steingraber's acclaimed book of the same title, *Living Downstream* brings together the emotional resonance of Steingraber's personal story – she was first diagnosed with bladder cancer at just twenty – and the hard facts of her scientific research. The result is a staggering portrait of the grave consequences of our country's chemically induced self-destruction.

Biologist and author Rachel Carson, whose landmark 1962 book *Silent Spring* celebrating its 50th anniversary that challenged the practices of agricultural scientists and the government, served as an inspiration for Steingraber, who has been heralded as "the new Rachel Carson" for her ability to translate current scientific research for the general public. Steingraber, who has also been described by *Sojourners* as "a poet with a knife," refuses to present the effects of chemical pollution – particularly the herbicide atrazine and PCBs, a group of industrial compounds – in the cold, abstract terms of most scientific writing. Her approach, with its mixture of poetic impression and rigorous research, is matched by the film's form, which pits gorgeous HD images of natural beauty against the knowledge that years of industrial and agricultural carelessness have left these spaces terribly damaged, or even deadly.

With its wide-ranging movement from Massachusetts to California, and many places in between, *Living Downstream* brings forth a view of a national crisis. Following the same sharp intelligence and curiosity that allows UC Berkeley professor Dr. Tyrone Hayes, one of the film's many expert contributors, to trace the links from chemically driven gender mutations in frogs to breast cancer occurrence in humans, *Living Downstream* works methodically to connect all the dots into a rich argument, one which is equally concerned with global problems as it is with personal struggles.

*Living Downstream* has toured internationally for the past two years and continues to be in high demand. It has screened in a wide variety of settings, from film festivals and art house cinemas to countless major universities and public health conferences. The film

has been seen in 31 states in the United States, four provinces in Canada, and in New Zealand, Australia, Turkey, Serbia, and Belgium.

Director Chanda Chevannes' appearance at this screening is made possible by a grant from the Ontario Arts Council's National and International Touring program.

Steingraber will also participate in a series of free discussions, "Five Decades after Silent Spring" at Connecticut College on Oct. 18. More info at <http://www.conncoll.edu/is/upcoming-events.htm>

**About Sandra Steingraber, Ph.D.:**

Sandra Steingraber, Ph.D. holds a doctorate in biology and a master's degree in creative writing. In addition to *Living Downstream*, Steingraber is the author of the volume of poetry, *Post-Diagnosis*, and coauthor of the book on ecology and human rights in Africa, *The Spoils of Famine*. Her memoir, *Having Faith: An Ecologist's Journey to Motherhood*, explores the intimate ecology of pregnancy and was selected by *Library Journal* as a best book of 2001. In her newest book, *Raising Elijah: Protecting Our Children in an Age of Environmental Crisis*, Steingraber demonstrates through everyday moments how closely the private, intimate world of parenting connects to the public world of policy making.

Steingraber has won numerous awards, including a Heinz Award from the Heinz Family Foundation, Chatham College's biennial Rachel Carson Leadership Award, the Hero Award from the Breast Cancer Fund, and the Environmental Health Champion Award from Physicians for Social Responsibility—Los Angeles. She has served as an advisor to the California Breast Cancer Research Program, provided Congressional briefings, and lectured on many college campuses. A columnist for *Orion* magazine, Sandra is a distinguished scholar in residence at Ithaca College in Ithaca, New York.

**Praise for *Living Downstream*:**

"Handsomely photographed and powerfully argued...Steingraber's scientific cool and unflagging sense of mission make for an arresting portrait of a self-styled modern-day Rachel Carson." – Ann Hornaday, *The Washington Post*

"Powerful...haunting...This is why they call [Sandra Steingraber] the poet laureate of the environmental health movement." – Catherine Porter, *Toronto Star*

Website: [livingdownstream.com](http://livingdownstream.com)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/livingdownstream](https://www.facebook.com/livingdownstream)  
Twitter: [@livngdownstream](https://twitter.com/livngdownstream)  
Press materials: [www.silversaltpr.com](http://www.silversaltpr.com)

**Press contacts:**

Thessa Mooij  
212.729.7071  
[thessa@silversaltpr.com](mailto:thessa@silversaltpr.com)

Brian Geldin  
917.549.2953  
[briangeldin@gmail.com](mailto:briangeldin@gmail.com)