**A new film about Lynn Margulis, a scientific rebel who challenged entrenched theories of evolution to present a new narrative: life evolves through collaboration**

On Thursday 3 May 2018at 6:45pm, *BioCultural Futures* and *Thrive Research Hub* will host an Australian Premiere screening of the new documentary film ***Symbiotic Earth: How Lynn Margulis rocked the boat and started a scientific revolution*** at the Melbourne School of Design - Basement Theatre at the University of Melbourne off Swanston Street in Parkville.

***Symbiotic Earth***is the story of a scientific rebel. A model of female empowerment, Lynn Margulis fought the male establishment and, through her persistence, triumphed. As a young scientist in the 1960s, Margulis was ridiculed when she articulated a theory that symbiosis was a key driver of evolution. Instead of the mechanistic view that life evolved solely through random genetic mutations and competition, she presented a symbiotic narrative in which bacteria joined together to create the complex cells that formed animals, plants, and all other organisms.

The idea that all of life is deeply interconnected and collaborative has radical implications for how we look at and understand our selves, our species, relationships, sex, death, ecology, evolution, and environment.

Filmmaker John Feldman first met Lynn Margulis in 2005 when making a film about evolution. With

Margulis’ help, he began to develop another film about new ideas in evolutionary biology, but when she died suddenly of a stroke in 2011 at the age of 73, he decided to make a more ambitious film about the scope and implications of Margulis’ and her colleagues’ ground-breaking new views.

Feldman’s goal in making ***Symbiotic Earth***was to engage audiences in rethinking their assumptions about life on Earth. In particular, the film explores how a belief in the scientific veracity of the metaphors "survival of the fittest" and "the selfish gene" has been complicit in creating a culture of greed and selfishness leading to global economic and environmental exploitation. ***Symbiotic Earth***explores radical ideas with a sense of humour and a deep respect for science.

Daryl Taylor, the host of a preview screening in Melbourne last year, said

“*Lynn’s energy, optimism, humour,* *mischief and sense of awe leap off the screen.”*

Margaret Wertheim, science writer and panel member at the same preview screening, declared

*‘This splendid film gives us insights into Margulis’ prolific career; and into the woman, whose vitality explodes across the screen with the force of a slow-motion supernova. I was by no means the only person who came away feeling I’d just witnessed a fifth force of nature.’*

*Margaret Wertheim’s preview screening review is available at:* [*https://www.margaretwertheim.com/new-blog/2017/9/4/symbiotic-earth-a-glorious-film-about-lynn-margulis*](https://www.margaretwertheim.com/new-blog/2017/9/4/symbiotic-earth-a-glorious-film-about-lynn-margulis)

After the global premiere screening season, the filmmakers’ distribution plan will be focused on getting people together in community screenings to talk about the ideas explored in the film. Individuals and organisations around the world have already begun to schedule community screenings in local halls, libraries, schools, and living rooms.

The production of ***Symbiotic Earth***was made possible in part with contributions from the T. Backer Fund, the Richard Lounsbery Foundation, the Yip Harburg Foundation, and many generous individual donors.

**Tickets are free.** Please book at trybooking at <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=368420&>

For more information about the Australian Premiere Screening of ***Symbiotic Earth***please contact Daryl Taylor on 0497097047 or [taylor.daryl.r@gmail.com](mailto:taylor.daryl.r@gmail.com)

For more information about the film go to <http://hummingbirdfilms.com/symbioticearth/>

or contact producer Susan Davies at [susandavies@hummingbirdfilms.com](mailto:susandavies@hummingbirdfilms.com)