

EVERY THIRD BITE (8:53 min)

Directed & Produced by The Meerkat Media Collective

Winner of the Good Food Award

Supported by Clif Bar Family Foundation

& W.K. Kellogg Foundation



About the Film

Two years ago, honeybees started to disappear. About one in every three colonies left their hives but never came home. We set out to discover what was plaguing these hives and learned how non-commercial beekeepers care for and keep healthy bees alive.

Bees are responsible for pollinating every third bite of food we eat. And we are losing millions of bees each year to a mysterious disease known as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). We visited beekeepers in Manhattan, Long Island, Nantucket and Chicago, and interviewed a scientist and elementary school students all to get a better understanding of this phenomenon. But along way, we discovered that with proper care and nutrition, bees can stay healthy and their honey can help us stay healthy and allergy free.

Since production of the film, CCD has been linked to a virus but studies continue to show that the mystery is far from solved. Community apiaries and non-commercial beekeeping is becoming increasingly popular. Legislation about keeping hives may be pending.

Filmmaker Bios

The Meerkat Media Collective

The Meerkat Media Arts Collective is comprised of filmmakers, musicians, illustrators, writers and artists of all stripes who believe in collaboration and cooperation.

We take our name from the communal, prairie-dog-like mammal of the African grasslands, and strive to share skills and ideas across the board. The idea is to make a kind of consensus art that inspires, encourages, and motivates others to tell their own stories.

Meerkat Media has produced dozens of short films featured in various festivals across the country, and recently finished a feature-length documentary Stages, which was featured at the 2007 IFP Market in New York.

Some of the many Meerkats that worked on Every Third Bite include: Wendy Cohen, who co-founded Screening Liberally, worked as the Community Manager of Huffington Post and now works at Participant Media in Los Angeles; Erin Espelie, a freelance writer and producer based in NYC, currently serves as executive editor and a columnist for Natural History Magazine; Annie Novak, a Chicago native, is the Children's Gardening Program coordinator for the New York Botanical Gardens (Bronx) and works with farmers at the New York City Greenmarkets; Eric Phillips-Horst is an award-winning cinematographer whose work has been featured on MTV, French-German public television, and in numerous festivals in NY

and across the country; Jay Sterrenberg is a longtime meerkat, educator and filmmaker who has edited documentaries for ESPN and HBO; Gina Telaroli is a blogger, filmmaker and cinephile living in Brooklyn, NY who writes for the TakePart blog while running a weekly screening series and a free school called Project Film School.

Take Action

NRDC (<http://www.nrdc.org/wildlife/animals/bees.asp>)

Bees play a central role in our food supply. Follow the National Resource Defense Council's track of Congressional hearings on the issue of vanishing honeybees, and the importance to take quick action to help beekeepers affected by the disorder to revive their hives so our crops can keep growing.

Honey Bee Quiet (<http://www.honeybeequiet.com>)

Honey Bee Quiet aims to keep up with the latest news findings on the rapid honey bee population decline and to increase the honey bee population through best beekeeping practices.

Pollinator Partnership (<http://www.pollinator.org/index.html>)

Get involved with the Pollinator Partnership -- learn about a series of projects to help people, plants and pollinators and bring more pollinators to your community!

Beginning Beekeeping (<http://beginningbeekeeping.com/index.html>)

Want to start your own hive? Learn the ins and outs of becoming a safe beekeeper with Beginning Beekeeping to help battle the cause of colony collapse disorder.

For more information about *Every Third Bite* as well as about the films from the eighth annual Media That Matters Film Festival, visit www.mediathatmattersfest.org or contact us at festival@artsengine.net.

