

REMATHAU: PEOPLE OF THE OCEAN



Directed by: Daniel H. Lin | 70 min. | USA | 2025 | Documentary

Produced by: Anne Quidez, Daniel H. Lin

Film: [Website](#)

Photos and Key Art: [Download Press Selects](#)

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Short Synopsis

Remathau: People of the Ocean follows the journey of Nicole Yamase, a young marine biologist from Micronesia who ventures to the deepest part of the ocean and begins an even deeper dive of self-discovery as she reconnects with her people's resilience and oceanic roots.

Long Synopsis

Remathau: People of the Ocean is a feature documentary that follows the journey of Nicole Yamase, the first Micronesian to dive to the deepest part of the ocean, Challenger Deep, in the Marianas Trench.

Nicole begins her journey of discovery by diving to the deepest part of the ocean, an area within the Marianas Trench named "Challenger Deep" that lies beneath the territorial waters of her country. When she surfaces, she is met with a storm of media attention. Feeling the

immense pressure of being the first Micronesian to go down to the Challenger Deep (and only the second woman in history), Nicole begins a deeper dive into her own identity as a Micronesian and a descendant of great navigators.

This experience ultimately opens her eyes to the true resilience of Pacific Island people who—despite immense hardship brought on by external forces—continue to draw strength from the cultural practices, languages, and ancestral knowledge that anchor them to their oceanic homeland.

Awards

Remathau: People of the Ocean won the Pasifika award at the Hawai'i International Film Festival in October 2025. <https://hiff.org/events/remathaupeopleoftheocean/>

About the Director

Daniel H. Lin is a filmmaker and photojournalist focusing on the impacts of climate change, post-colonialism, and globalization on cultural identity within Indigenous communities across the Pacific Islands and in Asia. Currently, Daniel is the Associate Director for Strategic Alliances at Nia Tero, an organization focusing on supporting Indigenous Peoples' guardianship of their territorial lands and waters globally. This is his first-ever feature film, having only worked on a handful of short film projects in the past.

Director Statement

“In March of 2021, when Nicole asked me personally to help her tell the story of her historic dive to the deepest part of the ocean, I had no idea that it would evolve into a feature-length documentary that would end up spanning oceans, islands, and multiple generations.

With this film, we witnessed the deepest dive of all – a journey through identity, representation, and responsibility. The experience allowed us to look through the window of time and affirm that, if left open, it will always breathe new life into what a Pacific Island story can and should be,” said Daniel H Lin.

Key Participants

Dr. Nicole Yamase | Pohnpei/Chuuk is from the islands of Pohnpei and Chuuk, in the Federated States of Micronesia. She was the first citizen of her country to obtain a PhD in Marine Biology from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Her studies focused on the ecophysiology of native Hawaiian macroalgae. In 2021, Nicole explored the Western pool of the Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench, located in the western Pacific Ocean. This made her the first Indigenous person, first marine botanist, and youngest female to ever reach the deepest part of the known ocean.

Maximus Yarawamai | Ulithi was born in Ulithi, Atoll in Yap, Micronesia, and moved to Hawai'i when he was 13 years old. Despite having a successful career in the landscaping business, he considers his primary role to be a bridge between the Micronesian diaspora and the people of Hawai'i. Max has created safe spaces for Micronesians and other migrant youth in Hawai'i to comfortably play and learn.

Film's Mission

For centuries, Pasifik Peoples navigated their canoes across vast and dangerous seas using only the stars and natural elements as guides. These great navigators built a complex network of islands and culture. The ocean was their territory.

Today, the Federated States of Micronesia spans a vast ocean territory of approximately 3 million square km, among the largest exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of any nation in the world. Yet, although Pacific people's identity is deeply connected with the knowledge they hold about the ocean, their voices remain largely unheard in global discussions, and their wisdom is often overlooked.

This film is an exploration of collective identity through individuals who, although living within a diaspora, remain deeply connected to their home islands through their languages, communal values, cultural practices, and shared beliefs. It is a deep dive into Indigenous ways and Pasifika identity, with the intention of learning what it truly means to be Remathau, people of the ocean.

This film hopes to bring more visibility to the particular relationship Micronesian people have with their islands and ocean territory and increase awareness for the deep wisdom and knowledge that is passed on through the legends, chants, and traditions of these oceanic peoples.

About Nia Tero:



Nia Tero's mission is to directly support Indigenous Peoples' guardianship and elevate the role and influence of Indigenous Peoples as essential to ensuring planetary health and habitability. Learn more at: www.NiaTero.org.
| Social Media: [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#).

CREDITS

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