

BLOOD & CORAL

A film by Monty Hempel

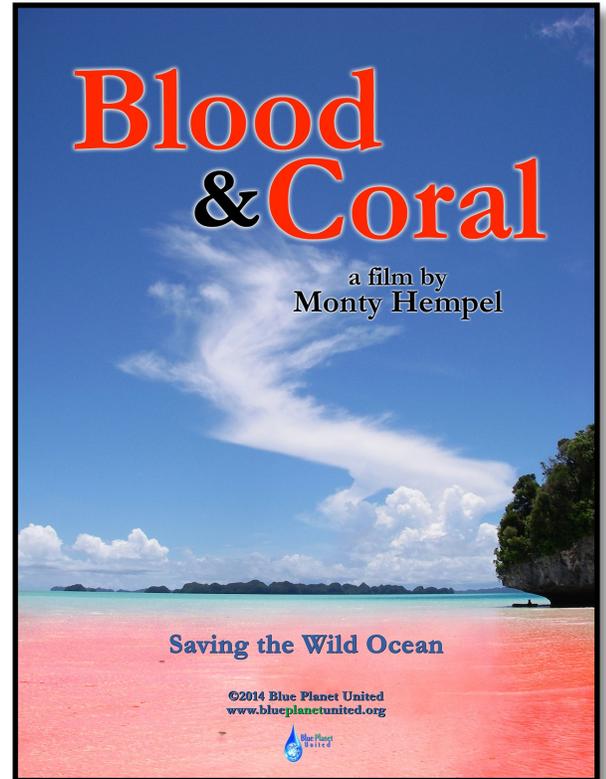
Click here to watch the trailer: <https://vimeo.com/104971082>

Film Release: September 2014 (running time: 71 minutes)

...a film for people who love the ocean and its creatures, and want to learn how to protect them.

This feature documentary examines the carbon-driven fate of the ocean, focusing on coral reefs and their vulnerability to climate disruption, ocean acidification, and overfishing. Featuring the spectacular reefs and islands of Palau, the film celebrates the stunning beauty and diversity of wild coral, while calling attention to its growing fragility and rapid decline.

Palau's battle of Peleliu island, one of World War II's most savage conflicts, provides the film with a striking analogy of the environmental battle now taking place on the reefs offshore, where bombs have been replaced by greenhouse gases, fishing fleets perform the role of naval artillery, and super typhoons succeed armies as invading forces. *Blood & Coral* tells the story of an island paradise that was utterly destroyed by war and slowly restored by Nature in one of Earth's most incredible feats of redemption. In that powerful regenerative process lies the hope that people and Nature will act in concert to restore and sustain coral reefs, everywhere.



Filmmaker's Summary: "*Blood & Coral* is an environmental elegy that weaves together awe-inspiring scenes of nature's beauty and fury with searing images of war and human conquest. Unlike an elegy, however, it has the upbeat look of a tropical travel film, complete with scenic landscapes, underwater adventure, and amazing wildlife. By emphasizing both the beauty and fragility of coral ecosystems, the film is intended to engage viewers intellectually and emotionally in the urgent struggle to save wild coral. Preserving coral is ultimately about preserving our humanity."

About the Filmmaker: *Blood & Coral* is written, directed, and produced by Monty Hempel, president of Blue Planet United and Hedco Professor of Environmental Studies at the University of Redlands. Hempel is a veteran college teacher, filmmaker, and underwater explorer, as well as a nationally recognized leader in sustainability and environmental studies. He was the first (interim) president of the Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences (AESS) and served as a founding board member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). Hempel has taught university courses about the environment for nearly 30 years and has produced three books and more than a dozen previous films, including the award-winning video, *Spirit of Place*.

About Blue Planet United: **Blue Planet United** is a public benefit, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that helps people make connections between three defining issues of the twenty-first century: population stabilization, sustainable consumption, and the preservation of wild landscapes, seascapes, and habitat. We create print publications, educational films, and web resources that foster awareness and action to save the last great wild places of this tiny blue planet. Visit us at www.blueplanetunited.org. Watch the trailer: <https://vimeo.com/104971082>