



Talking Sticks World Premiere Screening/Performance Event

All parts of the event encouraged for all ages!!

The following are possible schedule options. Arthur does not require an intermission, or a concert. Your event can be customized to fit your wishes.

- * Screening (63mins)
- * Q&A (10-20mins)
- * Intermission (15mins)
- * Performance (30-45 mins)
- * Total event time: 2-2.5 hrs
- * Artist Meet-and-Greet following performance

1. Talking Sticks screening

TRT 63 mins. Plot summary following page. Talking Sticks is available in several digital formats, including BluRay. Arthur may be able to bring a BluRay player if you have HDMI connectivity.

2. Q&A

Can be formal onstage, or casual sitting amongst the guests. Will require microphone.

3. Performance

Arthur plays solo vibes, possibly also marimba depending on logistics and travel factors.

4. Meet-and-Greet following performance

Arthur will be happy to stay afterwards and meet VIP's/Patrons/ Guests



TALKING STICKS is an inspirational and educational documentary about a world-renown percussionist's inner and outer journeys. It is laden with wonderful performances. The main character Arthur Lipner finds his identity in playing the unusual instruments vibraphone (vibes) and marimba. One of the top players in the world, his instruments afford him many opportunities for performance. Yet, he feels a disconnect since they are not part of the mainstream popular music scene. It is his exploration and conquering of this disconnect which is the main storyline of Talking Sticks.

Along the way, Talking Sticks presents the origins of instruments like no film has ever done before, whether percussion or other. We travel to Ghana where we sit on the ground with a marimba maker in a small village and learn of his family and their marimba tradition. We also hear from Ghanaian Master Xylophonist Bernard Woma. Woma says, "In our culture, music is part of life. You either choose to be in it, or you are out of it." In Chiapas, Mexico, we visit a marimba factory situated on a stunning river, where the Nandayapa family has been making marimbas by hand for over 100 years. Carlos Nandayapa takes us on a tour and discusses his marimba world. In Brazil, we're on the streets of Rio de Janeiro during Carnival performances, and on the concert stage with the National Symphony of Brazil during the World Premiere of Lipner's vibes and marimba concerto. In Iceland, we experience the deeply spiritual stone marimba of artisan Pall Gudmundsson, made of stones from the glaciers behind his home in the remote countryside.

Lipner's desire to deepen his experience as a keyboard percussionist, while moving traditions into new territory, take him to an icy mountaintop in Norway. There, we see the construction of, and his improvisation on, an ice xylophone. This experience embodies much of what his journeys represent. In Norway he interviews ice musician Terje Isungset in an igloo. Isungset says, "This water has been through thousands of human beings..may have part of people's soul in it..and it's also music."

In the USA, we are granted rare access to percussion factories. Inside the Musser vibes and marimba factory in Chicago, we see the process of construction including the cutting and tuning of bars. In fact, in Talking Sticks we see bars being cut and tuned in Mexico, Chicago, Ghana and Norway. At the Mike Balter Mallets factory, mallet construction is explained along with the inner workings of these tools of the percussionist's trade.

Regarding the 20th century history of the instruments, we hear from a jazz faculty member of Columbia University as he summarizes the roots of jazz vibes. Footage of vibes greats Lionel Hampton and Milt Jackson bring us continuity follows. NY Philharmonic percussionist Gordon Gottlieb also contributes to this segment. In addition, we hear from Ney Rosauero, marimbist and composer of the most popular marimba concerto ever.

Lipner decides to pose the same questions he has about connection via his instruments to others central to the development of vibes and marimba. Gary Burton and Mike Mainieri, both vibes players and living jazz legends, speak openly about their lives and the role the vibraphone has played in them. We also get to know 82 year-old Vida Chenoweth, the first "concert marimbist." Compelling, warm, and informative, these interviews give us glimpses into the mindset of the keyboard percussionist's joys and dilemmas. Lipner's former teacher provides wisdom and continuity during several appearances. Towards the end, he says, "We're all looking for the wholeness." Finally, Lipner references John Updike's poem "The Angels" for inspiration of his life's purpose.

Talking Sticks offers extraordinary visual footage, virtuosic musical performances, and educational content mixed with storytelling in a manner never done before. One artist's journey in a search that has elements universal to all.

TOTAL RUNNING TIME 63 mins.