

A PUGET SOUND ORCA IN CAPTIVITY

organized regular protests and demonstrations outside the Seaquarium, and in October 2008 was interviewed for a four-minute segment about Lolita that was shown on CNN every hour throughout the day. Another short documentary titled *Saving Lolita*, produced by Jenny Cunningham of PBS's KCTS 9 TV for KCTS Connects, aired the same month.

With no shortage of media wanting to tell Lolita's story, in March 2009, a short 3-D animated film titled *Perchance to Dream*, produced by student Lauren Kimball (Solace Skies Productions), was released. Kimball's inspiration for the film came while researching how to improve her ability to animate animal movements. She had been taken to see Lolita when she was a child, an experience that troubled her. She relays Lolita's story in scenes from Lolita's world, her memories of home and dreams of rejoining her family versus the reality of life in a cramped tank performing circus acts. Kimball plays to the audience's imagination by asking what happens in Lolita's mind when the lights go off and the tourists depart. The film received critical acclaim, and Kimball received the Golden Flamingo Award under the Viewers' Choice category at the 2009 South Beach International Animation Film Festival, Miami. It was accepted into the Blue Ocean Film Festival in Georgia and shown at the short film corner of the world-famous Cannes Film Festival in France. Kimball also designed the logo for an international day of protest held around the world on May 15, 2010, for Lolita's retirement.

Another documentary titled *The Cove* made headline news that summer. Directed by former *National Geographic* photographer Louis Psihoyos, the film reveals the shocking truth about the Japanese town of Taiji. Using covert filming methods, Psihoyos and crew, including O'Barry, exposed the barbaric slaughter that takes place from September to March, when hundreds of dolphins are driven into a picturesque cove. The water runs red with blood as innocent victims are rounded up and slaughtered for meat, while the most attractive ones are destined to a lifetime in captivity. *The Cove* premiered at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival in Utah and was later nominated for an Oscar for Best Documentary Feature by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. That summer, O'Barry joined the Penn Cove commemoration protest outside the Seaquarium, as he had done many times before after renouncing all affiliation with captivity.

That subject was now well and truly at the fore. It would make Christmas 2009 a particularly painful one for the family and friends of twenty-nine-year-old killer whale trainer Alexis Martinez, who was employed at Loro Parque theme park/zoo in Tenerife, Spain. On Christmas Eve, a day spent by many preparing for one of the most important dates on the ecclesiastical