



# NATURE



Press Contact: Johanna Baker, WNET  
212.560.3134, [BakerJ@wnet.org](mailto:BakerJ@wnet.org)  
Press Materials: <http://pbs.org/pressroom> or <http://thirteen.org/pressroom>

Websites: <http://pbs.org/nature>, <http://facebook.com/PBSNature>, [@PBSNature](https://twitter.com/PBSNature), [#NaturePBS](https://www.instagram.com/pbsnature/)  
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**THIRTEEN's *Nature* Launches Season 36 with  
*Naledi: One Little Elephant, A Nature Special Presentation*  
Wednesday, October 4, 2017 at 8 p.m. on PBS**

*A moving story of how an orphan beat the odds with lots of help from her friends*

Kiti, a gentle elephant in Botswana, was in her 661<sup>st</sup> day of pregnancy, a normal gestation period, when she finally gave birth to a baby girl. For nearly two weeks, the staff of Abu Camp, a halfway house for orphaned and former zoo and circus elephants, had been passing the time by coming up with a list of possible names for Kiti's offspring. Perhaps because the calf was born at night, they called her Naledi, which means star in the local language.

Naledi was an instant hit with the Abu Camp caretakers including elephant manager Wellington ("Wellie") Jana who compared her arrival to getting a new daughter in the family. Wildlife biologist and Botswana native Dr. Mike Chase, who is also tasked with looking after Naledi's herd, hopes she will have the option to be reunited with her extended family. That's the aim of Abu Camp caretakers, to release capable animals back into the wild. Mike and Wellie are pleased with how Naledi is being accepted into the herd and the care she's receiving from her

mother Kiti. But six weeks after giving birth, Kiti dies from a prolapse of the large intestine, and Naledi is left an orphan.

How the dedicated caretakers rallied to adopt the baby elephant, save her life, and reintroduce her to the herd that had forgotten her, is the focus of ***Naledi: One Little Elephant, A Nature Special Presentation*** premiering nationwide Wednesday, October 4, 2017 at 8 p.m. (ET) on PBS (check local listings). The film will be available to stream the following day for two weeks via [pbs.org/nature](http://pbs.org/nature) and PBS OTT apps.

Although elephant families are close, the program shows how precarious it is for a newborn to survive once it has lost its mother. Naledi needs to be nursed, so when the herd's matriarch can't produce enough milk and doesn't know how to care for her, Mike, Wellie, and the other caretakers decide to take drastic measures before it is too late. The film follows the team as they separate Naledi from the herd, relocate her to another part of Abu Camp, make sure a caretaker is always with her around the clock, work to establish a bond, and finally entice her to take milk from a bottle.

Crisis averted, the filmmakers are later on hand to document the cautious reintroduction of Naledi to her sisters and the rest of the family. She's accepted by the herd, resumes her life in the bush, and the caretakers even celebrate her first birthday. But later, Naledi falls ill from eating palm fronds that have blocked her digestive track. The team agrees that surgery is the only solution, and the program chronicles her operation as the caretakers watch and hope for a positive outcome.

Another storyline in the film is the gathering of data for the 2016 Great Elephant Census run by Dr. Mike Chase during his time away from work at Abu Camp. Its aim was to count every elephant in Africa to help ensure their long-term survival given that Mike estimates we're losing 96 elephants a day and between 25,000 and 30,000 annually. The results of the Census, published last year, revealed that 30 percent of Africa's elephants have been lost since 2007.

***Nature*** is a production of THIRTEEN PRODUCTIONS LLC for WNET and PBS. Executive Producer for ***Nature*** is Fred Kaufman. ***Naledi: One Little Elephant, A Nature Special Presentation*** is a Vulcan Productions film in association with Off the Fence. Executive Producers for Vulcan Productions are Carole Tomko, Paul G. Allen, and Jody Allen.

***Nature*** pioneered a television genre that is now widely emulated in the broadcast industry. Throughout its history, ***Nature*** has brought the natural world to millions of viewers. The series has been consistently among the most-watched primetime series on public television.

***Nature*** has won more than 700 honors from the television industry, the international wildlife film communities and environmental organizations, including 17 Emmys and three Peabodys. The series received two of wildlife film industry's highest honors: the Christopher Parsons Outstanding Achievement Award given by the Wildscreen Festival and the Grand Teton Award given by the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival. The International Wildlife Film Festival

honored **Nature** executive producer Fred Kaufman with its Lifetime Achievement Award for Media.

[PBS.org/nature](http://PBS.org/nature) is the award-winning web companion to **Nature**, featuring streaming episodes, filmmaker interviews, teacher's guides and more.

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#### **About WNET**

WNET is America's flagship PBS station and parent company of [THIRTEEN](#) and [WLIW21](#). WNET also operates [NJTV](#), the statewide public media network in New Jersey. Through its broadcast channels, three cable services (THIRTEEN PBSKids, Create and World) and online streaming sites, WNET brings quality arts, education and public affairs programming to more than five million viewers each week. WNET produces and presents such acclaimed PBS series as [Nature](#), [Great Performances](#), [American Masters](#), [PBS NewsHour Weekend](#), [Charlie Rose](#) and a range of documentaries, children's programs, and local news and cultural offerings. WNET's groundbreaking series for children and young adults include [Get the Math](#), [Oh Noah!](#) and [Cyberchase](#) as well as [Mission US](#), the award-winning interactive history game. WNET highlights the tri-state's unique culture and diverse communities through [NYC-ARTS](#), [Theater Close-Up](#), [NJTV News with Mary Alice Williams](#) and [MetroFocus](#), the daily multi-platform news magazine focusing on the New York region. In addition, WNET produces online-only programming including the award-winning series about gender identity, [First Person](#), and an intergenerational look at tech and pop culture, [The Chatterbox with Kevin and Grandma Lill](#). In 2015, THIRTEEN launched Passport, an online streaming service which allows members to see new and archival THIRTEEN and PBS programming anytime, anywhere: [www.thirteen.org/passport](http://www.thirteen.org/passport).

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