

# Science in the Cinema - Los Angeles

Thursday October 28, 7 PM

Room PSY 150, Psychology Bldg., Cal State Univ. Long Beach

## *Medicine Man* with UCSC's Phillip Crews



*Medicine Man* is set in the Amazon rainforest where Dr. Robert Campbell (**Sean Connery**) has stumbled across the cure for cancer. Campbell has one problem, however: he can't replicate the process by which a native Medicine Man extracted the cure from an exotic plant. Prompted by the lack of results, Campbell's employer sends Dr. Rae Crane (**Lorraine Bracco**) to evaluate his work. Fearing the corporation will destroy the rainforest in order to obtain the cure, Campbell refused to disclose his findings. Crane offers her assistance in finding the cure again. With a construction company looming and ready to drive a road right through the heart of the Amazon, both doctors must locate the Medicine Man and find the cure for cancer before it is destroyed forever.

Based on a review by Judge Sean Fitzgibbons, 1999  
<<http://www.dvdverdict.com/reviews/medicineman.php>>

**Phillip Crews** is a Professor of Chemistry at the University of California - Santa Cruz. Since 1979, Crews has led yearly research teams into the tropical Pacific and Caribbean. His team often collects at depths below 2000 feet. His research goal is to isolate novel substances from marine sponges and discover new natural products. Since sponges cannot move to escape predators, they make themselves unpalatable. The biochemistry of sponge toxins often leads to medicinally valuable agents.

Crews finds enjoyment both in and out of the lab. As an UCLA undergraduate, Crews developed his interest in the "molecular architecture of organic compounds" - and he learned to surf.

Crews has also started a small winery. Winemaking, like chemistry, has meant "following my heart and finding something that's enjoyable, and not letting money get in the way."



(Information based on <[www.chemistry.ucsc.edu/crews\\_p.html](http://www.chemistry.ucsc.edu/crews_p.html)> & R. Friedman <[www.justgarciahill.org/webbiographydtl.asp?BID=110](http://www.justgarciahill.org/webbiographydtl.asp?BID=110)>)

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### Science in the Cinema-Los Angeles

The American Chemical Society - Southern California Section was awarded an *Innovative Program Grant* to launch the Science in the Cinema-Los Angeles program. Feature films with science themes are screened, followed by a speaker and discussion on a related topic. Admission is free. For more information visit:

**[www.scalacs.org/ScienceCinema](http://www.scalacs.org/ScienceCinema)**