Critical Acclaim For
‘THE CITY DARK’
By Ian Cheney

“A documentary about light pollution that is entertaining and thought-provoking? It hardly seems possible, but that’s what Ian Cheney has made in The City Dark. . . . This film makes you want to go find a starry sky to camp under quickly, before it’s all gone.”

“New York pedestrians tend not to look up too much for fear of being mistaken for tourists gawking at skyscrapers. Ian Cheney gazed toward the heavens and got a film out of it. The City Dark is an unexpected walk through the implications of well-lit cities. . . . One bonus is its cool, hypnotic music.”
—David Bauder, Associated Press

“Perhaps the most important thing The City Dark has to tell us is that by losing touch with the stars, we’ve lost touch with something that inspired our distant ancestors in a profoundly spiritual way.”
—Michael D. Lemonick, Time

“An illuminating documentary about what constant exposure to artificial light does to our bodies, our minds and the natural world.”
—Joe Neumaier, New York Daily News

“Poetic, at times profound . . .”
—Gary Goldstein, Los Angeles Times

“An informative, well-rounded look at light pollution told with a star-gazing enthusiast’s passion for his subject.”
—Jay Weissberg, Variety

“Cheney may be a city boy now, but he is still the same guy from Waldoboro, Maine who grew up respecting the stars.”
—David Greene, Host, NPR “Weekend Edition Sunday”

“One of the most important advances in modern technology is impacting the world in ways most people probably don’t even realize. . . . A fascinating subject.”
—Terrell Brown, CBS News “Up to the Minute”

“Illuminating. . . . I hadn't given much thought to light pollution until I watched The City Dark . . . . Definitely worth watching, even if you have a lovely view of the night sky right outside your window.”
—Whitney Matheson, USA TODAY

“Elegant and poetic. . . . Ian Cheney has built a bridge with this documentary, hoping to give us a new appreciation for the jewels of the darkened sky. A love story that reminds us of our ancestral past and, as [astrophysicist Neil deGrasse] Tyson comments, ‘our place in the cosmos.’”
—Jana J. Monji, Chicago Sun-Times
“The City Dark is a quiet, reflective, modest movie, but it changed the way I look at the city, the sky, the stars, and night itself.”
—Matt Zoller Seitz, Vulture blog, New York magazine

“Documentarians get their ideas from all sorts of places—newspaper stories, family albums, an overheard story on a train — but rarely does inspiration come from as poetic an activity as stargazing—unless, of course, the documentarian in question happens to be filmmaker Ian Cheney.”
—Mary Anderson Casavant, Filmmaker magazine

“What is lost in the glare of the city lights? . . . The answers may surprise you. Or they just may send you driving out into the country, running into a field to marvel at the night sky you don’t normally see if you live in a well-lit city. (Watch for ‘no trespassing’ signs, please.)”
—Rita Sherrow, Tulsa World

“An absolutely beautiful film from its quiet, nostalgic beginning to the final rapid-fire revelations from the compelling individuals we meet throughout.”
—Nick GioBarbieri, The Austinist

“Cheney is pointing us to the deeply spiritual human connection with the night sky. . . . you’ll meet men and women who understand this age-old link between faith, science and the stars. Again and again, The City Dark asks us whether we’ve forgotten that essential connection.”
—David Crumm, ReadTheSpirit.com

“An elegy for the star-spackled skies of Cheney’s Maine upbringing and his challenges in his adopted home of Brooklyn. . . . Wondrous pictures of the stars and galaxies twinkle and glitter to dreamy music.”
—Roger Catlin Online

“This year, one of the true standout films . . . very entertaining and thought-provoking. . . . The City Dark is quite humorous, visually engaging and will hold your attention throughout.”
—Gary Denny, Wisconsin Public Television

“Visually arresting and even hypnotic. . . . It’s an eye-opener.”
—Charles Cassady, Jr., Cleveland Movie Blog