



The Main Feature

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One World Week Presentation

Before the Flood

USA, 2016

1 hour 36 minutes

Certificate PG

Director	Fisher Stevens
Writer	Mark Monroe
Cinematography	Antonio Rossi
Executive Producers	Adam Bardach, Zara Duffy, Jennifer Hile, Mark Monroe, Martin Scorsese

Presenter	Leonardo diCaprio
Featuring	Ban Ki-Moon, Elon Musk, Barack Obama, Pope Francis



'Try to have a conversation with anyone about climate change and people just tune out,' says Leonardo diCaprio in tonight's documentary *Before the Flood*. And where there *are* conversations, they quickly turn political. We have recently seen a Swedish teenager address the United Nations in very stark terms about what our political leaders should be doing to protect our planet against the effects of man-made global warming and climate change. And the 76 year-old mother of my hairdresser was part of the Extinction Rebellion demonstration in London earlier this month. Yet the current occupant of the White House tweeted in 2012: 'The concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make US manufacturing non-competitive'. *Before the Flood* tries to persuade the audience of the former view over the latter.

We have been here before. Former US Vice-President Al Gore devised a Powerpoint presentation about climate change and gave it to the public at least 1,000 times. It was made into a documentary *An Inconvenient Truth* (2006) which won the Oscar for best documentary feature in 2007. One critic suggested (with his tongue only partly in his cheek) that every man, woman and child in the country should see this film, if necessary at the point of a gun.

It is difficult to know how influential films are in – for example – the lead up to the Paris climate change agreement in 2016 and the target to restrict the increase in

global temperature to 1.5° C. It's one thing to watch a documentary and to be convinced by what it says. It's another to then make lifestyle changes or be willing to pay – say – a carbon tax, when these can be perceived as restricting freedom of choice. In any case, there remain the so-called climate change sceptics.



Which brings us to *Before the Flood*, another film with a high-profile presenter, this time the actor and activist Leonardo diCaprio. As well as his huge fanbase, the actor brings more than two decades of passion and experience of campaigning on climate change.

In an interview he said 'If the UN really knew how I feel, how pessimistic I am about our future, I mean to be honest they may have picked the wrong guy'. But after touring the world to see global warming's impact first-hand, from Canada's tar sands and Greenland's ice to China's coal belt and Miami's flood problems, diCaprio came away more upbeat. The director of the documentary, Fisher Stevens, said 'When we started he was much more pessimistic than I was. But by the end of the film he became a little bit more optimistic after meeting Obama, the Pope, Elon [Musk, of Tesla]. I didn't get any more optimistic ... but I still do believe we can turn it around.'

According to Stevens, the two most visceral and shocking experiences making the film were visiting huge deforested areas of Canada's arboreal forests and Indonesia's rainforests, cleared for tar sands and palm oil developments respectively. 'Those two places ... you feel like – that's when you just get dark, when you think, how are we going to stop this, human beings are horrible. But then you're with a woman risking her life to stop it [a conservationist in Indonesia] and then you have hope.'

Speaking about the film in October 2016, diCaprio said he thinks that those who don't believe in climate change should not hold public office, adding that such rejection indicated an inability to engage with the rational world. 'If you don't believe in climate change, you don't believe in facts, and science, and empirical truths,' he said. 'And, in my humble opinion, [you] should not be allowed to hold public office.'

diCaprio has been criticised for voicing that opinion. Apart from withdrawing the US from the Paris climate agreement, in recent weeks the US administration has loosened regulation of methane (a powerful greenhouse gas); said it would revoke California's right to set emission standards for cars; and rolled back rules on efficient light bulbs. The film will give us all a chance to form our own view of diCaprio's opinion.

Michael Hipkins

UK Green Film Festival: 30 October to 9 November 2019

The UK Green Film Festival is the UK's annual environmental film festival. Taking place each year over a single week, up and down the country, the festival screens some of the very best films from around the world, exploring some of the big environmental issues of the day.

Details of venues and screenings at <http://www.ukgreenfilmfestival.org/index.html>

The Green Lie

Austria; Director Werner Boote

Environmentally friendly electric cars, sustainable produced food products, fair production processes:

Hurray! If everything the corporations tell us is true, we can save the world through our purchasing decisions alone. A popular and dangerous lie. Are the industry's "green products" nothing more than a sales strategy? In his new documentary film, Werner Boote shows us, together with environmental expert Kathrin Hartmann, how we can protect ourselves. They easily banter, they agree to disagree and ultimately bring freshness to a never-ending debate.

Earth

Germany; Director Nikolaus Geyrhalter

Several billion tons of earth are moved annually by humans - with shovels, excavators or dynamite.

Nikolaus Geyrhalter observes people in mines, quarries, large construction sites in a constant struggle to transform the planet.

Welcome to Sodom

Austria/Ghana; Director Florian Weigensamer & Christian Krönes

Accra is proven to be one of most poisonous places. It is the largest electronic waste dump in the world.

About 6000 women, men and children live and work here. They call it SODOM. Every year about 250.000 tons of sorted out computers, smartphones, air conditions tanks and other devices from a far away electrified and digitalized world end up here. Shipped to Ghana illegally. Everybody here in Sodom is in some way or another living off the blessings of the computer age, many die of them. The film portrays people whose existence and everyday life is not only formed by modern technology but threatened by it too. This is the place where the curse of digital consumer madness becomes manifest. Sodom is the true end of our modern digitalized world. And it will most probably be the final destination of the tablet, the smart phone, the computer you buy tomorrow.

Let There Be Light

Canada; Director Mila Aung-Thwin

In the south of France, scientists from 37 countries are building the most complex machine ever attempted: an artificial sun. If they get it right, it will illuminate the way to produce clean, cheap, abundant energy for millions of years. If they fail, it will be one of the biggest scientific failures of all time. Nuclear fusion has been the holy grail of energy for many decades now. It's the process that drives stars, the ultimate source of energy in the universe. The possibility that fusion might be achievable on Earth as an energy source has driven scientists to the edge of reason for almost a century.

Serengeti Rules

USA; Director Nicolas Brown

Beginning in the 1960s, a small band of young scientists headed out into the wilderness, driven by an insatiable curiosity about how nature works. Immersed in some of the most remote and spectacular places on Earth—from the majestic Serengeti to the Amazon jungle; from the Arctic Ocean to Pacific tide pools—they discovered a single set of rules that govern all life. Now in the twilight of their eminent careers, these five unsung heroes of modern ecology share the stories of their adventures, reveal how their pioneering work flipped our view of nature on its head, and give us a chance to reimagine the world as it could and should be.



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Comments and reactions to: **Ballon**

No of reaction slips received = 35

Average score = 6.91

Score	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
~	~	~	~	1	6	3	14	9	~	2	

Exciting and tense, although rather over-dramatic at times

Dramatic suspense, realistic brave narrative

What an amazing story. Again, fact better than fiction

This should have been a much better film. The acting was wooden (dubbing) and the over-dramatic chase made the ending seem unbelievable

Overly dramatic, exciting. What happened to them in the West?

Amazingly suspenseful, somewhat chilling, very good film

Excellent film, well done on choice of film we would normally not have heard of

Over-dramatic music; irritating American accents. However, an incredible story well told

Intriguing story but a mediocre film. Not enough back story or sense of peril. The 'Lives of Others' does it so much better

Well made to keep the suspense going ...

Amazingly suspenseful. Amazing it's true!

Grrr...ipping!

Spitze Qualität!

A truly gripping nerve-racking movie

Exciting

Absorbing drama

Suspense was the word

Dubbed sound not easily understood

Enthralling, enlightening

Disappointing film – the characters lacked any real depth that would explain why they would risk their lives to escape E Germany. 'The Lives of Others' far better captures the oppressive nature of the regime

Good cinematography – the Kodacolor palette very 70's. Dubbing awful – significant elements of the narrative lost in poor translation

First half rather slow-moving but improved in the second half

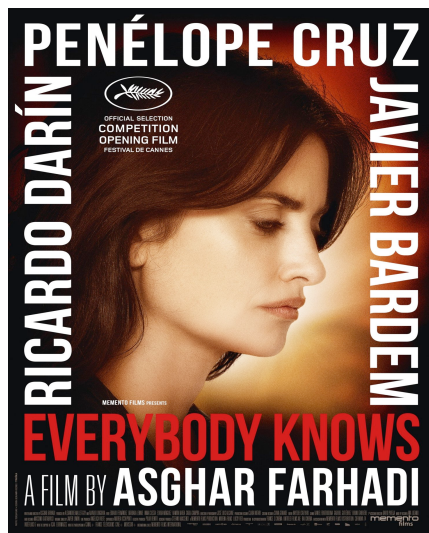
Very exciting, but rather American-style film

More and more dramatic and thrilling, though rather unbelievable

Not my sort of film (and the dubbing didn't help)

Great story, but overwrought in the telling.

Position	Film	Average score
1	The White Crow	7.29
2	Stan and Ollie	6.92
3	Ballon (Balloon)	6.91



Forthcoming attraction: 14 November 2019

Todos lo saben (Everybody Knows)

Penélope Cruz plays Laura, a Spanish woman living in Buenos Aires, who returns to her hometown outside Madrid with her two children to attend her sister's wedding. However, the trip is upset by unexpected events that bring secrets into the open.