

Alfonso Cuarón presents
A Klein Lewis Productions and Louverture Films Production

THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING

A film by
Avi Lewis

Narrated and inspired by the book
by **Naomi Klein**



Official Selection 2015 Toronto International Film Festival
USA/CANADA | 89 minutes | 2015 | English

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The Idea

**“Can I be honest with you?
I’ve always kind of hated films about climate change.**

What is it about those vanishing glaciers and desperate polar bears that makes me want to click away? Is it really possible to be bored by the end of the world? It’s not that I don’t care what happens to polar bears. It’s just that we’re told that the cause isn’t out there, that it’s in us, it’s human nature. We’re innately greedy and short-sighted. And if that’s true, there is no hope. But when I finally stopped looking away, traveled into the heart of the crisis, met people on the front lines, I discovered so much of what I thought I knew was wrong. And I began to wonder: what if human nature isn’t the problem? What if even greenhouse gases aren’t the problem? What if the real problem is a story, one we’ve been telling ourselves for 400 years.

I was in a stately home in the English countryside that looked an awful lot like Downton Abbey. It was an invitation-only meeting hosted by the world’s oldest scientific organization, the Royal Society. Instead of ordering around the servants, the people here were trying to order around the sun. I mean the sun, in the sky. They were discussing a plan to spray chemicals into the stratosphere to turn down the temperature for planet earth.

Here’s the thing. This idea may be crazy but it’s also totally logical within the story that the Royal Society pioneered in the 17th century. Here’s how it goes. The earth is not, as most people thought back then, a mother, to be feared and revered. No. Science had granted men god-like powers. The earth is a machine and we are its engineers, its masters. We can sculpt it like a country garden. We can extract from it whatever we want. These scientists helped turn the mother into the motherlode. This story is where the long road to global warming began. When I realized that, I stopped tuning out those sad polar bears because unlike human nature, stories are something we can change.”

- Naomi Klein, From *This Changes Everything*

Film Synopsis

Filmed over 211 shoot days in nine countries and five continents over four years, *This Changes Everything* is an epic attempt to re-imagine the vast challenge of climate change.

Inspired by Naomi Klein's international non-fiction bestseller *This Changes Everything*, the film presents seven powerful portraits of communities on the front lines, from Montana's Powder River Basin to the Alberta Tar Sands, from the coast of South India to Beijing and beyond.

Interwoven with these stories of struggle is Klein's narration, connecting the carbon in the air with the economic system that put it there. Throughout the film, Klein builds to her most controversial and exciting idea: that we can seize the existential crisis of climate change to transform our failed economic system into something radically better.

Over the course of 90 minutes, viewers will meet...

- **Crystal**, a young indigenous leader in Tar Sands country, as she fights for access to a restricted military base in search of answers about an environmental disaster in progress.
- **Mike and Alexis**, a Montana goat ranching couple who see their dreams coated in oil from a broken pipeline. They respond by organizing against fossil fuel extraction in their beloved Powder River Basin, and forming a new alliance with the Northern Cheyenne tribe to bring solar power to the nearby reservation.
- **Melachrini**, a housewife in Northern Greece where economic crisis is being used to justify mining and drilling projects that threaten the mountains, seas, and tourism economy. Against the backdrop of Greece in crisis, a powerful social movement rises.
- **Jyothi**, a matriarch in Andhra Pradesh, India who sings sweetly and battles fiercely along with her fellow villagers, fighting a proposed coal-fired power plant that will destroy a life-giving wetland. In the course of this struggle, they help ignite a nationwide movement.

The extraordinary detail and richness of the cinematography in *This Changes Everything* provides an epic canvas for this exploration of the greatest challenge of our time. Unlike many works about the climate crisis, this is not a film that tries to scare the audience into action: it aims to empower. Provocative, compelling, and accessible to even the most climate-fatigued viewers, *This Changes Everything* will leave you refreshed and inspired, reflecting on the ties between us, the kind of lives we really want, and why the climate crisis is at the centre of it all.

Will this film change everything? Absolutely not. But you could, by answering its call to action.

Director's Notes

By Avi Lewis

- How to make a climate film for people (like me) who at this point are weary of the whole genre?
- How to make a film based on a book that hasn't been written yet?
- How to make a film about humanity's existential crisis that nonetheless leaves the viewer with a credible sense of hope?

These were just a few of the tricky questions I had to answer when I started making *This Changes Everything*.

I found the answers in people, in the hundreds who shared their stories and lives with us during the course of shooting this film, over four years, in nine countries and five continents.

While my friends and family know that once I get going, it can be hard to shut me up, most of my professional life has been spent listening. And listening to the people in this film was what changed everything for me.

In the fierce dignity and moral clarity of communities fighting destructive fossil fuel projects, in the drama of their struggles, **I saw that a climate film doesn't have to be about polar bears.**

In the way the people I met connected the dots between the economic system and the havoc it is wreaking on their lives and the planet, **I heard Naomi's book come to life, even while she was still in the process of writing it.**

And in watching the emergence of a new climate movement - breaking out of silos, making new alliances, and building the next economy in the rubble of the old one - I found hope growing in the cracks of our broken system.

Making this film has been the most difficult and thrilling creative work of my life so far. My most passionate hope is that it can be useful, can help people burst out of isolation and avoidance and find a way to engage.

Because to change everything, we need everyone.

About the book

The feature documentary was inspired by award-winning author Naomi Klein's critically acclaimed worldwide bestselling non-fiction book *This Changes Everything*.

Published in 2014, it debuted at #5 on the New York Times list and at #1 in Canada. It was named to multiple Best of 2014 lists including the New York Times 100 Notable Books of 2014, and was shortlisted for the PEN Award for Non-Fiction. *This Changes Everything* is being translated into 25 languages and hit both the New York Times and Canadian bestseller lists in its first week of release in paperback in August 2015.

Winner of the Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Non-Fiction
Winner of an American Book Award
Shortlisted for PEN/John Kenneth Galbraith Award for Non-Fiction
Shortlisted for the LA Times Book Awards
Finalist for the Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for Political Writing
Longlisted for the National Business Book Award
Longlisted for the RBC Taylor Prize
A New York Times Notable 100 book
A Guardian Best Book of 2014
A Globe and Mail Best Book of 2014

"The most momentous and contentious environmental book since Silent Spring."
The New York Times Book Review

"[T]his may be the first truly honest book ever written about climate change."
Time

"Gripping and dramatic... [Klein] writes of a decisive battle for the fate of the earth in which we either take back control of the planet from the capitalists who are destroying it or watch it all burn."
Rolling Stone

"One of the most thorough, eloquent, and enlightening books yet on this urgent and overwhelming subject."
Booklist

"Naomi Klein... skillfully blends politics, economics and history and distills out simple and powerful truths with universal applicability."
Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

"Naomi Klein applies her fine, fierce, and meticulous mind to the greatest, most urgent questions of our times."
Arundhati Roy

Distribution Notes

This Changes Everything is being released during the election season in the U.S. and Canada, where the climate crisis and economic inequality are finally entering the political conversation in a head-on way. In Europe, this fall is focused on the run-up to the 2015 UN Climate Conference in Paris, and the widening distance between an increasingly remote international negotiating game around targets and a surging climate justice movement in the streets -- movements that are not waiting for saviours, and that are pushing governments and fossil fuel companies from below. At the same time in the rest of the world, from Africa to China and India and the rest of Asia, gleaming promises of economic growth are increasingly enveloped in clouds of smog.

As a film that showcases social movements, launching at this unique political moment, the makers of *This Changes Everything* confronted a distribution puzzle: how to make the film a useful organizing tool for people on the front lines of these battles, while also reaching the widest possible audience? This question goes to the very heart of how films can be part of social change.

Today's rapidly changing film distribution landscape is opening new opportunities, allowing us to pursue a hybrid model that includes traditional deals in the mainstream, while at the same time making the film available to a specific niche audience of educators, activists, and others who are connecting the dots between climate and economic issues. And "niche" doesn't mean a small audience -- just think of the hundreds of thousands on the streets around the People's Climate March in New York City last year. In addition to making the film available to these allies this fall, we've also developed extensive ancillary materials around the project which will be available at no cost through the *This Changes Everything* website.

We believe people are ready to connect the dots, and act -- and *This Changes Everything* can help them do it.

Character List

Naomi Klein

Author, This Changes Everything

Crystal Lameman

Beaver Lake Cree Nation

Alexis Bonogofsky

Rancher

Mike Scott

Rancher / Sierra Club

Vanessa Braided Hair

ecoCheyenne

Henry Red Cloud

Lakota Solar Enterprises

Mary Christianou

Halkidiki Citizens' Committee

Sunita Narain

Centre for Science and Environment

Aningi Jyothi

Sompeta Women's Committee

Chee Yoke Ling

Third World Network

Li Bo

Friends of Nature China

Lliam Hildebrand

*International Brotherhood of Boilermakers,
Local 191*

Nathan Myhrvold

Intellectual Ventures

David Collyer

Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers

Joseph Bast

Heartland Institute

The Team

Director / Producer

Avi Lewis

Avi Lewis is a filmmaker and TV host with a 25 year history of pushing the boundaries of mainstream media. He is the director of the feature documentary *This Changes Everything*, inspired by the bestselling book by Naomi Klein. His first documentary, *The Take* (2004), followed Argentina's legendary movement of worker-run businesses. It premiered at the Venice Biennale and was released theatrically around the world. He co-created and hosted both Al Jazeera English Television's acclaimed documentary series *Fault Lines*, and the groundbreaking *The Big Picture* on CBC Television.

Author, This Changes Everything

Naomi Klein

Naomi Klein is an award-winning journalist, syndicated columnist and author of the international bestsellers, *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs The Climate* (2014), *The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism* (2007) and *No Logo* (2000). Her books have been translated into over 30 languages. In 2004, Naomi Klein wrote *The Take*, a feature documentary about Argentina's occupied factories co-produced with director Avi Lewis. Naomi Klein is a columnist for The Nation magazine and the Guardian and a contributing editor at Harper's magazine. She is a Puffin Foundation Writing Fellow at The Nation Institute and sits on the board of directors for 350.org, the global grassroots movement to solve the climate crisis .

Editor

Nick Hector

Nick Hector is a DGC, CCE, HotDocs and multi-Gemini Award winning film editor. Nick has cut more than 20 feature and 100 TV documentaries. Some of his numerous credits include Allan King's Criterion Collection films *Dying at Grace and Memory*, Sturla Gunnarsson's TIFF People's Choice Documentary Award winner *Force of Nature*, David York's Wiebo's War and Yvan Patry's *Chronique d'un génocide*. *This Changes Everything* is his tenth film screened at TIFF.

Editor

Mary Lampson

Mary Lampson is an award-winning independent documentary filmmaker and editor. Lampson co-edited the Academy Award-winning documentary *Harlan County, USA* and acted as an editor on many other independently produced documentary features. She also produced and directed *Until She Talks*, a 40-minute dramatic film produced independently. Lampson has produced more than 25 short live-action films for *Sesame Street* and teaches filmmaking to children as an artist-in-residence in public schools. Mary has been both a fellow and advisor at the Sundance Institute's Documentary Editing and Story Lab and is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Director of Photography

Mark Ó Fearghail

As director and cinematographer, Mark has spent the last 15 years traveling to over 50 countries to shoot fiction and documentary for theatrical release. Credits include *The Take* by Avi Lewis and Naomi Klein (AFI Best Feature Documentary), Yung Chang's *Fruit Hunters*, *Big Sugar* (Prix Gemeaux for best documentary) – going undercover to shoot Haitian plantation workers under conditions of slavery, *Empz 4 Life* (Allan King's final film – nominated for Best Cinematography and the Donald Brittain Award – Gemini Awards of 2007), and *A Promise To The Dead* (winner of the Gemini award for Best Documentary, shortlisted for the 2008 Academy Award for Best Documentary).

Producers

Joslyn Barnes

Joslyn Barnes is a writer and producer. Among the award-winning films she has executive produced or produced since co-founding Louverture Films with actor Danny Glover are *Bamako*, *Trouble the Water*, *Black Power Mixtape 1967 - 1975*, *The House I Live In*, and *Concerning Violence*. She associate produced Elia Suleiman's *The Time That Remains*, and the 2010 Cannes Palme d'Or winner *Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives* by Apichatpong Weerasethakul. Most recently, she co-produced Weerasethakul's *Cemetery of Splendour*, and the forthcoming *Zama* by Lucrecia Martel. She is currently producing *This Changes Everything* for Avi Lewis and Naomi Klein, *Shadow World* for Johan Grimonprez, and *Aquarela* for Victor Kossakovsky.

Anadil Hossain

Anadil Hossain, founder of Dillywood Inc., is a New York based producer specializing in international co-productions and globally filmed projects. She has worked with many Oscar-nominated directors, cast, and crew, from the US and abroad. In addition to fiction and non-fiction content, she is committed to non-profit endeavors, and has also produced advertisements for top agencies and clients. She is a nexus in India-US entertainment industry collaborations, and consults for major studios, film commissions, and festivals. Anadil serves as co-chair of the Diversity Committee for the Producers Guild of America - East, and sits on the advisory board of SAMMA.

Co-producer / Archival Producer

Mridu Chandra

Mridu Chandra is a New York based producer of award-winning documentaries and independent feature films. Her films have premiered at the Sundance, SXSW & Hot Docs Film Festivals, aired on PBS & HBO, screened for members of US Congress & the United Nations, and showcased at Museums & film festivals worldwide. Documentary credits include producing *Out In The Night*, *The Canal Street Madam*, and *Let the Church Say Amen*, co-producing *Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin*, *A Good Job*, and serving as coordinating producer for the 2011 PBS series *Women, War & Peace*. She is an alum of the CPB/WGBH Producers Academy and the Tribeca Film Institute's All Access Program.

Co-producer

Driss Benyaklef

Driss Benyaklef is co-founder of Dillywood, a New York based film production company specializing in international co-productions, with experience working with award-winning filmmakers in over 30 countries. He most recently co-produced the documentaries *This Changes Everything* and *Shadow World*, and the Scott Free feature film *Equals*.

(Engagement Lead / Co-producer)

Katie McKenna

Katie McKenna is an award-winning documentary producer and impact strategist. She co-produced Avi Lewis and Naomi Klein's 2004 documentary *The Take*, and in 2005 directed *The Year Before* for Canada's National Film Board. Prior to joining *This Changes Everything* as Engagement Lead in 2011, she produced award-winning digital content for *Inside Disaster Haiti*, developed TV Ontario's online content for the international *Why Poverty?* project, and completed an MSc in Global Politics at the London School of Economics. She is a former Chair of the Documentary Organization of Canada and serves on multiple advisory boards for media and charitable projects.

Executive Producers

Alfonso Cuarón

Director, screenwriter, producer and editor Alfonso Cuarón is best known for his dramas *Y Tu Mamá También* (2001), *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* (2004) and the science fiction thrillers *Children of Men* and *Gravity*. Praised by both audiences and critics, his work has been nominated for six Oscars®, including Best Original Screenplay, Best Adapted Screenplay and Best Film editing. For *Gravity*, Cuarón won major accolades for direction, including the Golden Globe Award, the BAFTA Award, the DGA Award, a shared Academy Award for Best Film Editing, and the Best Director Academy Award. In 2007, he produced a documentary short based on Naomi Klein's *The Shock Doctrine* and looks forward to continuing the collaboration as an Executive Producer of *This Changes Everything*.

Danny Glover

In addition to being one of the most acclaimed actors of our time, with a career spanning 30 years from *Places in the Heart*, *The Color Purple*, the *Lethal Weapon* series and the award-winning *To Sleep with Anger*, Danny Glover has also executive produced numerous award-winning projects for film, television and theatre. The co-founder of Louverture Films, Glover is the recipient of countless awards for his humanitarian and advocacy efforts on behalf of economic and social justice causes, Glover is a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador and a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from Amnesty International.

Seth MacFarlane

Seth MacFarlane has created some of the most popular content on television and film while expanding his career in the worlds of music, literature, and philanthropy. He created the series *Family Guy* and *American Dad!* while recently executive producing the 21st century version of the Emmy-winning *Cosmos: A Space Time Odyssey*. MacFarlane made his film directorial debut in 2012 with the record-breaking comedy, *Ted*. He has since gone on to write, direct and produce *A Million Ways To Die In The West* and *Ted 2*. Additionally, MacFarlane's premiere and holiday albums have both debuted on iTunes charts at #1. He's performed with world-renowned orchestras and to sold-out shows. Up next, MacFarlane is executive producing Starz' new comedy, *Blunk Talk*.

Bertha Foundation

Bertha Foundation dreams of a more just world and supports forms of activism that aim to bring about change. The foundation champions those using media, law and enterprise as tools to achieve their vision. It envisions a society where stories come from many different voices, where law is used as a tool for justice and where business delivers positive social impact. The foundation works with a network of people whom it believes can change the world - activists working with storytellers and lawyers. While powerful on their own, the foundation also looks for opportunities for leaders to collaborate across portfolios.

Jodie Evans

Jodie Evans is co-founder of CODEPINK and has been a peace, environmental, women's rights and social justice activist for over forty years. She has traveled to war zones promoting and learning about peaceful resolution to conflict. She served in the administration of Governor Jerry Brown and ran his presidential campaign. She has published two books, *Stop the Next War Now* and *Twilight of Empire*, and executive produced several documentary films, including Oscar-nominees *The Most Dangerous Man in America* and *The Square*. Jodie is the board chair of 826LA and sits on the board of Rainforest Action Network, Drug Policy Alliance, Institute of Policy Studies and seven others.

Matthew Palevsky

Over the past decade, Matthew Palevsky has worked as a social and political activist, organizing large-scale civic engagement on issues ranging from climate change and political corruption to drug policy reform and workers' rights. He served as the Executive Director of Students for Sensible Drug Policy and co-founded unPAC with famed ethicist Lawrence Lessig, which brought together Americans from across the country and both sides of the aisle during the 2012 presidential election to combat the corrupting influence of money in politics. He recently partnered with Airbnb, Lyft, Purpose and others to launch Peers, a global platform for organizing workers and users within the sharing economy. He currently serves as Chairman of Ethical Electric, which delivers renewable energy to thousands of families in the United States.

Lekha Singh

Fine-art photographer Lekha Singh's work offers insight into the human condition around the world. She contributed photographs to National Geographic's *The Other Side of War: Women's Stories of Survival and Hope*, and her photography books include *Call to Love: In the Rose Garden with Rumi, Bhutan*, and *Pop-Up Pianos*. She also executively produced the documentary *The Square*, which won three Emmys and was nominated for an Academy Award. Singh made her directorial debut with the documentary film *Beyond Right & Wrong*.

Alysha Sidhu

Alysha helps dream up creative ways for teams to work together and play to their strengths. In her role as Strategic Director of Operations and Marketing at Beyond Right and Wrong, Alysha makes sure that all parts of promotion (distribution, outreach, marketing materials, etc.) are being taken care of by the right people in the right way. She has enjoyed her role as executive producer with *This Changes Everything*.

Shepard Fairey

Shepard Fairey was born in Charleston, S.C. He received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration at the Rhode Island School of Design in Providence, R.I. While at R.I.S.D. he created the "Andre the Giant has a Posse" sticker that transformed into the OBEY GIANT art campaign, with imagery that has changed the way people see art and the urban landscape. His work has evolved into an acclaimed body of art, which includes the 2008 "Hope" portrait of Barack Obama. Fairey created the first of his iconic works in 1989, making 2014 the 25 year mark of his career.

Full Credit list

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Domenic Barbero

Sound

Kelsey Wood

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Researcher

Martin Lukacs

AdvisorsTantoo Cardinal
Melina Laboucan-Massimo**Footage excerpts**From Peter Mettler's film
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CanadaNEW YORK, UNITED STATES
(Hurricane Sandy)**Field Producer**

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Sound

Jack Hutson

Researcher

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MONTANA, UNITED STATES

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SoundAlan Barker
Gautam Choudhury

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Sound

Qiao Xin

Assistant Camera

Shen Mi

Helicopter Camera Pilot

Zhou Tao

Helicopter Camera Assistant

Liu Yi Fan

Consultant

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Trailer MusicMalcolm Francis
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Sound Effects Editing

Geoff Raffan

**Re-Recording Mixer / Studio
Assistant**

Bret Killoran

Sound Conform

Jimmy Robb

Narration Recording

Christopher Guglick

Archiving audioOren Edensen
Jeremy Fong**Sound Recording and
Mixing Studios**Urban Audio Post / The Royal
Theatre / Theatre D Digital

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Editing and Mix**

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Jane Tattersall
Lou Solakofski
Matt Chan
Martin Gwynn Jones
Kathy Choi
Alexander Åslund

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Jamie Shields

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In Memory of

Bella Laboucán-McLean
Batthina Barikivadu
Jeeru Nageswarrao
Seerapu Errayya
Gonapa Krishna Murthy
Gunna Joga Rao

Songs**It Isn't Nice**

Performed by Barbara Dane
Lyrics by Malvina Reynolds,
Music by Malvina Reynolds and
Barbara Dane
Published by Schroder Music Co.
Used courtesy of Smithsonian
Folkways

Vengo

Performed by Ana Tijoux
Written by Ana Maria Tijoux
and Andres Celis. Published by
Canciones Nacionales
Used courtesy of Nacional
Records

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The Message Productions, LLC

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