

# ***AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH***

## About The Film

“What gets us into trouble is not what we don't know,  
it's what we know for sure that just ain't so.”

-- Mark Twain

Humanity is sitting on a time bomb. If the vast majority of the world's scientists are right, we have just ten years to avert a major catastrophe that could send our entire planet's climate system into a tail-spin of epic destruction involving extreme weather, floods, droughts, epidemics and killer heat waves beyond anything we have ever experienced- a catastrophe of our own making.

If that sounds like a recipe for serious gloom and doom -- think again. From director Davis Guggenheim comes the Sundance Film Festival hit, ***AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH***, which offers a passionate and inspirational look at one man's commitment to expose the myths and misconceptions that surround global warming and inspire actions to prevent it. That man is former Vice President Al Gore, who, in the wake of defeat in the 2000 election, re-set the course of his life to focus on an all-out effort to help save the planet from irrevocable change. In this eye-opening and poignant portrait of Gore and his “traveling global warming show,” Gore is funny, engaging, open and downright on fire about getting the surprisingly stirring truth about what he calls our “planetary emergency” out to ordinary citizens before it's too late.

With 2005, the worst storm season ever experienced in America just behind us, it seems we may be reaching a tipping point – and Gore pulls no punches in explaining the dire situation. Interspersed with the bracing facts and future predictions is the story of Gore's personal journey: from an idealistic college student who first saw a massive environmental crisis looming; to a young Senator facing a harrowing family tragedy that altered his perspective; to the man who *almost* became President but instead returned to the most impassioned cause of his life – convinced that there is still time to make a difference.

With wit, smarts and hope, *AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH* ultimately brings home Gore's persuasive argument that we can no longer afford to view global warming as a political issue – rather, it is the biggest moral challenge facing our global civilization.

Paramount Classics and Participant Productions present a film directed by Davis Guggenheim, *AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH*. Featuring Al Gore, the film is produced by Laurie David, Lawrence Bender and Scott Z. Burns. Jeff Skoll, Davis Guggenheim, Diane Weyermann, Ricky Strauss and Jeff Ivers are the executive producers and the co-producer is Lesley Chilcott.

## **RECRUITING AL GORE**

For years, he was introduced as the “next President of the United States” -- but in the wake of a personally devastating and controversial defeat in the 2000 election, Al Gore did something entirely unexpected. He hit the road, not in search of exile, but as a traveling showman.

His “show” is a non-partisan, multimedia presentation that reveals, via an original mix of humor, cartoons and convincing scientific evidence, the resonant effects that global warming is wreaking upon our planet. It is also an arresting, inspirational “call to arms,” pointing out the opportunity that stands before the nation to put American ingenuity and spirit to work in attacking this crisis. With little fanfare, Gore has presented his show more than 1,000 times in cramped school auditoriums and hotel conference rooms in cities large and small, hoping to propel audiences to make a difference in what might otherwise turn out to be the biggest catastrophe of human history.

Two people who became entranced by Gore’s show are leading environmental activist Laurie David and movie producer Lawrence Bender. David hosted two of Gore’s sold-out presentations in New York and Los Angeles, where it had a transforming effect on her. “I felt like Al Gore had become the Paul Revere of our times,” says David, “traveling around the country calling out this vital warning that we really can’t ignore.”

She also realized that Gore faced a daunting uphill battle in getting his message out into the zeitgeist. “Having researched this subject for some 40 years, nobody understands the issue better than Al Gore and nobody can explain it more clearly and compellingly to the lay person,” notes David. “But he would have to be on the road 365 days a year to reach even a fraction of the people who need to be reached, and there just isn’t time.”

“As soon as I saw Gore’s presentation, I knew it could make for the basis of an amazing film,” Lawrence Bender says. “We were all convinced that the moving truth of what Gore was demonstrating needed to be experienced on a much larger scale.”

Inspired to act, David and Bender approached a long-time industry friend, Scott Z. Burns, a writer, director and Clio Award-winning veteran of creative advertising. The team also approached Jeff Skoll of Participant Productions – the new company focused on creating exciting motion picture entertainment around core social issues, which in 2005 released such acclaimed and thought-provoking movies as “Good Night and Good Luck” and “Syriana.”

The entire quartet descended upon one of Gore’s shows and each felt equally compelled to kick the production into high gear.

Jeff Skoll says, "I thought I knew a fair amount about this subject, and it's something I've studied and read about for many years – but when I saw Al Gore's presentation, it really changed my mind. I had been looking at it as a long-term issue, a story that was going to be unfolding over the next 20 or 30 years, but what I learned is that it's so much more urgent than that. The facts, as you'll see in Gore's presentation, are that we have maybe five or ten years to address this in a significant way. And here you have Al giving these presentations to 100 people or so at a time, and I knew we had to do more. We had to get this out there as quickly as possible."

Like Gore, the producers saw the impending dangers of global warming as transcending partisan politics. Comments Scott Burns: "I was very moved by the realization that after having held a position of power that afforded him a 360 degree view of all the problems facing the world today, Al Gore had made the decision to commit himself to this one. It wasn't political. Science is, by definition, free of partisan manipulation. Standing there on the stage, Al was not asking for our vote—he was asking for our attention and our will to bring about change."

Adds Skoll: "Al presents the facts in a way that's compelling and unique – it's simultaneously entertaining and frightening. His goal is to clearly take this issue out of the realm of partisan politics by saying here are the facts about what's going on – and the only recourse is for all kinds of people from different backgrounds to get involved because no matter who you are or where you come from, it's going to affect all our lives."

The producers understood that what they were setting out to do would be no ordinary film production. "We were clear that what was at stake," says Laurie David, "was basically the planet itself. All that was left to do was to convince Mr. Gore"

So it was that this group of Hollywood producers found themselves pitching the former Vice President of the United States their movie idea – which Bender acknowledges unleashed a flurry of butterfly nerves. "I'm used to all kinds of pitch meetings but this was the man who might have been President," notes Bender. Luckily, Gore instantly set them at ease. "He was remarkably grounded and charming," Bender continues. "He immediately understood that while he had been getting his message out to thousands of people with his show, a movie could potentially get the message out to millions."

"This deepening global climate crisis requires us to act boldly, quickly, and wisely," says Gore, who saw AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH as one more step towards getting the world to pay attention to the urgent situation at hand.

The filmmakers recruited director Davis Guggenheim to bring to the film a fast-paced, intimate and entertaining cinematic style. A multi-faceted filmmaker, Guggenheim has directed extensively for television and most recently came to the fore as one of the executive producers of the widely acclaimed Western-themed HBO series "Deadwood," which is known for its complex, heavily shaded characters. With AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH, Guggenheim saw a chance to return to his documentary roots while still telling a story full of human depth and surprises.

“Laurie David burst into my office like a Category 5 Hurricane and said ‘I have a movie that might be the most important film you’ll ever make,’” Guggenheim recalls of his introduction to the project. “Still, I was unsure about the idea until we all went to see Gore give the presentation.”

Like his filmmaking partners, Guggenheim left the presentation so shaken and revved up that he could not stop envisioning a movie of what he had just seen and experienced. “I was blown away and I immediately wanted to get this story out to as many people as possible, as quickly as possible,” he says, echoing the sentiments of the producers.

The more he learned about the intensively researched science behind Gore’s ardent warnings about global warming, the more the story intrigued Guggenheim. “The thing you dream about as a filmmaker is finding a subject that hooks you in the gut and says ‘you have to make this movie,’” he explains, “and this movie had that for me. There was the feeling that if I never did anything else with my life except convey this story, that alone would be a pretty big thing.”

As production got under way, the filmmakers admit there were initial concerns about how audiences and the media would approach a movie about two subjects – Gore and global warming -- that have traditionally been fraught with controversy. But those fears were laid to rest as the film made its lauded premiere at the Sundance Film Festival to a highly enthusiastic reception, which included 3 standing ovations.

“The big question was always: will people come into this movie with preconceived notions?” comments Jeff Skoll “What is gratifying is that people from so many different walks of life have embraced this, including people you might think would be opposed to it. Conservatives, Liberals, Red State, Blue State – I think this story has a universal appeal.” Adds Lesley Chilcott, “The raging debate about global warming is over. The only debate left is how quickly we are going to react.”

### **GAINING GORE’S TRUST**

From the beginning, Davis Guggenheim knew the key to turning AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH into compelling entertainment was to gain Al Gore’s trust – to the point that he would be able to get under Gore’s skin. Having been impressed with Gore’s depths of conviction and charisma, Guggenheim hoped to probe beneath them to find his most intimate motivations for taking up the cause of global warming.

At first it was an intimidating proposition. Even after spending considerable time traveling with Gore, it still took Guggenheim weeks to stop formally calling him “Mr. Vice President” and replace it with the more casual “Al.” “You look at this guy and realize that he’s going to be in your grandkid’s history books and that can blow you away,” admits Guggenheim. “But the more time I

spent with him, the more I started to see him as deeply human. He became this funny, thoughtful, fascinating man who also happened to have the most extraordinary knowledge about global warming.”

As Guggenheim dug deeper, he began to find an underlying human story that drives the film from its core. “I began to see Al Gore as a remarkable character who in a traumatic time made a heroic choice to put everything else away and dedicate his life to an issue no one else was willing to talk about,” sums up the director. “I’m the kind of director who loves strong emotions and I felt that when you see Al Gore picking himself up after 2000 and trying to save the world, there was going to be something very powerful in that.”

Over time, Gore opened his life to Guggenheim, revealing the many surprising and sometimes heart-rending ways in which his personal life has intersected with his strong belief in the beauty, sanctity and emotional sustenance of the land. Guggenheim brings to the fore three key events in Gore’s life that helped to forge his steadfast commitment to the environment: the car accident that nearly took the life of his young son; the death of his sister from lung cancer, especially in light of the fact that his family traditionally farmed tobacco; and his historic defeat in the 2000 Presidential campaign race against George W. Bush.

“We had many very long sit-down interviews, some of which were quite emotional, heated and painful,” says Guggenheim of the process that led to these private revelations. “These moments become sort of the inner voice of the film – Al’s unspoken, emotional diary.”

Throughout the shoot, the filmmakers also faced the exhausting prospect of keeping up with Gore’s blistering pace and constant state of motion. Explains Lawrence Bender: “There probably isn’t a busier person on earth than Al Gore. He was constantly zig-zagging around the world, but he made the film a priority so we were always able to get what we needed. Much of the shooting was seat-of-your-pants kind of stuff. Whatever the circumstance, Davis just pulled out the camera and started shooting!”

One of those unforeseen circumstances came as the stark reality of global warming’s potential effects hit home right in the middle of filming AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH. Just as the production team was planning a trip to New Orleans, Hurricane Katrina blasted the Gulf Coast with its devastating force, leading to the worst natural disaster in U.S. history and the unprecedented near-destruction of New Orleans.

It was a heart-stopping moment for everyone in the country and for Davis Guggenheim it provided yet another flashing red light that Gore’s warning must be heeded. “We had plane tickets and crews standing by to go to New Orleans just as Katrina hit,” Guggenheim recalls. “The irony is that we were going there to speak with the insurance industry about the increasing damages due to global warming that threaten their business. Now, it had to be cancelled due to the biggest disaster in US History. That really brought home that this isn’t some abstract concept we’re talking about – it’s something that is happening all around us every single day.”

## **ABOUT THE GLOBAL WARMING PREDICAMENT**

At the heart of Al Gore's presentation on global warming and of AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH are some truly shocking images: photographs from Mt. Kilimanjaro and the Himalayan mountains revealing that the planet's biggest glaciers are melting with dramatic, life-altering speed. It's also happening closer to home: Gore demonstrates that in the United States the awe-inspiring Glacier National Park now has alarmingly few glaciers left at all.

The impact of the imagery is undeniable. Seen in such stark relief, the ongoing loss of these magical places is both heartbreaking and galvanizing. If we previously thought nature moved too slowly for us to see its changes or that the earth was too vast and its forces too powerful for humankind to make a serious dent in its health – we now know we were wrong. Gore makes clear that sweeping changes now engulf us, and the earth is being further altered minute by minute.

Gore goes on to present even more incontrovertible evidence. The ten hottest ten years on record have occurred in the last 14 years. The oceans in particular are rapidly rising in temperature, spawning more and more severe tropical storms and hurricanes, such as the disastrous Hurricane Katrina and the other deadly storms of this past season. Changing rainfall patterns are increasing the severity of floods and droughts and warmer temperature are responsible for outbreaks of disease worldwide. Meanwhile, temperature-related habitat loss is leading to the extinction of some of the world's most majestic wild animals. These include the spectacular Polar Bears who, for the first time in history, Gore reports, are drowning in the desperate search for shelf ice on which to hunt.

Yet amidst all the scientifically verified studies, Gore laments that all too many Americans and American leaders, still do not believe in global warming. He gives a particularly eye-opening statistic: while a recent survey (Science Magazine, Dec. 2004) of all peer-reviewed scientific studies on climate change showed that 928 peer-reviewed papers supported global warming and zero denied it, in a similar sampling of stories from the mass media, 53% suggest global warming is unproven. In other words, the message people are getting doesn't match the facts.

Gore believes our biggest problem is one of misconception – and the biggest misconception is that, if our planet is in massive trouble, nothing can be done about it. Not willing to go down without a strong, savvy, passionate fight, Gore points out that Americans have taken on all kinds of seemingly overwhelming problems – from abolishing slavery to landing a man on the moon to reversing the hole in the ozone layer – and believes that global warming should fall into that grand tradition of tackling the seemingly impossible with zeal.

He challenges the notion that business and the environment must always be at war with one another. Ultimately, he envisions a "Century of Renewal" ahead of us in such areas as

energy conservation, carbon capture technology, transportation, alternative energy sources and engineering for efficiency that will change the tide of destruction and restore the planet's health.

But that will only happen if the American people come together and get behind the issue, making a difference in their own lives, and putting pressure on politicians to do much more. It's something Al Gore believes is already happening. He sees a mass movement starting to build strength among citizens from all states and political parties – and both Gore and the filmmakers hope that AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH will be a catalytic experience, giving that movement inspiration and momentum.

Sums up Scott Burns: "There isn't time for Al Gore to go to every city on earth and bend everyone's ear. The power of this movie is that it can spread the word at a moment in history where time is absolutely critical."

### **Q&A WITH AL GORE**

**Q: You have been interested in and alarmed by the issue of global warming for some time – what has your involvement been and what made you decide to turn your concern into a traveling show?**

GORE: I began studying the issue in the late 1960's because of the alarm sounded by one of my college professors, Roger Revelle. I helped to organize the first Congressional hearings on the issue in the late 1970's after my election to the U.S. House Of Representatives. I began discussions with leaders in other countries in the 1980's and organized an international network of Legislators throughout the world to address the issue. As a U.S. Senator, and later as Vice President, I participated in numerous negotiations on the issue, including the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and the Kyoto Protocol negotiations in 1997.

As each new batch of scientific studies confirmed and deepened the reasons for my concern, I began to understand this task of communicating the urgency of the crisis as a kind of mission. But I'm not done yet. And I'm learning everyday how to communicate more effectively on this issue.

**Q: Can you talk about your son's accident and how that personal event affected this particular mission?**

GORE: The possibility of losing a child was a searingly painful experience that taught me many lessons. For example, I never understood until then that one of the secrets of the human condition is that suffering binds people together. I learned that when others who had experienced the pain I was feeling reached out to me and connected, soul to soul, in a way that was transformational and healing. Afterwards, I understood in an entirely new way the possibility that we could lose this precious Earth (or at least its welcoming habitability for humans as we have known it for thousands of years) in a way I don't think I could have ever have grasped emotionally or spiritually before.

**Q: Why is Participant the appropriate company to produce this documentary? Will you be participating in the social action campaign that they design for every movie?**

GORE: Jeff Skoll came to my slide presentation and when we met and talked about the possibility of a movie, I was very impressed with his savvy and his passion. His company is unique and I admire what he is doing. And yes, I will be deeply involved in the social action campaign. [www.climatecrisis.net](http://www.climatecrisis.net)

**Q: In the film, you say we shouldn't go from "denial to despair." Can you explain what you mean by that?**

GORE: Our civilization is still in a state of "category five denial" over this issue. But the denial is beginning to give way. As it yields to widespread recognition that we face an imminent planetary emergency, we must guard against the illusion that the crisis is too big to solve. We have the solutions available. The only thing missing is political will- but that is a renewable resource.

**Q: in the film you talk about 'an inconvenient truth' - and that has become the title of the film. Can you talk about what that phrase means exactly?**

GORE: Some truths are hard to hear, because if you really hear them - and understand that they are in fact true - then you have to change. And change can be quite inconvenient.

**Q: There seems to be a real sense of urgency now about this topic but, at the same time, we've squandered so much time by not addressing it head on. One would think that you might find that depressing and yet you soldier on and seem to be so positive. Can you comment on your optimism?**

GORE: It feels sometimes like the "Perils of Pauline", but there is every reason for optimism if the person reading this sentence will make a commitment to help face the crisis head-on. We no longer have much time left to change- but we do have time.

# **GLOBAL WARMING FACT SHEET**

## **WHAT IS GLOBAL WARMING, ANYWAY?**

- Global warming is caused by the release of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases into earth's atmosphere. The gases act like a thick blanket, trapping the sun's heat and causing the planet to warm up. Increase the gases and the warming increases, too. These gases are created when we burn fossil fuels in our cars and power plants as well as by loss of forests and agriculture.
- Scientists find clues to global warming by studying remnants of the past in ancient glacial ice, ocean sediments as well as tree and coral rings.
- Global warming is problematic to human civilization because it will cause increasingly severe storms and droughts, glaciers to melt, rising seas, changes in weather patterns, the spread of disease.
- Automobiles and coal-burning power plants are the two biggest sources of carbon dioxide in the U.S. Clearing of forests is also an important source worldwide.
- Scientists say that unless we curb global warming emissions, average temperatures could rise by 3 to 9 degrees by the end of the century.

## **SURPRISING SCIENTIFIC STATS ON GLOBAL WARMING**

- Recent data from Antarctic ice cores indicates that carbon dioxide concentrations are now higher than at any time during the past 650,000 years, which is as far back as measurements can now reach.
- 2005 was the warmest year on record since atmospheric temperatures have been measured. The ten warmest years on record have all been since 1990. In summer 2005, heat records were broken in hundreds of U.S. cities.
- Over the past 50 years, the average global temperature has increased at the fastest rate in recorded history.
- In 2003, heat waves caused over 30,000 deaths in Europe and 1500 deaths in India.
- Since 1978, arctic sea ice has been shrinking by about 9 percent per decade.
- Seagulls were spotted for the first time at the North Pole in 2000.
- The snows of Mt. Kilimanjaro, at their current rate of melt, may be gone by 2020.

## **PREDICTED EFFECTS AS TEMPERATURES RISE**

- Global warming is predicted to increase the intensity of hurricanes. In the past several decades, the number of Category 4 and 5 hurricanes globally has almost doubled. Because the ocean is getting warmer, tropical storms can pick up more energy and become far more powerful.
- Even as severe storms cause flooding in some areas, droughts and wildfires will increase in others.
- Low-lying islands will no longer be habitable due to rising sea level.
- Forests, farms and cities will face troublesome new pests and more mosquito-borne diseases.
- Disruption of habitats such as coral reefs and alpine meadows could drive many plant and animal species to extinction.

## **WHAT CAN BE DONE?**

- Energy efficiency, conservation, renewable sources of energy and new policies will all be part of the solution. Much of this technology already exists to reverse the effects of global warming. Immediate steps include building cleaner cars, manufacturing more efficient appliances and conserving energy on an international basis.
- Individuals can make an immediate difference by trying to reduce their personal greenhouse gas emissions.
- Major corporations are already finding ways to cut emissions while still saving money – but there is tremendous opportunity for more innovation.
- Developing and making available new clean energy technologies -- such as wind power, solar power, hybrid electric engines, and alternative fuels – will be key to controlling global warming.

## **TO FIND OUT MORE OR TO TAKE ACTION:**

- **Go to [www.climatecrisis.net](http://www.climatecrisis.net)**

## **ABOUT AL GORE**

Former Vice President Al Gore is Chairman of Generation Investment Management, a London-based firm that is focused on a new approach to Sustainable investing. He also serves as Chairman of Current TV, an independently owned cable and satellite television non-fiction network for young people based on viewer-created content and citizen journalism. Al Gore is a member of the Board of Directors of Apple Computer, Inc. and a Senior Advisor to Google, Inc. Al Gore is a Visiting Professor at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Al Gore was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1976 and served four terms. He was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1984 and 1990, and was inaugurated as the 45th Vice President of the United States on January 20, 1993. During the Administration, Al Gore was a central member of President Clinton's economic team. He served as President of the Senate, a Cabinet member, a member of the National Security Council, and as the leader of a wide range of Administration initiatives.

Al Gore led the Clinton-Gore Administration's efforts to protect the global environment and authored a best selling book on the topic, *Earth in the Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit* (1992).

Al Gore and his wife, Tipper, reside in Nashville, Tennessee.

## **ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS**

### **Davis Guggenheim** (Director/ Executive Producer)

Davis Guggenheim was an Executive Producer on "Training Day" and has directed a feature film called "Gossip," both for Warner Bros. His television directing credits include pilots that were ordered to series for CBS and TNT, as well as episodes of "Numbers," "The Shield," "Alias," "24," and such critically acclaimed programs as "NYPD Blue," "ER," and "Party of Five." He was Producer and Director of the Emmy Award winning HBO series "Deadwood."

In 1999, Guggenheim undertook an ambitious project documenting the challenging first year of several novice public school teachers. The result of this intensive immersion into Los Angeles' public school system is two documentary films: "The First Year" and "Teach". Both films were made to address the tremendous need for qualified teachers in California and nationwide, to create awareness of the crisis as well as inspire the next generation to become teachers.

"The First Year" premiered on PBS in 2002 and was selected among eleven thousand candidates to receive a Peabody Award, the most prestigious award given in the field of broadcast television. In addition, it received the Grand Jury Prize at the Full Frame Film Festival, the premiere documentary film festival in the United States. Guggenheim's other documentary films include "Norton Simon: A Man and His Art," produced for permanent exhibition at the Norton Simon Museum, and "JFK and the Imprisoned Child," produced for permanent exhibition at the John F. Kennedy Library.

A graduate of Brown University, Guggenheim moved to Los Angeles to pursue filmmaking. He joined the independent Outlaw Productions, working closely with filmmakers there, including director Steven Soderbergh on the groundbreaking 1989 film "Sex Lies and Videotape," and co-producing other feature films with Outlaw.

### **Laurie David** (Producer)

Laurie David is devoted to stopping global warming. She has recently launched the Stop Global Warming Virtual March with Senator John McCain and Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. that is engaging religious leaders, labor unions, business leaders, elected officials from all sides of the aisle, and every day Americans to urge the United States to address the ticking time bomb that is global warming. <<http://www.stopglobalwarming.org/>.

In addition to the Stop Global Warming Virtual March, David is producing several other projects that will help to bring the issue of global warming into mainstream popular culture -- including executive producing the comedy special, *Earth to America!* for TBS, the first cause oriented primetime special in a decade, which aired November 20, 2005, and a HBO feature documentary called *Too Hot Not to Handle* on the effects of global warming in the United States,

airing on Earth Day, April 22, 2006. She has also appeared this year on Oprah, the Fox News special *The Heat is On*, *Good Morning America*, *Nightline*.

As a trustee of the Natural Resources Defense Council and a founding member of the Detroit Project, David has spear-headed numerous public education and action campaigns urging Congress and auto-makers to raise fuel efficiency standards. She has been outspoken promoter of hybrid vehicles since they were first available in the marketplace. With the Detroit Project she produced several television commercials that helped ignite a national debate about gas guzzling SUVs and how driving these impacts our national security and makes us more dependant on oil. Two years have gone by since those commercials aired and SUV sales have steadily declined as the popularity of hybrid vehicles continues to explode.

In 2003, David was honored by Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s Riverkeeper organization. When presenting her with the award, Kennedy referred to Ms. David as his "environmental hero." That same year, she was also honored by Los Angeles' Children's Nature Institute for her commitment to the environmental education of young children. *Rolling Stone* also listed her as one of the top twenty five leaders fighting global warming. NRDC just awarded her their prestigious Forces for Nature Award for 2006.

In January of 2004, NRDC opened the David Family Environmental Action Center. Endowed by the David family, the Center encompasses much of David's passion and dedication for the environment and activism to protect it. It features museum-quality exhibits on issues such as global warming, ocean pollution, everyday toxins, and green building solutions.

Before working full time on environmental and political issues, David had a distinguished career in entertainment spanning two coasts. She began her career in New York City as a talent coordinator for the David Letterman show. Four years later she left to start her own management company, representing many of today's top comedians as well as comedy writers. She also produced several comedy specials for HBO, Showtime, MTV, and Fox Television. Upon moving to Los Angeles, Ms. David became vice president of comedy development for a division of Fox Broadcasting and developed sitcoms for Twentieth Century Television.

Married to comedian Larry David, they live in Los Angeles with their two daughters.

#### **Lawrence Bender (Producer)**

Lawrence Bender has been working as a film producer for fifteen years. His films have been honored with nineteen Oscar® nominations including two for Best Picture. Among the many movies he has produced is "Good Will Hunting" (1997), which won Oscars® for Best Screenplay and Best Supporting Actor, and "Pulp Fiction" which won the Oscar® for Best Screenplay.

The films Bender has produced include "Killing Zoe" (1994), "Four Rooms" (1995), "From Dusk Till Dawn" (1996), "Anna and the King" (1999), "The Mexican" (2001), and all of the movies written and directed by Quentin Tarantino: "Reservoir Dogs" (1992), "Pulp Fiction" (1994), "Jackie Brown" (1997), "Kill Bill: Vol. 1" (2003), and "Kill Bill: Vol. 2" (2004).

In 2000, Bender started his television partnership with Kevin Brown, where they have developed and produced pilots for all of the major networks and cable channels, along with longform movies for television. In addition to his work in television and film, Bender has had success producing commercials and music videos with the production company A Band Apart. A Band Apart has filmed hundreds of commercials and music videos garnering many awards.

Bender has parlayed his vast experience in the film industry into the world of political and social activism. He founded the Detroit Project with Arianna Huffington and Laurie David which connected the dots between our energy consumption and national security. He also travelled to the Middle East where he met with international leaders, including members of the Israeli Knesset, in Egypt with President Mubarak, and in the West Bank in Ramallah with Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas. He is on the board of the Creative Coalition and Rock the Vote; he is a member of the executive forum of the NRDC and the Pacific Council, and is also on the advisory board to the Dean at Harvard JFK School of Government.

#### **Scott Z. Burns** (Producer)

Scott Z. Burns studied English Literature at the University of Minnesota where he received a nomination for the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship. He went on to work in advertising as a writer, creative director and commercial director. Burns was part of the creative team responsible for the famous "Got Milk?" campaign-- as well as campaigns for Major League Baseball, MTV and various environmental groups. Along with Arianna Huffington, Laurie David and Lawrence Bender, Scott Burns founded and created the advertising for The Detroit Project. His work in advertising has been recognized by the Clio Awards, the Cannes Film Festival and the New York Film Festival.

In 1999, Burns joined the writing staff of the ABC series "Wonderland," produced by Imagine Entertainment and named by *Time Magazine* as one of the year's Ten Best New Shows. He has penned numerous screenplays including Section Eight's "The Informant," an adaptation of Kurt Eichenwald's novel, with Steven Soderbergh attached to direct and Matt Damon to star. He also wrote "Read My Lips" for Paramount and Columbia Pictures' "Big If," an adaptation of Mark Costello's novel, with Peter Saraf and Edward Saxon producing.

Burns recently directed his first feature, "PU-239," for HBO, Beacon Pictures and Section Eight. Scott also wrote the script, which is based on a short story by Ken Kalfus.

#### **Jeff Skoll** (Executive Producer)

Jeff Skoll founded Participant Productions in January 2004 and serves as Chairman and CEO. He most recently served as executive producer on the films "Good Night, and Good Luck," "North Country" and "Syriana."

Skoll has been a leader in technology and philanthropy for many years. In 1996, Skoll joined eBay as its first President and first full-time employee, and developed the business plan that the

company still follows. In the months before eBay went public in 1998, Skoll led the company's effort to give back to the community, creating the eBay Foundation through an allocation of pre-IPO shares, an innovation that inspired a wave of similar commitments nationwide.

But Skoll didn't stop there. In 1999, he launched his own philanthropic organization, the Skoll Foundation for which he serves as chief visionary and chairman. He created the foundation in alignment with his core belief that it is in everyone's interest to shift the overwhelming imbalance between the "haves" and "have-nots." The foundation takes up this challenge by focusing on social entrepreneurs - people who couple innovative ideas with extraordinary determination, tackling the world's toughest problems to make things better for us all.

Skoll also serves on the Board of Directors for the eBay Foundation, the Community Foundation Silicon Valley, and is a member of the Advisory Board of the Stanford Graduate School of Business, among others. He holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Toronto, and an M.B.A. from the Stanford Graduate School of Business.

In April 2005, Jeff launched the Gandhi Project in partnership with Silicon Valley entrepreneur Kamran Elahian. Working with Palestinian voice actors and artists, an award-winning director dubbed the epic film "Gandhi" into Arabic. It is being screened throughout Palestine in order to advance civil society goals of peaceful resistance, self-reliance, economic development and local empowerment, and plans are under way to expand screenings throughout the Arab world.

### **Ricky Strauss** (Executive Producer)

Ricky Strauss joined Participant Productions, as President, in March 2005. He oversaw the company's first slate of releases in 2006 – "Good night, and Good Luck"; "Murderball"; "North Country"; "Syriana" - to box-office success, and a total of 11 Oscar nominations.

Ricky is a seventeen-year veteran of the motion picture industry with an outstanding track record in feature film production and marketing. Most recently, he ran his own film and television production company, Ricochet Entertainment, where he executive produced "The Sweetest Thing" starring Cameron Diaz, among other projects. In addition to his work as an independent producer at Ricochet, he has also served as a marketing consultant for Sony Pictures Entertainment where he was responsible for creating ad campaigns for "Maid in Manhattan" starring Jennifer Lopez and "Mona Lisa Smile" with Julia Roberts.

Prior to starting Ricochet Entertainment, Ricky was a senior production executive at Sony and from 1988 - 1997 he was an award-winning advertising executive at Columbia and TriStar Pictures.

Ricky serves on the Board of Directors for The Trevor Project which operates the nation's only suicide prevention hot line for troubled gay youth. He's also a filmmaker mentor for Project:Involve, a fellowship program sponsored by Film Independent, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping independent filmmakers.

**Diane Weyermann** (Executive Producer)

Diane Weyermann serves as Executive Vice President, Documentary Production at Participant Productions, where she has been responsible for the releases of “An Inconvenient Truth” and “The World According to Sesame Street”; and the management of the company's documentary development slate.

Prior to joining Participant in October 2005, Diane was the Director of the Sundance Institute's Documentary Film Program. During her 4 ½ year tenure at Sundance, Diane directed the Sundance Documentary Fund, a program supporting documentary films dealing with contemporary human rights, social justice, civil liberties, and freedom of expression from around the world. She launched two annual documentary film labs, focusing on the creative process - one dealing with editing and storytelling, and the other with film music in documentary work. Diane was also part of the Sundance Film Festival programming team, where she was instrumental in creating a platform for international documentary work, and responsible for programming the documentary content of the Filmmaker Lodge activities.

Prior to her work at Sundance, Diane was the Director of the Open Society Institute New York's Arts and Culture Program for 7 years. In addition to her work with contemporary art centers and culture programs in the Soros Foundation network, which spans over 30 countries, she launched the Soros Documentary Fund (which later became the Sundance Documentary Fund) in 1996. Since the inception of the Fund, Diane has been involved with the production of over 300 documentary films, including such projects as the 2005 Oscar winning “Born Into Brothels”, and award winning films such as “Promises”, “Lost Boys of Sudan”, “Children Underground”, and “Long Night's Journey into Day”.

**Jeff Ivers** (Executive Producer)

Jeff Ivers is Executive Vice President – Business Affairs and CFO. He joined Participant Productions in 2004.

After an eight-year stint in Arthur Andersen & Co's New York office, Jeff Ivers joined MGM in 1982 as Corporate Controller of its NY-based Home Entertainment Group, a NYSE-listed subsidiary of MGM, where he was responsible for SEC and corporate reporting for the studio's home video and pay television operations. He moved to MGM Home Video as VP- Operations and eventually to Senior V.P. – Finance and Administration for MGM/UA Telecommunications (world-wide video and TV distribution).

In 1989, he co-founded Triton Pictures, an award-winning theatrical distributor of foreign-language, art-house and documentary fare including “The Hairdresser's Husband”, “A Brief History of Time”, “Toto le Heros” and “Hearts of Darkness”.

In 1994, Ivers joined Motion Picture Corporation of America ("MPCA"). As Chief Financial Officer and, later, Chief Operating Officer. He was directly involved in the financing and production of over 40 motion pictures during the period 1994-2000 ("Dumb and Dumber", "Beverly Hills Ninja", "Threesome", "Eight Heads in a Duffel Bag", "Gang Related", "If Lucy Fell") and served as a producer on 15 MPCA films. He played a central role in the sale of MPCA to Metromedia's Orion Pictures in 1996. He was Executive Vice President- Motion Picture Finance and Distribution for Orion until Orion's sale to MGM in 1997, rejoining the reconstituted MPCA as COO through 2001.

He has served as a consultant for the Public Broadcasting Service, United Artists, LIVE Entertainment, Catch23 Entertainment, Salem Partners and Lone Star Film Group. He has been directly involved in the production or distribution of over eighty feature films and has received Executive Producer credits on more than twenty.

**Lesley Chilcott (Co- Producer)**

Lesley started her career at MTV Networks working on large multi-camera shows such as the Video Music Awards, Half-Hour Comedy Hour, MTV 10, various music specials, and was part of the creation of the first MTV Movie Awards. She left MTV with it's then Vice President of Production to launch Tenth Planet Productions. After Tenth Planet Lesley moved on to producing music videos and commercials.

As a seasoned commercial producer of eleven years, Lesley has produced hundreds of commercials for such distinguished directors as the Brothers Strause, Big TV, Scott Burns, Kevin Donovan, Chris Hooper, Joe Public, Erich Joiner, Bob Kerstetter, Marc Klasfeld, Jim Manera, Bennett Miller, David Nelson, Hank Perlman, Joe Pytko, Brett Rattner, Matthew Rolston, Tom Routson, Baker Smith, Stacy Wall, and Marty Weiss. Lesley also freelance produces for several ad agencies.

Lesley is part of the Detroit Project, an action campaign that promotes hybrid and fuel-efficient vehicles. She has produced several commercials for the Detroit Project that have helped illustrate the irony of how driving gas guzzling SUVs makes us even more dependant on oil.