

THE MEDIA EDUCATION FOUNDATION PRESENTS

Blind Spot

Peak Oil & the Coming Global Crisis

“Doubtless Peak Oil will come, the timing is a matter of debate. However we may be better off if it is not too long delayed, because it will accelerate what must be done to prevent environmental catastrophe.”

– Noam Chomsky

Running Time: 54 minutes

For further information about this film or to arrange interviews or speaking engagements, please contact:

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PRAISE FOR BLIND SPOT

"If we lived in a rational world, inhabited by rational human beings, viewing *Blind Spot* would be a mandatory prerequisite to taking any federal oath of office in the coming year. Were that to happen, there might be hope that the USA would resume world leadership and our renewed influence would be used to redirect ourselves and the world away from the unsustainable path upon which we plummeted along throughout the 20th century, mistakenly regarding the adventure as unmitigated progress."

- William R. Catton | Author of *OVERSHOOT*

"*Blind Spot* rides currents of beauty and sadness, ultimately landing with a catharsis that comes when truth has been told."

- Jason Bradford | Founder of 'Willits Economic Localization'

"Beautiful, crucial, straightforward, brilliantly woven images, words and music."

- John Stauber | Author of *Toxic Sludge Is Good For You*

"The world is saying look you have a choice, you can either fix it or I can fix it, and if I fix it you are not going to like it because I'm going to throw everything away. And everything means most of us."

- Derrick Jensen | Author of 'ENDGAME'

"The next few decades aren't going to look like the last few - not at all. And the sooner we come to terms with that, the better. This documentary is a good place to start."

- Bill McKibben | Author of *The End of Nature*

A fascinating documentary, it draws on some of the most impressive scientific minds to warn us about the dangers of our dependence on oil and educate us about our role in saving the earth and the lives of our children. I was transfixed by it.

- Howard Zinn | Author of *You Can't be Neutral on a Moving Train*

PRESS REVIEWS FOR BLIND SPOT

"*Blind Spot*, an intellectually dense, but utterly gorgeous, look at mankind's dangerous obsession with fossil fuel, blames the whole world for its wastefulness. Although at times overbearingly verbose, Adolfo Doring's astute, thoughtful portrait has enough sweeping visuals to offset the barrage of scientific talking heads. In other words, it makes *An Inconvenient Truth* look like a sitcom."

- *Indiewire* | October 2008

"There's a lot of environmental films out there that while not painting a rosy picture still want us to feel a sense of 'hey things will still be ok'. Not so with *Blind Spot*. Director Adolfo Doring has, along with many of the scientists, economists and other experts, wisely decided that the time for coddling us is past, perhaps even too long past. This absolutely beautifully shot ode to the end of our world as we have known it doesn't even bother to try and convince us. Either you see the visual beauty of this world, city and country, and want to save it or you don't. Either you hear and heed the wisdom of the cadre of experts he presents or you don't. There is no panic in this film – just an absolute and stark reality that we either choose to face or not."

- *Albany Times Union* | October 2008

FILM SYNOPSIS

In this haunting portrait of America's oil-fueled excesses, director Adolfo Doring explores the inextricable link between the energy we use, the way we run our economy, and the multiplying threats that now confront the environmental health and stability of our planet. Taking as its starting point the inevitable energy depletion scenario known as "Peak Oil," the film surveys a fascinating range of the latest intellectual, political, and scientific thought to make the case that by whatever measure of greed, wishful thinking, neglect, or ignorance, we now find ourselves at a disturbing crossroads: we can continue to burn fossil fuels and witness the collapse of our ecology, or we can choose not to and witness the collapse of our economy. Refusing to whitewash this reality, *Blind Spot* issues a call to action, urging us to face up to the perilous situation we now find ourselves in so that we might begin to envision a realistic, if inconvenient, way out. Certain to inspire debate in classrooms across a range of disciplines, especially in economics, environmental studies, the natural sciences, and political science.

CREDITS

A Film by Adolfo Doring and Amanda Zackem
Distributed by the Media Education Foundation

Director | Adolfo Doring
Producer | Amanda Zackem
Executive Producer | Randall Wallace
Executive Producer | David Gil
Original Score | Randall Wallace
Cinematography | Adolfo Doring
Editing | Adolfo Doring
Sound Mixer | Evan Benjamin
2008
54 minutes

The non-profit Media Education Foundation produces and distributes documentary films and other educational resources to inspire critical reflection on the social, political, and cultural impact of American mass media.

www.mediaed.org

NOTABLE QUOTES FROM BLIND SPOT

LESTER BROWN: “I think the world of declining oil production will be so different from the one of rising oil production and oil use that we’ll hardly recognize it. It’s going to change almost everything we do, almost every facet of our lives and almost every sector of the economy.”

BILL MCKIBBEN: “One of the ways that you can tell, one of the sectors where you can see most easily how fossil fuel has transformed our way of life in this country is when you consider that a century ago half of Americans were farmers. Now that number is under 1%.”

TED CAPLOW, PH.D: “If oil prices were to dramatically rise, say they were to double over night, you would see broad impacts rippling through the agricultural sector, because the agricultural sector depends on energy. Farmers would be paying more for tractor fuel, truckers would be paying more for truck fuel, and the price in the super market would have to go up so those industries could survive. So an energy crisis becomes a food crisis.”

RICHARD HEINBERG: “The U.S. used to be the world’s foremost oil-producing nation back in the early part of the 20th century. U.S. reached its peak of production in 1970, it’s been declining ever since. The same is going to happen to the world as a whole, no one disagrees about that. There is some controversy as to exactly when that’s going to happen. But everyone agrees it will happen, and when it does, it will change virtually everything about how we live in the modern world, because without energy nothing happens.”

WILLIAM R. CATTON, PH.D: “Obviously when I get into the car and I start up the engine and I step on the gas and I go someplace, I don’t most of the time think about all of the effort of all of those people out there drilling oil wells and pumping oil out of the ground and shipping it to a refinery and producing gasoline, I just think of where I’m going, and the pleasure I’m going to have, or the purchase I’m going to make, or whatever. So preoccupation with the routines of life is of course a major obstacle to people thinking the things that it’s becoming increasingly important that people do think about it.”

JASON BRADFORD, PH.D: “We are able to now organize the resources of our planet to support more and more people, and more and more consumptive lifestyles, to a point where its gone on for so long, and we’ve met so many challenges that in an essence we developed a culture that reinforces the idea that there are no real consequences to our actions, because even if there’s a short-term problem we’ll have the ingenuity and the ability to solve it.”

MAX FRAAD WOLFF: “More or less one out of little over three dollars privately spent on consumption in the whole world is being spent here in the United Sates. That’s kind of staggering. Our job in the world is to buy everything. So we have 4 ½% of the world’s population and we do a little more than 30% of the world’s private consumption. And the global economy relies on the United States as the consumption point. So more or less when we ran out of our own money they were happy, and in fact, had to lend us our own money back to keep buying, because there’s no other place for the world to produce, export to, and to have to all that consumption. We are that place.”

JAMES HANSEN, PH.D: “So the question is, *do we want to preserve a planet that resembles the one that we inherited from our ancestors?* And if we do want to preserve that planet, then there are going to have to be some changes made in the way that we use energy, the rate that we use energy, and the fuels that we use for it.”

TERRY TAMMINEN: “Many people ask me, you know, ‘we’re a smart country, how could we be this dumb? How could we allow this to go on? Its one thing to have it happen, we all learn, but since the 1950s or 60s we’ve understood about the harms of oil and the harms of tailpipe emissions, how could we continue to allow this to happen?’ And I have a two word answer: it’s politics and lies.”

DERRICK JENSEN: “Zygmunt Bauman says that ‘rational people go quietly, meekly into a gas chamber if only you allow them to believe it’s a bathroom.’ And I’ll say that rational people will go quietly, meekly to the end of the world if only you allow them to believe that buying energy-saving bulbs is gonna save the day.”

FILMMAKER’S BIOGRAPHY

Adolfo Doring's start in film came at an early age in Mexico City. When he was twelve, his father bought a Super 8 splicer so they could make longer reels of the family movies, but Adolfo had other ideas for the editing machine. From the start, he realized that the power to cut and paste had applications beyond making longer reels. Film became his medium and he used it through out high school to turn in projects instead of term papers, one of which included a music video for 'Misunderstanding' by Genesis.

After two years of Law School, Adolfo came to New York City in the mid-eighties to study Sociology at Columbia University. Understanding people was his main interest; the camera was the medium for him to share his experiences and observations with other people.

After Columbia, Adolfo interned for rock and roll photographer Joel Brodsky. He was fascinated by Joel's work and his ability to capture each individual band, shaping the photo to fit that particular moment in their musical journey. On his downtime, Adolfo made short films and partnered up with friend Josh Taft who relocated them to Seattle. His interest in music videos had been growing and his arrival on the West Coast at the beginning of the Seattle musical explosion launched him in that direction.

On the West Coast, Adolfo was Director of Photography for Josh Taft's music videos for Pearl Jam, Alice in Chains, Screaming Trees, Stone Temple Pilots, while also flying to the East Coast to work with Brett Ratner in the hip hop world (Public Enemy, LL Cool J, and Redman).

Atlantic Records gave him his first directing job for heavy metal group Testament, and videos kept rolling in after that. He traveled from the U.S. to London shooting videos for Sting, Savage Garden, Bon Jovi, Hootie and the Blowfish, Gin Blossoms, Del Amitri and Gerald and Eddie Levert amongst others. While he still DP'd for directors like Mark Pellington, Hype Williams, Wayne Isham and Nick Quested, he also made his move into commercials for clients like Coca Cola, Jordache and United Way. Adolfo won an MTV award for the Hootie and the Blowfish single, "Hold My Hand", while his other video for them, "Let Her Cry", was the most played video that year. His video for The Dixie Chicks "When You Where Mine" was nominated by the MVPA for Best Country Video.