



The future's story is yet to be told. We can change it.

THE ENDANGERED GENERATION?



THE ENDANGERED GENERATION? A SWEETSHOP & GREEN PRODUCTION IN COLLABORATION WITH MONASH UNIVERSITY

IN ASSOCIATION WITH SCREEN AUSTRALIA VICSCREEN MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL PREMIERE FUND PROJECTOR FILMS & VMly&R

CINEMATOGRAPHY BY JULIAN MANRIQUE AARON SMITH MICHAEL LATHAM & BELLA PANGGABEAN MUSIC COMPOSITION BY THOMAS E. ROUCH

EDITED BY SAMUEL GALLOWAY STEVEN ROBINSON & BERNADETTE MURRAY SOUND DESIGN & MIX BY LACHLAN HARRIS

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS SHARLENE GEORGE NATHAN GRAY DARIUS FAMILY & LEILA CONNERS

PRODUCED BY DANIEL JOYCE & GAL GREENSPAN DIRECTED BY CELESTE GEER



THE ENDANGERED GENERATION?

Feature documentary | 85 minutes

Directed by CELESTE GEER

Produced by DANIEL JOYCE & GAL GREENSPAN

PREMIERING AT MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2022
COMING TO AUSTRALIAN CINEMAS IN MARCH 2023



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SYNOPSIS

THE ENDANGERED GENERATION? is your guide to surviving the Anthropocene.

This film challenges the myth that our world is fundamentally driven by selfishness and competition – a story that for centuries has shaped our understanding of humankind and nature. Instead, we take the audience on an unabashedly positive and hopeful journey to reconnect with our environment and with each other - revealing a neglected side of human nature, and the potential of the diversity and deep connections that already exist in our world, hidden just beyond our view...

Our primary guides are U.S. biologist Tamsin Barker and Panamanian/Guna indigenous leader Agar Tejadar. Tamsin treks into the jungle of Central Panama, hoping to discover novel survival strategies used by organisms there that can be applied to business and engineering in the US. She is led by Agar, who is making her way back to her ancestral jungle village with a mission to save it from environmental disaster. As they venture deep into the jungle they are greeted by a magical world of interconnected and collaborating species that delight Tamsin. However, as Agar reveals the knowledge of her people, passed down through generations, lessons of biology give way to a deeper understanding of our physical, psychological and spiritual connection to our world.

Woven into Tamsin and Agar's journey are tales of connection and collaboration from around the world - tied together by overlapping ecosystems, shared human nature and a common mission:

- Environmental artist Joe Michael tries to find a way to bring the awe and wonder he felt in the icy expanses of Antarctica back to people in cities around the world, connecting them emotionally to the places they depend on.
- Indigenous Songman Fred Leone returns home to K'Gari island in Australia to try to save his traditional language from extinction, determined to preserve the knowledge of survival that it contains for future generations.
- In a precarious coastal settlement in Indonesia, an experiment in radical collaboration is taking place - when Covid forces health workers out of the country, locals race to make use of the resources and knowledge left behind.
- Activist George Monbiot heads to COP26 to try to sway the opinions of the 'leaders' of the world. Arrested, and again frustrated by the lack of action, he finds hope in a new generation of young, First Nations and female leaders growing in power and confidence on the streets outside.

These stories are tied together even more closely by narration, which lyrically and powerfully guides the audience through the themes and messages that emerge. Stunning cinematography immerses the audience in the film's majestic locations, while unique animated elements and rhythmic composition draws the audience deeper into the patterns, movements and connections of life. Ultimately, THE ENDANGERED GENERATION? takes the audience on an epic journey with our unique characters, culminating in new revelations: that diversity and cooperation are the most effective way to create a resilient future, that First Nations speakers are crucial experts, and that art is the most powerful tool we have in creating a shared story of human survival.

KEY PARTICIPANTS



**AGAR INKLENIA
TEJADAR**

Guna Community Leader
(Panama)



**TAMSIN
WOOLLEY-BARKER**

Evolutionary biologist &
Director of the Geoversity
School for Biocultural
Leadership (USA)



FRED LEONE

Butchulla Songman and
leader of the Wunungu
Awará: Animating Indigenous
Knowledges project
(Australia)



GEORGE MONBIOT

Author, Journalist and
Environmental Activist (UK)



REBEKAH HENRY

Health & Medical
Engineer, Department of
Civil Engineering, Monash
University (Australia)



JOE MICHAEL

Environmental Artist (NZ)



**MAGHFIRA
SAIFUDDAOLAH**

Laboratory Lead,
Univeritas Hasanuddin,
RISE - Revitalising Informal
Settlements & Their
Environments (Indonesia)



DIRECTORS STATEMENT

In 2009, the Black Saturday bushfires of Victoria tore through my small Australian hometown. My experience of survival and ultimately renewal, became the subject of my film, *Then The Wind Changed*. That documentary and the numerous government inquiries and hearings that followed, explored the question of how we recover from the physical and emotional trauma of loss? And most importantly, how do we not let it happen again?

With that questioning came a determination that next time would be different, next time we'd be prepared. Yet, in 2020, bushfires again destroyed Australian communities; a pandemic that was long predicted spread around the world; and ever more frequent natural disasters driven threaten our existence. For those who had already experienced acute disaster, the vision was expected yet deflating. Why do we continue to veer rudderless from one crisis to the next? How do we become resilient? Can we rediscover our ability to adapt?

A growing body of scientific research combined with a new valuation of the information contained in First Nations' stories points to relationships, diversity and the integrity of an ecosystem as a whole, as being just as important to a species' survival as individual physical traits. This film applies this burgeoning understanding to how we might better find a stable and permanent place for ourselves on this planet.

We now find ourselves with a unique opportunity – we've come to the realization that something, perhaps everything, must change. I intend this documentary to provoke critical thinking about the assumptions on which our dominant world order is based. Through the compelling stories of the characters involved, I aim to inspire audiences to see that the change we need is not only possible, it's already in play. Through creative action, the passionate individuals at the heart of this film are crafting a future to embrace, rather than brace for.

- Celeste Geer



KEY INFORMATION

- The film spans locations and environments across the world: from the jungles of Panama to the arid desert of San Diego, the heaving urban settlements of Indonesia to the human-less landscapes of Antarctica, the audience is immersed in the worlds we explore, and the environments that will define our future.
- Celeste Geer previously directed the seminal Australian bushfire documentary *Then The Wind Changed*, winning a coveted Walkley Award for Best Hour Documentary, an AACTA Award for Best TV Documentary, and a Logie nomination. *THE ENDANGERED GENERATION?* is her follow up feature.
- The film features numerous scientific experts, activists and artist from around the world – all at the cutting edge of new approaches to tackling issues of climate change, inequality and human health. These are the unheralded voices that are shaping not just our world but human nature.
- *THE ENDANGERED GENERATION?* Is set to premiere at Melbourne International Film Festival in August 2022 before continuing its festival run in Australia and abroad. It will be released in Australian cinemas in early 2023 by distributor Bonsai before broadcast screenings in territories around the world. The film is represented for international sales by sales agent Off The Fence.
- The film impact is intended to be broad and is seeking a fundamental shift in how we see the world and our place in it. We are arriving at an astonishing moment of truth – where the solutions to the urgent crises we're facing are readily available, yet we fail to act. A desire to find new purpose and optimism is in the zeitgeist, and new perspectives are gaining public attention, with strength being found in diversity. This film is squarely aimed at removing the roadblocks to change. We hope to debunk the modern mantra of 'survival of the fittest' and make a fundamental shift in human behavior seem not only possible but natural.



FILMMAKER BIOS



Director **CELESTE GEER**

Celeste's previous documentary work has won the coveted Walkley Award for Best Documentary, as well as garnering an AACTA Award nomination for Best Documentary and a Logie nomination for Most Outstanding Factual Program, demonstrating a talent for crafting emotional and engaging, character driven stories that create fresh ways for audiences to question, feel and connect. A survivor of the notorious Black Saturday bushfires in Victoria, Celeste used that experience to tell her own story of resilience and regeneration in the feature documentary *Then The Wind Changed*. She has since gone on to direct numerous broadcast episodes and series including *Keeping Australia Alive* about Australia's health system for the ABC, Catalyst Science about the science of sleep for the ABC, and the genre bending factual series *Filthy Rich & Homeless* for SBS. With an authenticity drawn from her experience in the bushfire crisis, Celeste seeks stories of inspiration and the possibilities of human existence, distilling raw moments of courage and beauty found in unexpected places.



Producer **DANIEL JOYCE**

Daniel is a leading Australian producer of feature documentaries. His most recent feature *Martha: A Picture Story* was described by The Hollywood Reporter as "eighty of the happiest minutes documentary lovers are likely to spend in a theater this year." After premiering at Tribeca 2019 it played theatrically in 40+ cinemas across Australia and went on to broadcast with Netflix (Australia), Topic (USA), Sky (UK) and Arte (France/Germany) and many more. His previous film *Barbecue* was released globally by Netflix after premiering at the festival SXSW. Other documentary work over the last ten years has explored sites of social tension and personal ethics with projects such as *Meatwork*, *Big Bad Love* and *Maddie Parry: Tough Jobs* for the ABC (Australia). His projects have consistently elevated emerging Australian directors to their first successful long-form projects and via his production company Projector Films, Daniel is also a sponsor of AIDC's Leading Lights program for new filmmakers.



Producer **GAL GREENSPAN**

Gal is a co-founder of Israeli based [Green Productions](#) and Australian/New Zealand production company Sweetshop & Green. He's produced nearly a dozen critically acclaimed films including *Scaffolding* (Cannes Acid 2017, TIFF 2017, JFF 2017 Best Film award), *Menashe* (Sundance 2017, Berlinale 2017, distributed in the US by A24), *Youth* (Berlinale 2013), and *Summer Vacation* (Sundance 2013, shortlisted for Oscars®). Gal is a firm believer that art and commercial success can live together. He brings in-depth experience in international co-productions and is focused on bringing Australian and New Zealand stories to global audiences.



Executive Producer **LEILA CONNERS**

Leila is the director of the acclaimed 2009 climate change documentary *The 11th Hour* and the 2019 follow-up *Ice on Fire*. Both films are narrated by Leonardo DiCaprio and premiered at Cannes Film Festival, with *Ice On Fire* commissioned by HBO. Leila brings a high level of journalistic experience to the project, having previously interviewed a range of globally recognised thinkers including Kofi Annan, Nafis Sadik, Betty Friedan and Boutros Boutros-Gali for publications such as *New Perspectives Quarterly*, *LA Times* and *Wired*.



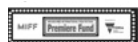
BILLING BLOCKS

Press Boilerplate

"THE ENDANGERED GENERATION" is a Sweetshop & Green production in collaboration with Monash University and in association with Screen Australia, VicScreen, Melbourne International Film Festival Premiere Fund, The South Australian Film Corporation, Projector Films & VMLY&R

Poster Billing Block

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Full Billing

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THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FILM CORPORATION
PROJECTOR FILMS & VMLY&R

cinematography JULIAN MANRIQUE AARON SMITH MICHAEL LATHAM & BELLA PANGGABEAN
sound design & mix by LACHLAN HARRIS
music composition by THOMAS E. ROUCH
edited by SAMUEL GALLOWAY STEVEN ROBINSON & BERNADETTE MURRAY
executive producers SHARLENE GEORGE NATHAN GRAY DARIUS FAMILY & LEILA CONNERS
produced by DANIEL JOYCE & GAL GREENSPAN
directed by CELESTE GEER

A photograph of two people hiking through a dense, lush green forest. In the foreground, a person with dark hair tied in a bun, wearing a blue t-shirt and a colorful necklace, is seen from the back. They are holding a wooden stick. In the background, another person with blonde hair, wearing a red backpack and a cap, is also seen from the back, walking away. The forest is filled with tall trees and dense foliage.

MAIN CREDITS

DIRECTED BY	Celeste Geer
PRODUCED BY	Daniel Joyce Gal Greenspan
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS	Sharlene George Leila Conners Nathan Gray Darius Family
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER	Edward Pontifex
SUPERVISING PRODUCER	Antje Kulpe
LINE PRODUCER	Erinn Stevenson
CINEMATOGRAPHERS	Aaron Smith Julian Manrique Bella Panggabean Michael Latham Chris Mauger Susie Salavati
EDITORS	Samuel Galloway Steven Robinson Bernadette Murray
COLOURIST	Diedre McCelland DSI
SOUND DESIGNER & MIXER	Lachlan Harris
SOUND RECORDING	Hassan Lehereh
MUSIC COMPOSITION	Thomas E. Rouch
STORY CONSULTANTS	Fred Leone Natasha Pincus Ron Goldman



FEATURED PARTICIPANTS

(last name alphabetical)

Dr. Klaus Ackermann	Dept. of Econometrics & Business Statistics Monash University	Fred Leone	Wunungu Awara: Animating Indigenous Knowledges Monash University
Assoc. Prof. Simon Angus	Dept. of Economics Monash University	Dr. Graeme MacDonald	English and Comparative Literary Studies University of Warwick
Sahila Remon Avias	Community Leader Nalunega, Panama	Joseph Michael	Environmental Artist New Zealand
Mariana Bandera	Translator Anthropologist and Archaeologist	George Monbiot	Author, Journalist & Environmental activist
Prof. Rebekah Brown	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Monash University	Petita Ayarza Pérez	Congress Member National Assembly of Panama
Assoc. Prof. John Bradley	Monash Indigenous Studies Centre Monash University	Sahila Powell	Community Leader Nalunega, Panama
Prof. Steven Chown	Securing Antarctica's Environmental Future Monash University	Prof. Paul Raschky	Dept. of Economics Monash University
Juan Carlos Monterrey Gomez	Vice Chair for Implementation of the UN Climate Convention	Prof. Alison Ross	Academic Director (Research) Monash University
Prof. Rod Glover	Monash Sustainable Development Institute Monash University	Ibu Maghfira Saifuddaolah	Fakultas Kesehatan Masyarakat Universitas Hasanuddin
Dr. Rebecca Henry	Dept. of Civil Engineering Monash University	Prof. Robert Sparrow	Dept. of Philosophy Monash University
Dr. Daniel Hikuroa	Earth Systems Scientist Waipapa Taumata Rau / University of Auckland	Agar Tejada	Design Associate Geoversity Design
Dr. Kudzai Kanhutu	Infectious Diseases Specialist Melbourne, Australia	Olimpia Campillo de Tejada	Renowned Mola Designer Abuela Panama
Claus Kjaerby	Director of Operations Geoversity	Sahila Emilio Valdez	Community Leader Cangandi, Panama
		Prof. Rebecca Wickes	Adjunct Prof. of Criminology Monash University
		Dr. Tamsin Woolley-Barker	Director Geoversity School for Biocultural Leadership