

An Inconvenient Truth

A Global Warning

Director: Davis Guggenheim
Genre: Documentary
Runtime: 100 minutes
Year: 2006
Cast: Al Gore

Synopsis

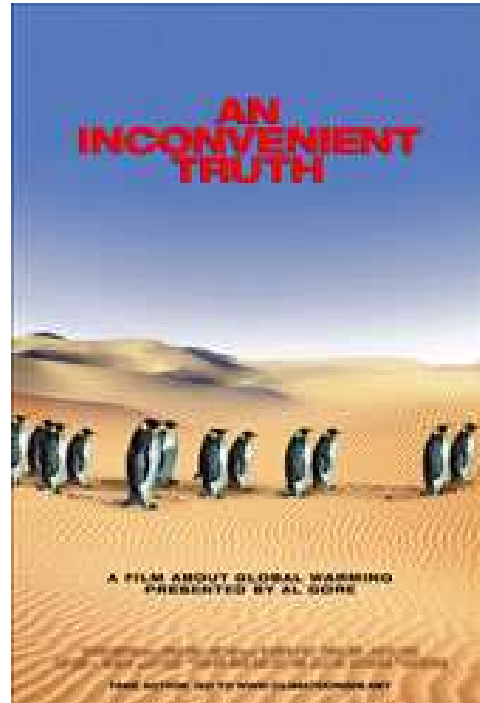
Meant as a companion documentary to the book of the same name, 'An Inconvenient Truth' chronicles the career of former-Vice President Al Gore as he focuses on potentially one of the biggest issues facing future generations, global warming. Gore lays out the case for the causes of warming, and traces his concerns with this phenomenon, from his early days in politics through the aftermath of the 2000 Presidential election.

Review

'An Inconvenient Truth' is actually rather a report of Al Gore's convention than a genuine film or documentary. Through worldwide distribution of this 'film' Gore is hoping to reach infinitely more people than just the audience he would normally see at his convention. Which he hopes then ultimately leads to a revolution worldwide.

Gore has dedicated a great deal of his life to environmental issues; he has been trying to achieve better environmental measures for more than twenty years now. This, unfortunately, has not been as successful as he had hoped, for the problem of global warming is still increasing. The consequences are immense: the breaking and melting ice on both North- and South Pole cause the water level to rise and rise, and do not forget that Holland lies way below sea level... no time to waste! Devastating hurricanes like Katrina are caused by a rising sea temperature, and so many more disasters can be mentioned. The message is crystal clear, if we – that is to say the world's inhabitants – don't take some actions soon, fat chance that the science fiction scenes in films like 'The Day After Tomorrow' become reality.

Now, Gore's message may come across as extremely negative, depressive and desperate, but nothing less is true. All facts are brought to the audience with help of clear (up-to-date) tables, diagrams, photographs and not to forget a good dose of humour. Yeah that's right, humour. The jokes in between the facts provide a combination that is not dull to say the least. In order to vary and illustrate – for adding personal



information gives the message more impact – the audience in addition learns some things about Gore himself. These scenes might be cheesy, less interesting and at times too dramatic and overdone (typically American you might say). Nevertheless, they do help to create a film that is attractive for a wider audience. Of course they also have to mention Bush's victory over Gore. So, once in a while we can question Gore's intentions: is this film a warning against the global warming effect or a cleverly disguised campaign against Bush?

Anyhow, 'An Inconvenient Truth' is not only incredibly informative, but amazingly enough also exceptionally entertaining. You just won't get a satisfied feeling, but a realisation that something needs to happen before it is too late. Unsurprisingly, for this is of course the exact intention of this film. Audiences will leave the cinema clearly informed and inspired, but not desperate. Now we can only hope that this film, with the useful tips given in the end, will lead to a change on world level. Perhaps then Gore can also prove to be bigger - and according to him even better - than his old rival Bush Jr.

By Tessa Obbens

