WEST MIDWEST PRODUCTIONS AND AREA 23a PRESENT A FILM BY CHRIS PAINE

REVENGE OF THE ELECTRIC CAR

PRODUCED BY JESSIE DEETER AND P.G. MORGAN
DIRECTED BY CHRIS PAINE

www.REVENGEOFTHEELECTRICCAR.com
Facebook: www.FACEBOOK.com/REVENGEOFTHEELECTRICCAR
Twitter: www.TWITTER.com/REVENGE ELECTRIC

Running time: 90 minutes

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A&E DISCOVERY CHANNEL SILVERDOCS DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL 2011
**Film Description:**

Behind the closed doors of Nissan, GM, and Tesla Motors, *Revenge of the Electric Car* film tells the story of the global resurgence of electric cars by following the major car makers jumping to produce new electric models and to be the first, the best, and to win over the public.

**Film Summary:**

In 2006, as many as 5,000 modern electric cars were destroyed by the major car companies that built them. Today, less than 5 years later, the electric car is back... with a vengeance.

In *Revenge of the Electric Car*, director Chris Paine takes his film crew behind the closed doors of Nissan, GM, the Silicon Valley start-up Tesla Motors, and an independent car converter named Greg “Gadget” Abbott to find the story of the global resurgence of electric cars. Without using a single drop of foreign oil, this new generation of automobiles is America’s future: fast, furious, and cleaner than ever.

With almost every major car maker now jumping to produce new electric models, *Revenge of the Electric Car* follows the race to be the first, the best, and to win the hearts and minds of the public around the world. We watch as these cars are developed from a concept into a working product, and see the car makers themselves struggle with the economy, the press, each other, and the car buying public.

We follow the electric car renaissance through the eyes of four industry pioneers. First, there's Bob Lutz, the larger than life General Motors executive who inspires the Volt, GM's newest electric car program. Bob is a gruff, cigar-smoking maverick who seems to have stepped straight off the set of *Mad Men*. After years of skepticism, he's now convinced that “Electric Cars are back with a vengeance.” But can GM overcome years of corporate doubt and public hostility and make a viable electric vehicle? This is the company that killed of the EV1, after all.

Then there's Elon Musk, the young dot-com billionaire and head of Tesla Motors. Somewhere between launching rockets toward the moon with his private space program, Elon decides that Silicon Valley can teach Detroit a few lessons about car making. We're with Elon for every step and misstep as Tesla Motors swerves from initial excitement into near bankruptcy -- and then comes back from the dead with a triumphant IPO.

Our third protagonist is the dynamic head of Nissan, Carlos Ghosn. A former EV skeptic, Ghosn astonishes the car world in 2009 by announcing the launch of the Nissan LEAF: an affordable electric vehicle meant for mass market. We are at Carlos's side as he steers the LEAF through Nissan's corporate culture -- and as he attempts to sell the car across the world. It's a bold gamble. If Nissan succeeds, they will corner the market in mass produced electric cars. If they fail, then the company will fail too.
Our fourth character is a backyard converter called Greg “Gadget” Abbott. Greg is one of thousands of do-it-yourselfers who are determined to start the EV revolution right now. Greg’s pride and joy is a converted silver Porsche Speedster. His goal is to mass produce the car -- and drive it from LA to Palm Springs on a single charge. But Greg’s dream collapses when his workshop burns down and he has to start over. Can he remake his life and his car?

Soon, everyone involved realizes that it’s not just the next generation of green cars that’s on the line, it’s the future of the automobile itself. Revenge of the Electric Car chronicles the great shift in technology and automobile history that is taking shape as the cars will hit the showrooms in 2011.

**Director’s Statement:**

Sometimes change, like a train in the old West, gets stopped dead in its tracks. That was the story of "Who Killed the Electric Car?" The villains were the same guys who always hold things up when real progress is in the air. Pistol-waving business lobbyists fighting for their old monopolies, simpleton leaders defending the status quo, and the tendency for most of us to stay in our seats rather than board new trains.

So it’s a rare privilege to be able to tell the story of how sometimes change has too much momentum to be stopped. You can’t kill an idea whose time has come.

For this film, we wanted to do something different. Last time we followed a group of activists fighting from the outside. This time, we follow four entrepreneurs battling from the inside. Each one let us in on their journey over three years on condition that we would not release any footage until 2011.

Tesla CEO Elon Musk puts his personal fortune on the line. Bob Lutz, GM’s Vice Chair, stakes the entire brand on the very technology it once tried to kill. Nissan’s CEO, Carlos Ghosn, bets the farm on a car almost no one believes can happen. And my neighbor, Greg ‘Gadget’ Abbott, like thousands of other car converters around the world, sets out to prove you can do it yourself. The challenges they face are as tough as capitalism can be cagey.

But the prize if they succeed is really for all of us: the reinvention of the car without gasoline, and potentially without fossil fuel at all.

-Chris Paine
The Filmmakers

Chris Paine: Writer/Director

Chris Paine is the writer/director of *Who Killed the Electric Car?* which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2006 before its release by Sony Pictures Classics, to become one of the most successful documentaries of the last five years. *Revenge of the Electric Car* is his latest film.

Chris has appeared on *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, *Nightline*, *ABC World News Tonight*, *Democracy Now*, and *Science Friday* on NPR. He has toured nationally to speak about electric cars and sustainable transportation at international venues including Princeton, Brown, Stanford, the Matthew Shepard Symposium on Social Justice, the James Baker III Institute in Houston, Google, and more.

Other film projects Chris has undertaken include serving as executive producer on the motorcycle racing film *Faster!* with Ewan McGregor and *No Maps For These Territories* with cyberpunk author William Gibson. His forthcoming film is Mark Neale's *Charge!* which features the world's first electric motorcycle race on the Isle of Man.

On the entrepreneurial front, his technology company, Internet Outfitters, went public in 1999 as part of AppNet/CommerceOne and his firm Mondo-tronics provided materials for the Mars Pathfinder mission. Chris's activist work has included campaigns to stop nuclear testing in Nevada, freeway expansions in California, and preventing deforestation. His 21st century demonstration home "Marrakesh House" in Los Angeles hosts green events and charges its electric cars (and bikes) exclusively using solar power.

Chris was raised in the San Francisco Bay Area and graduated from Colgate University in New York. He supports the work of the Rainforest Action Network and serves on the board for Impro Theater and the Black Rock Arts Foundation.

P.G. Morgan: Writer/Producer

P.G. is Chris Paine's producing partner at Papercut Films. He won an Emmy for Outstanding Writing for Non-Fiction Programming for the HBO/BBC film *Roman Polanski: Wanted and Desired*. The film premiered at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival and at the Cannes Film Festival.

Previously, he worked as an on-air reporter for Channel Four News -- the UK equivalent of *Nightline* -- where he covered the wars in the former Yugoslavia and numerous political stories in Europe and the US. P.G.'s book *Fire Mountain - How One Man Survived the World's Worst Volcanic Disaster* (Bloomsbury UK/US) was made into a drama documentary by Nat Geo.

Other current producing projects include a documentary adaptation of Mark Harris's *Pictures at a Revolution -- Five Films and the Birth of the New Hollywood* and the follow up to *Wanted and Desired*. He is also writing a feature script, *Dear Norman Mailer*, with development funding from the Film Agency for Wales. P.G. has a degree in Modern History from Oxford University. He lives in Los Angeles.
Jessie Deeter: Producer
Jessie Deeter is a Piedmont, California-based documentary producer, director and journalist. She was the Producer of *Who Killed the Electric Car?*, which premiered at Sundance and was released by Sony Pictures Classics in 2006.

In addition to producing *Revenge of the Electric Car*, Jessie recently directed and produced “Death by Fire,” a documentary that was the premiere of PBS’s *Frontline* season, airing nationally October 19, 2010.

Jessie has been producing, reporting and shooting documentaries for more than a decade, specializing in work in Africa and the Middle East. She worked several years on different projects for *Frontline* before starting her own production company, StartBox Films. Jessie has also produced stories on topics like Muslim speed dating for outlets like Al Jazeera. She partners for special projects with OffLabel Media in Los Angeles.

She has a Masters from UC Berkeley’s journalism program.

Stefano Durdic: Executive Producer
Stefano Durdic is a social entrepreneur based in Chicago. He invests in environmentally conscious businesses. His interests include organic food and farming, environmentally-friendly building practises, alternative energy and electric vehicles.

Stefano has 19 years of experience in financial markets and is a co-founder of Speed Trading Partners. He also co-founded RedSky Financial, an NASD broker-dealer that was acquired by Investment Technology Group in 2007.

Chris Peterson: Editor
As a film editor, Peterson is an accomplished visual craftsman and emerging talent in dramatic storytelling, he specializes in independent film and original television projects. His work has spanned drama, comedy, documentary, commercial, music video, and theatrical trailers.

Peterson has completed theatrical and broadcast releases for Sony, Universal, NBC, HBO, Cinemax, PBS, BBC, Bravo, Sundance, Fox, Discovery, and the History Channel. His recent credits include TNT’s *Leverage* starring Timothy Hutton, the independent feature *Miss Nobody* starring Leslie Bibb and Adam Goldberg, and the popular Sony Pictures green documentary *Who Killed the Electric Car*?

Peterson earned his MA in Film & Media Production from San Diego State in 2001 and his BA in Film & Photography from UCSD in 1996.
Thaddeus Wadleigh: Director of Photography

Thaddeus Wadleigh has worked as a DP on feature films, documentaries, commercials and TV programs. His credits include Who Killed the Electric Car?, Sicko, The Glass Closet and Mistaken Identity. His HD work won the best cinematography award at HDFEST 2003. Thad has also done commercial work for Honda and Nissan.

CREW LIST

Production Company:
WestMidWest Productions LLC

Director: Chris Paine
Executive Producer: Stefano Durdic
Producers: Jessie Deeter, P.G. Morgan
Consulting Producer: Chelsea Sexton
Producer of Marketing and Distribution:
Michelle Elizabeth Kaffko
Co-Producer: Dana Moreau

Director of Photography: Thaddeus Wadleigh
Danny DeVito filmed by: Haskell Wexler, A. S. C.
Editor: Chris A. Peterson
Assistant Editor: Mark Cope
Written by: Chris Paine, P.G Morgan
Original Music: David Robbins
Music Supervisor: Raul Campos
Additional Editing: Merritt Lear
Sound Design: Derek Vanderhorst
Sound Editor: Skip Lievsay
Associate Producers: Sara Hutchison, Roger G. Gilbertson
Assistant Editor: Mark Cope
Assistant Producer: Michael Mihaly

CAST LIST
Principal cast members

TIM ROBBINS
Narrator

ELON MUSK
CEO, Tesla Motors
BOB LUTZ
Former Vice Chairman, General Motors

CARLOS GHOSN
CEO, Renault/Nissan

GREG “GADGET” ABBOTT
Car Converter

DAN NEIL
Wall Street Journal

THOMAS FRIEDMAN
New York Times

TALULAH RILEY
Actress

MICHELLE KREBS
Auto analyst/Editor

MARTIN EBERHARD
Co – Founder, Tesla Motors

OWEN THOMAS
Journalist

RAY WERT
Journalist

Full Cast in Order of Appearance:

DAN NEIL
DANNY DEVITO
RAY WERT
GAVIN NEWSOM
THOMAS FRIEDMAN
BOB LUTZ
EVELYN CHIANG
ELON MUSK
TROY NERGAARD
J.B STRAUBEL
OWEN THOMAS
ANTHONY KIEDIS
JON FAVREAU
MICHELLE KREBS
BOB BONIFACE
RICK WAGONER
CHRIS PAINE
GREG ‘GADGET’ ABBOTT
CHARLOTTE JACKSON
DAVE BARTHMUSS
JEREMY SNYDER
SHAD BALCH
DAVID COLE
ALEX CATTELAN
CARLOS GHOSN
REP. MICHAEL CAPUANO
STEPHEN COLBERT
COLETTE NIAZMAND
TALULAH RILEY
FRANK WEBER
ALEX TAYLOR
LARRY WEBSTER
MARTIN EBERHARD
DR IAN TARAS
BISHOP CHARLES H. ELLIS, III
GOV. ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
JASON CALACANIS
GOV. PHIL BREDESEN
JEREME STAFFORD
SHAI AGASSI
ADRIAN GRENIER

DISTRIBUTION

Revenge of the Electric Car is being distributed theatrically in the US by Area23a, a bi-coastal, independently owned "event"-based theatrical distribution company, co-founded by distribution guru Richard Abramowitz and Ocule Films founder, Kirt Eftekhar. The company focuses on event-driven films, providing value-added distribution through alternative ways to reach audiences across the country, releasing films in libraries, museums, college campuses, community centers and corporate conferences in addition to traditional venues like theaters, cinemateques and festivals. Area23a has distributed award-winning films such as Bill Guttentag's SOUNTRACK FOR A REVOLUTION, Michael Paul Stephenson's BEST WORST MOVIE and Gerardine Wurzburg's WRETCHES & JABBERERS. www.area23a.com

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/revengeoftheelectriccar
Twitter Page: www.twitter.com/revengeelectric
Handle: @revengeelectric
Hashtags: #electriccar, #EV
DIRECTOR’S PRIOR WORK

Written and directed by Chris Paine
Run time: 92 minutes

A searing indictment of big business and greed, Who Killed The Electric Car? educated and inspired over a million viewers worldwide to save the electric vehicle from oblivion and resurrect EVs as an alternative to our oil-fueled society. But where Who Killed the Electric Car? is a story about change failing to happen, Revenge of the Electric Car—told with the same humor, in an accessible and engaging narrative structure—is a story of change being allowed to happen, and how the power of grassroots movements can resurrect even the most hopeless dreams from the dead.

Festivals and Awards

Won
Broadcast Film Critics Association Awards – Best Documentary Feature 2007
Canberra International Film Festival – Audience Award

Nominated
Environmental Media Awards – Best Documentary 2006 (Nominated)
Writers Guild of America - Best Documentary 2006 (Nominated)

Who Killed the Electric Car? screened at the following film festivals:

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