

Three Stories, Three Continents, One Commitment to Change



ELEMENTAL



www.elementalthe film.com

Press

“Three environmental activists around the globe are profiled in ELEMENTAL and their efforts are duly inspiring and the related issues imposing... an interesting view of eco-warriors at work... Editing smoothly weaves between the three strands, with assembly polished in other departments as well, notably an expansive string-based original score.”

Dennis Harvey, VARIETY

“ELEMENTAL is a rare, fresh look at environmental issues and sustainability that does not shy away from the personal impact the decisions to dedicate one’s life to a cause entails... ELEMENTAL is fascinating... with alarming intimacy... director Emmanuel Vaughan-Lee ties these threads together masterfully.”

John Fink, THE FILM STAGE

“Beautifully shot, heartbreaking, informative, and compelling”

Joey Horan, OFF TO THE FILMS

“One of the top docs at Austin Film Festival”

Cristina Pena, AUSTIN AMERICAN STATESMAN

“Inspirational... The pro-active protagonists lift it from the muck of feel-bad documentaries.”

Joe Williams, ST. LOUIS POST DISPATCH

“One of the best 5 docs at Mill Valley Film Festival”

Jonathan Kiefer, SF MAGAZINE

“Truly moving and engaging...one of the better environmental documentaries out there.”

Nick Guzman, LOST IN REVIEWS

Synopsis

Elemental tells the story of three individuals united by their deep connection with nature and driven to confront some of the most pressing ecological challenges of our time.

The film follows Rajendra Singh, an Indian government official gone rogue, on a 40-day pilgrimage down India's once pristine Ganges river, now polluted and dying. Facing community opposition and personal doubts, Singh works to shut down factories, halt construction of dams, and rouse the Indian public to treat their sacred "Mother Ganga" with respect. Across the globe in northern Canada, Eriel Deranger mounts her own "David and Goliath" struggle against the world's largest industrial development, the Tar Sands, an oil deposit larger than the state of Florida. A young mother and native Denè, Deranger struggles with family challenges while campaigning tirelessly against the Tar Sands and its proposed 2,000-mile Keystone XL Pipeline, which are destroying Indigenous communities and threatening an entire continent. And in Australia, inventor and entrepreneur Jay Harman searches for investors willing to risk millions on his conviction that nature's own systems hold the key to our world's ecological problems. Harman finds his inspiration in the natural world's profound architecture and creates a revolutionary device that he believes can slow down global warming, but will it work?

Separated by continents yet sharing an unwavering commitment to protecting nature, the characters in this story are complex, flawed, postmodern heroes for whom stemming the tide of environmental destruction fades in and out of view – part mirage, part miracle.

[Click here to watch the trailer](#)

Stills



Filmmakers

Gayatri Roshan

DIRECTOR / PRODUCER

Gayatri started her career in London where she produced over 50 television and radio commercial campaigns for Sony BMG, Universal Music, Virgin Music and numerous top bands, including Outkast and Pink. In 2005 she cofounded the Species Alliance, with whom she wrote and produced a documentary, *Call of Life*. In 2008/9 she wrote and produced *A Thousand Suns* (PBS) and *Peace Wanted Alive* (Link TV). In 2010, she completed work as producer and executive producer of *Harmony*, a feature length documentary inspired by and in collaboration with the Prince of Wales that aired for NBC's 2010 Green Week.

Emmanuel Vaughan-Lee

DIRECTOR / PRODUCER / CO-COMPOSER

Emmanuel is a director, producer, musician and composer. In 2005 he founded the Global Oneness Project, a Webby Award-winning media platform and production company. He has directed and produced numerous award winning short films: *A Thousand Suns* (2009), *What Would it Look Like* (2009), *A Game for Life* (2008), *Barrio de Paz* (2007), *Seva Café* (2007) that have been widely distributed online and aired on PBS, LINK TV, and ABC Australia among others. Prior to his work in film Emmanuel performed and recorded as a sideman with some of the biggest names in Jazz and released two records under his own name, *Previous Misconceptions* (2002) and *Borrowed Time* (2005).

Pedro Kos

EDITOR

Pedro Kos is a Brazilian born director and editor living in Los Angeles. He edited the Academy Award nominated documentary *Wasteland* directed by Lucy Walker. The film received numerous awards including the audience awards at both the 2010 Sundance Film Festival and the Berlin Film Festival. Most recently Pedro edited the documentary *The Island President* directed by Jon Shenk, which won the documentary audience award at the 2011 Toronto Film Festival.

Emily Topper

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Emily Topper earned her undergraduate degree in English Literature and Writing from Swarthmore College. She began film as an Associate Producer on such PBS documentaries as *Gay Bingo* (2000) and *Mural* (2001). In 2004, she earned her MFA from the Cinema School at USC and began working as a cinematographer. Recent work includes the music video, *Happy Birthday Guadalupe*, for the Killers, and a feature documentary, *Ain't in it for My Health: A Film about Levon Helm*, which premiered at SXSW in 2010. She is currently shooting a film in West Baltimore.

H. Scott Salinas

CO-COMPOSER

Scott is a graduate of Princeton University and Berklee College of Music where he studied jazz guitar, composition and film scoring. In 2002, Scott was the youngest composer to be named Grand Prize Winner in the Turner Classic Movies Young Film Composers Competition and was commissioned to compose several original scores to classic silent films such as *Laugh, Clown, Laugh* (1928) starring Lon Chaney and Loretta Young and the dark Parisian romance *The Red Lily* (1924). His most recent film work includes: all-time, most viewed film on Hulu, *Strictly Sexual*, the heart-wrenching HBO documentary, *The Kids Grow Up*, and the 2012 Sundance Film Festival favorite, *Hello I Must be Going*. He just completed work on HBO's new critically-acclaimed show *The Newsroom*.

Credits

Cast

Rajendra Singh
Eriel Tchekwie Deranger
Jay Harman
Francesca Bertone
Sue Deranger
Kelsey Chapman
Jaida Deranger
Gitz 'Crazyboy' Deranger

Directed and Produced by

Gayatri Roshan
Emmanuel Vaughan-Lee

Written by

Gayatri Roshan

Director of Photography

Emily Topper

Edited by

Pedro Kos

Music by

H. Scott Salinas
Emmanuel Vaughan-Lee

Co-Edited by

Stephen Marshall
Fernando Villena

2nd Unit Directors

Stephen Marshall
Pedro Kos

Associate Producers

Elias Koch
Ali Pflaum
Nicole Sherwin

Additional Editing

Tina Nguyen

Assistant Editors

Trupti Karoor
Elias Koch
Chris Madera

HD Post Production

ZAP Zoetrope Aubry Productions

Color Grading

Leo Hallal

Orchestrator and Conductor

Arturo Rodriguez

Music Scoring Mixer

Casey Stone

Music Editor

Kasia Middleton

Supervising Sound Editor

D. Chris Smith

Dialog Editor

Will Riley

Assistant Sound Editor

D. Celene Lew

Re-Recording Mixers

Steve Maslow
Greg Orloff

Recordist

Eric Harwood

Tech Specs

Running Time

93min

Languages

English, Hindi (with English subtitles)

Format

1.78:1, HD Video (Canon 5D Mark II)

Sound

Dolby 5.1 Surround

Contact Info

Production Company

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Festivals & Theatrical

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