

GROWING CITIES

PRESS KIT



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Filmmakers take a trip across country meeting city dwellers across America who are revitalizing their communities and reimagining the food system one rooftop farm and backyard chicken at a time.

BRIEF SYNOPSIS

From rooftop farmers to backyard beekeepers, Americans are growing food like never before. *Growing Cities* tells the inspiring stories of these intrepid urban farmers, innovators, and everyday city-dwellers who are challenging the way this country grows and distributes its food. From those growing food in backyards to make ends meet to educators teaching kids to eat healthier, viewers discover urban farmers are harvesting a whole lot more than simply good food.



ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Production Year: 2013

Runtime: Broadcast 58 mins, Full 92 mins

Rated: TV G

Format: Digital, 16:9

Production Company: Elmwood Motion Picture Company

Contact: Dan Susman, Director, dan@growingcitiesmovie.com

CREW BIOS

DAN SUSMAN – DIRECTOR/PRODUCER

Dan is a co-founder of Elmwood Motion Picture Company and filmmaker whose focus is on creating documentaries that inspire environmental and social change. Dan was given the most outstanding film award from Dartmouth College for Landmark, his short film that brought together a diverse group of community members to save a forest from destruction. Dan was also selected to attend Working Films' Reel Change Summit where he honed the engagement and outreach plan for *Growing Cities*.

ANDREW MONBOUQUETTE – DIRECTOR PHOTOGRAPHY/CO-PRODUCER

Andrew earned his degree in Rhetoric & Media studies from Willamette University where his coursework focused on media giving voice to oppressed people and marginalized groups. He has worked on numerous feature and short films and shot hundreds of hours of footage for

documentary, events, and music. For him, making *Growing Cities* is about serving his fellow Americans by ensuring that everyone has access to good food. In recognition of their work thus far, *Growing Cities* was chosen as indieWIRE's 'Project of the Month' and received a consultation with the Sundance Institute.

ALEXANDRU MOSCU – EDITOR

Alex is a Peabody Award-winning editor who has worked in the film and television production industry for over 30 years. He knows how to tell a story and mesmerize an audience, often saying the best editing 'is the kind you don't notice.' He has worked in public television with WGBH in Boston, MA and NETV in Lincoln, NE. He's edited some of NETV's most prestigious national programs, including episodes of American Experience ("72 Days Around The World", "Monkey Trial"), as well as "Oregon Trail", and many others. He's received many awards including the Cine Golden Eagle, the Gabriel Award, the Tuck Media Award, and the Golden Hugo Award.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



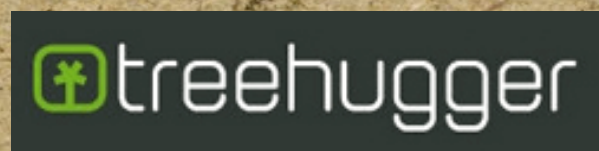
Growing up planting pumpkins in my backyard with my mom and dad, I've loved gardening since a young age. I found great joy and responsibility in taking care of plants and reaping their harvest each year. Yet, many people in our country are not so lucky to have these experiences. Instead, they hear stories about a much different food system—one that is measured in e-coli outbreaks, food miles, mad cows, and overweight kids. This food system, the popular media likes to tell Americans, is pretty screwed up. I am making this film to start a new dialogue around food in this country that emphasizes positive stories around food and farming, and shows what is possible regardless of who you are, where you live, or what kind of space you have.

Urban agriculture is a topic fraught with apparent contradictions—where country meets city, cement cherry tomato, and the lines of producer and consumer, farmer and customer blur. The imagery is equally as stark—cucumbers peering through chain link fences, skyscrapers towering over compost piles, and the cacophony of subwoofers and roto-tillers on the same block. It's the power of this tension, this seeming impossibility, which we use to bring viewers into a world of new possibility—where together we can create healthier, more sustainable communities.

When we first got the idea for *Growing Cities* a couple years ago, we started with the simple idea that anyone, anywhere should be able to meaningfully participate in their food system. It's this premise that has guided us throughout the filmmaking process, from deciding which cities to visit, what themes to explore, and which stories to tell. The journey hasn't been easy, from sleeping on floors, getting paid almost nothing, and consuming more PB & J's than anyone should eat in a lifetime. But, being our first feature film, I guess we shouldn't have expected anything less. And who am I kidding, it's definitely all been worth it!

AWARDS AND PRESS

Growing Cities has been an official selection at more than 25 film festivals and screened in more than 200 communities worldwide.



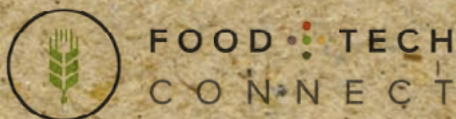
"... inspiring, lighthearted, and definitely worth watching!"

Treehugger



One Food Doc's Fight to Get on Your PBS Station's Radar

Take Part



Bolstering Food System Game-changers Through Storytelling

Food Tech Connect



Filmmaker guest blog post

Food Day



Q&A with Growing Cities director, Dan Susman

Seedstock





Movie on a Mission
Vegetarian Times



"... an excellent, edible adventure."
New activists: Young Filmmakers take an urban farm adventure, **Grist**



Growing Hope by Growing Cities
Civil Eats



Growing for Good
Urban Farm Online



Helping Grow the Urban Farming Trend, Frame by Frame
Omaha Magazine



Urban Farms: An Upcoming Film Takes a Fresh Look
Sustainability Leadership Institute



Growing Cities: An Urban Farming Road Trip
Yes! Magazine