



TheReluctantRadicalMovie.com

77 minutes

CONTACT:

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Director

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Logline:

If a crime is committed in order to prevent a greater crime, is it forgivable? Is it, in fact, necessary? ***THE RELUCTANT RADICAL*** follows activist Ken Ward as he confronts his fears and puts himself in the direct path of the fossil fuel industry to combat climate change.

Short Synopsis:

If a crime is committed in order to prevent a greater crime, is it forgivable? Is it, in fact, necessary? ***THE RELUCTANT RADICAL*** follows activist Ken Ward as he confronts his fears and puts himself in the direct path of the fossil fuel industry to combat climate change. The film reveals both the personal costs and also the fulfillment that comes from following one's moral calling- even if that means breaking the law. The film follows Ken through a series of direct actions, culminating with an action that shuts down all the U.S. tar sands oil pipelines and threatens to put him behind bars for 20 years. Ken Ward has no regrets, and his certainty leaves the audience to consider if he is out of touch with reality, or if it is the rest of society that is delusional for not acting when faced with the unsettling evidence that we are collectively destroying our world.

Longer Synopsis:

THE RELUCTANT RADICAL features activist Ken Ward as he confronts his fears and puts himself in the direct path of the fossil fuel industry to combat climate change. Ken breaks the law as a last resort and with great trepidation, to fulfill what he sees as his personal obligation to future generations. After twenty years leading environmental organizations, Ken becomes increasingly alarmed by both the scientific evidence of climate change and the repercussions for civilization as we know it. Ken pushes for a crisis level response and when his efforts fail, he embraces direct action civil disobedience as the most effective political tool to deal with catastrophic circumstances. ***THE RELUCTANT RADICAL*** follows Ken for a year and a half through a series of direct actions, culminating with his participation in the coordinated action to shut down all the U.S. tar sands oil pipelines on October 11, 2016. The film reveals both the personal costs and also the fulfillment that comes from following one's moral calling- even if that means breaking the law. Ken Ward has no regrets, and his certainty leaves the audience to consider if he is out of touch with reality, or if it is the rest of society that is delusional for not acting when faced with the unsettling prospect that we are collectively destroying our world.

Quotes:

“There are many fronts in the vast climate fight; this film highlights the personal struggles and victories of one daring path.”

-Bill McKibben, Climate Advocate and Founder of 350.org

“He was told he was crazy, but crazy is sitting idly by as disaster for young people is knowingly locked in.”

-Dr. James Hansen, Climate Scientist

“The film will disturb you, and that isn’t all bad. Sometimes we need to be shaken from our complacency to ponder anew what should be our response to the greatest crisis that human civilization has ever faced....Viewing 'The Reluctant Radical' in our faith communities may just create that opportunity. As Ward observes, 'Direct action creates opportunities of moral clarity.'”

-Terrance Gallagher, United Church of Christ

"Grayzel wants us to ponder whether this one-man mission to save the world makes Ward a radical. ‘Yes’ is too easy an answer, and the wrong one if you ask Ward. He has to stop climate change at any cost. His every action is one of common sense. Maybe we’re the crazy ones."

- The Missoulian Independent

“If you're deep into the climate movement, you know these are desperate times. A window of opportunity is rapidly closing, and regressive forces have assumed the mantels of power. That's why, right now, Lindsey Grayzel's "The Reluctant Radical" is so powerful... Ken and his cohort are doing what visionaries of our past have done, using civil disobedience and doggedly articulating a vision of an America capable of doing what's necessary. Our showing in Missoula sparked deep conversation among our leadership team and brought many new members to 350 Montana."

-Jeff Smith, Co-Chair, 350 Montana

Download or embed the Trailer at:

<https://vimeo.com/248062039>

To Download Photos and Poster art, please visit:

<https://www.thereluctantradicalmovie.com/electronic-press-kit>





Filmmakers:

Director Lindsey Grayzel, co-producer Deia Schlosberg, and cinematographer Carl Davis were three of four independent filmmakers to be arrested and charged with crimes for filming the activists on October 11, 2016. Their arrests contributed to the alarm that press freedom and First Amendment rights have increasingly come under attack as law enforcement and prosecutors favor corporate fossil fuel interests over citizens' rights.



DIRECTOR, PRODUCER, EDITOR: **LINDSEY GRAYZEL**

Lindsey is currently working to distribute THE RELUCTANT RADICAL, her feature length documentary which follows climate activist Ken Ward as he puts himself in the direct path of the fossil fuel industry. She is also in pre-production on an audio documentary about the use of the necessity defense by climate activists in court. Lindsey began her career as an editor in 1994, then made the transition to producing and directing in 1999. Her passion for documentary stories has led her to a successful freelance career producing documentary and educational videos for non-profit organizations, local and state governments, and museums. Recent projects include films for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, The Dougy Center, Kenai Fjords National Park and the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. Whether she is working for a client or pursuing an independent project, Lindsey is thrilled to be dedicating her storytelling talents on projects she feels make a positive impact in the world.



CO-PRODUCER, **DEIA SCHLOSBERG**

Deia runs Pale Blue Dot Media, a production company based in Harlem, NY. Deia is currently directing a documentary series called *BOOTSTRAPS*, which follows 12 American stories through the lens of basic universal income (UBI). She also produced Josh Fox's, *HOW TO LET GO OF THE WORLD AND LOVE ALL THE THINGS CLIMATE CAN'T CHANGE* (2016), which premiered at Sundance and broadcasts on HBO, and co-produced *AWAKE: A DREAM FROM STANDING ROCK* (2017), which premiered at Tribeca and is streaming on Netflix. Deia earned an MFA in Science & Natural History Filmmaking at Montana State University in Bozeman, where she produced and directed *BACKYARD*, which looks at the human cost of fracking. The film won two student Emmys (Best Documentary, & the Bricker Humanitarian Award). Deia also co-produced the directed *COLD LOVE*, a look at one explorer's 25-plus-year career of exploring the world's coldest places and the climate change impacts that he's witnessed first-hand by doing so.

Deia's background is in environmental education and visual arts, as well as expeditioning, having been awarded a 2009 National Geographic Adventurer of the Year award for a two-year, 7800-mile through-hike of the Andes Mountains.

Reviews:

<http://www.ucc.org/the-reluctant-radical-a-documentary-for-churches-to-screen>

http://missoulanews.com/coverstory/the-independent-guide-to-the-th-annual-big-sky-documentary/article_1361d118-11b5-11e8-951c-db45f45b68a4.html

Press on #ShutItDown Climate Direct Action & The “Valve Turners”

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/13/magazine/afraid-climate-change-prison-valve-turners-global-warming.html>

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-canada-pipelines/canada-u-s-oil-pipelines-resume-operations-after-activists-halt-flow-idUSKCN12C21E>

<http://fortune.com/2016/10/12/climate-activists-sabotage/>

https://www.democracynow.org/2016/10/12/climate_direct_action_activists_halt_flow

Press on filmmakers' arrests:

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/oct/20/north-dakota-oil-pipeline-protest-filmmakers-face-prison>

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-pipeline-filmmaker-arrests-20161107-story.html>

<http://thedocumentarylife.com/2017/05/12/tdl-podcast-26-conversation-documentary-filmmakers-lindsey-grayzel-deia-schlosberg/>

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