

Foreign Language Film Festival 2007-2008

An Inconvenient Truth

About the movie (subtitled version)

DIRECTOR	Davis Guggenheim
YEAR / COUNTRY	2005 / USA
GENRE	Documentary
ACTORS	Former U. S. Vice President Al Gore



PLOT

This film portrays one man's fervent crusade to halt global warming's deadly progress by exposing the myths and misconceptions that surround it. Former Vice President Al Gore, in the wake of defeat in the 2000 election, re-set the course of his life to focus on an all-out effort to help save the planet from irrevocable change. He is seen here as never before in the media - funny, engaging, open and on fire about getting the truth about what he calls our "planetary emergency" out to ordinary citizens before it is too late. Interspersed with the facts and future predictions is the story of Gore's personal journey: from an idealistic college student who first saw a massive environmental crisis looming, to a young Senator (D.Tenn) facing a harrowing family tragedy that altered his perspective, to the man who almost became President but instead returned to the most important cause of his life, convinced that there is still time to make a difference. That he is this year's Nobel Peace Prize winner adds authority to his plea for sanity.

LANGUAGE

The language is clear, even when Gore is explaining complex scientific observations and projections. His slightly Southern accent - he hails from Tennessee - does not interfere with our understanding of the important information he is conveying.

VOCABULARY

Leaves rustling in the wind: foliage moved by air	A canary in a coal mine: a small bird used to detect noxious gases. If it died, the miners left the tunnels
A ne'er-do-well: a good for nothing	
A gearshift inside you: machinery for change in one	Permafrost: permanently frozen ground in the north
Greenhouse gases: gases that trap heat	It didn't cut it anymore: it didn't convince any longer
Hardnosed scientist: one convinced only by facts	Connect the dots: make the links as in the puzzles where one connects points to find a figure
Pledge: promise formally	Bedevil our thinking: distort our reasoning
Fossil fuel: coal, oil, gas or their derivatives	Internal memos leaked: reserved info was revealed
Take for granted: accept as truth without proof	Threshold: a point where change occurs
All-time records: the highest ever recorded	Haze: foggy-like smoke in the air
Hurricane's eye: the static center around which the winds swirl	Day of reckoning: a day when you have to draw conclusions
Breach the levees: break through the earth dams lining the Mississippi	Oil and gas lobby: people paid by oil/gas companies to put pressure on Congressmen
Dithering: making "Much Ado about Nothing", Shakespeare would say	Caterpillars, pine beetles, bark beetles: insects which kill vegetation
Flood (verb/noun): inundate	Rushing torrents: fast-flowing rivers and streams
Drought: a period totally without precipitation	Open-pit mine: a mine on the surface of the land
Seed the clouds: throw chemicals into them so that they drop their rain	Renewable resource: one like sun / wind, which is not used up, unlike oil, gas, coal
I totalled the family car: I completely wrecked it	Witnessing: testifying to