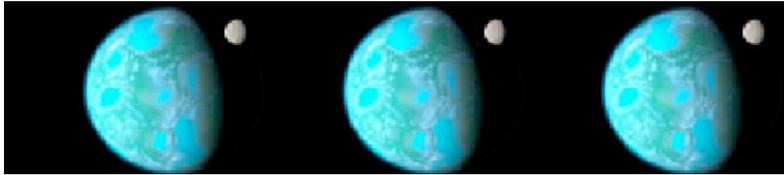


THE LAST PLANET

A FILM FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



Short Synopsis : THE LAST PLANET is an international road movie for the ecological age. Mikaël Rioux is a young Canadian eco-activist who puts his life on the line to save this, our last planet. He sets out on an international quest to meet and challenge planet-saving mentors, scientists and visionary guides. A charismatic, natural leader, Mikaël is surrounded by an army of equally passionate young believers. Together they envision a social revolution aimed at changing the world. For this generation of idealists there's no turning back.

Formats: HD Feature-length documentary, four possible 50min spin-offs, Last Planet interactive webplex, web movies, Vblogs. English and French versions.

Multiplatform project: THE LAST PLANET will also be a comprehensive multi-platform web project, an enriched DVD and a strong educational new media project. With these different iterations of THE LAST PLANET, we will create tools for reflection in the minds of the audience and tools for change that they can put their hands on.

Team: Director: Sylvie Van Brabant; Producers: Sylvie Van Brabant, Marie-France Côté; Co-Producer National Film Board of Canada: Yves Bisailon; Executive Producer: Peter Wintonick; Associate Producer: Lucille Veilleux

Broadcasters / Partners: Société Radio-Canada, CBC, National Film Board of Canada, SODEC (Société de développement des entreprises culturelles – Québec); Canadian Television Fund, Tax Credits

Timeline: Delivery May 2009

Contact: Sylvie Van Brabant at Films du Rapide-Blanc
Mobile: +1 (514) 771-4984 Landline: +1 (514) 388-0482 Fax: +1 (514) 388-6845
Address: 5768, Chabot Montréal QC H2G 2S7 Canada
Email: svb@rapideblanc.ca Web: www.rapideblanc.ca

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THE LAST PLANET

The Last Planet is an international road movie that personifies the quest for the ecological change desperately needed before humans commit the first ever planetary ecocide. The main character will be Mikaël Rioux, an activist who saved a river from an unnecessary dam in 2001 by suspending himself above its rushing waters, provoking mass media attention and a shift in public opinion.

For the first time in history, we must come together with one common purpose: save the planet to save ourselves. If the Earth was a person, or a country, an international tribunal would condemn us for crimes against humanity. Mikaël knows we created the problem, now we have to fix it. Failure is not an option. This young seeker sets out on an eco-journey to find viable solutions that can be implemented by everybody the world over. Gathering knowledge and experience from seasoned visionaries serves his personal interest to guarantee a better planet for his new-born child... and for all tomorrow's children.

Guided by a cantankerous and witty old mentor, Dr. Christian de Laet, Mikaël journeys around the world meeting visionaries that have set the stage and are already working with the answers he seeks. In India he will meet **Ashok Khosla**, the founder of *Development Alternatives*, responsible for thousands of sustainable projects; in Sweden, **Karl-Henrik Robèrt**, founder of *The Natural Step*, a process that has transformed the attitudes and actions of businesses and communities across the globe; Africa's Nobel Peace Prize winner, **Wangari Maathai**, founder of the *Green Belt Movement*, and North-America's ecological designer, **John Todd**, the famed inventor of revolutionary eco-machines which mimic nature to revitalize water.

Each encounter reveals amazing methods for restoring the balance between nature and ourselves. But our pilgrim is not only content to meet the "Wise". A natural leader, he is surrounded by an armada of equally passionate young believers. As Mikaël and his crew turn the information he has gleaned into action, we discover a multifaceted dynamic for change and the links they forge with people from all walks of life. They show us that it's not about reinventing the wheel, it's about learning to use it differently. For Mikaël, solutions will be powerful if they are put into action collectively. His ultimate message: let's project ourselves into the future to save our Earth now!

From the Tar Sands of Alberta to the Mega dams of Quebec, he will ask us to act on ecological and social devastation using the amazing solutions he has seen at work around the world. Caught between consumption habits and the practical necessities of everyday life, he will urge us to become better citizens. He will propose solutions to implement changes despite the red tape and inherent lethargy of our local and national governments.

Our story works across generations, with decisive meetings between experienced elders sharing their practical and positive wisdom and the immediacy and impatience of youthful passion. Through the personal quest of our main character, audiences will be inspired, motivated, provoked, and propelled into emotional identification and personal action by discovering that real viable change is possible.

THE LAST PLANET deals with ecology, biology, politics, ethics, the dysfunctional global economy which threatens the future, to present viewers/citizens with the solutions at hand, drawing along the way a survival map for the 21st century. Van Brabant is determined to create a powerful piece of cinema that will strike imagination and shake Cartesian minds. After the show is over, people will get up, out of their chairs, and put their feet to the ground to save our last and only planet.

As a storyteller, THE LAST PLANET'S director, Sylvie Van Brabant, has tackled many difficult subjects; suicide, youth violence, drug addiction and cancer. Her latest production, Driven by Dreams won Quebec's top feature documentary award this year, in addition to the Special Jury Award at the recent Hot Docs 2007; the film played 10 weeks in cinemas, to public and critical acclaim.