Choose Democracy, Not Oligarchy

“If you live in a corporate state, the only thing left is to dismantle it and build something new.”

WE THE PEOPLE 2.0
The Second American Revolution

A film by Tree Media

Directed by: Leila Conners
Narrated by: Walton Goggins
Produced by: Mathew Schmid
Music by: Eric Avery
Featuring: Thomas Linzey, Ben Price, Doug Shields, Tish O’Dell, Cathy Miorelli, Mik Robertson, Ann Kneeland, Joe Murphy, Ashley Hernandez, Kate Perle
Executive Producers: Mathew Schmid, Lisa Shields, Renate Schmid

USA | 91 minutes | English | 16:9 5.1 Surround | CC & Spanish Sub | Release 10/2016
Website: www.wethepeople2film.com

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Seattle International Film Festival Review - “We the People 2.0 confronts its viewers with the ravages of mine tailings and leaky containment ponds, of sludge and ooze and grue, all of which, the film documents, are killing people, particularly in the cancer-blighted small towns of North America. The film’s brief is laudable: Alongside documenting grassroots activism, including the kayak flotillas that protested Shell Oil in Seattle, the film focuses on legal challenges presented to corporations by granting rights to ecosystems. Talking heads come from the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund, a nonprofit that helps small towns draft laws against fracking, factory farming, and water privatization. The voice of narrator Walton Goggins, formerly of TV’s rural meth-opera “Justified,” is a great boon to the film, perhaps making viewers wish he would just let it rip in the grandiloquent manner of his TV character Boyd Crowder. The “2.0” in the title refers to what the filmmakers have dubbed "The Second American Revolution"—a battle not against a foreign power, but against corporate power.”

**Short Synopsis:**
American citizens who are normally marginalized, forgotten and left to fend against toxic dumps and other violations, come to understand that the only way to survive is to frontally challenge the oligarchy that has destroyed democracy in the United States.

**Medium Synopsis:**
We the People 2.0 is a visual essay about the loss of democracy in the United States. The film utilizes both original footage as well as found footage to describe a profound change in thinking at the grassroots level. The story unfolds through the eyes of rural people who have faced decades of toxic dumps, drilling and mines in their communities. We learn with them that the reason why, in spite of all their efforts, they “get what they don’t want, again and again,” is because they are, by law, truly powerless in spite of propaganda that says they live in the “best democracy in the world.” These people come to understand that the reason they can’t stop the destruction is that the US has become an oligarchy, run by the corporate few who ignore the rights and will of the people. These people are frontally challenging our corporate state; thereby saving nature and themselves. Thomas Linzey, a nonprofit attorney’s inspiring words shows how, we, the people, can turn this around and lay claim to our democracy. This movement is building as you read this, not just in this country but around the world; our film shows how and where it all began.
FEEDBACK

"...What an incredible film, I was absolutely fascinated – it so effectively brought together the hugely interconnected issues of climate and pollution, human cost, economic power and legal structures with some profound conclusions...I spent almost the entire evening discussing the issues the film raised with the assembled company." - Climate Earth

"Congrats on pulling together such a compelling body of work – providing roadmaps to local communities on how to challenge the extractive forces of the dominant system." - Tom, London, UK

“This film has the potential to be part of [a] powerful influence and a turning point in my region and the country.” - Iowa organizer

FILMMAKERS

Leila Conners, Director

We the People 2.0 is Leila Conners’ second feature documentary. She is currently in post-production on her third feature doc, The Arrow of Time, about the end of the Cold War and Gorbachev. With a background in international politics, Leila is Founder and President of Tree Media, a production company that creates media to support and sustain civil society by telling inspiring stories. Leila’s first feature-length documentary, The 11th Hour, premiered at Cannes and was co-created with Leonardo DiCaprio. The film included 54 leading thinkers and scientists about the state of the world and the state of the human condition. Leila has directed over 10 short films including the Green World Rising series featuring Leonardo DiCaprio; the Digital Wampum series about the Iroquois Confederacy and Driving Fashion Forward, about sustainable fashion featuring supermodel Amber Valetta. Leila most recently produced a documentary film on the explosion of urban farming in Detroit called Urban Roots. Leila is often invited to speak on issues of sustainability and the environment and has served on panels nationally and internationally.
Mathew Schmid, Producer

We the People 2.0 is Mathew's second feature documentary. Currently, he is producing the Arrow of Time and Ice on Fire. Most recently he produced of Urban Roots, a film about urban farming in Detroit; and produced and directed Giving Birth as well as produced Driving Fashion Forward with Amber Valletta. Mathew Schmid is CEO Tree Media and is spearheading Treemagination for Tree Media. With a lifelong background in Waldorf education based on the principles of Anthroposophy, Mathew has turned his attention to creating an educational curriculum to support individual and group development. Mathew's path of inquiry and interest in understanding how the soulful and spiritual values of personal development unfold has led him to careers grounded in communications, writing, and teaching. Mathew's unbiased observation of pop culture and our consumer society has led him to write and create new concepts and approaches that add a clarity to understanding human development.

Walton Goggins, Narrator

For more than a decade, Goggins has been one of the most magnetic and intense actors in film and television. In the last few years Goggins has had pivotal roles in films by two of Hollywood's most important auteurs: Quentin Tarantino, in Django Unchained; and Steven Spielberg in Lincoln. He has also appeared in such diverse films as American Ultra, G.I. Joe: Rise Of The Cobra, Robert Rodriguez's Predators and Machette Kills, Jon Favreau's Cowboys & Aliens, and Rod Lurie's Straw Dogs.

Goggins next stars opposite Danny McBride in the upcoming HBO series "Vice Principals." In his second collaboration with Academy Award-winning Quentin Tarantino, Walton Goggins stars in the writer/director's The Hateful Eight. He received an Emmy® nomination and four Critics Choice Award nominations for his mesmerizing portrayal of 'Boyd Crowder' on FX’s Peabody Award-winning Drama series Justified, which ran for five seasons.

Eric Avery, Composer

Bassist Eric Avery is probably best known as one of the co-founders of Jane's Addiction. Avery embarked on a number of projects after the breakup of the band in 1991, such as co-founding Deconstruction with fellow Jane's Addiction alum Dave Navarro and starting his own band, Polarbear, in 1994. After auditioning for a spot in Metallica following the departure of former bassist Jason Newsted, Avery began concentrating on a solo career. His debut album, Help Wanted, was released in April 2008.
Thomas Linzey, Founder of CELDF
Tom Linzey is a cum laude graduate of Widener University School of Law in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and is a three time recipient of the Schools’ Public Interest Law Award, a 2003 recipient of the Law School’s Young Alumni Award, a 2003 finalist for the Ford Foundation’s Leadership for a Changing World Award, and a 2004 recipient of the Pennsylvania Farmers Union’s Golden Triangle Legislative Award. He has served as an independent candidate for Attorney General, receiving over 65,000 votes statewide, and is the co-founder of the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund, a nonprofit law firm that provides free and affordable legal services to community groups and over three hundred local governments. He is admitted to practice in federal and state courts, including the Third Circuit, Fourth Circuit, Eighth Circuit, and Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals; and the U.S. Supreme Court. He serves as coordinator of the Franklin County Coalition - a county-based association of twenty-one community groups and over thirty locally owned businesses; and for a Caucus of local governmental officials in Pennsylvania. He is a co-founder of the Daniel Pennock Democracy School - now taught at fifteen locations across the United States - which assists groups and communities to reframe seemingly "single" environmental issues into ones focused on eliminating the ability of corporate “rights” to trump the rights of communities.

ABOUT TREE MEDIA & CELDF

Tree Media
With a mission to use stories and media to encourage an open society based on wisdom and informed, positive action, Tree has been working for more than 19 years on projects that examine the environment, consciousness, human development and global transformation. The media sphere, awash with information, often assaults us with violent images, random facts and meaningless stories that have no depth of purpose. Tree believes that taking time to create stories that connect to deeper truths will help us understand and navigate our time.

Tree Media can be contacted at:  www.treemedia.com  info@treemedia.com

CELDF
CELDF is the non-profit group that is spearheading a movement at the local, state, national and international level to establish rights for humans and nature over the systems that control them. The Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF) is building a movement for Community Rights and the Rights of Nature to advance democratic, economic, social, and environmental rights – building upward from the grassroots to the state, federal, and international level.

CELDF can be contacted at:  www.celdf.org  wtp2.0@celdf.org
CHOOSE DEMOCRACY NOT OLIGARCHY

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NARRATED BY WALTON GOGGINS

WE THE PEOPLE 2.0

TREE MEDIA PRESENTS A FILM BY LEILA CONNERS

www.wethepeople2.film