

EVERYTHING WILL CHANGE



In a dystopian 2054, three young rebels go on a journey to find traces of the long lost beauty of nature, hoping to discover what happened to their planet. The answer lies in the past and when they find the key to a decade – the 2020s – when a colourful future was still possible, everything changes. In this unusual road movie, lighthearted fiction meets scientific fact to explore the most pressing question of our time: extinction.

EVERYTHING WILL CHANGE celebrates its world premiere at the 17th Zurich Film Festival in Focus Competition. The Film is nominated for the Science Film Award.



Focus Competition
Zurich Film Festival

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SYNOPSIS

In the sterile world of 2054, Ben and his friends Cherry and Fini stumble upon evidence of strange, long-gone animals they have never heard of before. What is “giraffe”? Why is this bizarre, long-necked horse no longer around? This initial discovery sends them on an adventurous road trip to solve the mystery of the animals’ disappearance – and what we humans have to do with it.

Their journey takes them into a world of forgotten knowledge where they encounter scientists and poets, an aging generation that remembers a golden era – the 2010s and 2020s – when people could still experience nature first-hand. In a series of interviews, the old-timers marvel at all that beauty – a beauty the three friends have never known – and how it was lost to the Sixth Mass Extinction. An event no one really talked about at the time, but that came to be the defining process of the era.

According to the United Nations’ official estimate, we lost about 250 species per day during those decades. They were the decisive period of the Sixth Mass Extinction of life on Earth.

Woven into the road trip are the scientists’ conclusions and evocative images of the beauty of wildlife, revealing a profound investigation and questioning of the way humankind cares for its planet – or does not.

As the loss sinks in, the friends realize the finality of mass extinction, and how there is nothing left to save in their time. But rather than giving up, they hatch a fantastical plan. Will they be able to influence the course of history? **EVERYTHING WILL CHANGE** is a documentary tale from the future about the zeitgeist of our all-deciding present.

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KEY FACTS

Genre: Road Movie, hybrid
Format: 2K, b/w, colour & infrared
Length: 93 Min.
Country of production: Germany
Country of coproduction: Netherlands

Shooting locations: Germany, Netherlands, Spain, USA, Canada
Language: Englisch, German
World premier: Sept 24, 2021 at Zurich Filmfest

PARTNERS

A **Flare Film** production in co-production with **Windmill Film, Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg, Norddeutscher Rundfunk, Bayerischer Rundfunk, KRO-NCRV** in collaboration with **ARTE**.

Development funded by **Wim Wenders Grant of Film- und Medienstiftung NRW**. Funded by **Minister of State for Culture and The Media, German Federal Film Fund, German Federal Film Board, Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg, Film- und Medienstiftung NRW, Netherlands Film Production Incentive, nordmedia**.

With the kind support of **Werner Kretschmer**.

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MAIN CAST

ACTORS:

- **BEN:** Noah Saavedra (And Tomorrow the Entire World, Egon Schiele, O Beautiful Night)
- **CHERRY:** Jessamine-Bliss Bell (Dragonheart, Trick or Treat)
- **FINI:** Paul G Raymond (Black Mirror, The Educator)
- **NARRATOR:** Jacqueline Chan
- **ELISABETH:** Vibeke Hastrup

FEATURING SCIENTISTS & ARTISTS:

- **Prof. Stuart Pimm** - conservation scientist
- **Prof. Rodolfo Dirzo** - conservation scientist, tropical ecologist
- **Prof. Thomas E. Lovejoy** - biologist
- **Scott Loarie** - biologist, conservation ecologist
- **Prof. Dr. Mojib Latif** - meteorologist and oceanographer
- **Dr. Cary Fowler** - agriculturalist, winner alternative nobel prize
- **Prof. Daniel Pauly** - professor of Fisheries
- **Prof. Ursula Heise** - author and professor for environmental humanities

- **Wim Wenders** - award-winning director, author and photographer
- **Louie Schwartzberg** - director, cinematographer, producer
- **Markus Imhoof** - author, director, beekeeper
- **Joëlle Chesselet** - researcher, filmmaker

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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Disbelief. That is what I felt while researching this film. When I began to grasp that ecosystems really are falling apart everywhere around us. Many scientists claim that 200-300 species are lost every 24 hours right now. Global Mass Extinction is real. But still there is a part of me that doesn't want to believe it. I want to continue living in the colourful world that I know, not in the devastated future that scientific evidence points towards. THAT future somehow still feels like fiction. Like a sinister fairytale, too fantastic to be believed.

I was born in 1974 into a family of nature conservationists. Some of my most cherished memories are days spent in the wilderness with my dad, who was working to revitalise the swamps of Lower Saxony. I'd explore the misty wetlands, watch hundreds of frogs swim around each other, spawning in the swampy water. I'd eat beechnuts from the forest floor, and sometimes I was allowed to fell birch-trees all by myself with my little axe. An eighties childhood spent in intimacy with the wild.

When I started writing this film, my hope was to be able to bring some of that early fascination for nature to the screen. A declaration of love for the wild and and it's capacity to teach us who we are. But today, any 'love letter to the wild' has to be political.

In the 2020s, loving the wild means fighting for its very existence. It means the inconvenience of protest, it means voting a certain way, and it certainly means reviewing our personal choices. For me, it meant putting all my heart into this future fairytale.

Seen from the future, our time will be infamous, but not primarily for its divisive politics or a viral infection. Looking back, our era will be remembered as the time of the annihilation of the wild. Species that are gone stay gone for the rest of time - Extinction is a once-in-history event.

'I didn't know what was going on' never played well with the juries of the future. We are writing natural history right now. Realizing that, despite all the noise, is our responsibility.

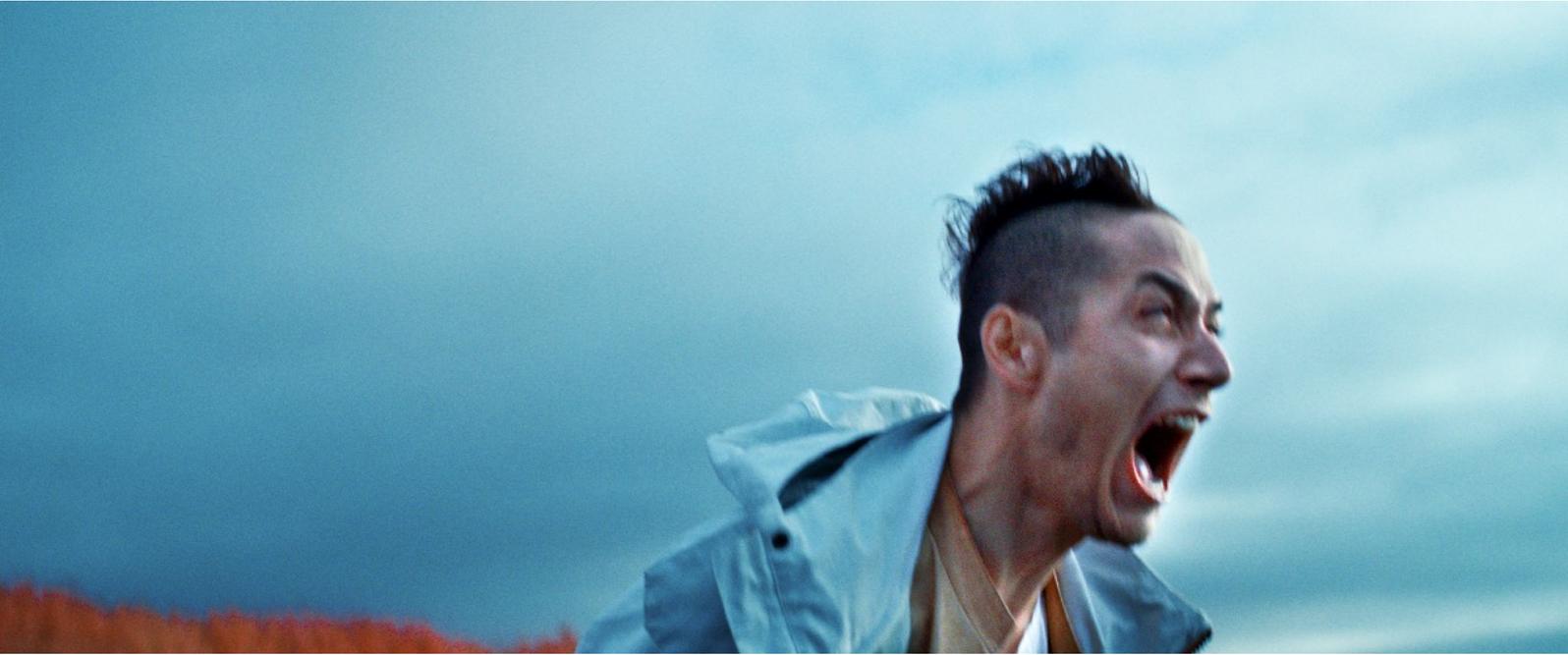
But what if our time went down in history not as the new dark age, but as a time of rebirth? The rebirth of our appreciation for the wild? As kids have it? With the fairytale EVERYTHING WILL CHANGE, I hope to transport the colours of my own childhood, but I also want it to be a call to arms. I want the film to give causes to rebels and reinforcement to a generation that is already fighting to modify the status quo. It is time to evolve on every level, economically, politically and philosophically.

Can we intentionally evolve our inner nature? I think we can. And I think it's exciting stuff.

Deep down, it is what we want to happen. It is the world we want to live in. A post-wild renaissance, based on honesty, science and hope.



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DIRECTOR'S CV MARTEN PERSIEL

Born in Germany in 1974, he studies directing and screenwriting at Westminster University London. He is a cosmopolitan, surfer, nature lover, screenwriter and film director. Unadorned images, a constant hint of adventure and a close connection to his characters define his style, which is fully expressed in his debut film „This Ain't California“ (2012). The film won awards all over the world, including Best Film in the 'Perspektive Deutsches Kino' section at the Berlinale, Audience Award at the Warsaw Film Festival and many more. In 2013 he received an invitation to the artist-in-residence programme at the Villa Aurora in LA, where he began research for his heart project "Everything Will Change“ (2021). In 2014 he was part of the jury of the Graz Film Festival.

> martenpersiel.com

TEAM

Writer & Director: Marten Persiel
Co-Writer: Aisha Prigann
Producers: Katharina Bergfeld, Martin Heisler (FLARE FILM)
Editors: Maxine Goedicke, Bobby Good
DOP: Felix Leiberg
Production design: Sebastian Soukup
Costume design: Mariëlla Kallenberg
Hair & Make-Up design: Brigitte Pleijzier
Music: Gary Marlowe
Sound design: Sebastian Müller
Re-recording mix: Andreas Hellmanzik,

Anders Wasserfall
VFX & Animation: Jonas Riemer
Graphics: Thekla Priebst
Archive producer: Vanessa Christoffers-Trinks
Casting: Ariane Mason
Co-Producer: Annemiek van der Hell (WINDMILL FILM)
Commissioning editors: Dagmar Mielke (ARTE/ rbb), Rolf Bergmann (rbb), Timo Großpietsch (NDR), Matthias Leybrand (BR), Laetitia Schoofs (KRO-NCRV)

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PRODUCTION COMPANY

Since 2008 Flare Film produces both documentaries and feature films for the national and international market. Our films have premiered at international film festivals, have been released in cinemas and been broadcast on TV. They have won several national and international awards. Flare Entertainment was founded in 2020 and is focusing on developing and producing fictional high-end TV shows.

We firmly believe that compelling stories can inspire people to question the world they live in and make them want to change it. We produce films that challenge the mind, move the heart and entertain the soul.

We have forged stable, personal relationships within both the German and the international film industry. We are committed to nurturing and extending these relationships. Our creative partnerships are based on trust and respect, allowing for constructive discussions and a shared passion for films.

Filmography selection: WALCHENSEE FOREVER (2020, nominated German Film Award 2021, selected for European Film Award, Winner Bavarian Filmaward, Berlinale Perspektive award, many more), ONE OF THESE DAYS (2020, Berlinale, nominations German Film Award 2021/ cinematography, many more), KIDS RUN (2020, Berlinale, preselection German Film Award 21, many more), BERLIN BOUNCER (2019, Berlinale), MORRIS FROM AMERICA (2016, Sundance, SXSW, many more), HOUSTON (2013, Sundance, Zürich, Karloff Vary, many more), FORGET ME NOT (2012, Award Locarno Semaine de la Critique), and many more.

> flare-film.com

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CONTACT

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PRODUCTION COMPANY

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