



EARTH DAY TEXAS AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL MEDIA ASSOCIATION SHARE THEIR 'OSCAR' SELECTIONS OF MOST COMPELLING ENVIRONMENTAL MOVIES

*The world's largest public green exhibition and the premiere awards program
solely devoted to the entertainment industry's environmental efforts
recommend their favorite eco-films*

DALLAS (Feb. 23) – Earth Day Texas (EDTx) is celebrating the Oscars this weekend by unveiling a compilation of some of the most compelling environmental documentaries and films ever released in the United States. Weighing in on the list are several notable celebrities from the film industry, including actors **Emmanuelle Chriqui**, **Wendie Malick** and **Rachelle Lefevre**, as well as experts from the Environmental Media Association (EMA).

Celebrity Selections

The environmental film genre incorporates works of fiction and nonfiction and covers the range of films, from headline-grabbing blockbuster films to captivating independent documentaries. Experts in the entertainment industry share insights into the films that most profoundly affected their lives and commitment to protecting the natural world.

According to **Debbie Levin, president of EMA**, *Silkwood*, which was released in 1983 and starred Meryl Streep, led her to become an activist. “*Silkwood* was probably the first time I realized something in our environment could potentially hurt our health,” she said. “It was a film about a woman who worked in a plutonium plant and believed it was toxic and could be harmful to the employees and the community.

“I don’t think I understood at the time how impactful this film was for me, but I believe that it’s the reason I was so motivated when I first heard EMA’s mission 16 years ago about educating and motivating the public about environmental issues and urging them to take action,” said Levin. “I knew immediately every individual could make a difference.”

Actor Emmanuelle Chriqui, best known for her role on *Entourage* and *Murder in the First*, recalls a film that represented a huge turning point for her environmental awareness. “A film that really moved me into awareness was the 2006 documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*,” said Chriqui. “It both shocked me and scared me into action. I just remember thinking there was no way I could ever forget what I just learned. Soon after, I met Debbie Levin, got involved with EMA and got my first Prius!”

A popular animated film motivated **actor and Golden Globe winner Wendie Malick** to take action. “The most powerful film I’ve seen in recent years was utterly unexpected – I took my 8-year-old niece to *Wall-E*, the animated fantasy about the last robot on earth,” she said. “Picking up our mess one piece of garbage at a time after we had rendered the



planet uninhabitable; obese humans living on BarcaLoungers on space ships with big gulps and experiencing everything virtually on their big screens – it was powerful. “The documentary that most blew me away in terms of the urgency of climate change was *Chasing Ice*,” Malick continued. “It showed how we're losing the glaciers at an alarming rate...far faster than had been anticipated.”

Rachelle Lefevre, known for roles in the series *Twilight* and U.S. TV adaptation of *Life on Mars*, recalls the story in *Mad Max: Fury Road*. “Even though it's an action film, at its core it is about the violence that ensues in a world where nature and its resources have been destroyed,” she said. “The heroes spend the whole film trying to get to ‘the green place’ only to find it too has become a wasteland. It’s the most entertaining cautionary tale I've ever seen.”

“*Silkwood* was the first film that really inspired me, but I must also say *Erin Brockovich* was so important as well,” said **Frances Fisher**, an actor known for roles on *Titanic*, *Unforgiven*, and *The Lincoln Lawyer*. “I loved Brokovich’s spunk. And now she is working hard on the Flint water crisis as you know!”

Earth Day Texas’ Top Picks

In addition to the celebrity picks, Earth Day Texas issued its own selection of “must-see” environmental documentaries, including some previously screened at Earth Day Texas sponsored-events, as well as others under consideration for the EMA Film Series at Earth Day Texas 2016 at Fair Park. All provide breathtaking new looks at the natural world and innovative ways people are tackling global issues.

- ***Racing Extinction*** – The latest film by **Academy Award winner Louie Psihoyos** will change the way people see the planet. Utilizing state-of-the-art equipment, Psihoyos assembles a team of artists and activists intent on showcasing to the world never-before-seen images exposing issues of endangered species and mass extinction.
- ***Jumbo Wild*** – A project by global outdoor clothing company Patagonia and Sweetgrass Productions, this film follows the intense 24-year struggle of local residents, concerned citizens and the Ktunaxa Nation against a proposed ski resort in the Jumbo Valley in the heart of BC’s rugged Purcell Mountains. The compelling film presents a very balanced view of a complicated story and is replete with breathtaking cinematography and killer skiing action shots.
- ***Yakona*** – Presenting a stunning visual journey through the life of the San Marcos River, this experimental film uses music and cinematography to tell a Texas conservation success story. *Yakona* speaks directly to viewers with its beauty, appealing to humanity’s higher nature in an effort to create understanding about a river that yearns to remain untouched despite everything changing around it.



- ***Gardeners of Eden*** – Actor, philanthropist and producer **Kristin Davis** takes viewers on a gripping, first-person journey inside the operations of Kenya’s David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust. The heart-touching film shows heroic efforts undertaken to stop poachers in the bush, rescue orphaned elephants, and raise these helpless babies until they are strong enough to return to the wild.
- ***The True Cost*** – This distressing feature film explores the impact of the global clothing industry on people and the planet. A groundbreaking documentary directed by **Andrew Morgan**, *The True Cost* pulls back the curtain on the untold story of the true cost of our fashion obsession to the many people and places behind our clothes.
- ***How to Let Go of the World: and Love all the Things Climate Can’t Change*** – This 2016 Sundance Film Festival Official Selection and latest work by **Oscar-nominated director Josh Fox**, this film investigates climate change by traveling to 12 countries on six continents. The gripping documentary acknowledges the harsh reality that it may be too late to stop some of the worst consequences and asks, instead, what is it that climate change can’t destroy? What is so deep within us that no calamity can take it away?
- ***Kombit*** – Following Timberland’s support of a nascent partnership between a Haitian agronomist and a former NGO leader, *Kombit* looks at efforts to empower communities of Haitian farmers to plant millions of trees while improving their crop yields. Haiti is 98 percent deforested and little of its once-prosperous agricultural industry endures. This film shows the efforts to create new markets and opportunities for farmers to sustainably support both the environment and themselves.

Celebrities for Change

During this year’s Earth Day exhibition in Dallas, EDTx and EMA will host the “Celebrities for Change Gala” on Saturday, April 23 at Fair Park. **Emmanuelle Chriqui** and **Wendie Malick** are among the leading celebrities slated to host the special event, which will for the first time bring the iconic EMA awards program to a city outside of Los Angeles. Since in 1991, the annual EMA Awards have been considered the premiere awards solely devoted to the entertainment industry’s environmental efforts. EMA invented the ‘green carpet’ and launched the concept of taking hybrid or alternative fuel vehicles to the EMA Awards instead of a limousine.

The Celebrities for Change Gala will include green carpet arrivals, a cocktail hour, a seated dinner, and an award presentation for filmmakers who are making a difference for the environment through their work. The fundraising event will benefit the outreach of both EMA and EDTx. Tickets and sponsorships for the gala are on sale now. Please



contact development@earthdaytx.org for more information or visit EarthDayTx.org/ema.

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About Environmental Media Association

The Environmental Media Association is a non-profit organization founded in 1989 by Cindy and Alan Horn and Lyn and Norman Lear. EMA inspires solutions for the environment through continued impact in media and pop-culture. EMA focuses on action programs, PSA campaigns, celebrity and brand role modeling, educational salons, solution-oriented conferences, placing green storylines into film and television productions, and using the iconic EMA Awards Gala as a platform to help create a template for a more environmentally responsible future.

About Earth Day Texas

Each April, Earth Day Texas hosts the world's largest public exhibition devoted to environmental stewardship, where attendees come together for breakthrough hope and discovery about how best to achieve a world of sustainable balance. The event is a platform that brings businesses, environmental organizations, academic institutions, and government agencies together to positively inspire people to think, live, and work sustainably. By providing enlightening talks, unique exhibits, and interactive workshops, EDTx catalyzes meaningful conversations that will shape a sustainable future. Earth Day Texas 2016 will be held at Fair Park in Dallas, Texas on April 22-24, 2016.

Sponsors for Earth Day Texas include **Air Liquide Advanced Technologies, ONCOR, KERA,** and **Dallas Rapid Area Transit (DART)** (Steward Level) and **BNSF Railway Company and DFW Child** (Advocate Level). All sponsors will exhibit and share their green stories at Earth Day Texas 2016.

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