

HALCYON PICTURES AND BFI DOC SOCIETY FUND PRESENT

REBELLION

Made with the support of Bertha Foundation, Climate Story Lab,
Doc Society, New Perspectives and The Rogovy Foundation



A film by Maia Kenworthy and Elena Sánchez Bellot
Produced by Kat Mansoor

2021 - UK - DOCUMENTARY - 1.85 - 5.1 - ENGLISH - 82'

UK Release Date: 18 March 2022

ASSETS

[Official trailer](#) | [Official poster](#)

[Key stills](#) | [Social media pack](#)



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SHORT SYNOPSIS

Rebellion is the first feature-length documentary to tell the behind-the-scenes story of Extinction Rebellion from its launch in 2018. With unprecedented access, the filmmakers follow a group of unlikely allies and capture the human drama of social movements first hand.

LONG SYNOPSIS

Rebellion is the first feature-length documentary to tell the behind-the-scenes story of Extinction Rebellion, following a group of unlikely allies as they come together to confront the climate emergency.

In the decade since the Financial Crisis, action on climate change had slipped right down the political agenda. In 2018 a new group emerged, Extinction Rebellion (XR), with a bold tactic to break through the deadlock: mass civil disobedience on a scale not seen for decades.

Rebellion follows the journey of XR co-founders as well as Farhana Yamin, an international environmental lawyer who played a key role in negotiating the Paris Climate Agreement, as she decides to break the law for the first time in her life. After decades of UN climate negotiations, Farhana is determined to sound the alarm and see governments act.

As Farhana says in the film: "I'd come into the UN system thinking it's a fair fight - we've got science and law and economic analysis. But you had intensive lobbying from the fossil fuel industries, and the financial industries that support them, and it wasn't a fair fight."

In April 2019, XR brings London to a standstill as thousands take part in one of the biggest acts of civil disobedience in British history. Within days of the protests, a climate emergency is declared by the UK Parliament and climate change is propelled to the heart of public debate. Many countries around the world, from Canada to Bangladesh, follow suit declaring emergencies.

Yet as XR becomes a global phenomenon, internal tensions rise. Here we see XR Youth come to the fore, calling out the power imbalances of the group. For them, climate change is not just an environmental issue but is rooted in - and reinforces - social inequalities.

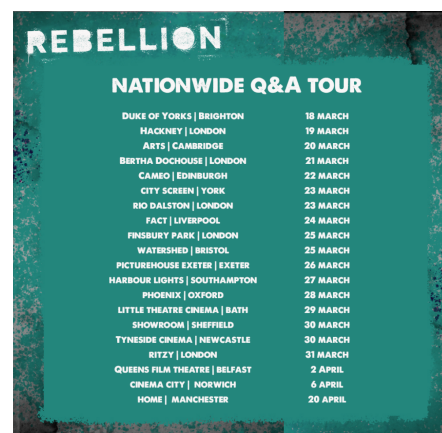
Rebellion crucially tells a story about the health of our own democracy, as we witness moves to restrict the power of peaceful protest - including a government bill threatening 10 year jail sentences for those causing 'serious annoyance or inconvenience.' The film asks us uncomfortable and important questions about what it means to be an active citizen.

Example tweets

Rebellion opens in UK cinemas this weekend! A must see if you care about climate and democracy

Go see Rebellion! A tribute to the power of civil disobedience, launching just as parliament considers curtailing the right to peaceful protest

Come see Rebellion on the big screen and join the conversation about activism & what next for the climate movement



FILM'S CONTRIBUTORS

Sam Knights is an activist and writer. He helped establish Extinction Rebellion and has worked alongside various climate justice groups in London. He is the editor of *This Is Not A Drill*, published by Penguin Books, and has written for Jacobin, Tribune, Novara Media, Huffington Post, and other publications. He acts and writes under the name Sam Haygarth.

Farhana Yamin is an internationally recognised environmental lawyer, climate change and development policy expert. She has advised leaders on climate negotiations for 30 years, representing small islands and developing countries, and attended nearly every major climate summit since 1991. She was voted Number 2 on the 2020 BBC's Power List with the judges describing her as a "powerhouse of climate justice" and is active in numerous community-based initiatives and social justice movements. As Political Coordinator of Extinction Rebellion for a year, she played a key role in XR April 2019 protests, glueing herself to the Shell HQ offices in London, alongside thousands of other activists.

Savannah Lovelock is a poet and committed community builder from Cymru. She was a co-coordinator of XR Youth UK and has since explored the world of the UK's schooling system. She is currently interested in Romanian farming practices and plans to get involved in the regenerative farming scene in the UK.

Roger Hallam is a farmer from Wales and a co-founder of Extinction Rebellion. He is a PhD researcher on radical campaign design and has been involved in several civil disobedience groups since 2017, including Stop Killing Londoners and the King's College divestment campaign.

Dr Gail Bradbrook has been researching, planning and training for mass civil disobedience since 2010 and is a co-founder of Extinction Rebellion. She has been arrested five times for acts of civil disobedience, including at the Department for Transport for breaking a window in a protest about HS2, wider government policy and lack of action on the climate and ecological emergency. She is from Yorkshire, the daughter of a coal miner, and has a Phd in molecular biophysics. She was named as one of the top 50 influencers in the UK by GQ and honoured in a Woman's Hour Power list for her part in instigating a rebellion against the British Government.

Alejandra Piazzola Ramírez is currently the production liaison for the charity If Not Us Then Who, raising awareness of the role indigenous and local peoples play in protecting the environment. In 2019 she joined XR Youth UK and for the past couple of years, she has been the media coordinator for XR Internationalist Solidarity Network (XRISN).

Sophie Cowen is a campaigns, media and PR specialist who spent the first part of her career in advertising working for banks and consumer brands funding the climate crisis, before realising that didn't make sense as the world was falling apart. She helped set up and coordinate XR's Media & Messaging team for the April 2019 protests and has been arrested multiple times for civil disobedience, including at Barclays HQ in a protest about the bank's continued investment in environmentally destructive practices. In 2020, she set up SwitchIt Green, an online tool supporting individuals and businesses to switch their money out of banks that fund fossil fuels. She firmly believes you don't have to consider yourself an activist to take action.



THE FILMMAKERS

Maia Kenworthy - Co-Director

Maia is an independent documentary filmmaker from London. She has directed and produced films for charities and arts organisations, and taught creative workshops in schools and universities across the UK. With a background in history and art, she has always been interested in visual storytelling and the ways it can connect us to each other. In 2018 she met the co-founders of Extinction Rebellion and has spent the last four years immersed in the world of activism.

Elena Sánchez Bellot - Co-Director

Elena is a Spanish filmmaker based in London. She is a self-shooting director and editor, keen on capturing the nuanced and complicated ways in which we are human. Her previous work includes films for public sector institutions such as the National Housing Federation and Arts Council England, as well as private clients like the NBA, MTV and NBC. She runs workshops for filmmakers and teaches on the Documentary Film MA at University College London. This is the first feature film she has directed.

Kat Mansoor - Producer

With 20 years of industry experience, award-winning Producer Kat Mansoor has worked with the likes of BBC Films, Channel4, Film 4, Netflix and Vice to consistently deliver a slate of highly acclaimed films. Kat's work has been shown around the world at festivals such as Cannes, Telluride, SXSW and IDFA. Her film credits include double Grierson-winning HERE'S JOHNNY, BLACKOUT, WOJTEK, THE BEAR THAT WENT TO WAR, THE MAN WHOSE MIND EXPLODED, IDA'S DIARY, LOST AND SOUND, and WHAT WE BELIEVE. Kat's most recent releases include BAFTA nominated COW, which was directed by Andrea Arnold and which premiered at Cannes 2021, and REBELLION which will be released on Netflix in April 2022.

Kevin Macdonald - Exec Producer

Kevin is a Scottish director whose films include Oscar winning One Day in September (1999), Touching the Void (2003), The Last King of Scotland (2006), State of Play (2009), Black Sea (2014), Whitney Houston documentary Whitney (2018) and the Mauritanian (2021).

CREW

A Film by	Maia Kenworthy and Elena Sánchez Bellot
Producer	Kat Mansoor
Director of Photography	Maia Kenworthy, Elena Sánchez Bellot, Amy Newstead
Editing	Michael Nollet
Music Composition	Wayne Roberts
Sound Designer	Rick Blything
Animation	Plume Films
Sound Recording	Nikky French
Executive Producer	Kevin Macdonald, Lisa Marie Russo, Jess Search, Sandra Whipham

Festivals

IDFA, Amsterdam, World Premiere (17-26 Nov 2021)
Docpoint, Helsinki (31 Jan - 6 Feb 2022)
Human International Documentary Film Festival, Oslo (28 Feb-6 Mar 2022)
Glasgow Film Festival, UK Premiere (2-13 March 2022)
CPH:DOX, Copenhagen (23 Mar - 3 April 2022)
One World, Prague (23-31 March)
Movies That Matter, The Hague (8-16 April 2022)
Millennium Docs Against Gravity, Poland (13-22 May 2022)
Human Rights Watch Film Festival, New York, Opening Night (May 2022)
Docs Barcelona (17-30 May 2022)
Castlemaine Documentary Festival, Australia (1-3 July 2022)