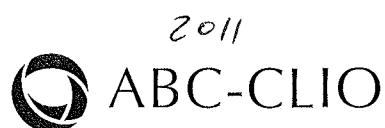


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An Inconvenient Truth

Premiering in May 2006, *An Inconvenient Truth* is a documentary film focusing on global climate change. Directed by Davis Guggenheim, the movie follows former U.S. Vice President Albert Gore Jr. as he delivers a series of slideshow presentations designed to increase public understanding about global warming. Weaving together personal narratives from Gore's life with scientific data, *An Inconvenient Truth* quickly became an important touchstone for environmental debate as it attempted to balance scientific warnings with concrete actions audiences could take to avoid an impending global crisis.

Viewed primarily as a film dedicated to the dissemination of scientific knowledge, the documentary was well received by audiences. Critics and scientists gave the film positive reviews (Minchin, 2006). In addition to receiving critical acclaim, the film was also a commercial success. *An Inconvenient Truth* eventually went on to win an array of awards, including the 2007 Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature. Al Gore's 2006 companion book, *An Inconvenient Truth: The Planetary Emergency of Global Warming and What We Can Do About It*, met comparable success after reaching the number one spot atop the *New York Times*' bestseller list. However, the film did not go without criticism.

Shortly following the movie's release, climate skeptics attacked the film as fervently as those who praised it. Some critics speculated Gore was using the film as an opportunity to generate media attention for a future presidential run after having been defeated by George W. Bush. Gore denied these rumors and did not again run for the presidency.

Despite being challenged by climate change deniers, Al Gore's commitment to educating the public about climate change science, especially through *An Inconvenient Truth*, contributed to Gore being named a co-recipient, along with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. To this day, *An Inconvenient Truth* remains an important part of U.S. environmental and documentary history.

Richard D. Besel

See also Gore, Albert Arnold Jr.

References

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