

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 12, 2008



“A SNOW MOBILE FOR GEORGE”

(94 minutes, color)

Hollywood Theater, Portland

Opening Night June 13, 7:30 PM

Week-end Matinees June 14, 15 and June 21,22

Filmmaker present for after-screening Q and A Opening Night

Trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yEijN-vYqc>

“A Snow Mobile for George” is a rambunctious road trip that collects the stories of fishermen, cowboys and firemen who have to face the consequences of environmental de-regulation by the Bush Administration. Started by a question about the filmmaker’s own used two-stroke snowmobile engine, this trip steadily reveals the political strategy and rationale behind a massive sell-off of public resources.

But if close ties between corporations and the Bush White House don’t surprise you, the film’s approach may. “A Snow Mobile for George” begins modestly as a one-man, one-machine road film that simply asks why rules to clean up a smoky off-road machine got

shelved. With no presumption of guilt or blame, filmmaker Todd Darling tows his family snowmobile across the United States and persists in asking that question. The film's humble point of departure gives little hint as to its ultimate destination. What starts off as a personal quest gradually morphs as this journey takes the viewer to the sites of more serious environmental changes.



Told with a dry sense of humor, the film traces rule changes back to key Administration players. On this coast-to-coast journey, the filmmaker goes to the Klamath River along the drought stricken California/Oregon border where politically inspired rule changes by the Administration helped cause the nation's largest fish die-off in 2002. A thousand miles East, in Wyoming, he discovers a range war between ranchers and oil-companies that started when political appointees in the Interior Department suppressed clean water rules for natural gas drilling. Another couple thousand miles, he and the snowmobile roll into lower Manhattan. There he meets New York firemen, Wall Street workers and residents worried about their health and their lives because White House environmental officials ordered the EPA to side-step toxic waste protocols in the collapse of the World

Trade Center. But, the final piece of the de-regulation mystery only falls into place when he finally arrives in Washington, DC.

The common thread among these stories is de-regulation – the notion that common citizens benefit when “the government gets off their back”. But the film uncovers how the Administration worked efficiently to match up the goals of select industries with the political demands of the White House at the expense of the little guy.



Through out the journey the original question about the resurrection of the smoky two-stroke snowmobile engine becomes the tragic-comic relief, a metaphor of how our government has operated. Bouncing from smog checks and buffalo in Yellowstone, college engineering contests in Michigan, and lobbyists in Washington, viewers discover that the snowmobile has some powerful allies. And oddly enough, this seemingly obscure off-road vehicle helped pioneer one of the Administration’s most sophisticated political strategies.

“A Snow Mobile for George” poses thought-provoking questions about the deterioration of the public good as a result of a determined political strategy.

For More Information

www.asnowmobileforgeorge.com

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Festivals and Screenings

Santa Barbara International Film Festival Jan 31, Feb 2

Big Sky Documentary Film Festival Feb 15 - 20

Sedona Film Festival, Feb 27 - March 2

On Location: Memphis, March 27-30

Atlanta Film Festival, April 10 – 19

Ashland Independent Film Festival, April 4 – 7

“2008 Best Documentary: Feature Length Finalist”

Newport Beach Film Festival April 30

Breckenridge Festival of Film June 7 and 8

Webster University Film Series, St. Louis, MO June 12

Hollywood Theater, Portland, June 13,14, 15, 21, 22

