

Extinction for Skeptics – a new film by Denis Postle

Denis Postle writes:

In the second week of April this year, I shoe-horned an hour at the Oxford Circus Extinction Rebellion occupation into a day of other agendas. Emerging from the Tube into an almost empty Oxford Street and a blocked crossing, I found the framework of the Extinction Rebellion occupation/action in place; and happily, so was the weather to support it.

One of the great virtues of the digital video revolution is that I always have cameras with me – how else to make movies these days? I recorded some of the preparations for what was eventually to become a huge event. Viewing the material later, the question arose: ‘Is there a movie here, or was it just material for some later enterprise?’. The answer was ‘yes, but...’.

I recuperated a music track, ‘Earthworm Dance’, that I had recorded a decade ago, and found there to be a chemistry between it and the rough edit of some of what I had photographed. Yes, this was a movie: it celebrated the Extinction Rebellion Oxford Circus action; but....

The ‘but’ came from my general sense, which may be unjustified, that while Extinction Rebellion is organizationally wonderfully agile, for someone in the street not yet fully awake to the climate emergency, explicit content about *why* ER is taking action too often seems

missing. OK, it’s an opinion, but for this video to be more than a tourist video clip, I felt it needed another ‘layer’; and so I added a series of factoids that I have been touched or impressed by. *Voilà...* a video, ‘Extinction for Skeptics’ – 4 mins.

Link to the film: <https://vimeo.com/332811346>

Other climate-related videos I have made are:

- Business-as-usual – 10 mins (link: <https://vimeo.com/298238163>)
- Messages From the Blue Planet- The Climate Emergency – 60 mins (link: <https://vimeo.com/257467422>)
- Messages de la planète bleue – L’Urgence climatique – 60 mins (link: <https://vimeo.com/301346548>)

About the contributor

Denis Postle is a veteran broadcast film-maker, father and grandfather, and author of over 30 films and five books. After 35 years as a therapist, activist and one of the founders of a commons-based psychotherapy network, he has lately been recovering his earlier underground film idioms, exploring how best global heating might be approached, emotionally, practically, and politically.