
UPDATE MESSAGE from DIRECTOR 5/11/07

Posted by shaunmon - 2007/05/11 07:44

Though I'm flattered by people's willingness to spread awareness to the film and the plight of animals, all free uploading and/or downloading of EARTHLINGS is illegal and breaks copyright laws. We (Nation Earth) are not a non-profit organization, and all rights had to be paid for by myself and my producing partners before we could release the film. That includes both the footage, and more specifically the music. Why people think it's okay to simply download this film for free continues to surprise us and cost Nation Earth money. Earthlings, as a finished product, is financially "in the red" for this reason. It is also the reason we haven't been able to translate the film into more languages, which costs in the neighborhood of \$2,000 per language. I wanted at least a dozen languages on the DVD (based on interest overseas). That's \$24,000 for subtitles alone. As it stands now we have only three languages available.

This film did not finance nor direct itself, and it took nearly 5 years to complete and release. If anyone believes in or wants to support this film's message, please buy a copy of the DVD from the film's official web site. Downloading the film for free or pirating DVDs and passing them out to others is illegal and has become the primary reason why Earthlings does not have a distribution deal.

Respectfully,
Shaun Monson

Re:UPDATE MESSAGE from DIRECTOR 5/11/07

Posted by Ser Yo - 2008/10/26 09:46

Well, this second message of you sounds a bit conflictive with the first one where the request was just for these few months...

Anyway, I understand what you say.

But I disagree.

I surely agree that you deserve to be refounded (uhmpf, sorry for my english) for all your time, effort, and loss of money. But I understand from the depth of your work that your real and sincere aim is to help animals, earthlings, no matter what... And I feel that you are mistaking now, in the measure that your request would be negative for your aim. It would cause the opposite effect.

I really appreciate the movie, and I am sure that if there is (and there surely is) a Buddha who protects animals, you are in his/her heart now and forever.

But I think that there are priorities, and we should analyze them with logic, by aims...

The main priority is to do all the possible to let more and more people become aware and disgusted of what humans do to other species, so that maybe they will little by little change behaviour.

And I can't really imagine a better way than your movie to reach this aim.

So, the priority is that your movie MUST be seen by the largest amount of people as possible, no matter what.

For the transitive property of equality, if $a=b$ and $b=c$, then $a=c$. Considering that your movie and the work of your 5 years has the only target of helping animals, and that the best way to reach this aim is by letting the largest possible amount of people see this movie as soon as possible (there is no more time), logic wants that the best way to see your target reached is by letting the largest amount of people see the movie.

I am afraid that this will NEVER happens by official distribution.

Be honest, most people don't like anything which can put in danger their way of life...

Don't spoil my dinner... you say it in the movie...

So, at first you must consider that those who mostly need to see your movie (because they should really change their daily behaviour toward earthlings) will never do it if not thanks to a pirated copy of it (or an original but borrowed one, which is just a little bit better), because IF they will see it they will never do it by their own will, without any friend to "guide" them. And they will surely not pay for it. At all. I am totally sure of it.

Second, you must consider that not everywhere people can afford the price of an original dvd even if wanting. I live in Argentina. Even the DVD Clubs here, in half the country or more, are all renting pirated copies. I never ever saw an original copy of any film for rent in any DVD Club in the innerland of Argentina.

And if in some places often people do not have money for the basic needs, do you really think that they would buy an original copy of Earthlings from the web just because someone tells them "hey, guy, you really should stop helping

humans to make animals suffer. Buy this movie and you will understand"?
No, they would not. Never.
I am absolutely sure that NO ONE of all those I know would buy an original copy. Not before to have seen the movie. Maybe someone could buy a copy after have seen the movie, to support you and thanks you. As I probably (sorry, just probabbly) will do. Because you surely deserve it.
So, the only way for me to let them see your movie, and so to help animals, is by borrowing or giving them a copy. I am sure that you can't agree with me officially. But I am sure that you agree with me silently.
And I am sure that you will forgive me for all the copies which I will make of my already pirated copy. Which I actually paid for, even if to the wrong guy.
I will sincerely thinks about buying at least one original copy, even if I myself invert my full time in helping earthlings (including humans), and I too need money for that (and I too have not any...).
Once again thanks for what you have done.
I was already vegetarian. But I never felt the need to leave milk derivates, and eggs, before seeing your movie. I guess that my life will be largely less comfortable now.
But more sincere and kind.

Sincerely,
Sergio

Re:UPDATE MESSAGE from DIRECTOR 5/11/07

Posted by Submersible - 2008/10/29 23:52

Ser Yo wrote:

Well, this second message of you sounds a bit conflictive with the first one where the request was just for these few months...

I totally agree that his reasoning with others and the explanation of why it was important to keep the film off the www for a few months, is replaced by a disappointed attitude towards the profits his work has earned for his investors. Hopefully the satisfaction of knowing the film has been translated in well over a dozen languages, along with a nearly unanimous opinion that "Earthlings" is the most thought provoking, informative, and influential documentaries of all times, gives him a sense of satisfaction that money can't buy.

I totally understand that the financial success of this film will determine how much money people are willing to gamble on your future work, but it is still hard to understand how the craving for profits can overwhelm your passion to educate and enlighten the largest possible audience with your message.

Shaun,

It has been well over a year since you have commented on this issue and I am very curious what your opinion is concerning the free uploading and/or downloading of EARTHLINGS today.
Congratulations on your success, and I look forward to watching the film very soon.

Re:UPDATE MESSAGE from DIRECTOR 5/11/07

Posted by Afonso - 2009/01/11 18:10

Greetings from Portugal,

Congratulations for the movie, its a quite eye opener...

I like to call it the "Animal_Zeitgeist", as the positive "propaganda" is a nowadays must in order to make people think a little about what we humans are doing to our own Planet/Home...and the de-respect to all the living species on it.

I suggest that after the "Oscar" period ceases, you guys make the movie available for FREE DOWNLOAD and add a DONATE button, so everybody can contribute \$€£ and write something on a wall of fame in order to support this honorable mission.

Keep the good work.

Best regards,

Antonio

Also full support to:
www.thezeitgeistmovement.com

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Re:UPDATE MESSAGE from DIRECTOR 5/11/07

Posted by Nand - 2009/07/23 06:18

I Completely agree.

Understandably this film took time, money and effort.
One would think though that "recooping" loses is not the purpose of the film.

The purpose of the film should be to raise awareness by any means.

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Re:UPDATE MESSAGE from DIRECTOR 5/11/07

Posted by Virgil - 2010/02/03 09:03

I agree too. I don't know how many copies of the film you sold until now but my guess is that giving it for free and adding a line like This film took 5 years of work and a huge personal investment. To support future research and productions please go to www.earthlings.com and DONATE would be more efficient both for the humankind and your pocket ;)

Oh, and... you really should make some sequels. Try one with deforestations and one with mother nature... which was destroyed more in the last 3 decades than in it's entire existence.

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Copyright

Posted by lilwave - 2010/02/20 09:01

I need someone to explain this to me... the movie IS copyrighted, so I need to buy it, but lets say I buy it and show it at my high school? Can I give the kids community service hours for viewing the entire movie? the school needs a license, yes? how do I get that? I need all details so that I can present it to the principal.

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Re:Copyright

Posted by Liberación Igualdad - 2010/02/23 11:41

If you want to hold a screening of Earthlings and you need an authorization from the authors, you can e-mail them at screenings@earthlings.com and they'll probably ask for some details of the screening and then send you an authorization.

I've done so in the past. As long as you don't charge any fees for the screening, everything should be really easy.

Hope you do well, and let us know how it goes!

Samuel.

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Re:UPDATE MESSAGE from DIRECTOR 5/11/07

Posted by lilwave - 2010/03/03 12:46

thanks a million dude! I'm definitely doing this :) I'll keep you guys posted.

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Re:UPDATE MESSAGE from DIRECTOR 5/11/07

Posted by helenk579 - 2010/06/08 18:38

Nand wrote:
I Completely agree.

Understandably this film took time, money and effort.
One would think though that "recooping" loses is not the purpose of the film.

The purpose of the film should be to raise awareness by any means.
I also think so.

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Re:UPDATE MESSAGE from DIRECTOR 5/11/07

Posted by Jonathan - 2010/07/04 17:23

Yeah, il buy a copy, i wanna stop people eating meat, its wrong, its a shame so many lies get spread about it. But Earthlings kind of killed me inside, after seeing that i just stopped eating meat, the day after, forgot all my naive views about the benefits and just concentrated on making others stop. But i wanna do more, i like signing petitions but i wanna really stop it, actually go in and make them stop, even setting a load of nukes off would probably benefit the world more than leaving us to destroy it, at least the remaining animals would be able to survive. I mean, i wanna do more, but how can i?

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