



EVERY  
DROP  
COUNTS

# DAY ZERO

A DOCUMENTARY SPECIAL

DIRECTED BY KEVIN SIM VIRGINIA QUINN WRITTEN BY KEVIN SIM NARRATED BY CHIWETEL EJIORFOR EXECUTIVE PRODUCER AND CREATOR DAVID WALLERSTEIN  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS KARI LIA EDWARD CHENG ANNA GAO PRODUCERS MARCY COX ROB REE SHARON LU EDITOR IAN GARVIN  
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY WILL PUGH COMPOSERS ROB MANNING SAMUEL SIM HEAD OF PRODUCTION TREVOR LOPEZ DE VERGARA

PRESENTED BY  
Tencent 腾讯

PRESENTED BY  
Tencent Pictures  
腾讯影业

PRODUCED BY  
KEO films

DISTRIBUTED BY  
Fremantle

# FACT SHEET

## GENRE

Factual

## DURATION

A documentary special

## COMMISSIONING BROADCASTER

Tencent/OoS Pictures  
(China/Iceland)

## PRODUCER

Keo Films (UK)

## DISTRIBUTOR

Fremantle

## LOCATIONS

South Africa, Australia,  
USA, Mexico, Brazil

## NARRATOR

Chiwetel Ejiofor  
(Academy award nominee  
& BAFTA award winner)

## DIRECTORS

Kevin Sim  
Virginia Quinn

## WRITER

Kevin Sim

## CREATOR AND EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

David Wallerstein

## EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Kari Lia

## EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

Edward Cheng  
Anna Gao

## COMPOSERS

Rob Manning  
Samuel Sim

## FILM EDITOR

Ian Garvin

## PRODUCERS

Rob Ree  
Sharon Lu

## PRODUCER

Marcy Cox

## DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Will Pugh (McQueen)





# SYNOPSIS

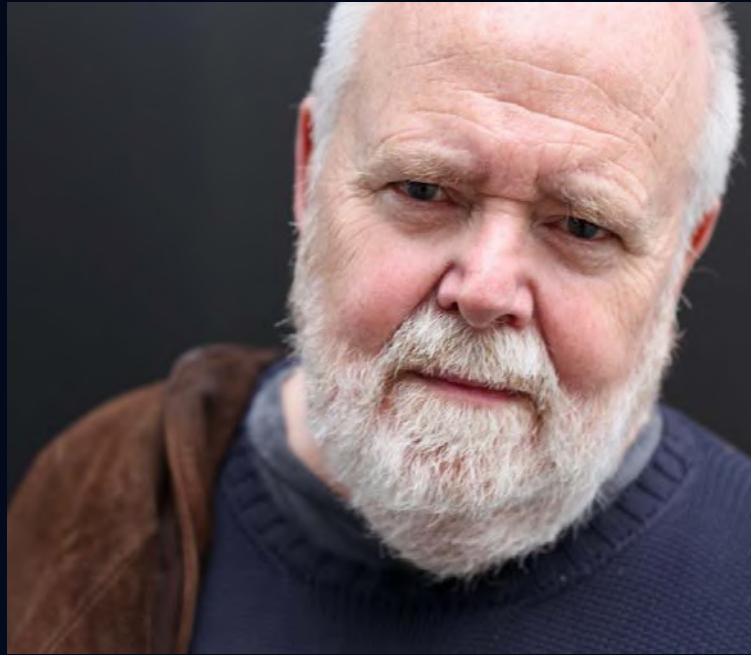
Day Zero represents prestige factual documentary filmmaking with an urgent message. Filmed over a three-year period, it's a journey across the planet seeking those on the frontline fighting to protect the world's most precious resource - freshwater - from running out.

Extreme water shortage is the calling card of climate change, and as the global population grows it is not a fear for the distant future but an urgent problem we must face today. Day Zero looks in-depth at the myriad of factors that are affecting water availability on Earth, and shows the complexity in addressing the challenge.

Deeply resonating and relevant, the film examines the debilitating water crisis across three continents: the Cape Town water crisis of 2019; the violent impact deforestation in the Amazon is already having on global water supplies, and how intensive farming in the American Mid-West is depleting vital water resources and aquifers at an alarming rate, leading us towards catastrophe.

Featuring exclusive interviews from a cast of leading global and regional water experts but also the cattle ranchers, chambermaids and park rangers up close and personal with the crisis. This is a meticulously researched, hugely informative documentary that will raise awareness and change the way we think about the Earth's most vital resource: water.

# BIOGRAPHIES



KEVIN SIM

From multiple Emmy and BAFTA award-winning director Kevin Sim.

Renowned British documentary filmmaker whose credits include *Once Upon a Time in Iran*, *The Secret Life of the Berlin Wall*, and *Four Hours in My Lai*.

His award-winning career spans three decades and includes one Emmy, five BAFTAs, four Royal Television Society Awards and a Peabody Award.



CHIWETEL EJIOFOR

Narrated by Academy Award nominee and BAFTA award winner Chiwetel Ejiofor.

Best known for his portrayal of Solomon Northup in the Oscar-winning *Twelve Years A Slave*, for which he received Academy Award and Golden Globe Award nominations, along with the BAFTA Award for Best Actor.

Chiwetel can be heard voicing the infamous character of 'Scar' in Disney's *The Lion King* – the CGI animated re-imagining of the 1994 Walt Disney classic – as well as narrating for Apple TV+'s *The Elephant Queen*, winning an Emmy nomination for outstanding narrator.



# BIOGRAPHIES



DAVID WALLERSTEIN

David Wallerstein's career has been defined by a desire to foster the healthy development of human relationships across national borders, and bringing next-gen technologies to market to increase human resilience. He is Chief eXploration Officer (CXO) and Senior Executive Vice President of Tencent, driving the Company's participation in new technologies, business areas, research collaborations and ideas since 2001. Mr. Wallerstein is the author of "Rearchitcting Earth: AI for FEW," and producer of the documentary film "Day Zero."



KARI LIA

Kari is the Executive Producer for the BAFTA and EMMY award-winning independent production company Keo Films. Her career has taken her all over the world making documentaries and interviewing everyone from gangsters in El Salvador to Stevie Wonder. Before Keo, Kari helped build the hugely successful indie Plum Pictures where she was responsible for much of the company's most critically acclaimed output. Kari's credits include some of the highest rating documentaries of the last few years including, DNA Family Secrets (BBC Two), Ibiza Dreams (BBC Three), Billionaire's Paradise: Inside Necker Island (Amazon / BBC Two), Hugh Laurie: Copper Bottom Blues (PBS / ITV), Luxury By Royal Appointment: Inside Asprey (PBS / ITV) and 638 Ways to Kill Castro (Channel 4 / Sundance).

# KEVIN SIM'S NOTES



To appreciate the science in this film you need Grade 3 maths.

First you take the amount of available fresh-water in the world and then you take the water needed to support a rapidly expanding global population. Whichever way you look at it the answer is the same - trouble.

Multiply by climate change and the answer is - catastrophe.

Water shortage is the calling card of climate change. It's not some speculative premonition. In many parts of the world it's happening now.

Most people are climate change deniers. It's not that they don't believe it's happening; it's that they don't allow any space for it in their lives. The job of a director making a film about Water Crisis is to make that space, to ambush the passivity of audiences satiated by films about the world coming to an end.

Three quotations have shaped the making of *Day Zero*:

The first (taken from the film) is the chilling question asked by Antonio Nobre who has spent a lifetime studying rainfall patterns in the Amazonian Rain Forest:

**WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU KNEW WHAT I KNOW?**

The second comes from the Swedish writer Sven Lindqvist:

**YOU ALREADY KNOW ENOUGH. SO DO I. IT IS NOT KNOWLEDGE WE LACK.**

**WHAT IS MISSING IS THE COURAGE TO UNDERSTAND WHAT WE KNOW AND TO DRAW CONCLUSIONS.**

# KEVIN SIM'S NOTES



The third is from Sophocles (by way of the film Angel Heart):

ALAS, HOW TERRIBLE IS WISDOM WHEN IT BRINGS NO PROFIT TO THE MAN THAT'S WISE!

Knowledge is essential but knowledge alone is not enough. Awareness is not action, but it is an essential pre-condition of action. So the challenge to the audience is not only, **WHAT DO YOU KNOW?** but **"WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?"**

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Day Zero's aim is to make a film about the future of the planet that's down to earth.

Its tone is unashamedly demotic. Its central aim - to pin down the attention of an audience that doesn't normally watch environmental films. Its form - ambush.

Tell me I'm going to watch a film about climate change, and I'll likely yawn. But if you tell me hamburgers are killing the world, then you have my full attention.

All the more surprising to discover as the film develops that the hamburger is literally and symbolically at the dark heart of the story. But that's only a beginning. As the film shows, we are all at the dark heart of the story.

Day Zero is a film about people whom- unlike most of us - don't have the luxury of thinking that water scarcity is someone else's business. In Africa, Kansas, California, Brazil –and even in space – we follow the stories of people on the frontline of the Water Crisis.

Nature is sublime. Humankind is venal. The visual style of the film reflects both realms with fabulous landscape photography intercut cheek-by-jowl with pacy handheld filming. There's poetry and there's straight-talking. The view from space juxtaposed with the view from the farmyard.

The intention is to make a film that is more than platform for information - it's a conversation with the audience - a film which can tell the story of the Water Crisis with the impact only a film can make.



# CASE STUDIES



## SOUTH AFRICA

In the summer of 2018 in Cape Town – one of Africa’s most affluent metropolises – four million people stood in line surrounded by armed guards to collect rations of the region’s most precious commodity: drinking water.

At just 92 days away from having to shut off most water taps, we speak to a couple living in an affluent neighbourhood about how difficult the situation has been for them. We also speak to their maid, Paulina, who lives in a shanty town and see that for her nothing has changed – every day is DAY ZERO.



## AUSTRALIA

Between 2019 – 2020, 46 million acres of land have been devastated by wildfires across Australia.

Emitting 306 million tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, the smoke has drifted thousands of miles, as far as Chile and Argentina. The fires have killed at least 34 people and over a billion animals – with some species driven to extinction. The wildfire season is starting earlier every year in Australia, due to exceptionally dry conditions and droughts.



# CASE STUDIES



## USA – THE FLORIDA SPRINGS

Floridian aquifer has long been a natural wonder. It is a 100,000-square-mile reservoir that holds billions of litres of freshwater. But as Florida's population grows by 900 people per day, demand is dangerously depleting its water levels, with spring flows reduced by 32% since 1950. We meet Jill Heinerth, who has been diving here for more than 20 years, and is seeing how things are changing.



## USA – THE HIGH PLAINS, MIDWEST USA

The production of a single hamburger uses 2271 litres of water. Nowhere is this more apparent than in America's Midwest, where the grain-for-cattle industry feeding the US has already depleted 30% of the Ogallala – one of the largest freshwater aquifers in the world, supporting one-sixth of the world's grain production. We speak to a local farmer who explains how the drought is not caused by the water we drink – it's caused by the food we eat. There's been a 500% increase in meat production since 1961. What is left of this precious freshwater supply will be gone in the space of a lifetime... unless everything changes.

# CASE STUDIES



## MEXICO

By 2030, Mexico City will be home to 30 million people. But the city's natural water reserves are at extreme risk, expected to dry out completely within the next 30 years. Despite heavy rainfall and even flooding, the underground aquifers the city depends on are being depleted faster than they can regenerate, and soon this will mean catastrophe for the city's residents, the poorest of whom are already coming to terms with water shortages as a way of life.



## BRAZIL

Every day, each of the Amazon rainforest's trees sends thousands of litres of water into the atmosphere. Scientist Antonio Nobre explains that in their billions, they create giant rivers of water in the air – rivers that form clouds and create rainfall hundreds or even thousands of miles away. But this 55-million-year-old paradise is being decimated for land and timber, leaving global weather systems irrevocably and radically changed. We go on a raid with IBAMA – armed park rangers tasked with protecting the forest – to see how they're fighting a losing battle against the illegal logging that has already eradicated a fifth of the forest.



# EXPERT WITNESSES



**DR. ANTONIO DONATO NOBRE**

Antonio Donato Nobre lived and worked for 20 years in the Amazon and for more than three decades held a position as senior scientist at INPA – a leading organisation for tropical rainforest investigation.



**DR. ANTHONY TURTON**

A political scientist with 24 years of strategic-level experience, Anthony Turton specialises in transboundary water resource management.



**DR. JAMES S. FAMIGLIETTI**

Jay Famiglietti recently moved from the NASA Jet Propulsion laboratory to become the Canada 150 Research Chair in Hydrology and Remote Sensing, University of Saskatchewan. He is a leading expert in global water issues and in raising awareness about the global water crisis; in particular, global groundwater depletion.



# THE BOLD BREAKTHROUGH

The journey of change can be slow. Individually, let alone globally. For water scarcity it's barely even begun.

A breakthrough moment is needed. Something that can cut through our everyday belief systems and create the space for us to see something new. Uncovering the truth that water shortages will change the lives of us all.

Day Zero's primary purpose is to create that defining moment where change begins. A moment we didn't know we were desperate for.

Challenging us all to wake up and be moved to take action before the water runs out.





# EVERY DROP COUNTS

The world is experiencing a perfect storm of climate change and rising population.

Experts say it's through water that most of us will feel the effects of climate change first. For many, the water crisis is already happening.

Until now, DAY ZERO was something that could only happen to other people. Now not only is it becoming a local problem, but a global problem that involves us all.

The fight back begins when the message comes closer to home. When everyone understands the place of water in our lives.

Because little else is more essential to life than water.

# PRODUCER



For over 20 years, KEO Films has been at the forefront of groundbreaking non-fiction content production, earning a global reputation for intelligent and beautifully crafted documentaries and high impact environmental campaigns. Recent titles include the BBC/PBS series Once Upon a Time in Iraq, which has been nominated for four BAFTA awards. KEO's previous work has won, among others, six BAFTAS, an Emmy, a Peabody, two Prix Italias, and a 'Best Documentary' Academy Award nomination. Their mission is to tell the stories that matter.



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Tencent invests heavily in talent and technological innovation, actively promoting the development of the Internet industry. Tencent was founded in Shenzhen, China, in 1998. Shares of Tencent (00700.HK) are listed on the Main Board of the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong.

# DISTRIBUTOR



Fremantle is one of the largest and most successful creators, producers and distributors of scripted and unscripted content in the world. From *Got Talent* to *My Brilliant Friend*, *Family Feud* to *The Young Pope*, *Idols* to *American Gods*, *The Price is Right* to *Neighbours* and *The X Factor* to *Enslaved* - we are behind the world's most-loved and most-watched shows.

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As a world leader in digital and branded entertainment, we have more than 370 million subscribers across 1,500 social channels and over 100 billion views across all platforms - and are the creator of Facebook's most viewed video of all time, *The Sacred Riana*.