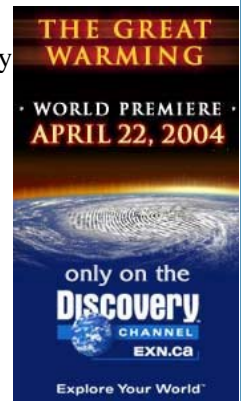


## “The Great Warming” presents a fresh look at climate change

by Laura D’Amelio, April 22, 2004

In the month to celebrate the Earth, the Discovery Channel presented a major television series about climate change. Aimed to educate and engage, “The Great Warming” presents the story of globally increasing temperatures narrated by Alanis Morissette and Keanu Reeves. The visually stimulating series focuses on the impacts and consequences, as well as solutions, of global warming through the stories of real people from around the world.

The series plays specifically to a Canadian audience, but puts to use stories, science and ideas from all over the globe with amazing cinematography and graphics. Three episodes compose the series: The first, The Human Fingerprint, explains the science and reveals the evidence of rising temperatures. Episode Two, Age of Uncertainty, explores the consequences of climate change and finally Episode Three, Our Children’s Planet, discusses the new technologies and solutions to the problem.



While each part of the series promises to be an engaging and interesting hour to spend in front of your television, the first episode leaves more fear than hope. In Episode one, explanations of increased carbon in the atmosphere and resulting extreme weather phenomenon are entertainingly explained with graphics and personalities. However, issues of a heavier kind are laid out as one meteorologist claims that these new weather patterns are “the kinds of things that kill you and destroy your property.” A historian weaves the tale of an Abbey in England during the 1300s which experienced a one degree rise in temperature and brought death and even cannibalism to the area. The result was the “Great Famine” and was described in the documentary as “mortality on a super-dimensional scale.”

While not light-hearted, the following two episodes will hopefully balance out the coverage, weighing in on issues such as solutions and people currently committed to making a difference. The producer’s aim was to create a fresh look at climate change and inspire audiences to take action. Overall, it delivers a powerful message about rising temperatures and the consequences that are resulting.

The series is composed of interviews with major voices in climate change research and environmental activism including Dr. Kristy Duncan and Severn Cullis-Suzuki. Four years in the making, the documentary is based on the book “Storm Warning – Gambling with the Climate of our Planet” by Canadian science writer Lydia Dotto. The series was shot in various locations from the high Canadian Arctic to the Altiplano of Peru to Bangladesh and downtown New York City.

“The Great Warming” was produced by Stonehaven Productions with support from Swiss Re, Environment Canada, Toyota Canada, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Discovery Channel Canada and Ark Angel. For more information about this series visit <http://www.thegreatwarming.com/>

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