

# Environmental Movie Screening – May 25, 2009

*Organized by the Centre for European Studies at Carleton University and the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Ottawa,*

**May 25th, 132 AP (Azrieli Pavilion), Carleton University**

1:30-5:00 pm

## Film Descriptions

### **Estonia: Desertification, (30 min)**

Contemporary science assumes that the melting of ice sheets significantly speeds up the global climate change as the ice and snow that used to reflect the sunlight are gone. Earth's surface absorbs the sunlight and that contributes to the warming of the environment.

Developed countries are in position to fight the consequences of global warming. But the climate change puts a great strain on poor countries where people lack even the basics - food, health and education. Above all, it concerns the inhabitants of arid areas. Desertification is a serious issue in sub-Saharan Africa where the desert is advancing several kilometers per year.

### **Sweden: The Planet, (60 min)**

The Planet is a hot from the oven attempt to find answers about the truths and untruths of the alarming global changes that many claim are already in motion. The visual style will unlock the alienated attitude many people have built up in relation to the subject: Please, not another bloody Climate Doomsday film! The Planet is about much more than climate change – it's about the Earth as a whole, it's about the overall global changes we are experiencing right now. The challenge have been to create a new, fresh style to convey our story about a subject on which most people are more or less unaware - even though they certainly need to be more aware of it. The visual tone will from the very beginning turn the audience away from old perspectives on the problems in question. We are therefore using a lot of humour, visually provocative material, new rhythms, imaginative twists and turns, animation, short inserts conveyed with the help of the aesthetic of advertising, new and old archive material and our own striking nature photography.

### **Romania: Save the Living Danube (5 min)**

The Blue Danube is Europe's lifeline. For centuries, it has provided us with a wealth of benefits from fish, flood protection, and drinking water to rest and recreation. But nowadays the benefits and services that were taken for centuries for granted are at risk.

### **Finland: Recipes for Disaster, (85 min)**

Committing his wife and two small children to a one-year 'oil detox' director John Webster attempts to live a life free of fossil fuels, cars, airplanes and anything packaged in plastic, without compromising the middle-class suburban lifestyle he and his family have grown so accustomed to. Gradually, in the face of John's increasingly stringent demands (which his wife only somewhat jokingly refers to as a dictatorship), the family begins eliminating oil and petroleum products from their daily routine. As their lives begin to change and they begin questioning the values that have been ingrained in them, the Websters quickly come to realize that their will power and, ultimately, their overall happiness, are being put to the test. A true comedy of errors that chronicles the Websters' efforts on a month-by-month basis, \*Recipes for Disaster\* offers a shocking tale of environmental impact and a heartfelt look at family and relationships against the backdrop of modern suburbia.