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THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA
WDR

PRESENT

THE WORLD ACCORDING TO MONSANTO



A FILM BY
MARIE-MONIQUE ROBIN

DISTRIBUTION: NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA



SUMMARY

With 17,500 employees, a 2006 sales figure of \$7.5 billion and operations in 46 countries, Monsanto is the world leader in genetically modified organisms (GMOs), as well as one of the most controversial corporations in industrial history. Since its founding in 1901, the company has faced trial after trial due to the toxicity of its products, including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polystyrene, devastating herbicides like Agent Orange, used during the Vietnam War, and bovine growth hormones, which are unauthorized in Canada and banned in Europe.



Today, Monsanto has reinvented itself as a “life sciences” company converted to the virtues of sustainable development. Thanks to its genetically modified seeds, engineered among other things to withstand Monsanto’s Roundup, the world’s bestselling herbicide, the company claims it wants to solve world hunger while reducing environmental damage. Where does the truth lie?

The World According to Monsanto pieces together the story of the St. Louis, Missouri, corporation, calling on hitherto unpublished documents and first-hand accounts by scientists, civil society representatives, victims of the company’s toxic activities, lawyers, politicians, and representatives of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and Environmental Protection Agency. Based on a three-year investigation in North and South America, Europe and Asia, the film tells the tale of an industrial empire that, thanks in part to misleading reports, collusion with the American government, pressure tactics and attempts at corruption, has become one of the world’s biggest seed manufacturers. It shows how the clean, green image conveyed by the company’s advertising serves as a smoke screen for Monsanto’s quest for market supremacy, to the detriment of global food security and environmental stability.

FILMMAKER'S STATEMENT

Why a film about Monsanto?

Lots of people have asked me this question over the past three years, and my answer is always the same:

I've been travelling around the world for over 20 years, and I hear things all the time about this American multinational — mostly bad things, to tell the truth. I wanted to find out for myself and spent months surfing the Net. I learned that

Monsanto is one of the most controversial corporations of modern times, because it has systematically hidden the extreme toxicity of its products. What about today? Is it telling us the truth about its GMOs? Can we believe it when it says that biotechnology is the solution to hunger and environmental contamination? To answer these questions, which concern us all, I set out on a mission across three continents, comparing what Monsanto says with the real world. I met dozens of eyewitnesses I hadn't identified in advance on the Web. And I'm convinced this is no time to let Monsanto take possession of crop seeds and, by extension, the world's food supply.



Marie-Monique Robin

Filmmaker and author

January 21, 2007

Marie-Monique Robin is also the author of *Le Monde selon Monsanto. De la dioxine aux OGM, une entreprise qui vous veut du bien*, which includes a foreword by Nicolas Hulot (Éditions La Découverte / ARTE Édition).

MARIE-MONIQUE ROBIN

BIOFILMOGRAPHY

Listed in *Who's Who in France* since 2002
Prix Albert-Londres 1995

Freelance journalist/producer
1999 to 2001: Point du Jour
1989 to 1999 : CAPA (Chabaliere & Associates Press Agency)
1988 to 1989: VI Presse, Gamma TV, Point du Jour
1984 to 1988: France 3

DOCUMENTARY WRITER/FILMMAKER

- *Le monde selon Monsanto/The World According to Monsanto*, 90 min, ARTE and 12 international networks, broadcast in early 2008.
- *L'école du soupçon*, 52 min, France 5, 2007.
- *On les appelait les dames du planning*, 52 min, France 5, 2006.
- *Le soja de la faim*, 26 min, ARTE, 2005.
- *Au pays des mères SOS*, 26 min, TF1, 2005.
- *Les pirates du vivant*, 57 min, ARTE, 2005.
 - Grand Prix, Festival international du reportage d'actualité et du documentaire de société (FIGRA);
 - Prix Buffon, Festival international du film scientifique de Paris;
 - Prix du Meilleur reportage;
 - Grand Prix and Prix Ushuaïa TV, Festival international de film écologique d'Angers.
- *Blé : chronique d'une mort annoncée*, 52 min, ARTE, 2005.
- *Chasse au pédophile : quand la rumeur tue*, 40 min, Canal+, 2004.
- *Les enfants du silence*, 35 min, TF1, 2004.
- *Le sixième sens*, 52 min, Canal+, 2004.
- *Escadrons de la mort : l'école française*, Canal+/ARTE, 2003.
 - Prix du meilleur documentaire politique (Laurier du Sénat);
 - Prix de la meilleure investigation, FIGRA;
 - Award of Merit (Latin American Studies Association/USA);
 - Award for Best Documentary, Egyptian Cinema Critics Association Jury.
- *L'ère du soupçon*, 52 min, France 3, 2002.
- *Escale à Cuba*, 75 min, France 3, 2002.
- *Cuba : l'île aux trésors*, 52 min, Planète Câble, 2001.
- *Paroles d'agents*, 52 min, France 2, 2001.
- *Paroles de profs*, 52 min, France 2, 2001.
 - FIPA selection.
- *Violences conjugales*, 75 min, M6, 2000.
- *Paroles de flics*, 52 min, France 2, 2000.
- *Les cent photos du siècle*, writer/producer/chief editor for a series of 100 6-minute clips broadcast from February 1998 to February 2000 by ARTE and 30 international television networks.
- *Petites et grandes histoires du stade de France*, 90 min, France 2, April 1998.
 - FIPA selection 1998-1999.
- *Mon père, le Che*, 62 min, 1997, Les Dossiers de l'Histoire, F3/RAI/Canal+ Espagne/TV Canada.
- *Le guérillero des laboratoires*, 52 min, France 2, 1995.
- *La faillite des paysans*, TF1, 26 min, 1997.
 - Prix Société, Festival d'Angers.
- *Voleurs d'yeux*, 40 min, 1995.
 - M6;
 - Prix Albert-Londres 1995.
- *Le théâtre des mules*, 52 min, ARTE, 1995.
 - FIPA official selection.
- *Cuba l'histoire d'un mythe*, 2 x 52 min, Canal+ and ARTE, 1994.
- *Le plus bel endroit du monde* (Bolivia), 26 min, TF1, 1994.
- *Voleurs d'organes*, 52 min, Planète Cable/Canal+ Espagne/ARD, 1993.
 - Prix du Grand documentaire, Festival d'Angers;
 - Award for Best Foreign Documentary, Havana Film Festival;
 - Prix du jury catholique, Festival de Monte Carlo;
 - Prix Médiaville 1995.
- *Ça n'arrive qu'ailleurs* (Peru), 26 min, FR3, 1992.
 - Prix de l'environnement Gaz de France.
- *Le monde selon mon frère* (Colombia), 52 min, FR3/RTVE/RTBF, 1991.
 - Prix du Grand Reportage, Festival de Lagny-sur-Marne 1992;
 - FIPA official selection.
- *Apartheid dans le sud tyrol*, 26 min, France 3, 1990.

- *Les jacqueries du bocage*, 26 min, France 3, 1990.
- *Mama Coca* (Bolivia), 26 min, France 3, 1990.
- *La vallée des centenaires* (Ecuador), 26 min, France 3, 1990.
- *Cuba si, Cuba no*, 52 min, Belgian, Danish and Canadian TV.
 - FIPA official selection 1990.
- *Sida et révolution* (Cuba), 26 min, FR3.
 - Prix de l'Investigation, Festival International du Scoop d'Angers 1989.

WRITER/PRODUCER OF FEATURE STORIES

Carnets de route (with Christine Ockrent), *Envoyé spécial*, *La Marche du siècle*, *Thalassa*, *Faut pas rêver*, *Reportage*, *Capital*, *Le Droit de savoir*, *Zone interdite*, *24 Heures*, *Montagne*, *Bas les masques*, *Résistance*.

Over 50 feature stories filmed in Europe, Asia, Africa, South America, North America and the Middle East.

PRINT MEDIA

- "Les 100 photos du siècle": weekly publication from March 1998 to March 2000 in *Figaro Magazine*, *VSD*, *El Pais* and *Publica*.
- Freelance contracts for *Libération*, *Le Matin*, *VSD*, *Ouest France*, *Die Zeit*, *Cambio 16*.

CORPORATE PRESS

Agence François Blanc and CAPA Entreprises

AUTHOR

- *Le monde selon Monsanto. De la dioxine aux OGM, une entreprise qui vous veut du bien*, La Découverte/ARTE Édition, 2008.
- *L'école du soupçon : les dérives de la lutte contre la pédophile*, La Découverte, 2005.
- *Escadrons de la mort : l'école française*, La Découverte, 2004.
- *La science et le paranormal*, Éditions du Chêne, 2002.
- *Grand reportage. Les héritiers d'Albert Londres*, group publication, Éditions Florent Massot, 2001.
- *Les 100 photos du siècle*, Éditions du Chêne; 680,000 copies in 7 languages (Tachen and France Loisirs), 1999.
- *Voleurs d'organes — Enquête sur un trafic*, Éditions Bayard, 1996.

CANADIAN PRODUCERS

Yves Fortin | Les Productions Thalie

Yves Fortin is chairman of Productions Thalie. This company was founded in 1998 and very quickly became a major player in Quebec film and television. Yves' 25-year experience in the field has yielded 13 fiction films and around 60 documentaries. The most well-known include *Le sexe des étoiles* by Paule Baillargeon, *Clandestins* by Denis Chouinard, *Souvenirs intimes* by Jean Beaudin, *Le Marais* by Kim Nguyen, *Manners of dying* by Jeremy Peter Allen and *Les États-Unis d'Albert* by André Forcier. As executive producer for Synercom Téléproductions, his documentary output includes the four renowned series *Les pays du Québec*, *La culture dans tous ses états*, *Francophonies d'Amérique* and *Entrée côté court*.



Yves Bisailon | National Film Board of Canada

Yves Bisailon was born in Montreal and holds a degree in Urban Planning from Université de Montréal and in Communications from Université du Québec à Montréal. After working in television as a journalist and director, notably for Radio-Canada, he joined the NFB as a producer in 1997. His work includes *Raymond Klibansky: From Philosophy to Life* (FIFA Award 2002), *French Kiss*, *la Cueca Sola* (best documentary at Hot Docs 2004), *The Cabinet of Doctor Ferron* (Gémeaux 2004 – best cultural documentary) and *What Remains of Us* (selected at the International Critic's Week, Cannes 2004; Jutra for best documentary in 2005). His recent productions include *Who Shot My Brother?* (FNC 2005 – people's choice), *Nadia's Journey* (Caméra au poing Award at RIDM 2006) and *Medicine Under the Influence* (2006 Gémeaux for best science and nature documentary).



Christian Medawar | National Film Board of Canada

Christian Medawar holds a BA in communications and a master's degree in history. His 20-odd years of experience in film encompass work in the private sector, mainly in advertising, followed by work in the NFB's English Program, which he joined in 1990 as production manager and then line producer. In 1998, working with the French Program's Toronto studio, he worked on the films *Just Watch Me: Trudeau and the '70s Generation* and *No Quick Fix*. Christian joined the NFB's French Program in Montreal in 1999 to work as line producer on such productions as *Hubert Reeves: Star Teller* and *Bacon, the Film*. He also worked on the Gilles Groulx box set. In 2003, he was producer of the interactive Web project *Parole citoyenne* and of the box set *Michel Brault, œuvres 1958-1974* (Collection Mémoire). He is now international producer at the Quebec Studio.



CREDITS

A film by
Marie-Monique ROBIN

Based on a survey by
Marie-Monique ROBIN

Editing
Françoise BOULEGUE

Picture
Guillaume MARTIN
Arnaud MANSIR
Bernard CAZEDEPATS
Frédéric VASSORT

Sound
Marc DUPLOYER
Anne BOURCIER

Original music
Olivier AURIOL – Expression
Musique

Research assistant
Anne GELLI

Voices
Linda HAYES
Andreas APERGIS
AI GOULEM
Bruce DINSMORE
Leni PARKER

Sound designer and Mixer
Jérôme BOITEAU – Studio
Expression

Coordinator – Sound
postproduction
Isabelle DUPERE – Studio
Expression

Studio shooting

Picture
Etienne CARTON DE GRAMONT

Make-up
Marie-Laure MARGNOUX

Artwork and animation
6ixdegrés

Project manager
Charles GAUDREAU

Graphic art designer
Sébastien TESSIER

Assistant editors
Elise LEYGNIER
Erwan BIZEUL

Trainee editors
Benjamin SCHREPF
Elise CARON

Line editor & Colourist
Denis PILON

Titles and credits
Serge GAUDREAU

Archives

AP Archive
BBC Motion Gallery
CBC
CNN Image Source
FOOTAGE FARM/GMP Films
GAUMONT PATHE
ARCHIVES/Collection NBC
ITN Source/Granada
J. FRED MACDONALD &
ASSOCIATES
LA MAISON DE LA PUB
USA TV AIDS
GREENPEACE
JANE ACKRE

Team-Image et Compagnie

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Marie REGIS

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Team – Productions Thalie

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Sonia DESPARS

Postproduction manager
Marc BIRON

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Secretary
Geneviève LECLERC

Team – NFB

Marketing manager
François JACQUES
assisted by
Solen LABRIE TREPANIER

Administrator
Johanne DUBUC

Production coordinator
Mirabelle BELANGER

Administrative staff
Dominique BRUNET
Lise LEVESQUE

Technical coordinator
Richard CLICHE

Associate producer
Maryse CHAPDELAIN

With thanks to
Sénat du Canada
Jane Akre
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Adam Levitt
Marc Brammer
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Alan Gibson
Marilyn Leistner
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Tomas Palau
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Deccan Development Society
Gustavo Ampugnani

A co-production of

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Christilla HUILLARD-KANN

ARTE France
Documentary Division
Thierry GARREL
Pierrette OMINETTI

Productions Thalie
Produced by
Yves FORTIN

National Film Board of Canada
Executive producer
Yves Bisailon
Producer
Christian Medawar

WDR
Program manager
Jutta KRUG

With the participation of
Canal D
Sylvie de Bellefeuille
Director – Original productions

LICHPUNT

La Télévision Suisse Romande (TSR) –
A SRG SSR idée suisse company
Documentary films unit
Irène CHALLAND
Gaspard LAMUNIERE

TFO
Clodette St-Amand
Co-productions and acquisitions manager, Culture, sciences and society

RTBF- Télévison Belge
Claire COLART

YLE
SBS- TV Australie

ERT SA

TV3

With the participation of

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SODEC - Société de développement des entreprises culturelles – Québec

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