

Review on "Before the Flood"

A film by Fisher Stevens and Leonard DiCaprio "Before the Flood" had been released in 2016, but I watched it recently and even now it made a big impact on my point of view. "Before the Flood" documents the effects of the global warming observed around the world and discusses actions that can be taken to avoid an ecological disaster. While working on the material for the film, DiCaprio interviewed people from all social strata, living in highly developed and developing countries, to find out what, in their opinion, practical steps should be taken to make our economy ecological in the future. This movie is not just any documentary movie the truth is that it is watching a purebred horror movie. And the worst thing is that this horror really takes place before our eyes.

At the very beginning of the film, the creators of the film deal with possible allegations aimed at DiCaprio about why the actor from the Dream Factory, who deals with such a "frivolous" profession, engages in ecological topics and issues related to global warming. On the one hand, the creators (and DiCaprio himself) do not hide that he is by no means an expert or in any way. However, they quite quickly and specifically refute these accusations - right, no one claims that Leonardo is any authority and that he did anything important for ecology, but it cannot be said that he got involved in this topic only now and for image purposes. First, the topic of global warming is close to him in private. Secondly, as soon as he became a world-renowned star, he began speaking out in the media and at conferences on topics related to global warming, which was shown in the opening fragments of the film using archival shots.

The whole film has a powerful effect on the viewer through contrasts. We still see beautiful and lush forests and glaciers (melting every day) that the future generation (our children or grandchildren at best) will never see again. The fact that glaciers that have existed for thousands of years are melting in front of our eyes is a rather strong and suggestive warning sign. It is watched like a post-apocalyptic horror movie. The beginning of the movie is scary. All forecasts of what awaits us, as well as photos and video montages of floods, disasters, fires, human migrations, etc., look like pictures from a nightmare or dark visions of the future. There is a scene in the film in which DiCaprio flies a helicopter overcut forests where, in place of trees, holes full of mud mixed with oil look like a black graveyard. The actor himself at one-point states that it looks like Mordor from "Lord of the Rings". These shots recorded in movie made a real impact, the thinning of the ice, vast expanses of tropical forests burned to the ground to create palm oil plantations, and a bare oil sands landscape. That is what really hurts the most, the things that our population had made to our planet, and that every day it is getting worst and worst. And we are not even aware that we are driving these machines of destruction.

The film also brings out an important matter of corruption, companies lobby for defamation, or simply pay other politicians, scientists, and journalists to do it. This is best shown by the example of Michael Mann, a scientist accused of fraud because he published a study which showed that rapid climate change in recent years is related to the extraction and exploitation of fossil fuels. And this was not convenient for the concerns that dealt with these. Involvement in the activities of the United Nations and observation of the effects of the robbery policies of fuel and food companies made DiCaprio a pessimist, but also an activist. And in the context of their words, it is hard not to be pessimistic. Because it is hard to believe that in today's world, concerns and politicians began to act against what is profitable from an economic point of view. And investing in environmental protection does not bring such profits as profiting from it.

But there are also optimistic moments in "Before the Flood". There is still a chance to save our planet probably it will not do without victims and human tragedies, but as you can see, we will have to pay such a price for decades of neglect and greed of a big corporation. The sad thing that really left an impact in mind is what Leonardo said that we knew about climate change for more than half of the century, and we can only imagine how our world would look like today if we have done something about it then. The truth is that everybody, in theory, knows about the environmental issues but after watching this movie you can really see a bigger picture of the problem. We cannot think about the future of our planet if we would not start taking care of it right now because there might not be a future for us and our children. It seems to us that a single unit cannot do much, but each choice matter, we choose people who rule in our country, so choose them wisely, choose them in such a way that they would help our planet because without it there is no life.

As a whole, "Before the Flood" is a loud voice, even a warning scream, which says "It is too late!", but also, in the end, gives us a light of hope. Perfectly filmed, with well-written dramaturgy and attention-grabbing DiCaprio, it all adds up to a film that will not change anything but has a chance to appeal to ordinary people. Perhaps you will consider your lifestyle for a moment. And yet all change begins with this. From reflection.

