
Last Call at the Oasis

A film review by SALLY YIP

Writer and Director: Jessica Yu
Title: Last Call at the Oasis
Year of production: 2011

“Last Call at the Oasis” is a wake-up call for everyone who inhabits planet Earth. Through “Last Call”, director Jessica Yu alerts her audiences about the true reality of our current water supply. As introduced by Erin Brockovich, who is an American legal clerk and environmental activist, “water is everything. The single most necessary element for any of us to sustain and live and thrive is water”. Yet, water is currently under the threat of shortage for all corners of the world.

The film explores various environmental, social, economic and political issues surrounding the availability of water, which demonstrates how indisputable the global water crisis is and how water shortages will affect our livelihoods. It also illustrates how we have been spoiled with the luxury of water for far too long. Now is the peak of water crisis and preventive action is need to be taken to reduce drought, water problems and water diseases on a global scale.

One of the most heated debates in “Last

Call” is the water availability for all citizens who live in the “sin city”, Las Vegas. A city located in the middle of the desert has had precious water delivered to it for over a hundred years. Hoover Dam has been the major contributor to Las Vegas’ water supply, but it is currently under threat with drought in recent years. In the next few years, the dam could be emptied if a backup plan is not put into effect. With constant urban expansion, growing population and climate change, the water supply in Hoover Dam can no longer sustain Las Vegas’ water demand. This issue creates a huge debate between politicians, lobbyists, business owners and citizens in nearby cities. On one hand, politicians, lobbyists and business owners in Las Vegas wish to have a new pipeline build from Baler, Nevada to bring in an extra water supply for this “sin city”.

However, citizens of Baler are actively protesting this greedy idea to save their ecosystem and subsistence of Baler. How will this story ultimately end? Only our future will be able to tell us.

“Last Call” further demonstrates how serious this global water crisis is through various current issues. These stories illustrate how water

conservation plans are much needed for all of us to stay as inhabitants on this planet.

Water is the most basic need for all living organisms. Water is valuable. If there is no water, we will have no food and ultimately no future. It is time to do our part to save our water supply for our future.

References:

Yu, J. (Director) (2011). *Last Call at the Oasis [Documentary]*. United States: Participant Media.

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Sally Yip is currently studying an International Master Programme of “International Food Business and Consumer Studies” at University of Kassel in Witzenhausen, Germany. For the past three years, she has specialized in technical sales management of food ingredients for dairy, bakery, frozen food, culinary, meat and non-food sectors. With five years of food product development and technical sales experience in North American food industries, Sally has grown a strong interest in food innovation, marketing and regulatory standards on a global scale. She wishes to pursue in Food Category Management in her future.