MILPA FILMS PRESENTS

Press Kit “Voices of Transition”

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Voices of Transition (65 minutes, France/Germany 2012), directed by German-French filmmaker Nils Aguilar, explores exciting examples of socio-ecological change in France, England and Cuba.

How can we feed ourselves in the future? What alternatives are there to industrial agriculture? How can we make the transition to a re-localised, truly resilient economic system?

**Documentary**, 65/52 minutes, France/Germany, 2012

**Director and producer**: Nils Aguilar / Milpafilms

**Subtitle tracks**: English, German, Spanish, Catalan, Portuguese, Italian, Dutch, Swedish, Polish, Croatian, Romanian, Turkish, Chinese, Korean, Czech, Mandarin, Japanese

**Available as**: DCP, DVD, Blu-Ray

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**Production/ distribution**  
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Voices of Transition presents paths towards a new model of human existence: one which is fair, environmentally sound and fulfilling, with soil and people supporting each other within a balanced and sustainable system.

Powered by the conviction that these crisis can be a major catalyst for positive change, this inspiring documentary casts a spotlight on a new global movement. We meet scientists, agronomists, permaculture designers and pioneers of the “Transition Town” movement. These voices take us on a cinematic tour of France, England and Cuba - to communities already making the transition to local resilience.

France is a leader in agroforestry research. The natural forest ecosystem is the best source of inspiration for our shift away from destructive monocultural farming, towards a diversified and truly efficient agricultural system.

In the UK, the Transition Town movement is booming. Its many grassroots initiatives are developing radical new models of sustainable living: bringing food production into the city, encouraging energy and resource-conscious decision making and localising previously centralised activities. In short, they’re preparing for crisis conditions.

Like most of the world, Cuba was once heavily dependent on oil for its agricultural production. Then, in 1991, the collapse of the Soviet Union meant the country was suddenly faced with a premature peak oil crisis. But this apparently desperate situation has grown into something truly inspirational. The Caribbean island has become a pioneer of agroecology and urban farming. 70% of all of the fruits and vegetables eaten in Havana are now produced right inside the city - and they’re totally organic.
Voices of Transition is an independent, participatory documentary film project with the ambitious goal of inspiring each and every one of its viewers to join a worldwide social and environmental movement. It is an “action film” in the truest sense of the word: instead of sitting back and passively watching, viewers are inspired to get up, join in and contribute to the transformation of our society.

Nils Aguilar is a French-German documentary filmmaker. A trained sociologist, he has long been conscious of the need for the kind of societal transformation depicted in his film. Direct experience of the problems of soil erosion and land-grabbing in the Global South reinforced Nils’ aim: to use documentary film to reach as many people as possible - and to inspire them to take action.

Voices of Transition is the result of four years of dedicated work. It was researched, shot and edited alongside Nils’ studies towards a degree in Sociology and Philosophy. A combination of two grants, a global network of volunteers and money raised through crowdfunding has allowed this project to be realised.

In cooperation with the Heinrich Böll Foundation, a series of film screenings and discussions was held from February to the end of April, 2013 in all across Germany. Director Nils Aguilar was present at every event, and Rob Hopkins - co-founder of the Transition Towns movement - joined him at a number of screenings. Public interest was immense: 12 of the 16 screenings were sold out. Voices of Transition has been screened over 1000 times, all over Europe and beyond.
Voices of Transition – the ultimate action film!

CRITICAL RECEPTION

A masterpiece!
Fascinating in both content and delivery.
Prof. Uwe Schneidewind, Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy

Voices of Transition educates, opens minds to new possibilities and presents a new vision of how our food system could be. As a historic transition unfolds, this film is a very powerful tool.
Phd Rob Hopkins, co-founder of the Transition movement

This precious film... is about shaping the future here and now. With our tiny steps and collective solidarity, we will make sure the Tree of Life flourishes and grows!
Vandana Shiva, activist and winner of the Right Livelihood Award

This film shows that we can transition to a new world - there's a way, provided we summon the will!
Bill McKibben, author and founder of 350.org

Extremely precious for our educational work
Hubert Weiger, president of Friends of the Earth Germany

This film was overdue!
It poses that crucial question: in what kind of a world do we want to live?
Sarah Wiener, TV chef and food writer
Voices of Transition – the ultimate action film!

THE CAST (A SELECTION)

Rob Hopkins PhD (GB): Co-founder, Transition movement

Dr Claude Bourguignon (F): Microbiologist, LAMS

Prof. Fernando Funes (Cu): Agro-ecologist

Mike Feingold (GB): Permaculture expert

Prof. Christian Dupraz (F): Agronomist & agroforestry expert, INRA

Rachel Bibb (GB): Bristol Food Hub

Sally Jenkins (GB): Educator, G.R.O.F.U.N. project
Collective resilience, built through local actions: this is the key to building a food system which can cope with adverse conditions and absorb shocks. From windowbox gardening to large-scale agriculture, Voices of Transition presents concrete ways towards developing this resilience.

Local food production is a crucial pillar of change, but Voices of Transition acknowledges that other aspects of our lifestyles must also be radically transformed. The keystones are decentralisation, diversity, cooperation and the sharing of knowledge. It’s vitally important that we not only change our lifestyles, but also realign our values. Only if this paradigm shift occurs will cooperative exchange, the sharing of resources and mutual support become the norm - with our quality of life steadily improving as a result.

We can choose where to invest our energy: whether we campaign against something which is in demise, or whether we focus our energy on building systems that we will need here, so that we can step off and on to another system.

Rob Hopkins, co-founder of the Transition movement
If trucks suddenly stopped running, supermarket shelves would be empty after just three days.

Ira Flatow, science journalist

Continual growth is not the solution. We’re forced to invest millions in machinery when we could, instead, create employment on the land!

Forey, farmer in Burgundy, France

We have allowed ourselves to be told that we cannot live without chemicals. We have to bring an end to this way of thinking.

Samura Torres, engineer in Havana

Maximizing profits... Growing with Prosaro, it’s like growing money!

Advertisement for fungicide, Bayer Chemicals

Just three acerola berries is enough to cover your daily requirement of vitamin C.

Espinosa, urban gardener in Havana
Voices of Transition – the ultimate action film!

**PRESS REVIEWS**

*A lot more convincing than every theoretical lecture.*
Weekly German Newspaper “der Freitag”, Januar 2014

*Only watching the film was impossible.*

*One of the “top food films to make you think”*
Sustainable Food Trust

*Voices of Transition (...) leaves you with raised awareness, an urge to be a part of the change and with practical ideas that you can start implementing immediately.*
fineswap.com

*...a ray of hope.*
Jean-Paul LaCount, The Chic Ecologist

*From traditional mixed farming techniques in France, to agroforestry and community action in the UK, the film provides many tangible and sustainable alternatives.*
Village Green Magazine