

FROM THE AWARD-WINNING TEAM THAT BROUGHT YOU FED UP & UNDER THE GUN

THE DEVIL WE KNOW

THE CHEMISTRY OF A COVER-UP



CONTACT

SCREENINGS

Film Sprout

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RUN TIME

88 minutes



www.thedevilweknow.com



LOGLINE

Unraveling one of the biggest environmental scandals of our time, a group of citizens in West Virginia take on a powerful corporation after they discover it has knowingly been dumping a toxic chemical - now found in the blood of 99.7% of Americans - into the drinking water supply.

SYNOPSIS

Tucked in the rolling hills of West Virginia, the town of Parkersburg is described by those who live there as an idyllic place to raise a family. It's also home to a sprawling DuPont chemical plant that manufactures Teflon.

When Wilbur Tennant noticed the cows on his family farm were mysteriously dying, he suspected it might be tied to the adjacent "non-hazardous" landfill operated by DuPont.

When he filmed what was happening on the farm and contacted a lawyer, the toxic legacy of C8 - DuPont's Teflon chemical - was discovered.

Then one autumn day in 2000, local schoolteacher Joe Kiger opened his mail and found a letter in his water bill informing him that C8 was in his drinking water, but safe for consumption.

Most people would throw the letter away - and most did - but Joe Kiger is different.

The trail of deception he and his wife Darlene uncovered made the sleepy town of Parkersburg the epicenter of one of the largest class action lawsuits in the history of environmental law.

Internal documents and secret in-house studies reveal a disturbing truth: DuPont had knowingly been pumping a poisonous chemical into the air and public water supply of more than 70,000 people for decades.

DuPont factory workers who handled C8 on a daily basis -- people like Ken Wamsley and Sue Bailey -- confront the company that exposed them to C8 and its negative health effects. Sue's son Bucky Bailey, now 35 and happily married, was born with severe facial deformities. As he awaits the birth of his first child, geneticists have warned him and his wife Melinda that there is a 50% chance the baby will inherit the deformities he attributes to sky-high levels of C8 in his blood.

As the citizens of Parkersburg rise up against the forces that polluted their town, the story builds out to dozens of other American cities. In fact, at least 6.5 million Americans in 27 states are drinking water tainted by the Teflon toxin.

Exposure to the chemical has even become a global phenomenon, spreading to places like China and the Netherlands.

Parkersburg is ground zero for this story, but this clearly is not about one place or one chemical: because of the power of the chemical lobby, C8 is one of more than 80,000+ untested chemicals that have been released onto the market, their dangers unknown.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



Since my debut film TAPPED, which exposed the plastic chemicals in bottled water, I've been interested in taking a deeper dive into environmental health.

As a filmmaker, I'm drawn to stories of people who are suffering at the hands of powerful entities.

As a mother, I was extremely shocked to learn there is no real oversight of industrial chemicals before they go to market in this country. We assume that if something is on store shelves, it's safe – but that's not the case.

When we heard about what happened in Parkersburg, West Virginia – how a handful of citizens took on DuPont – it seemed like the perfect story to highlight and bring to life a very pressing social issue: our daily exposure to toxic chemicals.

It also shows the power of ordinary people to change the world in which we live, and to me, that is an incredibly important take-away from this film.

Thank you for bringing THE DEVIL WE KNOW and the people of Parkersburg, West Virginia, to your community. I hope together we can shed light on this crucial issue.

Stephanie Soechtig

BIOS

Stephanie Soechtig

(director/writer/producer)

Stephanie is an award-winning documentary filmmaker and co-founder of Atlas Films. She is a 2016 Sundance Institute Catalyst fellow, and her most recent film, *The Devil We Know*, premiered at Sundance in January 2018.

Under the Gun (2016) received a prolonged standing ovation when it premiered at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival. Lionsgate and Epix acquired the award-winning film, which critics called "masterfully crafted" and "the best film on firearms since the 2002's Oscar-winning doc *Bowling for Columbine*."

Two years earlier, *FED UP*, premiered at Sundance where it was acquired by Radius/TWC and received a wide theatrical release. A *New York Times* Critic's Pick, many have likened *FED UP* to Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* for the way we eat. The film spotlighted our addiction to sugar and the ensuing obesity epidemic, and succeeded in bringing the issue into the mainstream.

Stephanie's directorial debut documentary, *Tapped*, focused on the high cost -- to both the environment and our health -- of the bottled water industry. Hailed by critics as "stunning" and "whip-smart," *Tapped* swept film festivals across the country while picking up six awards for Best Documentary Feature.

Mark Monroe

(writer/consultant)

Mark is an award-winning documentary filmmaker whose theatrical writing credits include: *Under the Gun*, *FED UP*, *Racing Extinction*, *The Summit*, *Who is Dayani Cristal?*, *Sound City*, *The Cove*, *Mission Blue*, *The Tillman Story*, *Chasing Ice*, *Stolen Seas*, *Last Play at Shea*, *Once in a Lifetime: The Extraordinary Story of the New York Cosmos*; *Amazing Journey: The Story of The Who* and writer/director of *Morning Light*.

His latest project, *Icarus*, about Russian doping, was purchased by Netflix for a record-breaking \$5 million.

Jeremy Seifert

(co-director)

Jeremy is an award-winning filmmaker and the co-director of *The Devil We Know*, his debut film at Sundance.

His past films, *GMO OMG* and *DIVE! Living Off America's Waste*, won over 30 awards at festivals around the world, including Best Documentary at the Environmental Media Awards.

The personal nature of his films, using both heart and humor, finds instant connection with viewers and inspires real change, both personally and socially.

Jeremy has appeared on *Real Time with Bill Maher*, *NPR's The Story*, and has spoken at universities and conferences across the country.

Jeremy is currently developing a series about makers, musicians, farmers, artists, and chefs called *TRUE FOLK*.

Kristin Lazure

(producer)

Kristin is a 2016 Sundance Institute Catalyst fellow whose past three films have premiered at the Sundance Film Festival.

The Devil We Know, slated to make its 2018 premiere, is an eco-thriller that tells the story of citizens in West Virginia who took on a chemical giant when they realized it was dumping a toxin into their drinking water. Kristin also served as executive producer on this film.

Variety said *Under the Gun* (2016), about America's gun violence epidemic, "potently combines statistics, expert commentary and personal stories into a well-researched and easy-to-consume piece of nonfiction filmmaking."

Kristin co-produced the critically-acclaimed documentary, *FED UP* (2014), focusing on securing and producing on-camera expert, political, and high-profile interviews for the film.

Kristin also coordinates the social impact campaigns of Atlas' feature films.

Before joining the Atlas Films team, she spent almost a decade working in television news.

BIOS

Josh Kunau

(producer)

Josh is a lawyer and producer who followed his love of film and his desire to bring forth issues of truth and justice. Josh's introduction to production began with the award-winning film, DIVE!: Living off America's Waste, which won awards at 22 film festivals around the world

Following DIVE!, Josh began producing the critically acclaimed and highly contentious documentary, GMO OMG, which premiered at the Berlinale Film Festival, was released in theaters across the country, and won best documentary from the prestigious Environmental Media Association founded by Norman Lear. During that same time, Josh worked on a number of independent projects designed at creating change, which included a series of celebrity PSA's for the Environmental Working Group and Prop 37 in California.

Josh's past two films have premiered at the Sundance Film Festival that include Under the Gun (2016), which focused on the devastating issue of gun violence in America. And, most recently The Devil We Know (2018), a feature film about a West Virginia community that uncovered one of the largest corporate chemical contaminations in the United States and around the world.

Josh currently lives in Denver, Colorado, with his wife and daughter.

James Andre Leche

(editor)

James is a documentary film editor from Austin, Texas. After receiving his degree, he moved to Los Angeles in 2008 and has worked primarily in documentaries. His films have ranged from social, environmental, and personal documentaries featured at multiple festivals including Tribeca, SXSW, and Sundance.

Dan Reed

(editor)

As an editor on 2016's Under The Gun, this is Dan's second documentary to premiere at Sundance. A California native and resident, he has also lived in Iceland, Germany and Turkey.

Carly Palmour

(producer)

Carly is a documentary film producer whose credits include The Devil We Know (2018), Under the Gun (2016), and FED UP (2014) - all of which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. Carly was an associate producer on Eve Marson's Dr. Feelgood, and assisted with the archival portions of Sam Pollard's Two Trains Runnin' - which was nominated for a "Best Music Documentary" Grammy award in 2018.

Carly is currently producing a 6-part documentary series for Netflix, as well as a short documentary about the "unclaimed persons" of Los Angeles with director Lisa Cole.

She is originally from Birmingham, Alabama, and is currently living in Los Angeles.

Brian Lazarte

(editor)

Originally from Cincinnati, Brian is a Los Angeles based filmmaker and documentary editor. His credits include a variety of award-winning documentaries and series. Most notably: "Fed Up" (Sundance 2014), "Katy Perry: Part of Me 3D," HBO's Emmy award-winning "Sonic Highways" and Showtime's "Time of Death," which won IDA's Best Limited Series in 2014. Brian has also worked as an additional editor or consulting editor on several other films, including ESPN's Emmy award-winning "Hawaiian: The Legend of Eddie Aikau" 30 for 30, "Alive Inside" (Sundance 2014 Audience Award) and "Holy Hell" (Sundance 2016). A recipient of the Panavision New Filmmaker grant, Lazarte has additional credits in writing, producing and directing. His work has been seen over the last 12-years on major networks, including NBC, ABC, FOX, TNT, PBS, NAT GEO, Animal Planet, OWN, MTV and VH1.

Rod Hassler

(cinematographer)

Rod began his documentary career during college when he shot a film about arts education in Florida's under-funded public school system. Since then he has worked on several films which tell the stories of those without social or economic power. His first film with Jeremy Seifert "GMO OMG" premiered at the Berlin International Film Festival and investigated the impact of genetically modified food in America.

CREDITS

Directed By

Stephanie Soechtig

Produced By

Joshua Kunau
Kristin Lazure, p.g.a.
Carly Palmour
Stephanie Soechtig, p.g.a.

Co-Directed By

Jeremy Seifert

Co-Producers

David Boies III
David Stone

Co-Producers

Christine Gardner
Eric Hermann &
Susan Fredston-Hermann

Co-Producers

Tiffany Schauer
Heather Smith

Co-Producers

Jill Latiano Howerton
Rachel Traub

Associate Producers

Nancy Blachman
Holly Levantino
Nion McEvoy & Leslie Berriman
Amy Slotnick
Gottfried & Janet Tittiger
Blaine Vess

Executive Producers

Michael Walrath
Michelle Walrath
Andrea van Beuren
Kristin Lazure

Co-Executive Producers

John Boccardo & Derek Esplin
Alison Carlson
Geraldyn Dreyfous
Bill Hayward
Patty Quillin
Nancy Stephens
Jared Ruga
Peter Sullivan

Written By

Mark Monroe
Stephanie Soechtig

Music By

Brian Tyler

Edited By

James Leche
Dan Reed
Brian Lazarte

Assistant Editors

Joe Fenstermaker
Jake Witterschein

Graphics By

Main Title Design:
Ben Radatz and Teddy Dibble
Graphics & Animation:
The Glossary

Cinematography By

Rod Hassler

