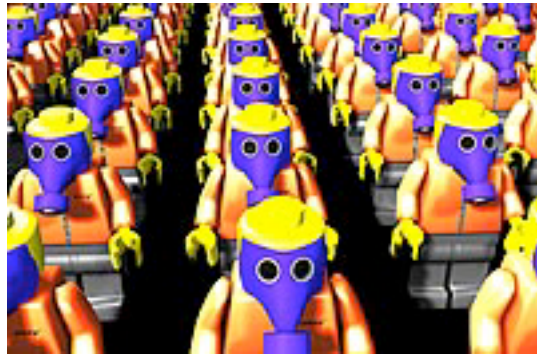


info wars



www.info-wars.com

the most expensive art happening

in history

starts

when a celebrated

toy retailer

attacks

a group of artists

which subsequently

declare toywar

Synopsis

An anarchist sabotage group tempting the governor of Texas to muse about the limits of freedom? A 15 year old teenager daring Hollywood to move against freedom of expression? A toy retailer whose stock value trumps the GDP of Nicaragua fighting artists who started their work by writing a business plan? Or rather a platform to sell presidential votes during U. S. elections?

On the Internet, it can be hard to tell fiction from reality.

info wars portrays the Internet generation: their melding of modern information technology with unconventional tactics, their subversion of globalization and corporate power.

At the same time the documentary features the fight for the ultimate resource of the information age: public attention.

The Film

®™ark is a U. S. Corporation whose stated goal it is, to curtail the power of corporations. Their support for the Barbie Liberation Organization and their faked George W. Bush election Website made them famous. But ®™ark also supports other activists in their causes.

After it becomes known that Jon Johansen, a teenager from Norway, has cracked the copy protection of the newly introduced DVD, the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) starts a bitter campaign. In Norway Jon is being prosecuted on behalf of the Motion Picture Association. Around the world Websites, which post DeCSS, Jon's program, are threatened with lawsuits. In the USA the MPAA sues several Websites because of DeCSS. The controversy around DeCSS, one of the first programs circumventing the copy protection of DVD's, pits the U. S. film industry against the Internet community. The fighting quickly moves towards a debate about civil rights in the digital age and freedom of speech.

A U. S. toy retailer worth billions of dollars snatches the Internet domain of European artists with the help of a Californian court. This triggers a worldwide campaign against the toy retailer. The fight between the toy retailer eToys and the European artists group etoy has entered the young history of the World Wide Web as toywar. At a time when new economy stock prices are still going up the "most expensive art happening in history" costs the toy retailer 6 billion dollars in market capitalization within a couple of weeks.

During the U. S. presidential elections 2000 a Website named [v]ote-auction stuns voters and media alike. The site offers voters to buy and sell their votes to the highest bidder. The authorities are not amused and 14 U. S. states sue [v]ote-auction. The lawsuits continue even, after an Austrian group takes over the site.

Protagonists

Larry Tuxburry, Media analyst
Ricardo Dominguez, Activist
Robin Gross, Lawyer
Andreas Bichlbauer j. d., Representative of the World Trade Organization
Zai, etoy
Kubli, etoy
Monorom, etoy
Jon Lech Johansen, Hacker
Per Johansen, Jon's father
Frank Guerrero, ®™ ark Activist
Ray Thomas, ®™ ark Activist
Emmanuel Goldstein, Journalist and Hacker
Hans Bernhard, Activist
Lizvlx, Activist
Halvor Manshaus, Lawyer
Inger Marie Sunde, State attorney
Douglas Rushkoff, Author and Media theorist

Short appearances by James Baumgartner, Svein Y. Willassen, Reverend Billy, Oscar Obereder, Wolfgang Staehle, Reinhard Storz, etoy.STEMBERGER, Mark Hosler, Janine Bousquette, David Touretzky, George W. Bush, Jack Valenti, u. v. a.

Voiceover by Gordon Catlin

Financing

The film was financed with monies from the Austrian film funds (bka) and a shareholder system where 30 private "investors" participated in the financing of the film.

Produktion infos

Genre	Film documentary
Length	90 min
Format	35 mm, Color, 1:1.85
Producer / director	sebastian j. f.
Production	parallel universe www.parallel-universe.com
Director of photography	David West
2nd Camera	usr13
Add. Camera	Doris Kittler
Editing	s & a
Sound recordist	AnnA
Music	Dopeamin and others
Production managers	Jon Sinclair
Web	www.info-wars.com
Press materials	press.info-wars.com
Contact	parallel universe www.parallel-universe.com P: +43 - 1 - 961 06 47 F: +43 - 1 - 961 05 23
Theatrical release (Austria)	November 5, 2004

Quotes

There should be limits to freedom

George W. Bush, Governor of Texas *

The globalization movement and the anti-globalization movement have their terms backwards. The globalization movement is anti-globe, because what they are trying to do is to turn the globe into a free market economy...

Douglas Rushkoff, Media Theorist

The VCR is to the American film industry, what the Boston strangler is to the woman home alone ...

Jack Valenti, President of the MPPA *

They want to lock people into certain equipment, you need to have an authorized player, as they claim...

Jon Johansen

About the film and music industry:

They were sort of caught with their pants down when the Internet came up and they just completely ignored it for so many years, that the community itself found it's own uses.

Robin Gross, Electronic Frontier Foundation *

* at the time when statement was made