

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Feature-length Documentary Glimpses Future Vancouver

ICYCLE.CA Film Productions presents World Premiere of *You Never Bike Alone* at 2pm on Sunday, 26th November at the Rio Theatre.

VANCOUVER – A new 80-minute documentary opening on 26th November reveals Vancouver in a new light. Drawing on footage filmed in the city over the course of the last decade and through interviews with people from all backgrounds, independent documentary *You Never Bike Alone* captures the fun, the road rage, the camaraderie, and the freakiness of riding a bike in Vancouver.

You Never Bike Alone charts the history of Vancouver's Critical Mass rides from the early "Tame the Lions" rides, that helped bring about better bike facilities on the Lions Gate Bridge, to the wild spectacle of Vancouver's freak bike collective and the World Naked Bike Ride in more recent times.

As well as a humorous and entertaining look at cycling, it looks at the implications of transportation decisions by politicians at municipal and provincial levels and asks are we up to the challenge of making a truly liveable city.

Synopsis

The cycling phenomenon known as Critical Mass is a reclamation of public space that started in San Francisco in the early 1990s and spread by the internet throughout the world. On a set day, at the end of every month, cyclists and other self-propelled people ride *en masse* through city streets.

Vancouver has become renowned for its big Critical Mass bike rides, and particularly the party spirit that attracts all types of cyclists. Such has been the popularity of these monthly rides that they have spawned other "mass" rides.

You Never Bike Alone strips down for the Wholesome Undie (an underwear ride protesting the Molson Indie race) and throws caution to the wind for the World Naked Bike Ride, a ride founded in Vancouver by a Critical Mass regular.

YNBA catches up with the local "freak" bike collective (who make art bikes from recycled machines) and looks at how cyclists are sharing the "velo love" through buildathons, street theatre, and rides together.

Drawing on footage shot over the last decade, it asks whether cycle activists are succeeding in their goals. Through interviews with motorists "stuck in traffic," cyclists of all backgrounds, and local politicians, some of whom ride on *the Mass* themselves, it asks whether Critical Mass and similarly styled rides are winning hearts and minds.

With its goal of having 10% of journeys by bike by 2010, the year Vancouver hosts the Winter Olympics, the city seems to be heading toward a more sustainable future. However, plans are afoot to embark on a massive road infrastructure expansion program on the city outskirts, The Gateway Project, that will flood Vancouver with commuting cars and encourage further sprawl of the city's ever-expanding commuter belt.

The lines are drawn, but which vision will prevail?

About the Filmmakers

You Never Bike Alone is written, directed and edited by journalist Robert Alstead. A long-time cyclist, Alstead has worked on numerous short films and documentary projects. In *You Never Bike Alone* he weaves together footage shot by himself and by bicycle activists over the course of the last decade. Alstead has contributed articles on filmmaking, the arts, and current affairs, to a variety of publications including *The Guardian*, *The Independent*, and *The Scotsman*. This is his first full-length feature documentary.

The eclectic soundtrack brings together ambient electronica from Hungary, surf music out of the Netherlands, deep dub from Poland and Belgium, and roots reggae by Vancouver ska band *Dubfreque*.

Screening Information

You Never Bike Alone is showing at the Rio Theatre, 1660 E. Broadway (at Commercial), next to the Skytrain station, B-line and other bus routes. Doors open at 1:30pm, film starts 2:00pm, Sunday 26th November. Tickets are \$8 on the door.

Web site

More information, images, and teaser video clips can be found at www.youneverbikealone.com