CLI-FI WORKSHOP

Imagining alternative futures through positive Climate Fiction Films

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¿How we think the future?

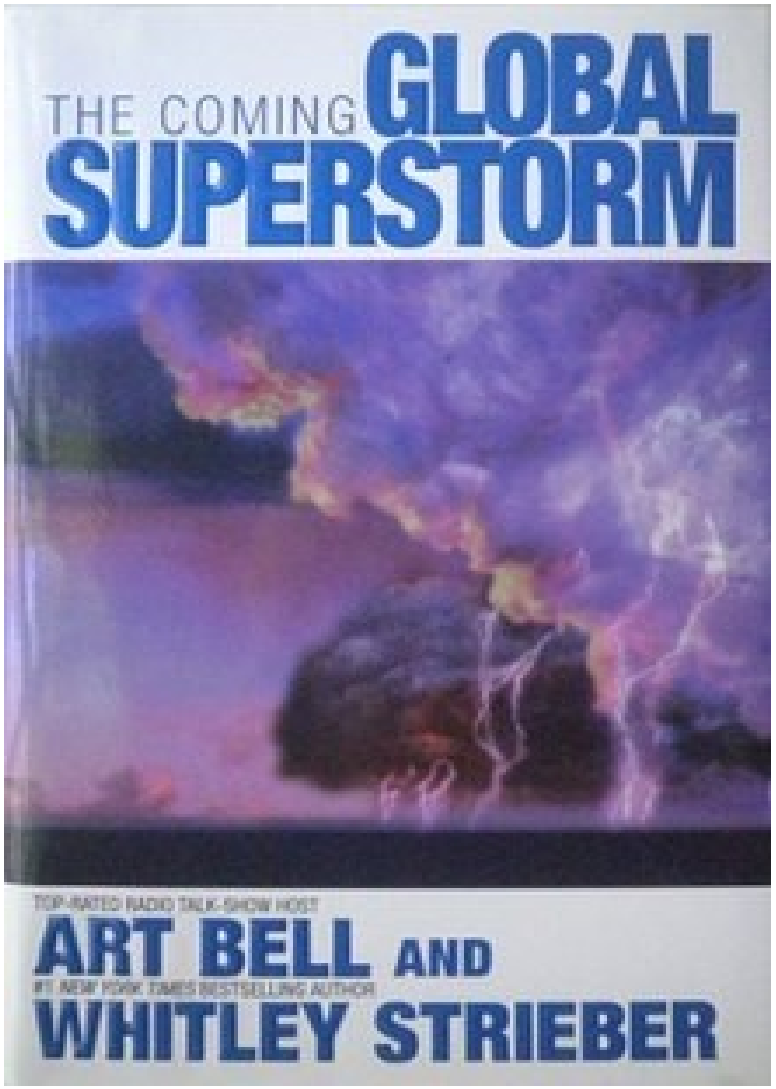
IMDB Website

Best Cli-Fi or Climate Change Movie Climax

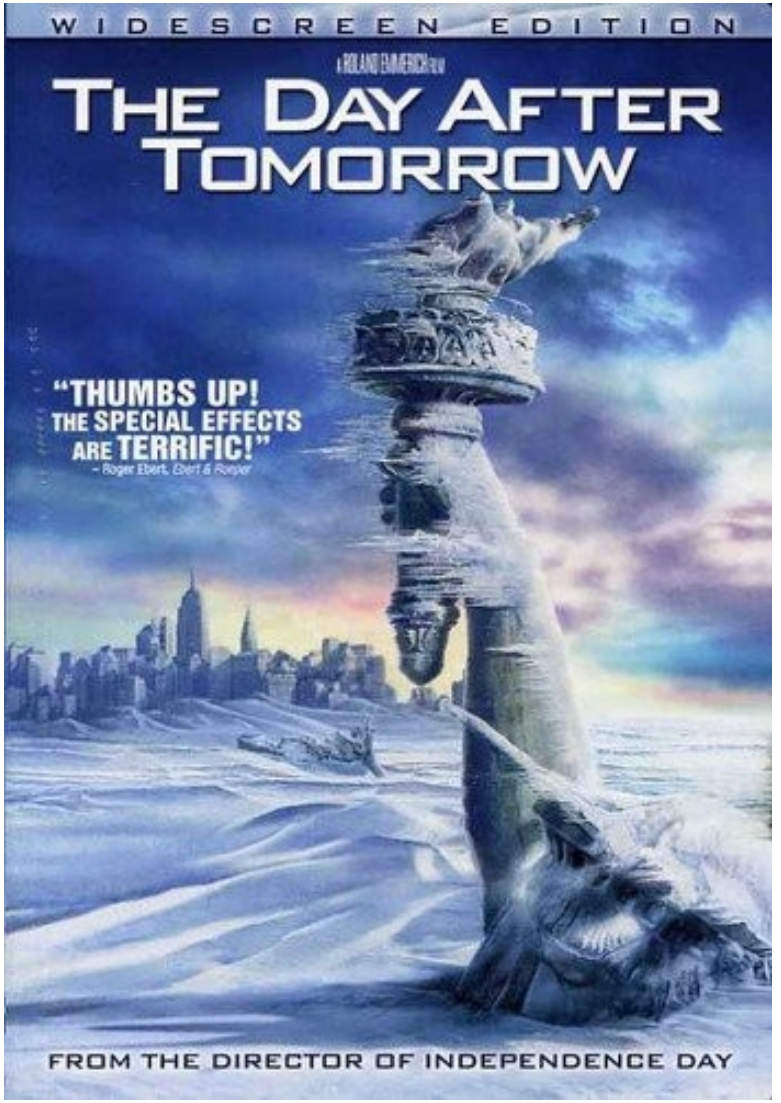
Results of 1,499 votes:

1.
   Interstellar (2014) — 341
2.
   The Day After Tomorrow (2004) — 255
3.
   WALL·E (2008) — 134
4.
   Mad Max: Fury Road (2015) — 132
5.
   2012 (2009) — 84
6.
   Snowpiercer (2013) — 79
7.
   Waterworld (1995) — 69
8.
   Twister (1996) — 51
9.
   Kingsman: The Secret Service (2014) — 41
10.
    Soylent Green (1973) — 38

Most climate fiction films show an apocalyptic world. Humanity has failed and people fight for water, food, and other basic resources



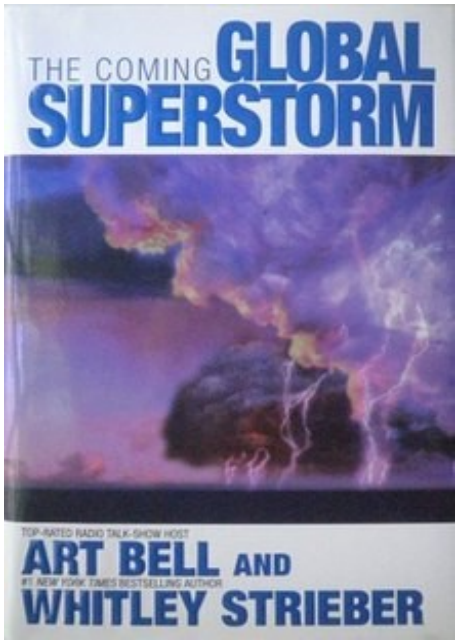
Art Bell and Whitley Strieber, 1999



Roland Emmerich, 2004

"The Day After Tomorrow" is one of the most successful cli-fi films and is based on a curious and creative book: half novel, half essay

Literature and cinema conexion



Art Bell y Whitley Strieber
1999

3

Trouble in the South

"Today will be fine, with a high of twenty-two in Sydney, cooler at the beaches."

That's what they'd said, and that's what the crowds along Bondi Beach expected. At the Australian Meteorological Bureau, however, they were still watching the unusual storm system to the south, but it was hanging well offshore. The seasonal flow of warm air off the continent, they felt, would keep it well off the coast until it dissipated.

It did not happen that way, not this time. By noon, it was clear that the weather forecast was off.

Thunderstorms were becoming visible just above the horizon. The surf was getting up along beaches as far south as Wollongong. From places like the top of the AMP th revealed roiling, violent clouds. Most of the tourists

2

Our Mysterious Past

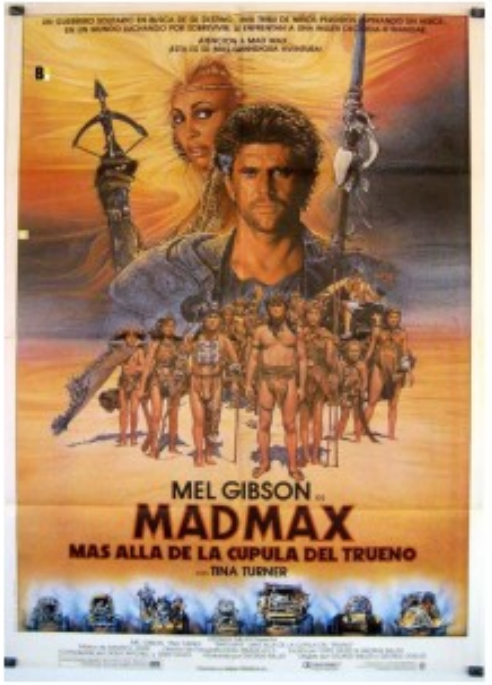
THE SUPERSTORM HAS ALMOST CERTAINLY HAPPENED BEFORE, probably many times. The last such incident may actually have been recorded by early man, who may have left us a description of it and a set of warnings that must not continue to be ignored. However, we have long assumed that early human legends, when they refer to events we regard as fantastic, must simply be acts of the imagination.

Maybe that's unwise, and maybe we should take a more careful look backward, to see what our ancestors may have been trying to tell us. Learning from history is not something that our society does well. We prefer to rely on science and to look to the future. In this case, though, the past may have sent us a message that is vital

The Day After Tomorrow (2004)

The film takes advantage of a sudden change in the temperature of the sea currents

Mad Max, the rewritten film for 36 years

			
MAD MAX **(1979)**	**MAD MAX 2** *The Road Warrior* **(1981)**	**MAD MAX** *Beyond Thunderdome* **(1985)**	**MAD MAX:** ***Fury Road*** **(2015)**

Each film is about how Max survives terrorists, armed gangs and dictators.

Immortan Joe controls natural resources

Water (in a desert) as a strategy of social control

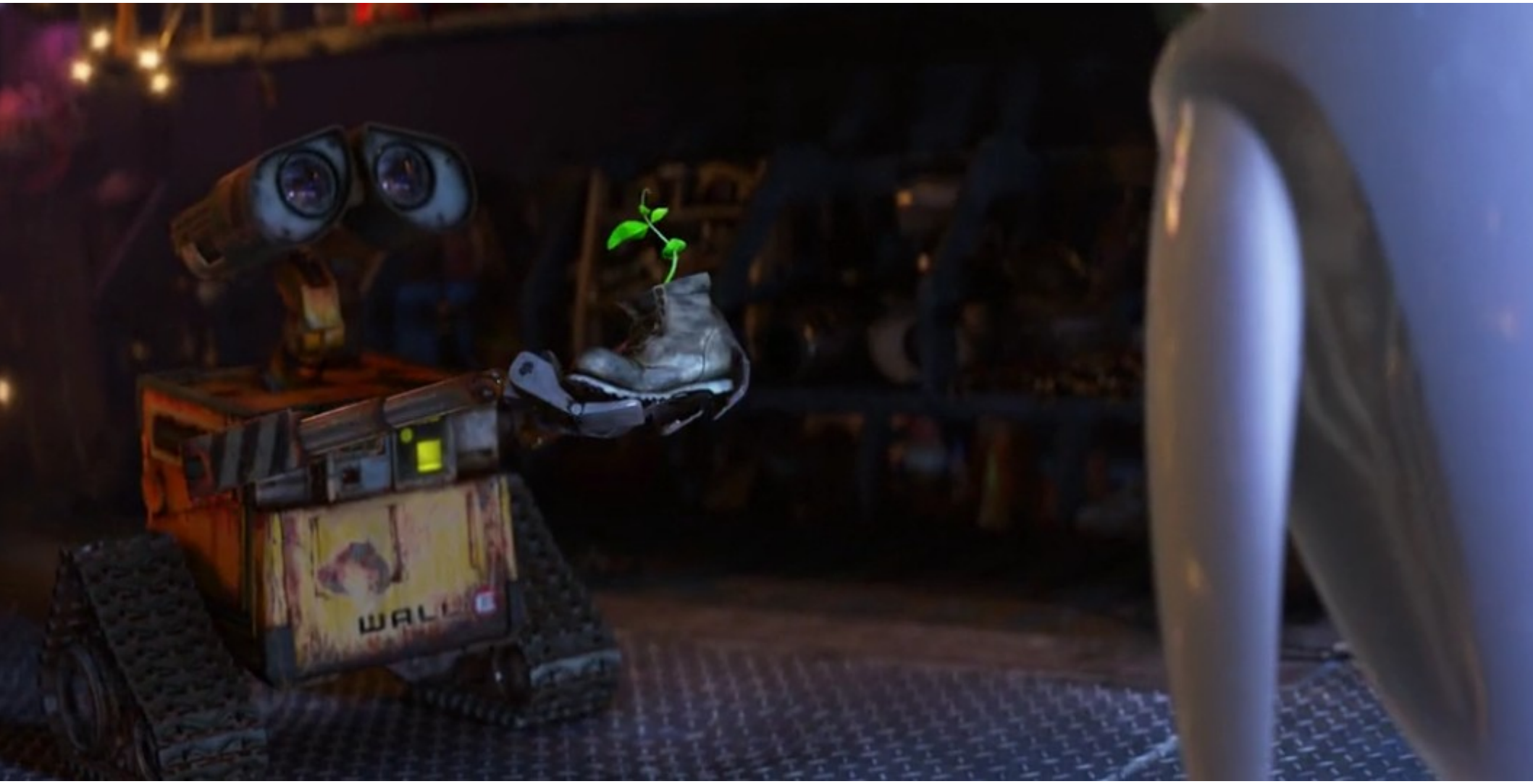
But far from there,

an old woman keeps seeds and a little plant in her bag

In Waterworld (2008)..

Mariner buys a tomato plant in exchange for everything he has

And in Wall-E (2008)..



a little plant in an old shoe allows humans to return to earth.

Common elements in cli-fi films

Seeds/plants as a Symbol of Future
The Struggle to Survive

Apocaliptic Scenarios
Male Heroes
Individual Solutions

(elements that we should avoid to advance in a proactive image of climate change)

¿How we could think the future?

This could means Climate Change

Climate Change

Communication

What people say about cc

What it is hapenning about cc

What we are doing about cc

Eli-Fi Movies

Cli-fi Film Script

A different kind of Cli-fi film

A Proactive & Collective Film

- **In groups (3-5 persons)** we are going to write a brief script for a cli-fi film with **1, 2 or 3 main characters** but without the typical male hero.

- The film should talk about **the world 40 years from now**.

- The film must be **interesting to a mass audience**.

- For example, we can write:

    a) Presentation of the characters and the starting situation.
    b) Development of the main characters
    c) Outcome of the story of the main characters

GROUP 1

Card

Context impacts:

Climate change enhances **extreme events** such as severe storms, hurricanes and tropical cyclones. **Heat waves** have doubled in a decade. The alteration of the water cycle will modify precipitation by increasing soil moisture. This will have an impact on runoff, evaporation, atmospheric vapour and water temperature leading to more extreme conditions and phenomena.

The characters must deal with some climate change impacts (for example, extreme events)

When (Date: when is the story happening)	
Where (Place: where does the story take place)	
How: (how is the place at that moment, get inspired on the impacts provided)	
Characters (1-3, remember collective vision)	
Main storyline	
Complementary sub-storylines	
Facts chronology	
Logline (max 25 words)	

Each group fills in this table until the script is complete

THE RESULT
(we are looking for)

"A moving story that shows us that there are alternatives to climate catastrophe."
The Guardian

"It entertains and sensitizes in equal parts"
New York Times

Loglines Battle

The presentation of the movie will be done with a **Loglines Battle.**
An example from "Pretty Woman", 1990:

> ***"A businessman hires a prostitute to accompany him to high society events, after several disagreements, they fall in love".***

Each group will read their Logline and the best one will win.

Afterwards, the rest can ask questions to the winning group to learn more about their film.