STINK! THE MOVIE

Things in America are not as they smell.

NETRETURN presents a film by Jon Whelan

STINK! the movie

Your eyes will deceive you.
Follow your nose.

THE MOVIE THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY DOESN'T WANT YOU TO SEE.

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STINK! opens with a foul smell and a pair of kids pajamas. And a single father trying to find out what that smell could possibly be. But instead of getting a straight answer, director Jon Whelan stumbles on an even bigger issue in America, which is that some products on our store shelves are not safe — by design.

Entertaining, enlightening, and at times almost absurd, “Stink!” takes you on a madcap journey from the retailer to the laboratory, through corporate boardrooms, down back alleys, and into the halls of Congress. Follow Whelan as he clashes with political and corporate operatives all trying to protect the darkest secrets of the chemical industry. You won’t like what you smell.
I used to be ignorant about the Cancer Loophole. I thought that if a product was on the shelf in a store, that meant it was safe. I naively believed that if a product contained dangerous, toxic ingredients, ingredients that could cause cancer, that product would be banned.

This hits very close to home for me, as six years ago, my wife Heather died of cancer. Our daughters were 2 and 5 at the time. Heather was the one who conscientiously watched over the products that came into our home. Now, it is up to me to keep my girls healthy. That was a promise I made to Heather, and I am doing my best to honor that promise.

In making “Stink!” over the past three years, I have learned that companies don’t need to disclose whether products contain chemicals that cause cancer or disrupt hormones, even chemicals that could interfere with a child’s growth, or cause reproductive problems. Certainly we can all agree that American consumers should have the right to choose whether they want to be exposed to chemicals that cause cancer, or birth defects, or reproductive harm? Apparently not.

By keeping the ingredients secret, companies are taking away our ability to make informed choices. In other words, we don't even have the right to choose whether we want to be exposed to a carcinogen. Companies using unsafe ingredients get to choose for us.

And that’s why I made a documentary called “Stink!” - because no one should be ignorant about the Cancer Loophole. Americans need to know that our system to regulate chemicals stinks.
JON WHEELAN  Director / Producer
Director Jon Whelan entered the world of documentaries in a roundabout way. Whelan got his MBA while dabbling in Virtual Reality. In 1999 he co-founded the Web auction Afternic.com, selling just before the bubble burst in 2000. Whelan was also a founding member of the New York Angels.

The arrival of children in the next decade caused a shift in Whelan's focus, this time to social justice, and the development of “Stink!” Whelan currently advocates for truthful product labeling and serves as advisor to internet and media startups. He is also a principal of Net Return, Inc., and full-time parent to two young daughters in Manhattan. “Stink!” is his first documentary.

BRYAN GUNNAR COLE  Editor
Bryan Gunnar Cole is a filmmaker with over 20 years of experience in theater, film and television. He began his career in Seattle where he co-founded Annex Theatre to produce new stage works created by emerging writers and theater artists. He founded Sweetspot Pictures while still in graduate school, making his first documentary program “Street Dogs”.

Since then, Bryan’s directing, producing, and editing credits span feature film, feature and short subject documentary, unscripted television, as well as significant nonprofit and corporate projects. Most recently, he served as Director of Content for one of the largest live music festivals in the U.S., BottleRock Napa Valley.

KRISTA SAPONARA  Producer
Krista Saponara is an Emmy Award winning producer and director whose career spans 18 years of documentary, series, and specialty show work featured on ESPN, TNT, PBS, ABC, TLC, and FOX. Krista has been responsible for creative direction, intellectual property and original programming development. She conceptualized, produced and directed Telly Award winning campaigns for the Big Ten Conference and Converse.

DANIEL CARTER  Director of Photography
Cinematographer Daniel Carter, a native North Carolinian, moved to New York to pursue his career in documentary filmmaking. Some of his credits include: “Dangerous Acts Starring the Unstable Elements of Belarus”, “The Street Stops Here”, “Racing Dreams,” and “Quest for Honor”. He is currently in production on “Like Any Other Kid,” a look inside one of the most revolutionary juvenile justice rehabilitation programs in the country.

ERIN O’HARA  Composer
Erin O'Hara is an acclaimed singer-songwriter, and accomplished composer for film and television. Erin's music has been featured in films, television programs and in film festivals internationally.
Production Company  Net Return Entertainment
Director  Jon Whelan
Producers  Jon Whelan, Krista Saponara
Editor  Bryan Gunnar Cole
Writers  Jon Whelan, Bryan Gunnar Cole
Director of Photography  Daniel Carter
Original Music  Erin O’Hara
Motion Graphics  Gordon Fales
Additional Photography  Dan Brohawn, Grace Huang, Tom Miller, Jamal Solomon
Sound Recordists  Chris Callus, Michael Jones, David Hocs, Michael Kimball, Brian Buckley, Big Pictures Media
Post Production Services  Sweetspot Pictures
Assistant Editor  Ned Thorne
Edit Room Assistant  Alex van Gelder
Additional Motion Graphics  Alex van Gelder
Post Production Finishing Services  Prime Focus Technologies
Colorist  Eric Alvarado
Online Editor  Eugene Lehnert
Sound Mixer  Kevin Wilson
Executive Director  Mary Martin
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Transcription Services  Benjamin Sidoti, Sarah Catherine Tunkle, Cody Sanders
Make Up Artist  Tina Murgas
Make up Model  Lee Mann
Balloon Consultant  The Amazing Max
Assistant to Director  Siri
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