



US PREMIERE  HAMPTONS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



“A COMPELLING, SOBERING REVELATION”

VARIETY

“RAISES THE ALARM”

SCREENDAILY

WHEN BIBLICAL PROPHECY FUELS POLITICAL POWER

UPNORTH FILM PRESENTS

PRAYING FOR ARMAGEDDON

A FILM BY TONJE HESSEN SCHEI

UPNORTH FILM PRESENTS "PRAYING FOR ARMAGEDDON" A FILM BY TONJE HESSEN SCHEI. PRODUCED BY AUTO IMAGES, MAKING MOVIES, VENTANA FILM, FILM IN SKÅNE. IN ASSOCIATION WITH ARTE, ZDF, EO, AL JAZEERA. CO-DIRECTED BY MICHAEL ROWLEY. EDITORS TORIKEL GJORV, WIKI, MATTI NARAWEN, ECE. MUSIC BY SVÅVE HUSE-AMUNDSEN. COSTUME DESIGNERS LUKAS BERKEMAR, UNO HELMERSSON. CASTING SAMI HAARTIMO. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MICHAEL CAVANAGH, ANNE MØRSTAD. PRODUCED BY SABRINA BUCKWALTER. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS SNORRE HOVDAL. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS OVE RISHØJ, JENSEN, KAARLE AHO, HANS ROBERT EISENHÄUER, LISA NYED. PRODUCED BY HUSSAIN CUPPIMHODY, SUE TURBLEY, JAN ROFEKVAMP. PRODUCED BY CHRISTIAN AUNE FALCH, TORSTEIN PARELLIUS, INGRID AUNE FALCH. DIRECTED BY TONJE HESSEN SCHEI.



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LOGLINE

The Countdown to Armageddon has begun. As biblical prophecy fuels political power, American Evangelicals threaten U.S. democracy and push for the Apocalypse in the Middle East.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Praying for Armageddon is a political thriller that reveals the power and influence of U.S. fundamentalist Evangelicals, as they aim to fulfill the Armageddon prophecy. With close quarters journalism, this feature documentary embeds with American believers who prepare for The Holy war and exposes how powerful megachurch pastors call for the 'final battle' that they believe will trigger the Second Coming of Christ. A deep dive into power and policy, this film unveils how politicians driven by faith embrace Israel as the key to their prophetic vision for the end of days. At any cost.

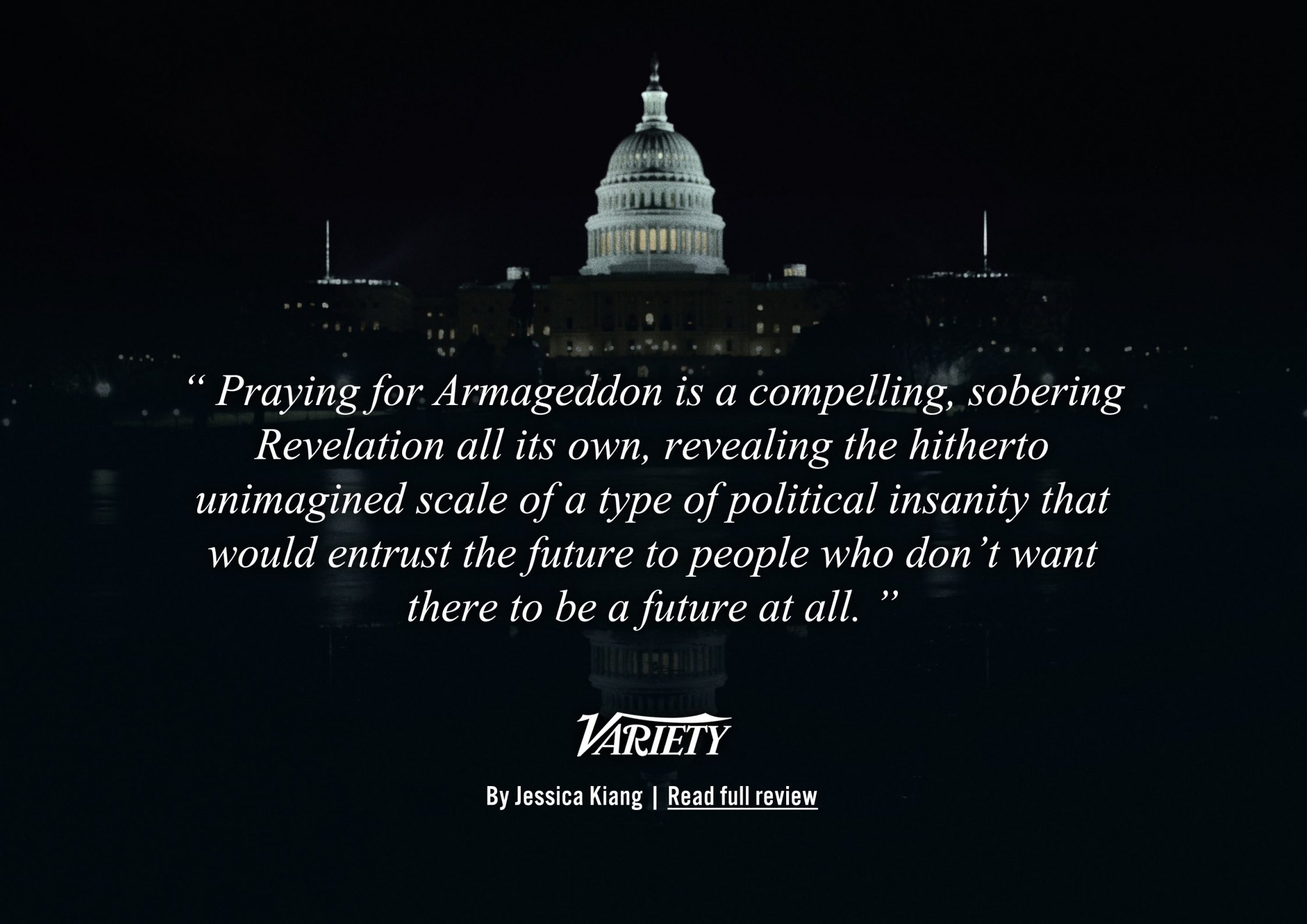
Praying for Armageddon investigates the dangerous consequences of the fusion between Evangelical Christianity and American politics. Stark and gripping in approach, this film not only reveals how structures of fundamentalism weaken the very fabric of American democracy, but also highlights the devastating impact religion wields on U.S. foreign policy. Praying for Armageddon uncovers how the Evangelicals fuel the volatile situation in Israel and Palestine - ultimately escalating the spirals of violence in the Middle East.

From the grassroots to megachurch empires and the dark backrooms in Washington D.C., this film goes inside a movement that ultimately aims to destroy our civilization.





**OFFICIAL
TRAILER**



“ Praying for Armageddon is a compelling, sobering Revelation all its own, revealing the hitherto unimagined scale of a type of political insanity that would entrust the future to people who don’t want there to be a future at all. ”

VARIETY

By Jessica Kiang | [Read full review](#)

PRAYING FOR ARMAGEDDON

FEATURE DOCUMENTARY | 97 min

English language / some Hebrew, Arabic

English subtitles | DCP | 5.1 sound

Festival premiere: March 20th 2023 | CPH:DOX

Country of production: Norway

Countries of co-production: Sweden, Germany, Finland

Production company: UpNorth Film

Co-production companies: Auto Images, Ventana-Film, Making Movies

DIRECTOR: Tonje Hessen Schei

CO-DIRECTOR AND CINEMATOGRAPHER: Michael Rowley

PRODUCERS: Christian Aune Falch, Torstein Parelius, Ingrid Aune Falch

CO-PRODUCERS: Ove Rishøj Jensen, Hans Robert Eisenhauer, Kaarle Aho

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: Hussain Currimbhoy, Sue Turley, Jan Rofekamp

EDITORS: Torkel Gjørsv, NFK, Matti Näränen, FCE

COMPOSERS: Lukas Berkemar, Uno Helmersson

SOUND DESIGNER: Sølve Huse-Amundsen

COLORIST: Michael Cavanagh

FEATURING: Gary Burd, Lee Fang, Frank Schaeffer, Rabbi Arik Ascherman, Fayrouz Sharquavi, Mohammed El-Kurd, Ralph Drollinger, Robert Jeffress, Michael L. Weinstein, Col. Lawrence Wilkerson

Worldwide sales & festivals: DR SALES



«..the film raises the alarm about the proportion of American politicians sympathetic to a Domsday mindset that prefers the idea of conflict in the Middle East to that of a de-escalation of tensions.»

SCREEN DAILY | By Wendy Ide | [Read full review](#)

«..shows how American Evangelicals are Praying For Armageddon and pulling the levers of power to achieve it.»

DEADLINE HOLLYWOOD | By Matthew Carey | [Read full interview](#)

«.. it would be difficult to argue after watching Praying for Armageddon that the influence the United States continues to wield in the Middle East is anything but non-secular.»

MODERN TIMES REVIEW | By Carmen Gray | [Read full review](#)

Tonje Hessen Schei

DIRECTOR

Tonje Hessen Schei is an award-winning Norwegian filmmaker that takes on international issues of power that shape our world. Her films *Praying for Armageddon* (2023), *iHuman* (2019), *Drone* (2014), *Play Again* (2010) have received numerous national and international awards, and have screened at the UN and EU parliaments, Netflix and major film festivals worldwide.

Through telling strong human stories that front the zeitgeist of our time, Tonje is lauded for giving complex issues a human face. Her work has been described as both visionary and entertaining. Tonje is a TEDx Speaker, and the recipient of the Chicken & Egg Award 2020.

KEY TEAM

Co-director and cinematographer **MICHAEL ROWLEY** (USA) is an award-winning director, cinematographer, and editor living in Dallas, Texas. Rowley's work has been characterized as defiant, visceral, and deeply human. His voice has earned him the Austin Film Society's North Texas Pioneer Film Grant twice and four festival jury awards for exceptional work. Rowley's feature directorial debut, *Hurdle* (2019), screened across the international film festival circuit and featured in publications like The New York Times and Variety. *Hurdle* is distributed by TVF International and New Day Films and was acquired for streaming by SundanceNow.



Editor **TORKEL GJØRV** (Norway) is one of Norway's most experienced documentary editors. He has been the editor of a number of award-winning films and documentary series. His films include *iHuman*, *Inside Fur*, *Aleppo's Fall* and *Reunion: 10 Years After The War*. They have been screened nationally and internationally and received several awards, including the Amanda, the Norwegian equivalent of the Oscar.

Composer **UNO HELMERSSON** (Sweden) is an award-winning composer and a multi-instrumentalist whose credits include the worldwide hit TV series *The Bridge*, broadcast in more than 100 territories. He was awarded a Golden FIPA for his work in the series. A graduate of the Royal Academy of Music in Stockholm, Uno has released a multitude of albums throughout his career. Among the films he has composed music for are *Armadillo*, *The Painter And The Thief*, *The Distant Barking Of Dogs* and many more.

Executive Producer **HUSSAIN CURRIMBHOY** (Sweden/Canada) has worked in the film industry since graduating from the Victorian College of Art in 2002. A passion for international cinema lead Hussain to program for the Melbourne International Film Festival, and later moved on to program and curate films for festivals like Brisbane Int. Film Festival and the Adelaide Film Festival before joining England's Sheffield Doc/Fest as director of programming. By 2014, Hussain moved to Los Angeles to join Sundance Film Festival as lead documentary and VR programmer. After contracts as guest programmer for Nordisk Panorama, FoodxFilm Festival and the Red Sea Int. Film Festival, Hussain relocated to Sweden to develop a focus in filmmaking. Most recently he has been appointed Director, Global Project Development/Investment for the Chicago Media Project.

Executive Producer **SUE TURLEY** (USA) is an industry veteran and the Senior Vice President for Development, Production and Strategic Partnerships for XRM Media, responsible for XRM's interests in all areas of

content-related initiatives and activities. Prior to this, Sue was the Managing Director for Ro*Co Films where she created new production pipelines and provided financing access to support emerging filmmakers. She has a strong track record in producing and distributing award winning and Oscar nominated projects, such as *Beyond Utopia*, *The YouTube Effect*, *Riotville U.S.A*, *Born Into Brothels*, and *Life, Animated*.

UP NORTH

Based in Norway, **UpNorth Film** is one of the most prominent documentary production companies in Scandinavia. Their films has won several awards, been screened on Netflix, BBC and broadcasters worldwide, has had theatrical releases in several countries and been invited to prominent festivals on all continents.

Their most recent films include *Praying for Armageddon* (2023), *Name of the Game* (2021), *Oh, it Hertz!* (2021), *iHuman* (2019), *Newtopia* (2019), *Golden Dawn Girls* (2017), *Recruiting For Jihad* (2017), *Blackhearts* (2016), *Drone* (2014) and *Two Raging Grannies* (2014).

UpNorth Film also co-produce international documentaries, most recently *The Last Seagull* (2023), *Nelly & Nadine* (2022), *The Chocolate War* (2022) and *Golden Land* (2022). The UpNorth Film producer trio behind *Praying for Armageddon* is **CHRISTIAN AUNE FALCH** ([IMDb](#)), **TORSTEIN PARELIUS** ([IMDb](#)), both members of the European Film Academy, and **INGRID AUNE FALCH** ([IMDb](#)).

UpNorthFilm.no | Facebook.com/UpNorthFilm | Twitter.com/UpNorth_Film

WORLDWIDE SALES

DR Sales | Kim Christiansen: kimc@dr.dk

FESTIVALS

DR Sales | Nanna Lykke: nlyk@dr.dk

ALL OTHER INQUIRIES

UpNorth Film | Torstein Parelus: torstein@upnorthfilm.no

INVOLVED FINANCIERS AND PARTNERS

Midtnorsk Filmsenter, The Fritt Ord Foundation, Norwegian Film Institute, Arts Council Norway, Creative Europe, Filminvest, Film i Skåne, Swedish Film Institute, AVEK, Finnish Film Foundation, Nordisk Film & TV Fond, Bergesenstiftelsen, Chicken & Egg Pictures, Barbara Dobkin, Al Jazeera, ZDF, ARTE, EO, BBC Storyville, YLE, DR, SVT, RTS, RTSI, YES, RTL Hungary

PRESSKIT DOWNLOAD

Find stills, poster for web + print, director portrait and bio, and trailer mp4 via this [Google Drive folder link](#). All film stills shall be credited UpNorth Film. Director portrait shall be credited photographer Marte Garmann.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Please tag or reference the official PRAYING FOR ARMAGEDDON social sites in all relevant posts or announcements.

[Facebook.com/prayingforarmageddon](https://www.facebook.com/prayingforarmageddon)

[Twitter.com/pray4armageddon](https://twitter.com/pray4armageddon)

IMDb : <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt27009795/>

WEB : <https://www.prayingforarmageddon.com/>

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+ VENTANA FILMS + MAKING MOVIES © 2023

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