

Don't Look UP

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NETFLIX RELEASES NEW SATIRICAL ALLEGORY FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

destroy Earth.

The film opens with Lawrence's character Kate Dibiasky noticing an unknown object, seen through a telescope. Upon further observation, Dibiasky discovered that the object is a comet. Ecstatic by her discovery, Dibiasky shows her professor Dr. Randall Mindy, who is played by DiCaprio. With his help, the scientists formulate the predicted course of the comet, and they are shocked to discover that it is hurtling straight towards earth.

After many peer reviews and checks, Dibiasky and Mindy attempt to inform the president of the urgency to act against the comet. However, the president, played by Meryl Streep, is far more concerned with her midterm ratings than with preventing the end of the world. Streep's character further dissuades the scientist's conclusions by saying they are not qualified enough to make such assumptions, even though they peer reviewed with many highly esteemed scientists. Furious by the president's actions, the two scientists go to the media to bring attention to the problem and call out the president on her actions. However, when they attempt to tell the public, everyone thinks they are hysterical and doesn't believe them. The president quickly reaches out after this event and begins to publicly support the scientist in order to further her ratings in the election.

The president turns the catastrophe into a patriotic event and plots with a tech billionaire, played by Mark Rylance to capitalize off the resources found on the comet. This leads to a major political debate on what to do with the comet. Many fight to spread awareness of comet and beg the government to destroy it instead of mining it, while others choose to not believe that there is a comet and adopt the mantra "Don't Look Up". Even when the comet becomes visible from Earth, people are still in denial that it is actually real.

"Don't Look Up" showcases the political divide in our country over the most obvious problems. Everyone in the movie is so focused on their careers, social media and popularity that they choose to ignore the imminent danger they are in. The director meant to use this movie to allude to the ongoing climate change that is a major political debate in America. The celebrity endorsement, industrial power and political motives either for or against the comet are a direct parallel to our own world's way of dealing with change that needs to be made, for better or for worse.

This film serves as a warning of what could happen to us in the near future if we do not strive to work together against disasters like climate change. At the end of the movie we see that the Earth is destroyed because of the ambition of the president and the tech billionaire because they were more concerned with the value of the comet rather than the clear and obvious danger it posed to the population.

This movie paints a scarily realistic picture of our society's tendency to push difficult-to-swallow truths away in favor of dramatics and catchy phrases. When the scientists announce to the public that the comet is heading towards the earth, they immediately label them as insane or crazy. The public turns them into crazy memes spread across Twitter, and completely misses the message of their warning. This movie leaves the audience pondering the superficiality of our society today and is a fresh wake up call to question our own attentiveness to our home's changing climate. This movie is meant to encourage people to be more aware of what scientists are warning us about and show that it is essential for all of us to work together to protect our planet. It accomplishes that goal.

"Don't Look Up," a recently released Netflix Original Movie, has gained much popularity since its debut on December 5, 2021. The satirical allegory takes place in our current political climate and explores how the government and people are so quickly divided over political opinions.

The two hour and twenty-five minute film was produced and written by Adam McKay, and is packed with a star-studded cast that includes Leonardo DiCaprio, Jennifer Lawrence, Meryl Streep, Cate Blanchett, Jonah Hill and many more well-known actors. Since its release, the movie has amassed over 152 million hours of viewership, and it has become the third most popular movie on Netflix.

From politically ambitious presidents and tech-giant billionaires to charismatic newscasters and an extremely divided public, McKay sets the stage perfectly for the protagonist scientists, played by DiCaprio and Lawrence, to deliver the devastating news of a comet that is on course to



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