

## The Kingdom

**Director** // Peter Berg  
**Cast** // Jamie Foxx, Chris Cooper, Jennifer Garner, Jason Bateman, Ashraf Barhom and Ali Suliman  
**Rated** // MA 15+

The background to the War on Terror is complicated, very complicated. This is why it's helpful to have a lesson to contextualise the history and politics of oil and terror in the Middle East. And that's what we get, briefly, when this film opens.

It's pointed out that Saudi Arabia is a country founded with the help of militant Islamic followers of the Wahabi sect, a religious movement that wants to send us all back to the Stone Age. Wahabism is followed by Osama bin Laden, his evil henchmen and fanatical followers, and demands that all infidels – that's us – must be banished from Muslim lands, including Saudi Arabia. But where there's oil to be had, there will be infidels, Americans in particular, and the jihadis use that fact as a basis for mass murder.

So we have the bombing of an American compound in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, an atrocity that kills more than 100. It's a horrifying and bloody beginning that fires up the US authorities and in particular the FBI.

Phil Brown

## The 11th Hour

**Director** // Leila Conners Petersen and Nadia Conners  
**Cast** // Leonardo DiCaprio, David Suzuki, Stephen Hawking, Mikhail Gorbachev and Tim Carmichael  
**Rated** // PG

You go to see a movie for entertainment and come out feeling lower than a snake's belly – what's with that? I guess that's what happens when you're confronted with the truth about the environment. As Al Gore says, it is an inconvenient truth or for some, as *The Simpsons Movie* pointed out, an irritating truth that the world is in bad shape and things are quickly getting worse. It's time to get in the brace position, put your head between your knees and kiss your butt goodbye. Or is there something we can do about the fact pollution and climate change could eventually extinguish the human race?

Hopefully, the message we can all take away from this doom-laden documentary is that we can do something, though we have to do it pretty soon. To convince us of this, narrator Leonardo DiCaprio takes us on a trip into our worst nightmare – the state of the planet. He also trots out a long procession of impressive talking heads to convince us that we are, basically, stuffed.

Phil Brown



All for a cause ... Vanessa McCarthy with the decorated bras; Anthony's Ulysses by Vanessa; Gabrielle Clooney's Nice Breasts, digital image on canvas; Double D Day by Caroline Mudge. Main Photograph // Chris Scott

**"I wanted to give myself and others the opportunity to come together in a positive way to celebrate women, our bodies and who we are."**

breast cancer, she has experienced the haunting nature of the devastating disease.

"Last year I lost three people to cancer of some sort while another woman I know is in the process of dealing with it," she says. "I also lost my brother two years ago in March. He died of a heart attack. We had a butterfly moment for him which is why I've titled my piece Anthony's Ulysses."

As Vanessa explains, the exhibition is a way for many of the women to not only show their support but work through their own grief and sadness.

"I think with the whole death and loss process, regardless of whether it's breast cancer or anything else, you just have to deal with it in a certain way and art is my way of dealing with it," she says.

"I think a lot of the women involved who have had breast cancer particularly find that too, so it will be nice to share the visual aspects of it."

Among the line-up of contributors are seasoned exhibitors Hayley Gillespie, Gabrielle Cooney, Caroline Mudge, Julie McEnery and Marie Markatish while for the majority of artists it will be an entirely new experience.

"I had one artist who's a photographer and she's had breast cancer. She's never done anything like this before and almost backed out but I emailed her and said: 'No, don't, I'm just as scared

as you are, let's just broaden our horizons, you never know what's going to happen,'" Vanessa says.

"I've never done this before either."

Vanessa says the positive reaction to the exhibition not only from the artists but from the wider community has been overwhelming with people going out of their way to help the cause.

"I'm just amazed with the response we've got already," Vanessa says referring to several occasions where local businesses have volunteered their backing.

She says even passers-by have stopped her mid-conversation when discussing the event to find out what she's talking about and have offered their services on the spot.

"We went and asked Wendy's for pink straws and they've gone: 'What's it all about' and we've told them and they've come on board not only with the straws but balloons and a big ice cream cake with a pink ribbon on it. It's just wonderful, it just makes you feel really good that all these people want to be involved."

The event, which will be hosted at a private at-home gallery, is expected to attract up to 120 guests, all women, but Vanessa isn't making any predictions in terms of money they hope to raise.

"I don't want to work it out, I don't have any expectations other than to have a really good time and that's what I want everyone else to do," she says.

"There is, of course, the serious note behind it of why we're doing it, which is to support people with breast cancer and support research into breast cancer.

"But it's just going to be a great night with lots of bra decorating and pink champagne."

Breast Cancer Australia reports that breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in Australian women with one in 11 women diagnosed with the disease before the age of 75.

A minimum of 15 per cent from each artwork sold will be donated to the Cancer Council through the Girls Night In initiative with some artists contributing up to 50 per cent.

**For more information, ph: Vanessa McCarthy on 0422 066 222.**

**Tanks Arts Centre** **What's on**

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