

ENDLESS CITIES

TITLE: ENDLESS CITIES
RELEASE DATE: TBC
CERTIFICATE: TBC
DURATION: 60 MINS
LANGUAGE: VARIOUS WITH ENGLISH
SUBTITLES

Directors: Mike Faulkner & Matthias Kispert
Producer: Sarah Matthews
Excutive Producer: Mark Dobson
Post Production: Mike Faulkner, Matthias Kispert, Paul Mumford & Cesar Pesquera
Musical Director: Matthias Kispert
Programming: Sebastian Hagemeister
Research: Danny Dorling & Anna Barford



**CYBER
BROTHERS**

**BRITISH
COUNCIL**

D-Fuse

ENDLESS CITIES

**DIRECTED BY
MICHAEL FAULKNER
& MATTHIAS KISPERT**

D-Fuse

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10%
LIVE IN CITIES IN
1900

50%
LIVE IN CITIES TODAY
2008

75%
WILL LIVE IN CITIES IN
2050



“The super-market society of mass consumption that we have created is a new world. But, in contrast to modernist brave new world of Huxley, the controller is now absent.”

VAN HOUTUM AND SPIERINGS, 2007

1.7 BILLION
1960

6.7 BILLION
WORLD POPULATION
2008

11 BILLION
WORLD POPULATION
2050



Endless Cities Intro

In 2007 the human race crossed the threshold to become a primarily urban species, and a further 180,000 people move into cities every day.

Artist filmmakers Michael Faulkner and Matthias Kispert are now working without a script to create their debut independent feature film.

Endless Cities will be a remarkable investigation of life in this new urban century, weaving together compelling insights and social micro-narratives captured on location shoots around the world. The film promises to be as much a mesmerising visual symphony, as an uncompromising inquiry into today's contested urban realities.

Shot in HD with 5.1 surround sound. With several location shoots already completed, the project is well into its development phase.

“If we think about the likely qualities of life in the next century by projecting forward current trends in our cities, most commentators would end up with a somewhat dystopian view. We are producing marginalization, disempowerment, alienation, pollution and degradation.”

DAVID HARVEY, 1997



Endless Cities The Film

More than half the world's population now live in cities, and all trends point towards an increasing rate of urbanisation worldwide. While architects and urban planners try to make sense of this new development, the people who live in the sprawling megacities have to come to terms with their transformed and dynamic realities.

Endless Cities is a timely contribution to the debates surrounding our rapid urban development. Part documentary, part visual essay, the film captures the enduring fascination, the contradictions and complexities, as well as the conflicts played out in our new man-made environments.

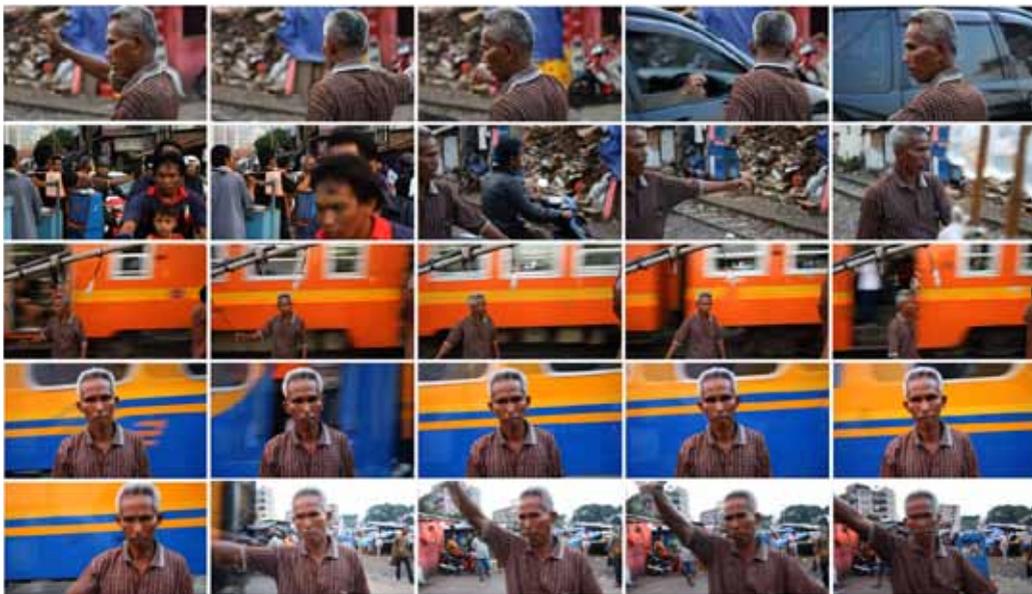
These questions are now truly global ones. Addressing environmental sustainability, as well as the living standards and human rights of those at the bottom of the social scale has never been more urgent. In each city globalisation and monoculture collide with very different local cultures and urban landscapes. How we deal with these issues will have significant consequences for the future of our planet.

Endless Cities represents Faulkner and Kispert's debut as feature-length film directors. Combining their distinctive audio-visual aesthetic with critical analysis, Endless Cities will be spellbinding and contentious in equal measure.

Working as artist collective D-Fuse, Michael Faulkner and Matthias Kispert have travelled to numerous cities around the world, collaborating with local artists, and creating audio-visual compositions responding to the dynamics of their urban environments.

Filming for Endless Cities has already taken place in Jakarta, Moscow, Sao Paulo and London, and footage collected during previous research visits to cities in Australia and South East Asia will be incorporated. Future filming trips include Los Angeles, Lagos and Rio De Janeiro.

The original soundtrack will be composed by Kispert, incorporating field recordings collected on location, and collaborations with international musicians.



Endless Cities Distribution

Endless Cities will initially reach audiences as an independent cinema release, across the UK and internationally. A network of independent cinemas and galleries have already been engaged in discussion.

Following the cinema release, the film will be made available as a DVD, 3D Blu-ray* and download.

The DVD and 3D Blu-ray disks will include two versions of the Endless Cities film, both with a collection of specially commissioned alternative 5:1 soundtracks.

The first version of Endless Cities will be a mesmerizing cinematic experience with strong visual impact. The second will be a data version, consisting of the original cinema edit as a base, with an overlay of data and statistical graphics relating to the themes shown in the film.

D-Fuse's previous DVD release **D-Tonate_00** [2003], supported by the Arts Council England, sold over 6k units and was technological a groundbreaking DVD using random angle change, multi-angle, multi-audio and various complimentary graphic overlays using the sub-picture channels (conventionally used for subtitles) as an animation track. In 2005 Universal commissioned D-Fuse to re-create this for the **Beck Guero** DVD Audio/DVD Video album selling over 120k units.

Endless Cities will also be included in the Limited Edition multi-format release package **Urban Conditions**, including previously unreleased D-Fuse moving image work and audio on 3D Blu-ray Disc, DVD, CD and Floppy Disk.

* 3D Blu-ray disks are compatible with current 2D Blu-ray players

Endless Cities Audio Collaboration

Matthias Kispert will compose the primary soundtrack for Endless Cities. Additionally, three music producers will curate alternative soundtracks, inviting contributions from across a range of musical genres, from the classical to the

electronic. The collaborating musicians will be given rough edits of audio materials collected on location, around which they will create their own musical responses to the film.

Soundtrack #1 Feature

Composed by D-Fuse audio director **Matthias Kispert**, in collaboration with London Symphony Orchestra violinist David Ballesteros.

Artists include -

Matthias Kispert [UK]
David Ballesteros [ES]

Soundtrack #2 West Coast Rock

Curated by **Brian LeBarton** - composer, keyboardist and music director for Beck and Charlotte Gainsbourg. LeBarton has also recorded and performed with Danger Mouse, Feist, Nigel Godrich, and Jamie Lidell.

Artists include -

Lucky Dragons [USA]
Jamie Lidell [UK]
Thom Yorke [UK]
Tobacco [USA]

Soundtrack #3 World/Electonica

Curated by **Karen P** - music producer working closely with Red Bull Music Academy Radio. Having produced Gilles Peterson's BBC Worldwide show for several years, Karen P now runs audio production company Folded Wing.

Artists include -

Mulatu Astatke [ETHIOPIA]
Tony Allen [NIGERIA]
Si Begg [UK]
Heaven 17 [UK]

Soundtrack #4 Electonica

Curated by **Gauthier Keyaerts** - sound artist, composer, and former A&R at the labels Quatermass and Sub Rosa, named by The Wire magazine as "one of the most influential labels in the world".

Artists include -

Scanner [UK]
DJ Spooky [USA]
Leaf Cutter John [UK]
Burnt Friedmann [GER]
Lawrence English [AU]
Unit 303 [UK]

Soundtrack #5 Remix

Brun from **Swayzak** will remix the main mix.

Artists include -

Swayzak [UK]
Matthias Kispert [UK]

Endless Cities Support/Sponsorship

Financial

British Council Indonesia
British Council Russia
The British Council are providing both financial and in-kind assistance for further filming trips and translation. The history of this project is tightly intertwined with earlier collaborations between D-Fuse and the British Council.

Vladislav Severtsev
CEO Cyberbrothers.tv
Moscow based entrepreneur Vladislav Severtsev has already provided financial assistance and support in kind during our research in Moscow. He will be a key sponsor, in association with his online digital arts and design community cyberbrothers.tv

Hediki Francis Onda
CEO Tunewear. CEO Focal Point
CEO Metavision
Hadiki Francis Onda, Japanese entrepreneur and former chairman of Apple Japan, has agreed to support the project financially.

Support in Kind

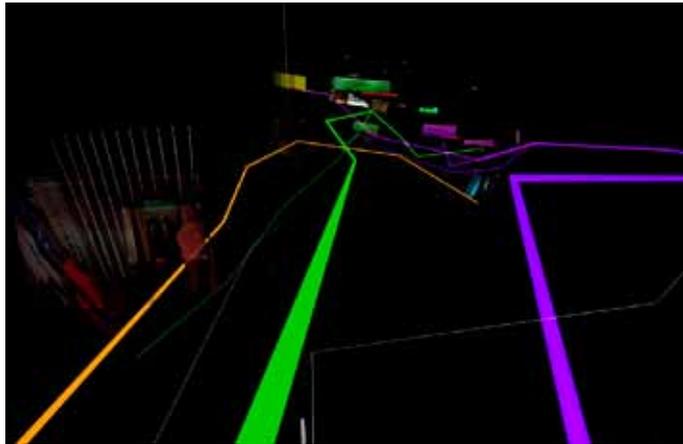
Danny Dorling+ Anna Barford
Professor of Human Geography
University of Sheffield
Danny Dorling's commitment to supporting this film with his pioneering research represents substantial.

Seb Hagemeister
Krafted
Seb Hagemeister is regarded as a pioneer in programming DVD and Blu-ray Disc, making use of features others don't even know of. He will be lending us his skills at a very reduced rate.

Funding Applications

Arts Council England
We are currently applying to the Arts Council England to fund the multi-format release package of Endless Cities and other D-Fuse projects.

FLAMIN
Film London Artists Moving Image Network
We are currently applying to Film London Artists' Moving Image Network for production funding.



Endless Cities About the Artists

Michael Faulkner and Matthias Kispert achieved success as the artist collective D-Fuse, who have been at the heart of a new generation of moving image makers using emerging technology as tools for exploring innovative ways of creative expression.

D-Fuse are known for their audio-visual performances and multi-screen live cinema, along with artist films, photography, video installations that explore urban, environmental and social themes. Their distinctive style is defined by a skilful utilisation of the relationship between sound and image.

Widely recognised as pioneers of audiovisual culture, D-Fuse have collaborated with groundbreaking musicians including **Beck**, **Scanner**, and **Burnt Friedman**, as well as composer **Steve Reich** [performed with The **London Symphony Orchestra**].

They continue to work on environmentally themed projects. In 2005 they were commissioned by Eyebeam [NYC], to create immersive multi-screen installation **Small Global**, charting the growth of the fast food and mobile phone industries, and contrasting this against environmental degradation. **De-Forestation**, a film from the series of **Carbon Crisis** Blipverts [2007], is currently being used by **Al Gore** in his *Inconvenient Truth* presentation.

D-Fuse's work has been shown internationally at over 100 film festivals, including **Ars Electronica** [Linz], **TriBeCa Film Festival** [NYC], **MU** [Eindhoven], **San Francisco MoMA**, **ISEA** [Belfast], **Itau Cultural** [Sao Paulo], **Hong Kong Arts Centre**, and the **Lisbon** and **Valencia** Biennales.

Their first solo exhibition, **Transmit**, took place at MU Gallery in Eindhoven, 2006.

In 2007, Michael Faulkner edited the book **VJ: Audiovisual Art and VJ Culture** [published by Laurence King]. This seminal analysis of the emerging global phenomenon of VJing has been influential in defining a genre, and has become the 'go-to' reference in the audiovisual field.

Research visits to cities in East Asia have led to a series of moving image work including the video **Brilliant City** [2004], the video installation **Undercurrent** [2005-6], and the live cinema performances **Latitude** [2007], **Surface** [2008], and **Particle** [2009-10].

The representation of cities in film and other media have been the subject of two installations: **FPS - A London Conversation** [2007], commissioned by the British Film Institute [BFI]. The multi-screen installation **Pathways: King's Cross** [2009] involved re-capturing shots from films made in London's King's Cross area.