

Raw transcript of interview:

# Graham and John Speak with producer of Kym Staton about his movie on Julian Assange...

Publish

February 12, 2024 10:00 pm AEST

Well, G'day everybody. And today is Monday, the 12th of February, and it's great to be back for a huge week in Club Grubbery. How are you, John? Couldn't be better, Hoodie. Huge week. Yeah. A huge week. And this interview is an absolute cracker. Uh, this is an interview that's long overdue and about a topic that's not getting anywhere near as much airtime as it should be and, and we're about to interview somebody who's going to change all that.

And, uh, before I go into the interview, I want to say this, that the world at the moment is struggling under the weight of a complete collapse in journalistic standards. Journalism has become extinct and it has become extinct because the person we're going to be talking about tonight, Has literally had his life turned inside out and upside down because he, he was actually reporting on the truth.

And we're talking about Julian Assange. Now what's going on around the world? Ever since Watergate, things have gone downhill with journalism. Journalism has changed the course of political direction and done a lot of good over the years. Journalism originally set up as a fourth estate to keep the mongrels honest.

That's what it's all been about. And we've seen a lot of journalists give their lives for the truth. Uh, you know, we had the incident with the, uh, the Balboa Boys in, uh, in Timor who were murdered by the Indonesians. And we've seen so many journalists, uh, suffer, but we've also seen incredible journalism and people winning things like the Pulitzer Prize for doing the work that they, all journalists should be aspiring to do.

Now, we also know that when three and a half percent of a population of a democratic country anywhere in the world protest in peace, the government always falls. And we know for a fact that at any given weekend over the last two years, there were times when eight to 9 percent of the population were rallying in the streets.

So why didn't anything change? Because the mainstream media. have dropped the art of journalism. It is gone. They've done copy and paste opinion pieces and all they are is a propaganda arm for governments and bureaucracies and corporations around the world who've been manipulating the people for centuries.

And this is changing and it has to change because people around the world now have had enough of being manipulated. It is true that with, uh, the, the advent of the internet and social media in particular, that more and more facts are available. In fact, we get a situation now where people say, don't tell me the truth, just tell me the facts and I'll work out my own truth.

But the truth is the truth. And the 832 movement is built around the truth. And that is that, uh, know the truth and the truth will set you free. Well, the truth didn't set Julian Assange free. Julian Assange has been persecuted and virtually incarcerated for the last 14 years on a bunch of trumped up charges because he sought to tell the truth and it was a truth that needed to be told because propaganda is propaganda and the world is going nuts at the moment and people like Julian Assange need to be out there doing their job.

Julian Assange is an award winning journalist, and his story tonight is being told by Kim Staton, who is premiering this in South Australia for people in Adelaide tomorrow night. Kim Staton, welcome to the program. Thank you very much for having me, Graham. It's great to have you on, mate, and to give the people an idea of Of what this, uh, docu movie is all about.

We're gonna show the, uh, preview to the movie. So bear with me while I share screen. Hmm.

This is generally the view of people who we don't know much about as such. But you should know. Because whether you know it or not, he is fighting for you. For your courage and leadership and tenacity. in journalism and publishing. Since 2010, Assange has been held in progressively narrower, darker, colder, and crueler spaces.

He has been detained since the 7th of December 2010 in one form or another. And we are now here after years of imprisonment. WikiLeaks is a non state hostile intelligence service. I think the man is a hot tech. High tech terrorist. A traitor. A treasonist. He has to answer for what he has done.

Assange faces up to 175 years in prison for publishing classified documents exposing U. S. war crimes. The U. S. government narrative about Julian is a complete fraud. It is a complete fraud from A to Z. Julian took on the most powerful countries in the world. Basically all of them. We now have confirmed that there were plans to hitting up Julian here in the center of London, or even assassinated.

No one who instigated that illegal and imal war has been brought to justice, but the great truth teller sits behind bars. If wars can be started by lies, peace can be started by truth. Julian Assange is a hero. What if everything we thought we knew about somebody was a lie? Would we be willing to go on a new journey of understanding?

This is a story of deception, lies, bravery, and a man who risked everything to bring the truth to light. Mr. Assange shows all the symptoms that are typical for a person that has been exposed to psychological torture over a prolonged period of time. He looked at me intensely and said, I hate to say this.

He then hesitated, visibly troubled and searching for words. And then he finally said, Please. Save my life.

May future generations have the ability to speak without restraint. May our children and their children know truth and have access to information that leads to justice. Wherever Julian goes, free speech goes with him. If there is a bird that is about to take flight, stretch her wings and rule the skies, may it be a pista and no longer the eagle.

If you think Assange is a traitor. He's a rapist. He's a narcissist. He's a hacker. I don't blame you, because you have been deceived. And if you think you've not been deceived, that's normal, because otherwise it wouldn't be deception. I've got

a confession to make to you, Kim. Like many Australians, in the last 14 years, I've paid scant attention to Julian Assange. And, um, And I watched this documentary for over two hours the other night when you sent it to me, and I've got to confess, I had tears in my eyes. I can't believe that my apathy along with most other Australians has probably been the cause of him staying in the situation he is.

We haven't done enough. And now it's come to the fore, even more so because of the work we've been doing in the last two years, trying to bring the truth to the fore so people can make educated decisions about their lives and their futures. And people like Julian Assange were trying to do that. Now you stayed in the, in the docu movie, some stats, and one of those which trouble should trouble everyone in the world, there were 3 million people killed in the Iraq war, 80 percent of those.

Were civilians that's 2.4 million civilians died in the Iraq war and Julian Assange couldn't live with that without trying to do something and he's brought forward a mode of journalism with WikiLeaks that sets a gold standard for journalism around the world where the citizens get the truth out there.

So I want to thank you personally for doing the work that you've done and we want to stay with this and John and I had a talk about it today and we reckon this is one. Wagon that we really need to jump on and, uh, and get this thing moving. So we are committed to this because we should have been committed 14 years ago as all Australians should have.

So Kim, welcome to the program. Um, John watched this docu movie last night and we were both stunned by what we saw. So thank you for doing what you did. My pleasure. And thanks for taking the time to watch the film and look at the same situation for me, mate. I mean, um, I saw the collateral murder video in 2010 and it took me, you know, six, seven years to take the time to look further into it.

When I saw that video on the news one night in 2010, I knew it was something awful and something important. Uh, I just didn't have the, the, the energy or the focus or even the, the world weariness, I guess, to, to decipher it even. And, and, uh, uh, it it's, I guess, through my work with films for change, showing many, many dozens, a hundred, a hundred documentaries or so.

I've, I've sort of picked up a little bit more knowledge about the world and, uh, and then, uh, I just kept the, this issue of Assange and Wikileaks just kept coming back into my, uh, awareness and I, I started checking out other people's films and, um, yeah, like you, I just felt. Uh, a sense of, um, my own sort of inadequacy on the issue and, um, being so late to sort of, uh, wake up to it and felt like I had some catching up to do.

And, and so this film, uh, came out of that, um, to a degree. Johnny, uh, Lada, we, we've seen in the last few days, this incredible interview of Vladimir Putin by, uh, Tucker Carlson and, um, I've got to say, that's the kind of journalism that changes the world. Um, there are some commentators about that video, which is the most watched interview of all time, uh, have said that that may well have averted a major catastrophe with World War III.

And that's incredible. And we've seen, we've seen a few interviews like that over the years where things have changed. The Cuban missile crisis was resolved by journalists working through the back door with politicians. We can see how journalism can work when it works properly. And when it works well, how did you feel, Johnny, having spent two hours watching this story?

Well, I, I think like most people, I think they'll be shocked, um, as to the, the, the gravity and, and the depth of what's gone on, uh, uh, the, the conditions that, uh, uh, Julian has, uh, found himself in, uh, the mental torture. Uh, and I think what he just, I think you summed it up, just, it, it must be very, um, uh, saddening to him, uh, to, to, to think that nobody's out there really doing.

anything about this. I mean, realistically, it comes up from time to time, but it must be just mentally, uh, you know, I, I don't know how you could, how you, he must be very, very strong, uh, mentally to be able to, uh, uh, to cope with this. Um, but it, it's sort of just evidence of You just mentioned the Tucker Carlson thing.

I mean, I mean, here we go again. Uh, I mean, there are a number of people saying that yes, it could have averted a war, but there's also a whole heap more people out there saying that Tucker Carlson's a traitor, uh, for even interviewing Putin. Uh, I mean, this is, this is just the, uh, the madness of all this.

Uh, and, and Julian is no different. I mean, Julian has gone out, uh, to, to expose what is really the, the corrupt activity. I mean, look, we're not just dealing with, with somebody, uh, you know, stealing a few coffee sachets here. I mean, this is serious stuff. Uh, this is life changing events that, uh, I mean, it makes, makes Daryl McGuire down at ICAC and, uh, and Gladys and everyone that looks like something in Mills and Boone.

Uh, and that's what's being reported. Uh, I mean, Barry O'Farrell and the bottle of wine. You compare that to the, what's going on in this. In this two hour documentary, it's, it's mind blowing stuff. I think people will be shocked. I think there'll be upset. I think there'll be moved. And I think what it will do is, is change the momentum in the right direction.

Look, I, I think so too. And, and, uh, Kim, I have to say the title. I really like the trustful. Now. I remember back in the eighties, uh, doing workshops with men and, and we were doing trust falling where you, you fold your arms like Julian is in the picture. And I know that's not a photo of Julian. I know that you photoshopped it for the poster, I'm told.

Uh, and he's done a trustful, which is what he did. He, when he, when he broadcast all that material, he broadcasted in trust and faith that it would do the right thing. And also the trust fall is indicative of what we're seeing in journalism today because journalism, nobody trusts it anymore. And we're, we're in a crisis at the moment around the world where trust has been completely destroyed by lies.

And the line that will sit with me from this, this movie is where Julian says, I think it's in London, that if lies can create war, then truth can create peace. And I think that's, that's brilliant. How long has it taken you to put all this together?

Coming up to three years, uh, we, we did it in record time. I think because of the scope of the film being over two hours, the longer the film, the more work, I mean, you, you can labor over one minute's worth for, for a whole day sometimes. So it's, it's, uh, it's a big job, um, 23 interviews. We filmed it on, um, uh, I think six or eight cities of the world.

And, uh, but yeah, I was just driven to, to get it done and, and, and our team, everyone just put in such a big effort and we had a lot of help because when you have a cause like this, people are very passionate and willing to help. Uh, but yeah, it was done in record time because, um, we feel that, uh, We just want to add weight to that campaign for his freedom.

Um, and, and so everything was done as quickly and efficiently as possible. And yeah, three years I had one week off. The whole time and very long weeks. And I mean, even this week, I did an 80 hour week, you know, but, but, uh, I'm just passionate, passionate about it. And so it doesn't really feel like work. A lot of the time there's challenges involved, but I, I'm just actually inspired and energized, um, continuously by, by Julian's.

Huge self sacrifice and, and his gift to the world, his gift to our ability to, uh, to understand the world better. And, and, you know, so it, it wasn't hard to sort of keep going, even, even when things got tough, like. We ran out of money probably 25 times and, um, lots of challenges. Things didn't go right and technical stuff with the editing, but somehow we got there in the end.

And, um, and it's just so exciting to have it out in cinemas now and be sharing it with people. It's interesting reading some of the comments on, on the various social media platforms that the movie's gone up on. The, the, the level of the lack of trust is indicative in comments like, uh, well Julian Assange deserves it because he's a Freemason.

Uh, there've been a lot of comments like that. How do you feel when you see that sort of stuff? It just makes me, uh, it just makes me wonder what, what, what are people lacking from their, their, uh, their makeup, you know, the, the, the genetics of their brain. If they look, it's just that that's what social media does is it lets.

Somebody have a voice, even though they have no ability to research in any way and, uh, something that popped up that we didn't expect was this, um, this sort of, uh, accusation that Julian is doing some sort of Illuminati sign with this, this, uh, image that we did for the poster, which is, as you say, like, you got it right.

You understood it was a trustful pose. Um, but, you know, people just jumped to conclusions and Uh, you know, and the fact is we photoshopped it using a beautiful photo provided us of Julian's head and shoulders and then made up the image because we're trying to make a powerful image that represents trust and falling and, you know, say, wake up people.

I mean, you know, do something better with your time and have at least take two minutes to research. But, you know, those are just the nonsense. Sort of, um, uh, stuff that people put out that the concerning thing is the perpetuation of the smears. You know, Julian is, is a, a trader or a rapist, or he put lives at risk, or he's an agent of Russia.

He's a puppet. He's a just people go on and on. And, uh, look at the end of the day, it actually helps the film reach more people because any, any comments, whether they're, uh, nonsensical and just idiotic, they actually give.

Give the post more reach so it's kind of good if people have those arguments and for every five people that have some really dopey sort of comment to make there's there's 500 that'll debunk it and and share facts and actually try to help that person if they're capable of it to to sort of get their head around the truth of the matter well you know he's in good company Johnny and I have been called Freemasons uh you For the last couple of years.

Uh, and the fact is we live in a society where if you have a slight disagreement or a different picture of the world than some people, even if you're on the side the same side, you're classified as Masonic filth. I mean, this doesn't help anybody and it's definitely, well, it is helping in a way in, in that, uh, it draws more attention to the film, but, uh, to be locked up.

In solitary confinement as Julian is to even contemplate the fact that he would imagine that people would be saying that about him would just add insult to injury. So, um, Johnny, what have you got to say? Well, I was just going to ask, Kim, um, I imagine that, uh, a lot of the backers in the, uh, in the film industry would, would probably have been, uh, caught up in some of Julian's, uh, allegations at some stage the, uh, the behind the scenes funders, uh, have you had any difficulty, uh, with, with the bigger, uh, movie?

Uh, screeners or what, what, what outlets are allowing you to screen the film on? Well, we've, uh, you know, we, uh, when we got close to finishing the film, we, we felt that it was a film worthy of cinema. And uh, that's a big thing for a documentary to, to claim or sort of aim for, because the fact is, I mean, the reality is, uh.

It's probably one in a thousand documentaries will get shown by cinemas. And, you know, in that way, I'm talking about a traditional theatrical release where, uh, the distributor pitches the film to each cinema and the cinema programmer decides if they want to run it. Uh, and sometimes you get a big chain that will come along and that will give your film a lot of reach in a very short time.

So we felt that. The world is ready for, to really tackle this issue and, uh, front on and, and that, uh, the, the caliber of the interviewees that are in the film, uh, people like Daniel Ellsberg and John Pilger, Jennifer Robinson, Stella Assange. Highly articulate people, uh, well known people in the intellectual journalistic world.

And then, and then our, uh, strategy was to have well known, uh, narrators, uh, Roger Waters. Susan Sarandon, Tom Morello, MIA, UK rapper and a voiceover artist, Jonathan Oldham from Australia. Um, you know, to have these well known people in the film, we, we did that to try to give it a bigger audience and also try to, uh, uh, attract the audiences of those people, people that are fans of, of Roger Waters, for example.

Um, so, you know, we had it all set up to be something that could get out to the masses. Uh, that was all strategic and, you know, something that's, uh, true to the Assange campaign is that you do have these famous and, uh, high profile people involved. So, so, you know, that, that was something that was a possibility to have their involvement.

So having all of that set up, then the process was to pitch it to the cinemas. Um, so our team actually. Our films for change team, uh, did the legwork because, uh, we just, we were willing to do it. You know, the, the distributor specializes in digital. So, um, he's, uh, journeyman pitches is fantastic with when it comes to television streaming.

Um, they're not really, uh, they don't. They, you know, back to what I was saying, like documentaries don't usually get shown in cinemas. So they don't, uh, basically don't usually bother trying to get films in the cinemas. And I, I said to the distributor, you know, I think this could be, this could be worthy of cinema run.

Um, I was convinced. And so we sat down in early December and we emailed, uh, our team emailed 700 cinemas in Australia individually and, uh, and you Googled them all. And, and then it was. Uh, exciting way to see what would happen. Uh, we could have just got nothing or we could have, it could just blow up. Um, what happened was it just slowly caught on.

So the first cinema to book it in was, uh, Mariba Drive in way up, uh, inland from Cairns, a town of 7,000. And, uh, you know, so they won the prize. They get to do the theatrical premiere. We are very excited about that. Uh, our co producer. My lovely partner Natalia and I, we just decided the last minute we'll, we'll make a road trip and drove 20 hours up there to Moriba in the middle of summer, 35 degrees heat, car overheated a few times going up, um, managed to make it up there.

And we had no idea how many people would turn up, um, this drive in is so old fashioned. They don't do online ticket sales. So we rocked up to the cinema on the night, uh, came in through the gates. It could have just been five cars there. But there was 110 cars. It was full, uh, 215 people in a small town.

And so we thought, okay, this has got some potential here. Um, meanwhile, there was many other, um, cinemas booking it in. And, um, and it's just been a slow, organic. A steady, organic, progressive release, uh, just basically catching on cinema to cinema and, um, sometimes within the same area, they would see what the other cinema is doing.

Um, but people are certainly noticing when we're getting hundreds of people coming to the premieres. The Brisbane premiere a few weeks ago had 400 people on opening night. They had to show it in three separate rooms and they've gone on to show it to do nine more screenings and it's still going. Uh, so there you go.

That's the proof of the pudding. And then the very exciting news, which, um, hasn't really been put out yet. So this is a bit of a, this is a bit of a scoop for your show. If you put out this video quickly, uh, but the big thing we're putting out tonight on our socials, we're just about to announce is that Australasia's biggest cinema chain event cinemas is showing the film from the 6th of March.

So this is basically a miracle in documentaries, uh, especially political documentaries. Um, you know, for a big chain that, you know, has its usual fodder is Hollywood. Uh, franchises to do something like this, it's very encouraging and it's very exciting and we, uh, you know, we thought it was possible. That's why we did it.

That's why we pitched it to them. And here we go. So not only event cinemas, um, but also village cinemas partners with event in Melbourne, and they'll be putting it out in village cinemas. And there's a bunch of other chains. Uh, looking into it as well and in the process of booking. So it is really taking off here.

Um, there's dozens of cinemas in Australia and New Zealand. New Zealand has really embraced it. Um, and it just, it's just basically growing and building as, uh, as the cinemas, uh, see what each other's doing and see the response because this is a very strong response from the public. It's not, this is no longer a little Uh, a little sort of niche issue, um, just a small bunch of assigned supporters.

This, you know, people are cottoning onto this in a big way all around Australia. I mean, we saw that with the, about a year ago, the human chain protest in Melbourne, 3000 people came out, um, and that was actually the example that we shared with a lot of the cinemas. Well, if there's 3000 people in Melbourne that would be bothered to go, uh, on the street and, and rally for Assange.

Extrapolate that out to the whole country and you find that there are hundreds of thousands of people in this country that want to know about this, or they already know that there's something going, something going on that's wrong and, uh, and immoral. So, um, I think Anthony Albanese and Penny Wong really should take note of this.

Uh. They're not going to be able to get away with this sort of merry dance along the fence that they're doing this enough is enough and quiet diplomacy BS that they're putting out. Uh, the Australian people are waking up. So, you know, Albo, if you want to get back in, mate, you know, you know, grow a pair and call for the freedom of Assange because.

Uh, once a million people in Australia have seen this film and that's our, that's our aim, uh, you know, he's going to have to take a stronger stance or he just simply won't get back into power. And obviously that's what motivates him. He's not motivated by doing something right for an Australian citizen, doing the right thing.

Uh, he's too concerned with his own perpetuation of his political career to stand up to this. Uh, obscene, immoral injustice, uh, that they're putting upon this, this heroic journalist. He, Hassan should be a national treasure. He should be, he should be the next prime minister of the country. Look, it's obvious that journalism is also added to his ways because, uh, it was the so called journalistic class that promoted the idea of him being a racist, not a racist, a rapist.

And, um, you know, so even, even members of his own class, well, they're not really because they're not even up to his, not even capable of tying his shoelaces. But, uh, to see some of these talking heads around the world brandishing. Him as a, as a rapist and a traitor. I mean, it's just crazy. And also indicative is that so many people are wanting to see it because that means that a lot of people are smelling a rat in the cheese factory.

And that, that feeling actually transcends all the other issues that are going on in the country at the moment, especially around those things that we've been pushing for. And if you look at the photo behind John, uh, there, Kim, you'll see the largest rally in Australian history. And we were speaking at that rally in Canberra, and that was two years ago Uh, that photo was taken two years ago today.

It was monumental, monumental. And so the people are waking up and we're seeing a lot more evidence of that every single day in the work that we're doing. We know that the dam is about to crack. Um, also indicative of the film's fame, John, is it will be, I believe, being shown at the Montreal Theatre in Tumut.

Uh, where you and I made a couple of appearances. So, uh, that's a great thing to see. Now, you were able to pitch it to a lot of people. We know that Susan Sarandon, for example, has been an activist for many, many years. She's pretty strong, uh, in that field. How hard was it to pitch it to her? Did she accept it pretty much straight away or what was it like?

It's quite tough. You know, we had a list. I started making a list of a wish list of people that I'd like to narrate, uh, to have narrate the film. And, uh, as I said, with the goal to, um, get the interest of their audiences, um, younger audiences and audience of musicians and people that might never watch a political film, a political documentary.

Um, and then how do you get in contact with these people? It's, it's very difficult. Um, But, uh, you know, little by little, I just made a bit of progress. I think the turning point was when, if I trace it back, um, the first animation that we That we made for the film. You probably remember. It's sort of a scene of the, uh, extradition trial where they kept Julian in a glass cabinet at the back of the court and he had to talk to his lawyers.

He had to kneel down and talk through a little slot in the glass and they kept him in there as if he was some sort of terrorist and he couldn't hear what was being said. And, you know, we had that animated by this very talented animator in Melbourne, Nick Simpson. Uh, and then Instead of keeping it, holding it to ourselves and sort of keeping it under wraps until the film was released, I just decided, well, let's put it out because we want to help Julian now.

Plus we need more support for the film. So let's give people a glimpse of what we're doing. We shared it on Twitter. And then that day Stella Assange messaged us and said, I saw your animation. It's fantastic. You should come over to London. Um, and I've been trying to get her to do an interview. So she's, she's saying, you know, come and interview me and also come to Julian's birthday reception.

Um, obviously Julian's not there, but you know, they, they do a birthday party in his honor every year, um, to give him a boost and to get, uh, his supporters together for networking. And we're invited to that. And, uh, it was at that event that I, um, was able to talk to Kristen Raffinson, the editor in chief of WikiLeaks.

And a few others make some really good connections and, uh, and MIA was there. So, you know, I, I asked her straight up if she would narrate and she seemed interested. So, you know, and, and it was through, it was just through some of the contacts that I developed in the course of producing, uh, doing the production and filming interviews that I sort of eventually tracked down people that knew other people.

Like, you know, I found someone. Amongst, uh, the people that are in the film that, that, that knew Roger waters. And, you know, so, you know, and, and when, when, when you, if you can get the word through to them for a cause that they care about, you get a pretty quick response. It's the trick is to actually reach them because their, their inboxes are just, uh, just swamped, you know, every five minutes, another a hundred emails or something.

Um, but you know, with, with Roger waters. Um, my contact just sent him a text message and he, and I had an email from him five minutes later saying, yeah, all in the right. Uh, so, you know, and then Tom Morello, I had terrible trouble reaching him until I found someone who lives near me who happened to. Um, bump into someone on the golf course who said, yeah, yeah, I can, I can talk to Tom for you.

So it was, it was just that, you know, three degrees of separation thing in action, uh, with Susan. Yeah. She, once I reached her again, she, she was very keen. So these, these are very passionate supporters of Julian. And I think when they saw the people that we had in the film, um, very well known voices, uh, authors and speakers, then they, they could see that it had, um, That sort of quality and we're willing to be involved.

Um, so yeah, it, it was, yeah, brilliant, brilliant to have those people. And, um, you know, Susan's only, it's only recent. It's only in the last year or so that she's. Publicly supported Assange because, uh, you know, she's, she's in the Hollywood industry and, uh, everyone's scared to not be in the club, you know, to, to not be part of the establishment.

They think they're going to lose opportunities. Um, we, there was another narrator that we had on our list that pulled out at the last minute because he was concerned of, uh, whether his sponsors would, would approve. So, uh, you know, they, they do have, they do have to weigh up these things. And, uh, I think with, in the case of Susan, she's just so passionate about it.

She just, uh, happy to put her. Uh, future acting prospects at risk and in the case of Roger Waters, MIA, Tom Morello, they, uh, I assume that they, you know, they've done so well with their music career that they, uh, they sort of, uh, they get to call the shots, they get to make decisions for their own career. So yeah, very fortunate that that all came about.

There's a bit of an irony in Susan Sarandon's involvement because her former husband, Tim Robbins, starred in an award winning movie called Shawshank Redemption, which was about a man who spent most of his life in prison who was innocent. Um, quite, quite fascinating and we'd love to be able to talk to her.

I tell you what, um, we should talk about that. Maybe we can get her on the program. It'd be amazing to talk about this. Um, have you had any contact? At all with Julian himself. A lot of people ask me that. Um, he has, uh, he's aware of the film and, uh, you know, and he, um, yeah, like I, for security reasons, I can't really say anything more, but, um, to protect the people involved, but yes, he, he is very, very much aware of it and all of his family and, and, you know, the, the main.

Uh, group that do all the campaigning are all very much in support of the film, and there's been a lot of input from them. Uh, so, and, and, you know, we welcome that as, as tough as it is to sort of make changes and, uh, and that sort of thing. Uh, it, it's made the job bigger, but, um. But, you know, we want everyone to be, uh, to, to feel that we've done justice to, to his work and, and that it's a, uh, effective campaign piece.

Um, and, you know, and we definitely want to get all the facts. We're



so passionate about accuracy with information. So, um. You know, I've had the help of Jennifer Robinson, um, the fantastic human rights lawyer with, uh, checking all the content and also our official advisor, Juan Passarelli, who's, uh, uh, brilliant filmmaker and Um, watched it many, many times to, to see whether everything is, is factually accurate and, and, and, you know, to give, to give us all kinds of, um, documents, uh, that we could, that, you know, that some of the stuff that you see come up on the screen to, to have access to those documents.

Tim, do you, do you happen to know what, uh, Julian's thoughts might be around COVID and the mRNA? Uh, vaccines. I mean, I can't help but wonder, I'll probably get accused of, uh, being a bit of a cookie here, but, uh, in my mind, I mean, it almost seems very, um, uh, unusual that they've taken WikiLeaks out. I mean, WikiLeaks to me, made a real difference in relation to this COVID 19, uh, but it, it almost seems like taking that out in, in advance of, of all that we've seen, uh, could have, could have been part of the orchestra, the song sheet.

Yeah, I have the same thoughts. What would the world be like now? What could have been avoided? If WikiLeaks hadn't been undermined and virtually demolished, uh, I think they, in such a short time from founding of WikiLeaks in 2006 to the height of their powers 2010, just in four short years, they went from unknown to having dozens of the top newspapers collaborating with them because the information was so powerful.

And so the empire. And, you know, all their cohorts and the people that want to make money from wars, uh, had to get rid of them, uh, had to put them out of action. And I think, you know, we, I, I think just the world would be very different today if it wasn't, if that hadn't happened. And so, you know, what we're seeing around the world now is this encroaching.

Um, techno fascism, uh, you know, just, I mean, we can go down so many tangents here and rabbit holes, but, uh, yeah, truth, truth is so important and, and, uh, accurate news. And that's, that's the big significant thing that Assange and Wikileaks achieved is to be the first to take on that mainstream narrative and say, Hey, there's another story.

There's, there's other information out there that we can have access to and, and look how dirty and corrupt the world is. Whistleblowers definitely changed the course of history and WikiLeaks gave whistleblowers a foundation. And, um, and that's something that unless it's super sensational mainstream media won't even look at.

Um, we could, we could rant about them, you know, all night long, but, um, so what about the global reach of this film? Where, where do you expect it to be shown? Yeah. Well, um, as I've said, you know, it's really growing and building here in Australia and New Zealand. Um, there's already a dozen or so cinemas showing it or just about to, um, put, put their showings up.

Um, next stop is UK. Uh, we're doing the London premiere this Sunday, the 18th. So my co producer and partner Tara and I will be heading over there for that. Um, and, uh, and then we'll have the UK theatrical release very soon in the works in, uh, it should be just a few weeks before we kick off in other cinemas around the UK.

Um, you know, we only have a small team in a limited budget and when you, uh, you know, if someone's doing a big blockbuster movie, if it's a James Bond or Wonder Woman or something like that. You know, they have millions behind them. We don't have that. We just have our small team of eight, eight staff. Now I've just taken on two more to handle the demand.

We'll just keep building it up. Um, you know, I know how to do this because I've, I've done it before, you know, before the scamdemic upended our cinema screenings and basically tried to ruin, you know, small business. Uh, you know, we were, we were growing so fast. Films for Change had, was in 90 cities of the world.

We were doing, uh, you know, 50 screenings a week. Of documentaries around the world, 16 staff, uh, hundreds of volunteers. It was, it was growing and, and, and it was great. And then, you know, everything got shut down,

uh, nearly destroyed us. But, you know, we, we flipped over into pivoted into streaming films for change dot stream.

And then now we've made our own content and we're back. You know, we're back into this space of cinema, live events, having people in a room reacting to information and talking and having discussions. Um, it's fantastic. Um, hopefully it can last and, uh, and if the demand is there and it continues to grow, we'll just keep, uh, we'll, we'll put it out faster and faster and it won't be long before we can do, uh, Europe, the U S and, and this is a film that, uh, uh, you know, unlike many, many films.

It's unique in that I think it can be shown in every country of the world, no matter what country you're in, people care about free speech, our rights, our access to truthful information, they care about that an Aussie journalist is an Being slowly executed by, uh, you know, big, ugly America. Um, so, you know, I think it will go to many, many countries and it will just continue, uh, until Julian's free.

That's the goal, um, that, that, you know, that, that was the intention of the film. Uh, and it's, it's made in a, we made it in a way that the information is timeless so that, uh, it can just, we'll continue to show it and put it out there. Uh, for as long as he needs it, until he gets out of prison. Well, he's a true hero.

There's no doubt about that. And, um, the, the, the planet has no moral authority at all, while ever he remains incarcerated. That's the truth. Um, and I'm, I'm ashamed to admit that I'm only saying that now. I should have been saying it years ago, like everybody else on the planet. Um, look, we just, we can't believe, um, that you've given us this time.

We know that you're frantically busy getting this thing on the road and we want to do everything we can to help you promote it, uh, through our platforms. Um, you, you're a master of your craft. There's no doubt about that. It's been beautifully compiled. And this is a film that will change the world.

Hopefully, this will get the reach that it deserves and this man will be free and when he's free, he'll be free indeed because he'll come out to a world that's going to embrace him. And I'm sure it'll be a threatening place for a while too because there's a lot of people who will have other ideas about his freedom, but, um, absolutely he deserves all the support that we can give him.

Johnny, any final comments? Well, I just hope that Sleepy Joe's, uh, going to put it on at the White House. I think it would be, uh, A great venue. Um, he'd probably last about 10 minutes before he fell asleep, but that's the new world, isn't it? It is indeed the new world. So, uh, Kim, any final words, anything you want to put out before we, uh, we bring this to a wrap?

Yeah, sure. Look, I really appreciate you guys giving it, giving some coverage to the issue, to the film, um, for getting behind it. It really helps. It's time well spent for me because at the moment, you know, it's all about getting the word out and, you know, just reaching people because, you know, it's, it's a competitive world for the attention mainstream media is always getting the big share of the attention and, uh, and, and then they get to, you know, Manipulate people with narratives.

And so I just urge everyone. I'm sure your audience is very open to truthful information and to alternative ideas and opposing narratives. But if there's anyone watching this that's sort of just new to this whole idea that there might be another story out there. What I want to say is, you know, if you if you're someone that wouldn't usually watch a political documentary.

Don't worry because I don't watch them either. You know, I've only watched a few political documentaries. This is not a political documentary. This is, uh, this is a creative piece that has animations, um, powerful music, powerful words. Powerful ideas and visions. And it's a it's about world peace and our rights.

And it's a story of someone that, uh, that risked everything to bring the truth to light. Um, it's, it's a, it's a sad, tragic story, but it's also. An inspiring one, because Assange has shown us that, uh, you know, somebody, one person and a small group of people can change the world, can take on the, the big guys.

And, um, it's a, it's a David and Goliath story. Uh, you know, so, so don't be, don't feel like you're going to be watching a cold, dry political film. It's not that at all. Um, it's well worth your time. And if you're confused about this issue. Uh, we, we've spent three years, none again, all out so that we can lay it out in a very easy to understand fashion.

Um, yeah, so really urge everyone to get along, to see it, um, check out our website, trustful.org, um, for upcoming screenings. And if you've seen the film already, or if you'd like to. Have it in your area, uh, just suggest it to your local cinema. Uh, we've seen that this work just, even if just one or a few people suggest it, it gets onto the radar of that cinema because they don't usually get suggestions unless people really interested in something.

So that's working really well. Uh, even if you live in a country town, um, Local cinemas will probably be quite interested if they think a bunch of people are going to come and see it. So, um, we really encourage people to help out with that, uh, requesting it to cinemas. That's going to help it grow and build.

Um, and you know, if we work together, we can really, uh, Raise awareness for Julian, add political pressure, um, on the governments, make it a political issue in the next elections in Australia and in America and, uh, and ultimately add weight to the campaign campaign for, for Julian's freedom and have a chance, uh, to, to help him get free.

We can all work together to do this. And in the process, um, you know, this, this whole. shocking situation that's gone down under our radars. Uh, when we, when we wake up to that and we become aware of it, uh, that has a, that has a way of, um, you know, making us think, well, what else don't I know about the world?

And so we could really wake up the Australian population through a film like this and through that sense of, um, That sort of fury of, you know, why didn't I know about this and what's being kept from me and this and this shocking behavior of the Australian, UK and US government. I got to say it was two hours and something and it went like 15 minutes and I was riveted to it and my wife Michelle as well.

Um, it's a, it's a, it's a masterful piece of work. And as I say, when it, when, when a documentary can bring you to tears, um, it's a really good documentary. Um, anyway, let's, uh, let's give this a prayer to give it all the impetus we can give it. We need all the help we can. So Lord, father in heaven, we just want to thank you, Lord, that, uh, Kim has been given the drive and the passion to make his craft into a truth expanding exercise where the truth will be known and people will be free as a result of that truth.

But Lord, at this stage, as much as we pray for the movie's success, we pray for Julian and Stella and their children and the extended family of Julian Assange, that they will be covered and protected and that freedom will reign over their lives very, very soon. Father, we ask that all the protagonists in this on the other side, those politicians who are fighting hard to protect themselves because they don't want the truth to be seen.

We know that evil thrives when people keep secrets and conspiracy theories thrive and misinformation thrives when governments keep secrets. Because when governments don't tell the truth, the people have to find out for themselves what they believe is going on. So we pray for common sense to reign and for freedom to reign.

And we ask, Lord, that you would bless this film and bless the man who is featured in it. In Jesus holy name we pray. Amen. Thank you so much, mate. Johnny, um, you've often been heard to say. You just couldn't make this stuff up. You couldn't make this stuff up. And uh, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for watching this great, um, episode of club robbery.

We ask you to pray for Julian Assange. We know a lot of people of faith watch these, uh, these programs and, uh, don't forget if you love somebody and you haven't told them for goodness sake, give them a call and tell them it's really important because the world is going to hell in a hand basket. Uh, Kim, thank you so much.

We want to get you back on again. We want to get updates on this. We want to keep pushing it. Please stay on the line while we bring this to a close and we'll have a quick chat to you, but to everybody watching, thank you so much. Stay out of the trees and we'll be back with a very. Interesting interview coming up in the next day or so.

Um, and we won't say any more about that. We'll just see it happen as it transpires. And I think this topic will come up in that interview. So God bless you all. Thanks for watching and bye for now. Thanks for having me.