



arte
DISTRIBUTION
presents

ISAAC ASIMOV

MESSAGE
TO THE FUTURE

A 52' Film Directed by Mathias THERY
Produced by ARTE FRANCE & KEPLER22 PRODUCTIONS

“My message is that science and new technologies , if well directed, are capable of solving the serious problems you face today. And that they can also annihilate humanity. This is why I think that the young generations have a mission: to acquire the knowledge that will allow them to influence the use that will be made of this technologies. Yet, for that reason, as Science-fiction writers, we aim at helping them to look to the future, because the one major question that over and over again we try to answer is: where are we going? Where are we going ?”

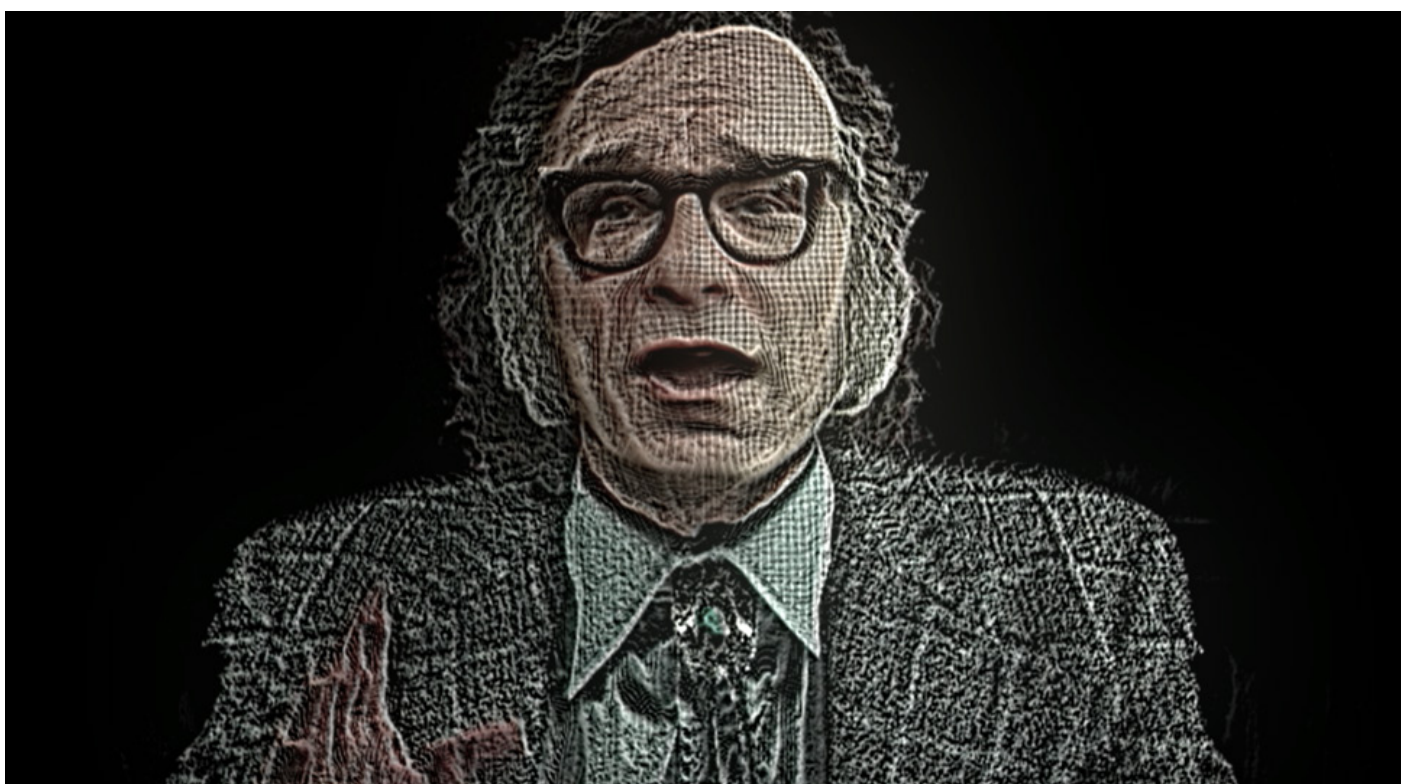
Portrait of the famous science fiction author Isaac Asimov by himself, in a message addressed to the man of the future, that is ... us.

SYNOPSIS

What if Isaac Asimov had it all figured out? If he had anticipated the questions that we are facing and even understood what would come next? **This film is the portrait of a man who saw yesterday what we are today and what awaits us tomorrow.**

Can science solve the problems posed by science? Can a science fiction writer predict the future? A century after his birth, Isaac Asimov addresses us, men of the future, thanks to the means of artificial intelligence. He evokes his dual training as a scientist and a writer, jubilant to have found the time machine in his own brain, and describes his transformation into a universal pedagogue, delivering all the questions raised by his colossal erudition: **robotics, artificial intelligence , overpopulation, rising waters, end of oil, exterminating viruses...** Faced with these challenges, he draws from his imagination as a writer the resources necessary for the transformation of the world, demonstrating that literature can guide men in their choices when faced with the challenges from the future.

Professor Asimov tells us everything, and **even gives us the method to understand the rest, if we want to hear it...**





ABSTRACT

Can science fiction change the future? Can a science fiction author give us the keys to seize our own destiny? Isaac Asimov is not only founding fathers of science fiction, he also dedicated the second part of his life to compiling the vast field of human knowledge, because he saw in it the key to save our species. By his hardworking, the multiplicity of his centers of interest and his ability in exposing complex questions to laymen, he appears as a true cognitive force of nature.

During a posthumous masterclass, built on the basis of his numerous public speaking engagements, Asimov leads us through his implacable demonstrations.

But to take him to his own game, we imagined, like Hari Seldon the hero of his Foundation cycle, that Isaac Asimov had sent a message to us, the humans of 2022. A message that would give us advice, that at these times of crisis seem more than welcome. Should we be afraid of disappearing? Can we change the course of history? Will we have to submit to a higher intelligence once we have artificially created it? Can robots survive humanity? Would we be happier away from Earth? How to avoid ecological disaster? So many problems to which Asimov responds directly.

But while a majority of science fiction stories show disaster scenarios, Asimov prefers to respond to anxiety with creativity and freedom, and to build an imaginary where technology has its place, and where our future depends on what we do with our knowledge. At a time of multiple questions raised by bioethics, the massive use of robots, artificial intelligence, the most distressing climatological scenarios, it will be the voice of one of the first masters of futurology that will resound to help us to answer it. **From where he is, Asimov continues to shed light on our future.**

Director Mathias THERY's Bio

Mathias Théry studied at the National School of Decorative Arts in Paris. For fifteen years he has been making documentary films for television and cinema that renew the writing of the genre, such as *La Cravate* in 2020 or *La Sociologue et l'ourson* in 2016.

His films have won numerous awards at festivals:

2020 Scouting Festival Grand Prize
FIPADOC 2020 Young European Jury Prize
Mention of the Grand Jury Pordenone Doc Fest (Italy) 2020
Grand Prize International Political Film Festival (Carcassonne) 2019
Award for Best Documentary Festival Fire (Barcelona) 2017
Audience Award Festival des Etoiles de la SCAM 2017
Prize for the best documentary festival Roze Filmdagen (Amsterdam) 2016
Audience Award Des Images Aux Mots Festival (Toulouse) 2016
Audience Award Vues d'En Face Festival (Grenoble) 2016
Grand Prize London International Documentary Festival (London) 2009
Grand Prize and Young Jury Prize for the À nous de voir festival (Lyon) 2008
Special mention education film festival (Evreux) 2008
Short film prize at the Parisciences festival (Paris) 2006
Grand Prize and Young Jury Prize for the A nous de voir festival (Lyon) 2006
Audience Award Silhouette Festival (Paris) 2005
Jury Prize Festival Doc en Courts (Lyon) 2005

Kelpler22 Productions

Founded in 2013 by Juliette Cazanave and César Diaz, Kepler22 is a production company based in Paris and dedicated firstly to creative documentaries, though encounters and favorites, can sometimes lead us to work on short or feature-length fiction films, and web-series. Pierre Jestaz joined our team in 2016. Together we have produced or coproduced close to twenty documentary and fiction films in a dozen countries around the world, which have gone on to win numerous awards in international festivals.

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