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presents

KANYE WEST

THE MECHANICS OF CHAOS

Directed by Kilian Bridoux & Thibaut Sève
Produced by Bangumi for ARTE France

52'

SUMMARY

This is the story of one of pop culture's most spectacular descents into hell, at the intersection of show business, ego, politics, and masculinity.

Over the course of twenty years, Kanye West has embodied the major transformations of American society, to the point of becoming a disturbing mirror of it. Initially the embodiment of the Black American Dream (a successful artist and creator in music, fashion, and design), he has gradually become a figure associated with radicalization, masculinist populism, racism, and anti-Semitism.

His trajectory raises questions about the cult of the ego and the “contrarian”—that all-powerful figure who asserts himself against all odds—as well as the role of social media, the mainstream media, and an economic system that have helped amplify his stances. With 24 Grammy Awards, 160 million albums sold, and the global success of Yeezy, Kanye West achieved exceptional power and visibility before his downfall.

Through his journey, the film paints a portrait of a fractured America, obsessed with spectacle, money, and celebrity, where the line between provocation, influence, and radicalization has gradually blurred.



THE CHARACTERS

The film brings together American witnesses and experts from the worlds of culture, media, sociology, and fashion to examine Kanye West's career path, his influence, and his radicalization.



Jeffrey McCune, a professor of gender and Black studies at the University of Rochester and a former classmate of Kanye West, analyzes West's journey as a reflection of a divided and troubled America.

Sarah Emmons, a spokesperson for the Anti-Defamation League, discusses the consequences of West's anti-Semitic remarks and their role in normalizing hatred.

Tressie McMillan, a sociologist and columnist for The New York Times, examines the connection between Kanye West, capitalism, individualism, and his estrangement from the African American community.

Nastasia Hadjadji, a specialist in digital cultures, analyzes Kanye West as a figure of the new online far right and "techno-fascism."

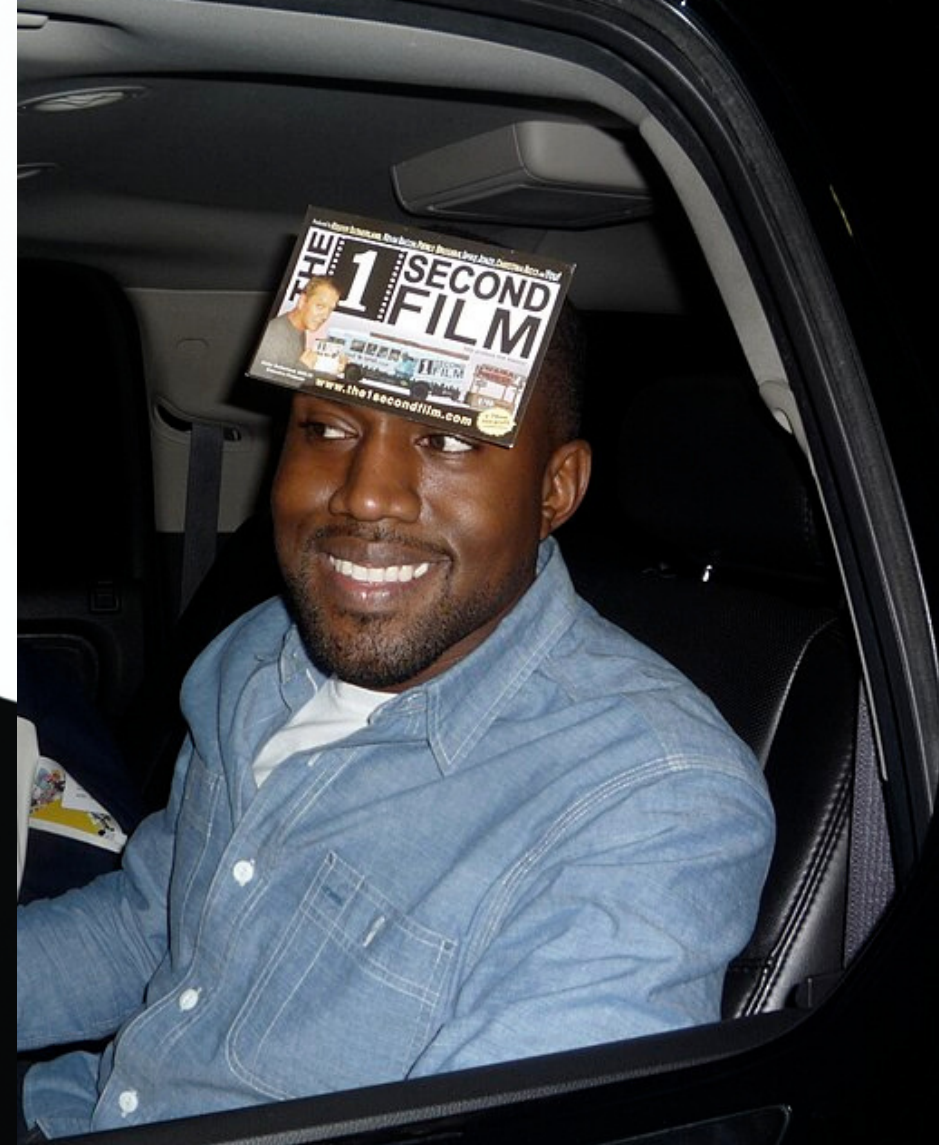
Alice Pfeiffer, a fashion journalist, examines how his fame has transformed into influence and, subsequently, into economic and cultural capital.

Thomas Chatterton Williams, a writer and former admirer of Kanye West, reflects on his influence on a generation of young Black Americans and on the rift caused by his public stances.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Kanye West : The Mechanics of Chaos is a deep dive into the journey of one of pop culture's most unsettling figures, but above all into the media, economic, and societal systems that fueled his radicalization. The film views Kanye as "patient zero": a reflection of the excesses of our contemporary societies.

The film adopts a pop-inspired style—energetic and immersive—that reflects its subject. A dynamic montage blends television archives, social media, music videos, political speeches, and raw footage to recreate twenty years of excess and media chaos. As a counterpoint, lengthy, unhurried interviews with experts on the subject allow viewers to step back and analyze the mechanisms at work.



ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE

The wealth of archival footage—ranging from television to social media—allows us to trace the evolution of Kanye West and his era. Alongside iconic footage are rarer clips, including previously unseen scenes from *Saturday Night Live* in 2018, as well as political and historical archives that place his journey within the American context.

The film also features previously **unseen footage**, including a 30-minute interview with Kanye West conducted for *Colette mon amour*, and an interview with Takashi Murakami discussing their collaboration and the artist's obsessive personality.

Kanye West's music is used as much as possible as part of the real world—heard in the filmed locations or archival footage—rather than merely as background music. Early performances also enrich the narrative.



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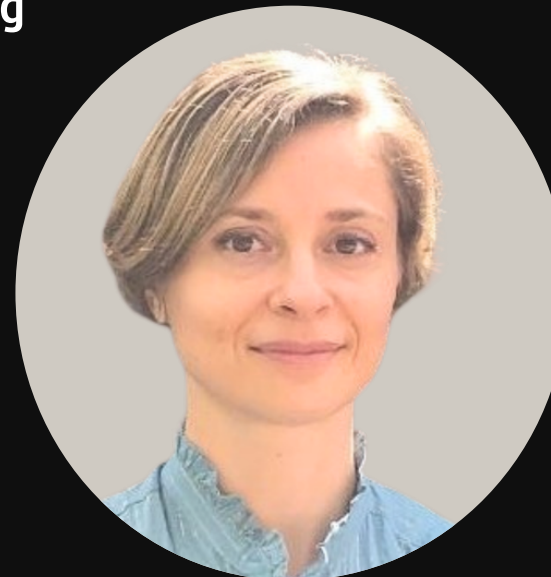


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