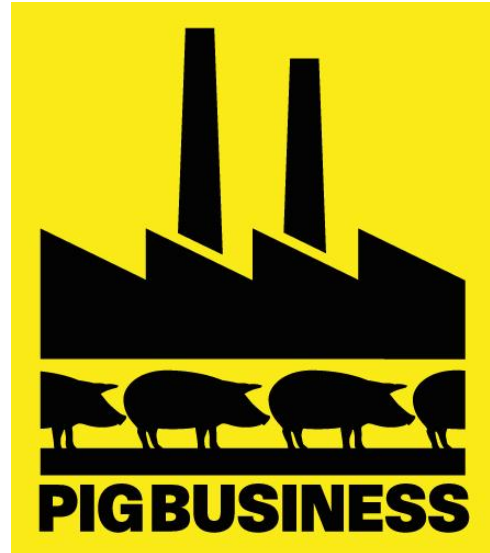


# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

'Pig Business' is a feature documentary exposing the huge hidden costs behind the pork and ham on our supermarket shelves, which shows viewers and consumers how they can use their buying power to help create a more compassionate world.

I was born in a small village and I've always been interested in people's symbiosis with nature. After working as an actor in London, I came to understand that real happiness comes in serving something bigger than oneself - that the values of family and community, which I had seen so much throughout the developing world, were the values of my heart.

So more than twenty years ago I joined the environmental movement, first as a volunteer for Friends of the Earth, then for other organisations. There I met people of conviction, intelligence and empathy, who taught me the wisdom of sustainable farming and living.



I have seen how small farmers everywhere struggle to preserve something precious - the ability to grow their own food in harmony with their environment. And I saw too how the worldwide financial and banking

systems, the system of capital and big corporations, threaten that ability.

Then in 2002 I met a people fighting for survival. Polish small farmers were being driven off the land by American-based multinational food factories, which were polluting their ecosystem, hurting animals, and damaging people's health.

This was happening not just in Poland, but throughout Europe, with much of the meat being cheaply exported to Britain. I discovered that the British consumer was unknowingly supporting a system which is not only destroying ecosystems in Europe, but threatening British farmers too.

'Pig Business' reveals the dark underbelly of the food industry. It carries a message to politicians: legislate for clear labelling, and protect our farmers against cheaper pork imports, so that UK pig farmers are not forced into a downward spiral of poorer animal welfare standards and pollution themselves.

If we could invest in human-scale production, or if we looked for supermarket labels saying British and outside-reared, or free-range on straw bedding, we could revitalise small farms and their farm shops, farmers' markets and local butchers.

I present the film myself, and it features many activists, including the brilliant lawyer, bestselling author of *Crimes Against Nature* and founder of Waterkeepers Alliance Robert F. Kennedy Jnr.

Campaigners worldwide are already confronting issues of environmental degradation, animal cruelty, human rights and more. But my belief is that if we treat symptoms of breakdown as individual problems, we are merely shifting chairs on the Titanic. The cheap pork industry is just one example of a corporate takeover which affects every sector of our economy, in which the true costs are externalised onto the broader community. Locals suffer from the polluted water and air, but we are all affected when the power wielded by big business destroys democracy and crushes free speech by intimidation.

I hope this film will show how the root cause of all these problems is the centralisation of power into the hands of giant banks and corporations. Exponential economic growth means more for a few at the expense of many, and until we reclaim power back for the community and for democracy, we are enslaved. But I know change is possible; and by supporting local production for local consumption we can, and should, reclaim our world from the corporate stranglehold.

Best wishes,

Tracy Worcester