

THE WAR ON DEMOCRACY

A film by John Pilger

"Film Of The Week" - *TIME OUT*

**"THE ULTIMATE ANTI-BLOCKBUSTER...
IRRESISTIBLE" - *The Times***

"EXCELLENT" - *The Guardian*

**"THIS IS A GENUINELY FASCINATING EXPOSE
OF US FOREIGN POLICY, AND HIGHLY
RECOMMENDED" - *Bizzare Magazine***

*Mon 16. July 6.30pm, Duke of York
Q&A with director Chris Martin*

The Duke of York cinema, are showing "The War on Democracy" from Friday, 13 July until Thursday 19 July.



On Monday, 16 July, the film's director, **Chris Martin**, will be giving an introduction to the film at 6.30pm. The screening will be followed by a Question and Answer session, and general discussion at Circus Circus, organised by **Brighton Hands off Venezuela** in collaboration with **Brighton No Sweat**.

Film Synopsis

In his second inauguration address, President Bush pledged to “bring democracy to the world”. In a speech lasting 23 minutes, he mentioned the words ‘democracy’ and ‘liberty’ 21 times. Most of the world, it is fair to say, will have recoiled, many in fear...

Bush’s speech was significant because it finally emptied noble concepts like ‘democracy’ of their true meaning – government, for, by and of the people. Never before have people in the west shown such disenchantment with the democracy they vote for and the version they get. Never before has most of humanity registered such alarm at the ambitions of a great power.

The War on Democracy demonstrates the brutal reality of the America’s notion of 'spreading democracy'; that, in fact, America is actually conducting a war *on* democracy, and that true popular democracy is now more likely to be found among the poorest of Latin America whose grassroots movements are often ignored in the west.

John Pilger conducts an exclusive interview 'on the road' with **President Hugo Chavez** of Venezuela. Pilger also goes to the United States and in some remarkable interviews, speaks exclusively to US govt

officials who ran the CIA's war in Latin America in the 1980s. This reveals more about US policy than all the statements and postures of recent times; it also reveals how what’s happened in Latin America is a metaphor for how the rest of the world is being 'ordered'.

The film contains moving testimonies from those who fought and suffered for democracy – in Chile and Bolivia. Filming in the Andean country of Bolivia shows that for the last five years huge popular movements have demanded that multinational companies be refused to access the country’s natural reserves of gas, or to buy up the water supply.

The War on Democracy, however, is a hopeful film, for it sees the world not through the eyes of the powerful, but through the hopes and dreams and extraordinary actions of ordinary people. Although set mostly in Latin America, it is a metaphor for all the world in 2007.

The 'message' of John Pilger’s latest film is a constant theme in all his work: that great, rapacious power is far from invincible and that people power is enduring.

Few films have been as timely as **The War on Democracy**