



LOGLINE

Rampant inequality, violence against women, and global crises bring two women together to make a documentary proving that a more caring world is possible.

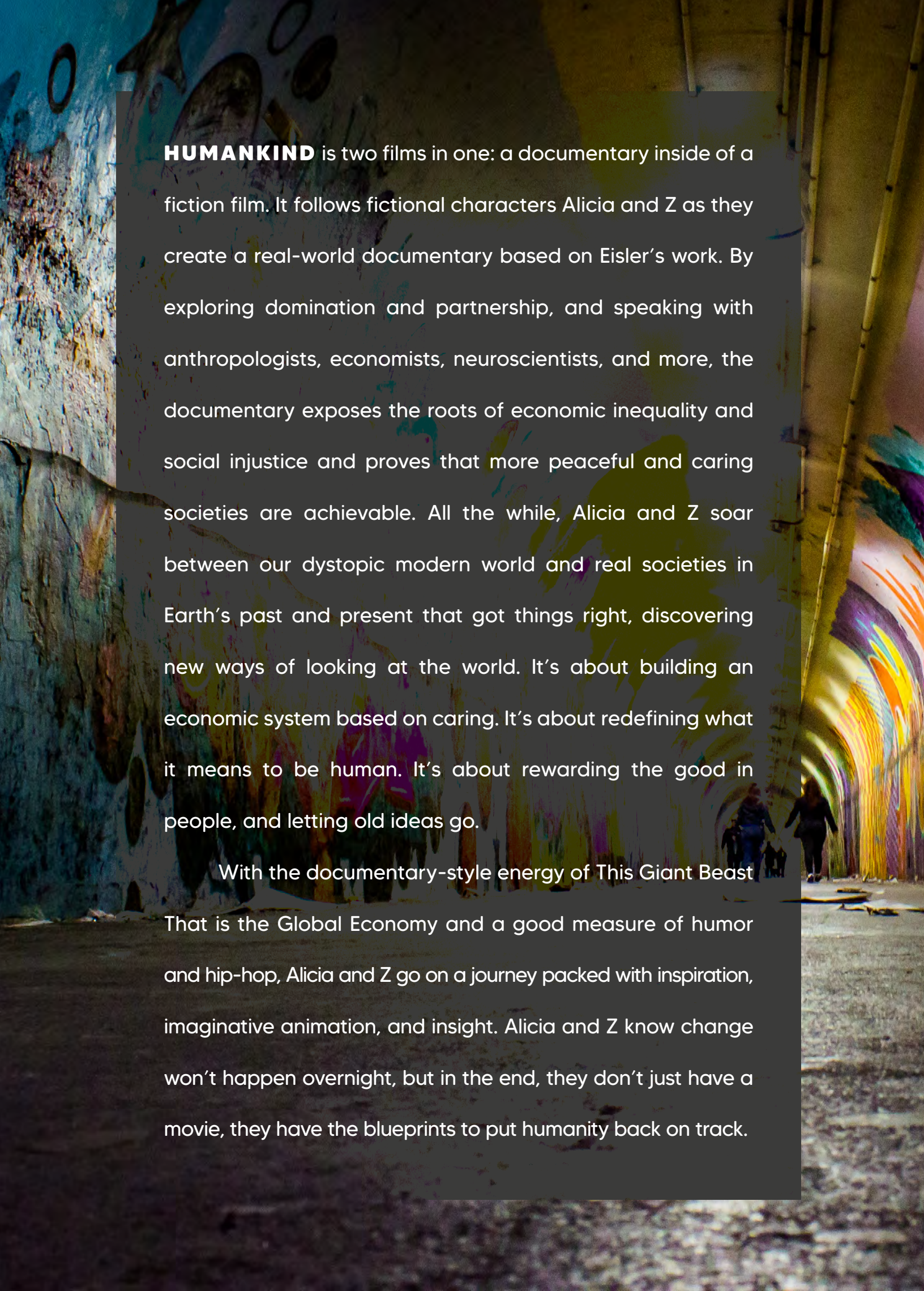




PROJECT SUMMARY

Endless war. Rampant inequality. Rising prejudice and authoritarianism. Like a lot of millennials, Z wakes up every day to an infuriating and heartbreaking world. She desperately hopes and dreams of a better future but feels lost and impotent whenever she faces the enormity of humanity's problems.

This all changes when her friend Alicia invites her to make a globe-trotting documentary that uncovers just how human society got so backwards. Drawing from the work of cultural historian Riane Eisler that spans the hyper-masculine zeitgeist to the mystical snake goddess of ancient Crete, Alicia and Z reveal two foundational lenses to view humanity: domination and partnership. Domination describes human societies built on force-based control and partnership describes human societies built on caring and mutual respect.



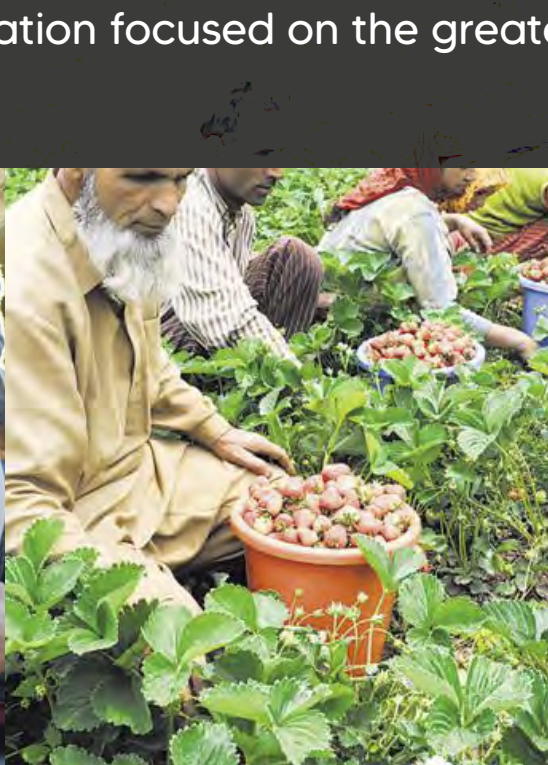
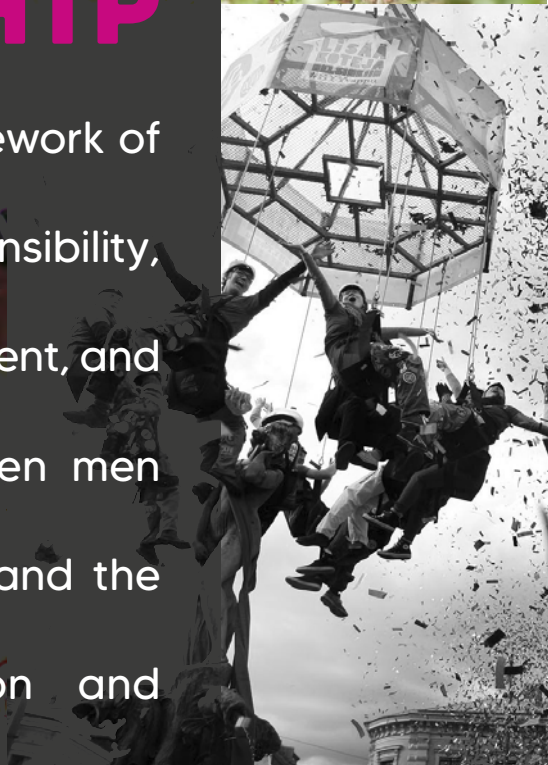
HUMANKIND is two films in one: a documentary inside of a fiction film. It follows fictional characters Alicia and Z as they create a real-world documentary based on Eisler's work. By exploring domination and partnership, and speaking with anthropologists, economists, neuroscientists, and more, the documentary exposes the roots of economic inequality and social injustice and proves that more peaceful and caring societies are achievable. All the while, Alicia and Z soar between our dystopic modern world and real societies in Earth's past and present that got things right, discovering new ways of looking at the world. It's about building an economic system based on caring. It's about redefining what it means to be human. It's about rewarding the good in people, and letting old ideas go.

With the documentary-style energy of *This Giant Beast* That is the Global Economy and a good measure of humor and hip-hop, Alicia and Z go on a journey packed with inspiration, imaginative animation, and insight. Alicia and Z know change won't happen overnight, but in the end, they don't just have a movie, they have the blueprints to put humanity back on track.



PARTNERSHIP

The Partnership System is a framework of mutual respect and mutual responsibility, non-violence, equality, empowerment, and caring. Equal partnership between men and women is at its foundation and the culture encourages compassion and cooperation focused on the greater good.





DOMINATION

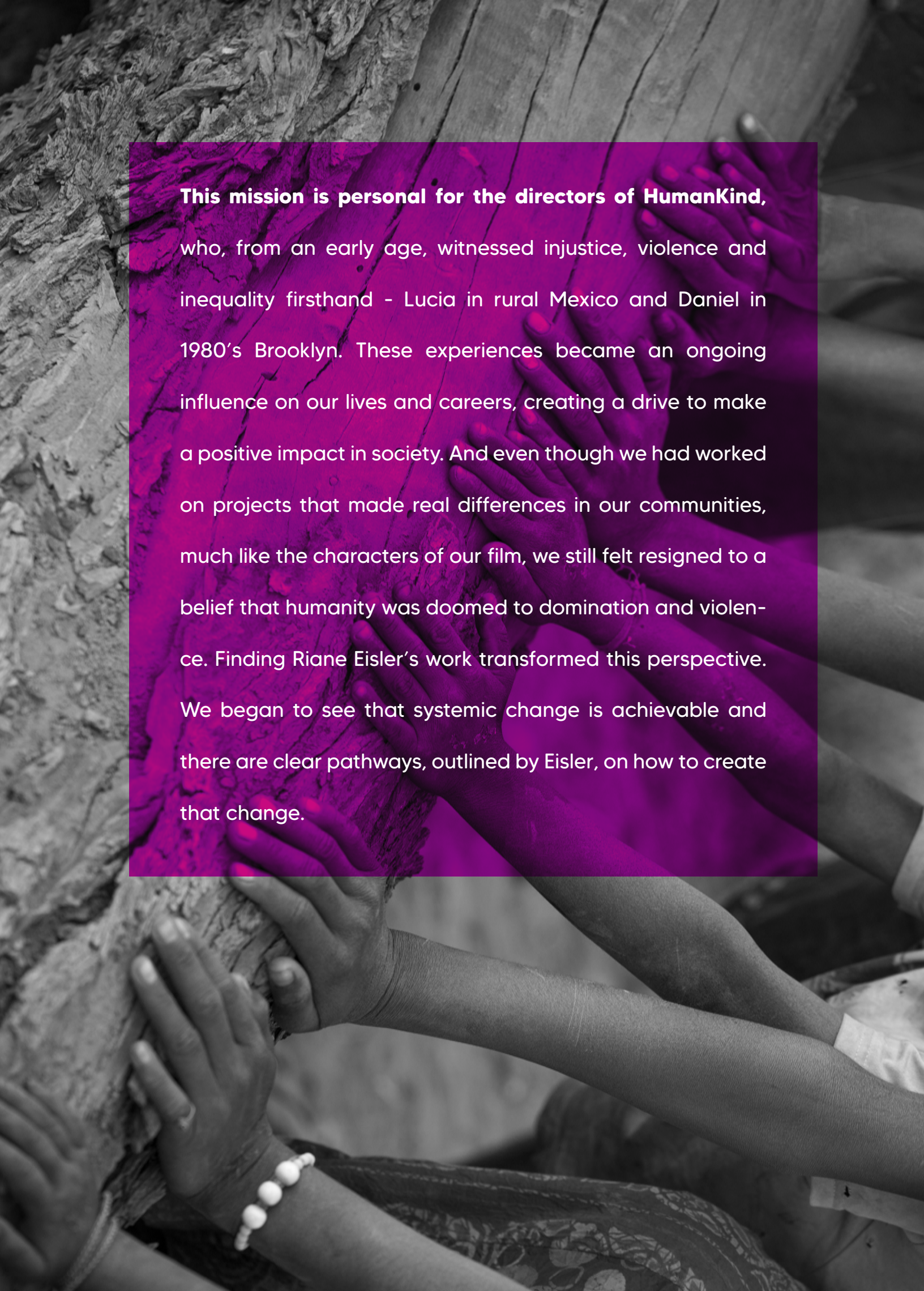
The Domination System is the prevailing paradigm in the world today. It thrives on rigid, top-down rankings maintained through physical, psychological and economic control and is founded on cultural narratives that justify violence, war and oppression.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

HUMANKIND tells a story that hasn't been told in cinema and is one that is urgently needed. Humanity faces a number of surging crises - a global resurgence of authoritarianism, growing inequality, rising violence against women, genocides of indigenous people, climate change and most recently, an unprecedented pandemic. We can all see that the way that we are doing things is not working. Riane Eisler's work, and the message of our film, offers evidence that humans can do better.

The mission of our project is to reveal domination in the world and to prove that partnership is a real, achievable option for humanity. The film will do this by challenging narratives that perpetuate inequality: humans are selfish by nature, economic and social success are not possible without greed and domination, and war is inevitable and moral.




This mission is personal for the directors of HumanKind, who, from an early age, witnessed injustice, violence and inequality firsthand - Lucia in rural Mexico and Daniel in 1980's Brooklyn. These experiences became an ongoing influence on our lives and careers, creating a drive to make a positive impact in society. And even though we had worked on projects that made real differences in our communities, much like the characters of our film, we still felt resigned to a belief that humanity was doomed to domination and violence. Finding Riane Eisler's work transformed this perspective. We began to see that systemic change is achievable and there are clear pathways, outlined by Eisler, on how to create that change.



DETAILED SYNOPSIS

Z, a young woman in her early 20s, watches the news.

Sick and tired of the injustice and violence being reported, she breaks into a rap expressing her frustration through rhymes. She calls her friend **Alicia (30s)** to vent even more, but Alicia's not having it. They meet in person and Alicia tries to talk Z out of her despair by inviting her to make a movie. Alicia has discovered the books of Riane Eisler, a cultural historian whose work demonstrates that humanity isn't doomed to endless abuse and that more peaceful human cultures are achievable. If they make a movie about this, Alicia reasons, Z can't stay stuck in her depression. After some resistance, Z agrees and they read all of Eisler's work.



Alicia and Z reconvene at a coffee shop and start to brainstorm ideas for their documentary and, while they brainstorm ideas for the film, there are transitions to corresponding documentary segments. In effect, while they imagine the film, the audience sees the completed project. During their conversation, Alicia's tendency is to be controlling, and Z follows Alicia's lead, but injects creative ideas - first and foremost, an over-the-top reenactment of Riane Eisler.





Alicia and Z brainstorm the documentary at a coffee shop.

ALICIA: ...and Riane drew from lots of disciplines.



Z: That makes sense. It's like she was looking at a bigger picture.

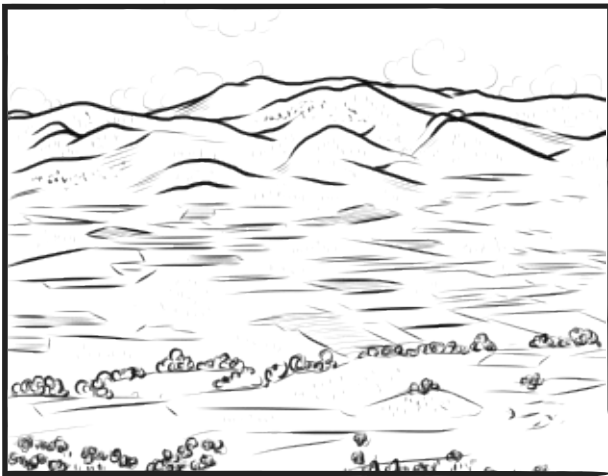


Reenactment Riane sits at a library table covered with books. She reads from a big one.

ALICIA (V.O.): Yeah, and there were lots of clues that led her to identifying partnership.. One of the strongest was an ancient civilization in Anatolia.

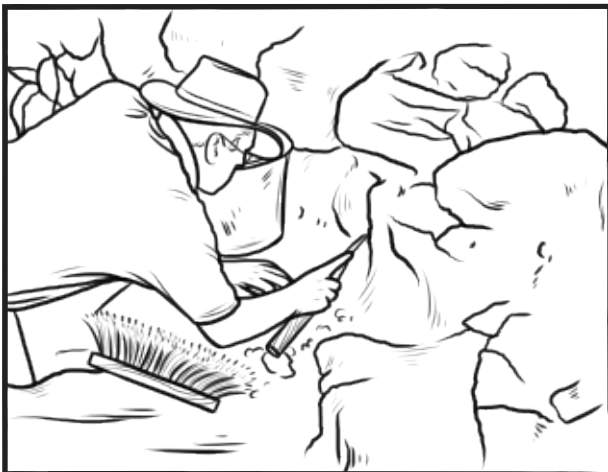


CAMERA pushes towards a big picture in Reenactment Riane's open book, which transforms into footage of Turkey.



START Çatalhöyük Documentary Segment.

Aerial views of the Turkish desert. The CAMERA descends towards the 10,000-year-old site of Çatalhöyük.

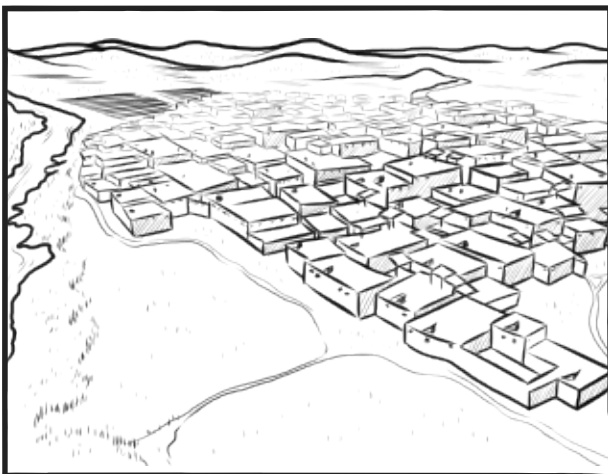


Cut to a montage of different visuals: archaeologists working, details of rooms, tombs, art and sculptures, and animation recreating what the civilization looked like in its heyday.



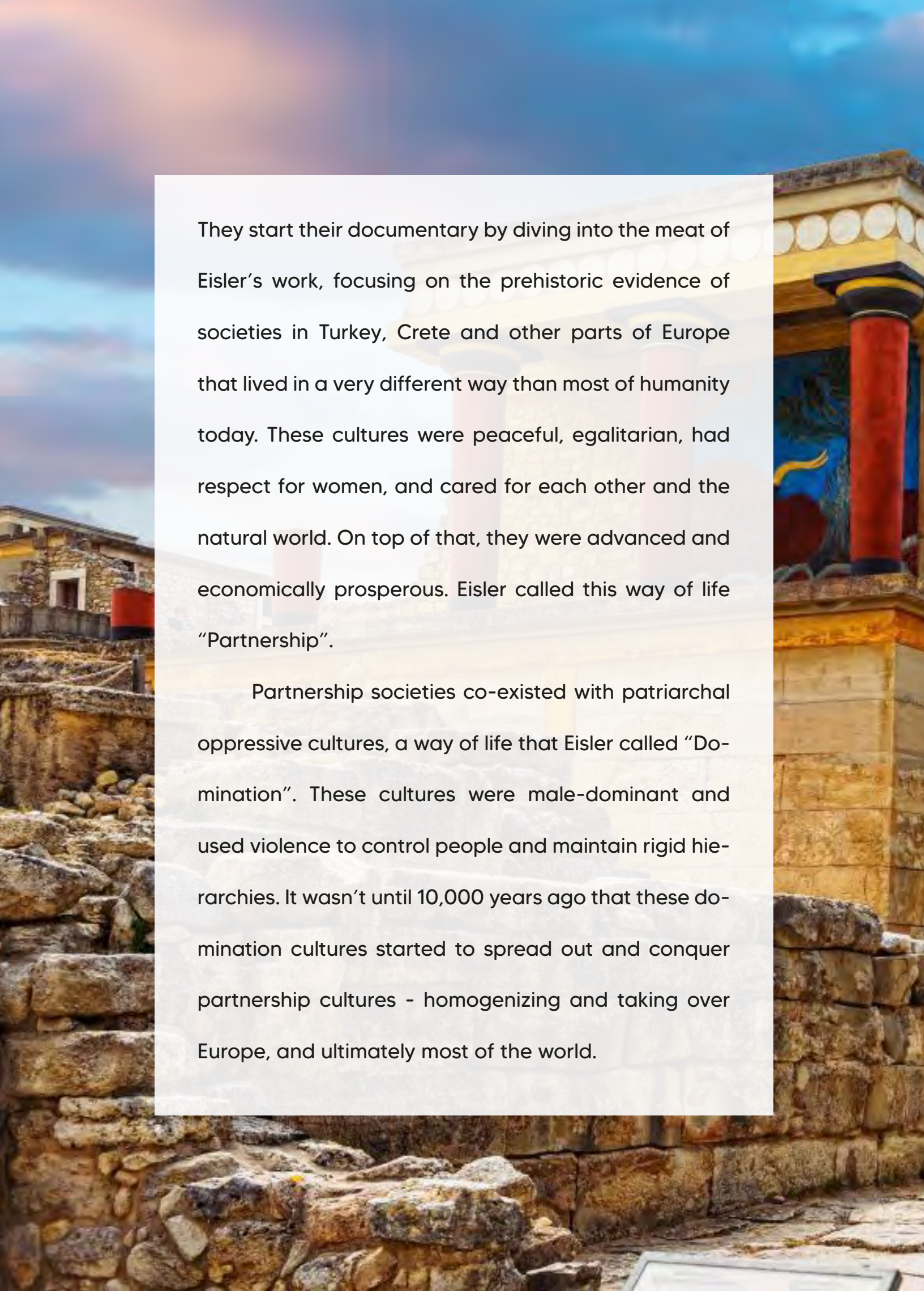
Cut to an interview with an expert.

IAN HODDER: We have been excavating it since 1993...



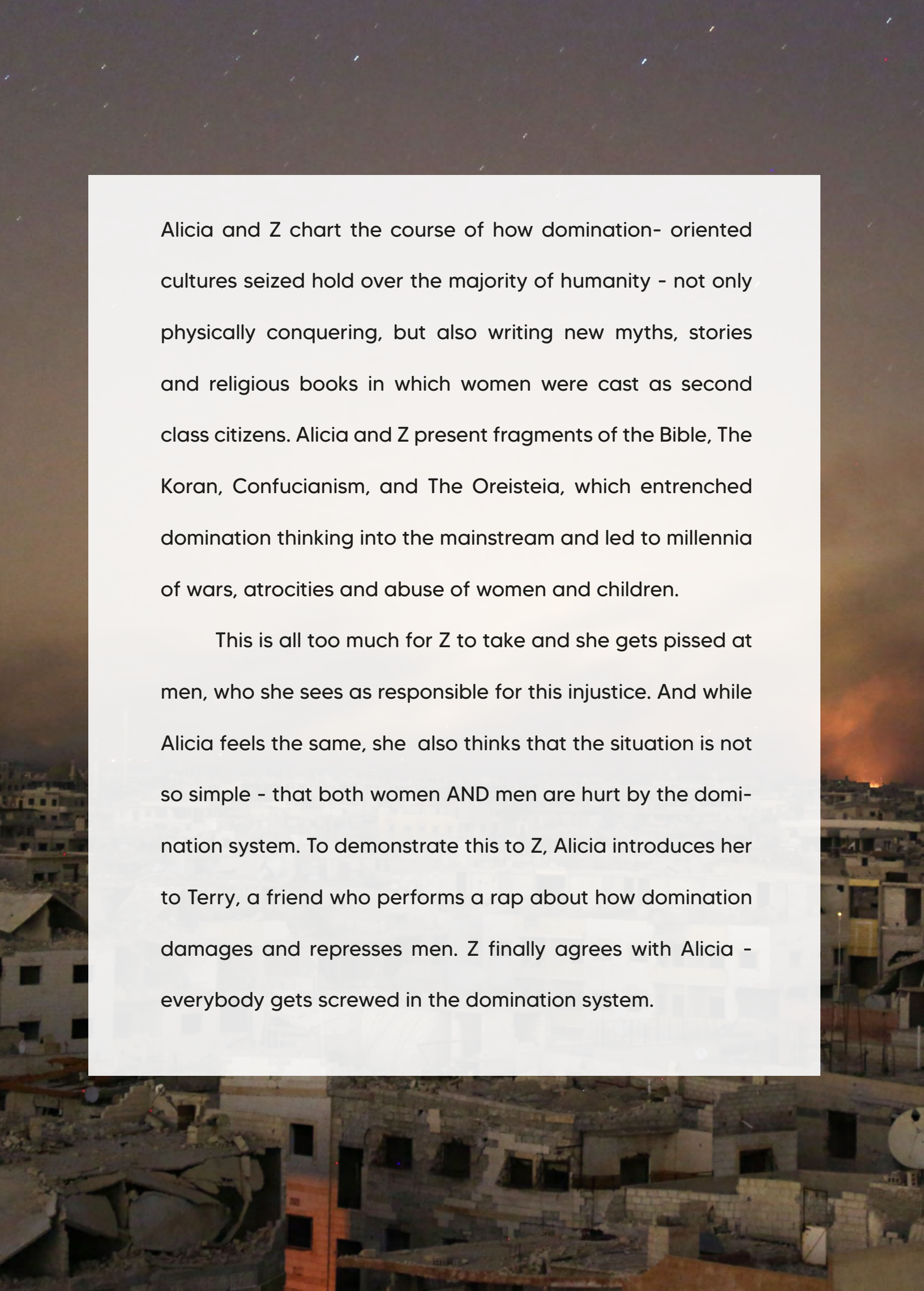
Images of Çatalhöyük while the interview continues.

IAN HODDER (V.O.): ...and what the evidence shows is that it was advanced, peaceful and men and women had very similar status.

The background of the slide features a collage of ancient ruins. On the right, a prominent red column with a yellow capital and base is visible, part of a larger stone structure. To the left, there are stone walls and a small building with a red roof. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white box in the center.

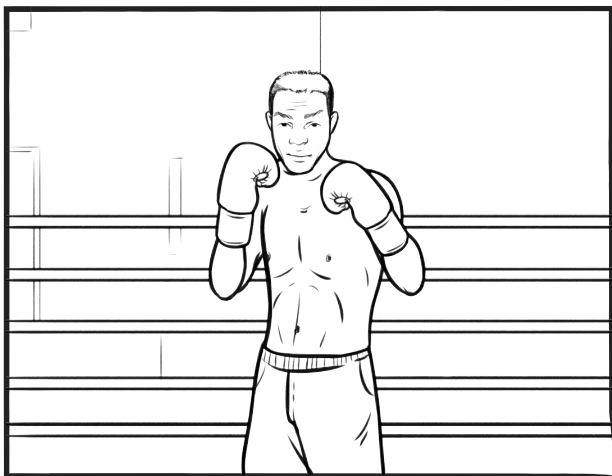
They start their documentary by diving into the meat of Eisler's work, focusing on the prehistoric evidence of societies in Turkey, Crete and other parts of Europe that lived in a very different way than most of humanity today. These cultures were peaceful, egalitarian, had respect for women, and cared for each other and the natural world. On top of that, they were advanced and economically prosperous. Eisler called this way of life "Partnership".

Partnership societies co-existed with patriarchal oppressive cultures, a way of life that Eisler called "Domination". These cultures were male-dominant and used violence to control people and maintain rigid hierarchies. It wasn't until 10,000 years ago that these domination cultures started to spread out and conquer partnership cultures - homogenizing and taking over Europe, and ultimately most of the world.

The background image shows a cityscape at night. In the distance, a bright orange fire or explosion is visible against the dark sky. The foreground and middle ground show various buildings, some of which appear to be damaged or in ruins. A large white rectangular box is centered over the image, containing two paragraphs of text.

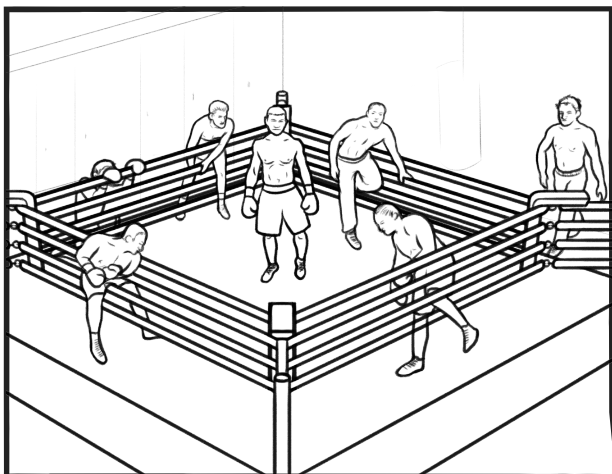
Alicia and Z chart the course of how domination- oriented cultures seized hold over the majority of humanity - not only physically conquering, but also writing new myths, stories and religious books in which women were cast as second class citizens. Alicia and Z present fragments of the Bible, The Koran, Confucianism, and The Oreisteia, which entrenched domination thinking into the mainstream and led to millennia of wars, atrocities and abuse of women and children.

This is all too much for Z to take and she gets pissed at men, who she sees as responsible for this injustice. And while Alicia feels the same, she also thinks that the situation is not so simple - that both women AND men are hurt by the domination system. To demonstrate this to Z, Alicia introduces her to Terry, a friend who performs a rap about how domination damages and represses men. Z finally agrees with Alicia - everybody gets screwed in the domination system.

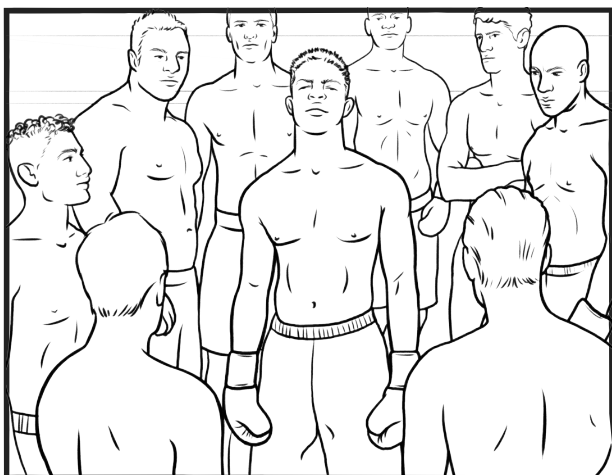


Terry stands in the center of a boxing ring, spotlit, and starts rapping.

TERRY: I gotta be honest, I'm tired of this fight / it happens every day, it happens every night / to every boy and man, it makes blood run / an onslaught from pretty much day one.

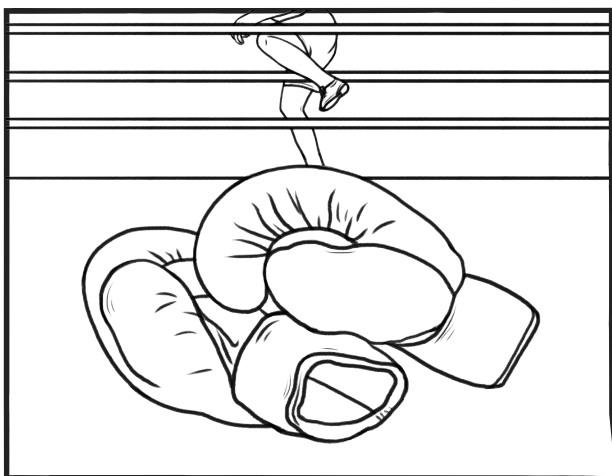


A group of men, one by one, enter the ring and surround Terry. He stands in the middle ready to defend himself.

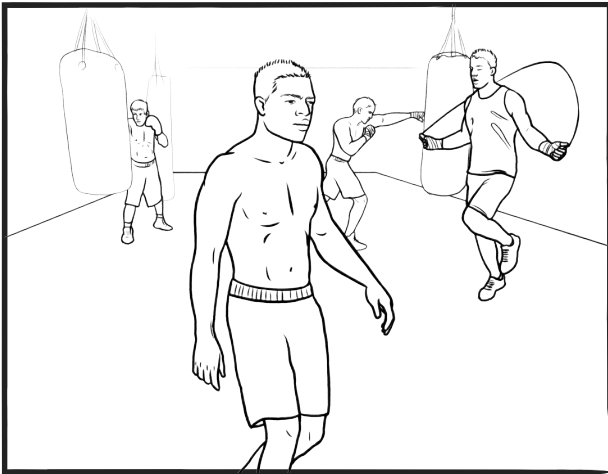


Terry continues rapping as more men surround him.

TERRY: They say stuff what you feel, stuff your emotions / shut that all down, but it leaves us choking / on anger and rage which they use to fuel / a legion of killers and a mob of fools.

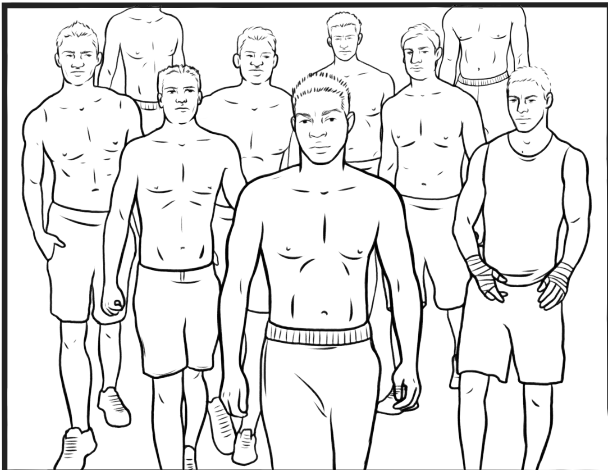


Terry takes off his gloves, unafraid of the men around him, and leaves the ring.



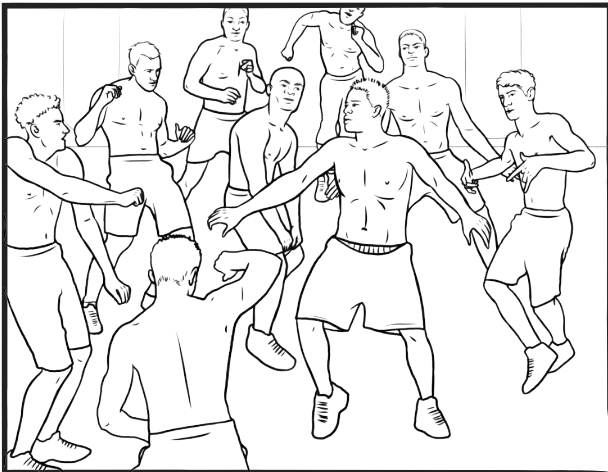
CAMERA tracks with Terry as he walks through a group of men doing exercises.

TERRY: They deaden us, say don't be sensitive / which leaves us in a stance so tentative / you can't be soft, other men are a threat / always be competitive and never forget:



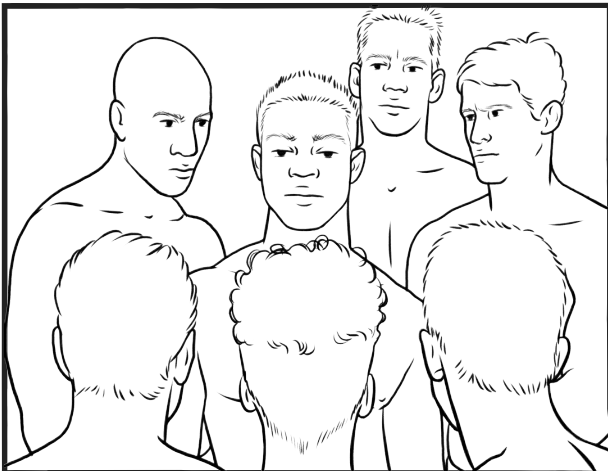
As Terry passes the exercising men, they start following him.

TERRY: Control your life, control your women / fight for everything, you can never give in. / These vicious norms become decrees / and keep us from being free.

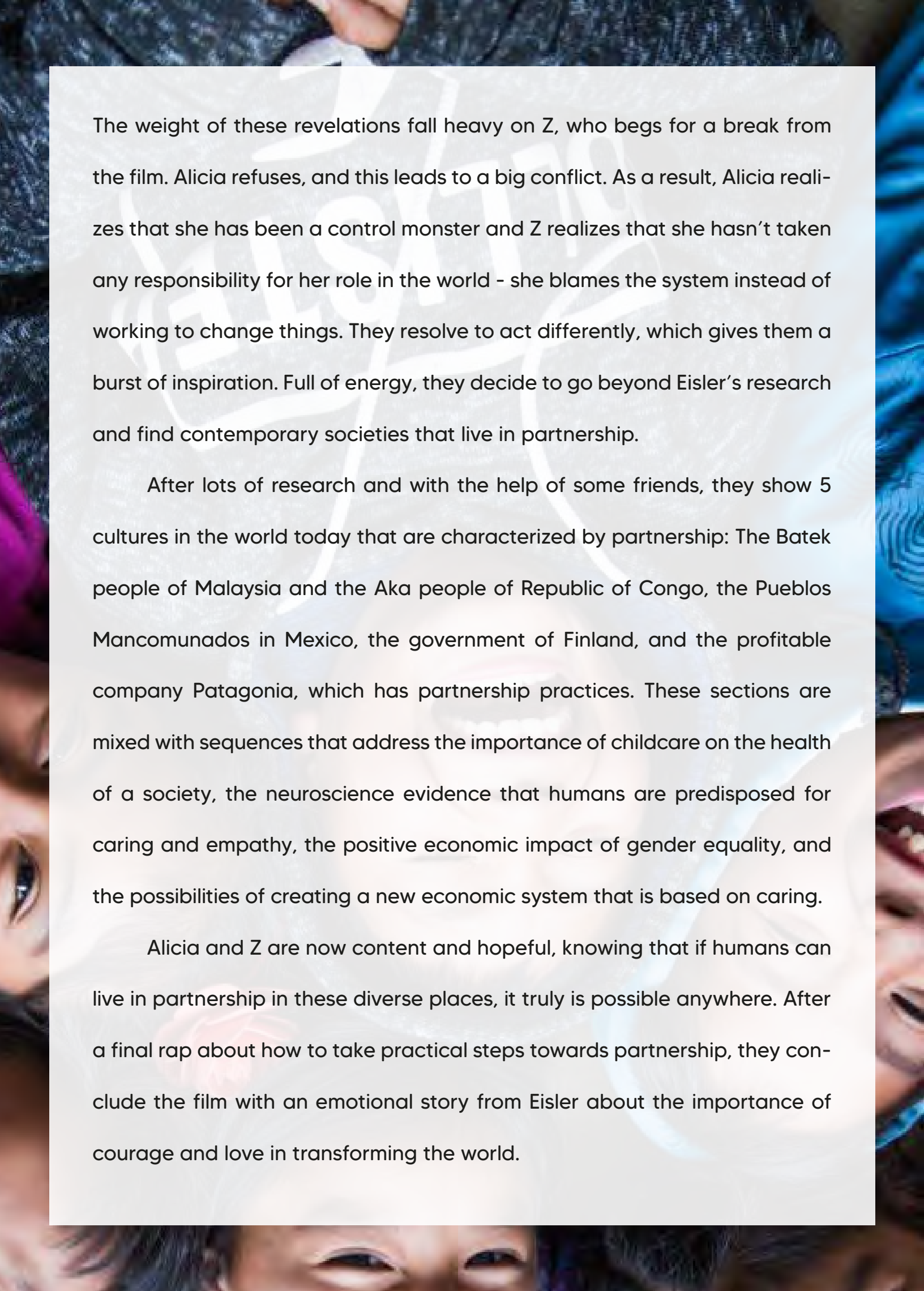


The men start singing. They dance with Terry, moving through the lifting area.

GROUP OF MEN: Shut yourself down, don't be yourself / don't cry, don't feel, dominate everyone else.



GROUP OF MEN: You can't be weak, your heart you must deaden / don't be like a woman, or we'll bash your head in!



The weight of these revelations fall heavy on Z, who begs for a break from the film. Alicia refuses, and this leads to a big conflict. As a result, Alicia realizes that she has been a control monster and Z realizes that she hasn't taken any responsibility for her role in the world - she blames the system instead of working to change things. They resolve to act differently, which gives them a burst of inspiration. Full of energy, they decide to go beyond Eisler's research and find contemporary societies that live in partnership.

After lots of research and with the help of some friends, they show 5 cultures in the world today that are characterized by partnership: The Batek people of Malaysia and the Aka people of Republic of Congo, the Pueblos Mancomunados in Mexico, the government of Finland, and the profitable company Patagonia, which has partnership practices. These sections are mixed with sequences that address the importance of childcare on the health of a society, the neuroscience evidence that humans are predisposed for caring and empathy, the positive economic impact of gender equality, and the possibilities of creating a new economic system that is based on caring.

Alicia and Z are now content and hopeful, knowing that if humans can live in partnership in these diverse places, it truly is possible anywhere. After a final rap about how to take practical steps towards partnership, they conclude the film with an emotional story from Eisler about the importance of courage and love in transforming the world.

MAIN CHARACTERS & CASTING IDEAS



ALICIA ◀ ALICIA KEYS

Alicia (30s) is a chic, professional filmmaker/activist who gets shit done. She's full of energy, power and is in command of every situation she finds herself. Underneath it all, she's absolutely broken-hearted by the suffering she sees in the world, but channels that pain into a creative energy that keeps her motivated, trying to bring change to society.

Z ZENDAYA ▶

Z (early 20s) is a fun-loving, upbeat college graduate who is struggling to find purpose in a world that feels so broken. She is artistic and creative, prone to spontaneous freestyle rapping, and, like many artists, is overwhelmingly sensitive. She's passionate and driven when she has a goal, but otherwise tends to be passive. At the beginning of the film, she feels like a victim of the world's sorry state, but transforms into a self-possessed, confident changemaker.



TERRY

DONALD GLOVER
MANNY JACINTO
or STEPHAN JAMES

Terry is Alicia's friend who raps a song about how domination hurts men and joins Helen Mirren on her song about Domination Economics. He spends time with Alicia and Z talking about how domination narratives perpetuate gender stereotypes and encourage violence in the world.



REENACTMENT RIANE

JESSICA CHASTAIN

Reenactment Riane is an over-the-top, self-aware reenactment of Riane Eisler in her research years.



G A E L

G A E L G A R C Í A

Gael is Z's friend who educates Alicia and Z about the Pueblos Mancomunados, a partnership-oriented collective of towns in Oaxaca, Mexico.



H E L E N M I R R E N

Playing a rapping version of herself, she performs songs about economics and GDP.



A S H

A S H T O N K U T C H E R

Ash is Z's friend who educates Alicia and Z about caring economics and the partnership-oriented policies of Finland.



PRODUCTION TEAM

DANIEL GLICK WRITER/DIRECTOR

Daniel Glick is an Emmy-winning producer, writer, director and editor. His first feature documentary, **A Place to Stand**, the powerful true story of poet Jimmy Santiago Baca, was broadcast on PBS in 2019 and won two Telly Awards. Daniel's short-form work has won numerous film festival awards and covers a wide range of themes, including social justice, indigenous rights, the power of the arts, conservation, and prison reform. His films about conservation and indigenous rights have often been used as lobbying tools and have led to practical policy changes.



LUCIA ORTEGA TOLEDO WRITER/DIRECTOR

Lucía Ortega Toledo has a B.A. in Communication Studies and a Masters and Doctorate in Literature from Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Mexico. She has collaborated with Daniel Glick on commercial projects, documentaries and the Emmy-winning short film *Iniskim* and helped produce three Mexican short films. Her poetry and essays have been published throughout Mexico and in the United States. *HumanKind* is her first feature film.



FRANCES COLLINS EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Frances Collins is a co-trustee of two foundations and a board member of the Center for Partnership Studies. A teacher and student of child and human development, she has devoted over thirty years to funding work designed to make the fundamental, systemic and cultural changes needed for development of kinder, more intelligent and creative human societies.





ZANE CLAMPETT

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY,
DOCUMENTARY SEGMENTS

Zane Clampett is a cinematographer whose work on the short film *Iniskim* won an Emmy in 2020. He graduated from Montana State University's film school in 2015 and has worked with Daniel Glick on numerous projects, including *Our Last Refuge*, *Bring Them Home* and *Iniskim*. Additional Credits include the award-winning surf film *The Accord* as well as dozens of commercial projects.

AIWEN WANG-HUDDLESTON

ART DIRECTOR

Aiwen Wang-Huddleston received her Masters in Interactive Telecommunications from NYU's Tisch School of Arts. Following her studies, she apprenticed in Taiwan for five years with Du Zhong Gao, a calligraphy master. She has worked as a graphic designer for diverse clients like Columbia University, New York City Public Schools, and the Walter Reade Theater at Lincoln Center. Her art has been exhibited throughout New York City, in Denmark and at Burning Man.



RIANE EISLER

ADVISOR

Riane Eisler is a social systems scientist, cultural historian, and attorney whose research, writing, and speaking has transformed the lives of people worldwide. She is the founder and president of the Center for Partnership Studies and is internationally known for *The Chalice and The Blade* and her other books. She has received many honors, including honorary PhDs, the Nuclear Age Peace Leadership Award, the Feminist Pioneer award, and inclusion in the award-winning book *Great Peacemakers* as one of twenty leaders for world peace, along with Mahatma Gandhi, Mother Teresa, and Martin Luther King.



ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

PUEBLOS MANCOMUNADOS - A PARTNERSHIP SOCIETY

We created this video to highlight one of the cultures we will feature in HumanKind - The Pueblos Mancomunados of Oaxaca, Mexico. We made this as a basic “proof of concept” that partnership-oriented societies actually do exist in the world today and to give a sense of the place and people. It contains footage from an October 2019 scouting trip that we shot in a run-and-gun style (mostly for personal reference and production planning). We will reshoot everything for the finished film using higher end cinema cameras and drones to present a wide variety of dynamic, moving visuals.



Password: [vivapartnership](#)



RIANE EISLER

Riane Eisler is a cultural historian and systems scientist whose work is vast and widely known. Her most famous book, **The Chalice and The Blade** was first published in 1987 and is now in its 57th printing with more than 500,000 copies sold worldwide. For a more detailed overview of Eisler's work, click below.





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