



Look and Learn

Why would a woman in her 60s spend four-and-a-half years on a solo, self-funded journey to a dozen countries to find answers? A serious global problem, that's why

'I'm already living in a parallel world,' says filmmaker Renée Scheltema. 'I've been thinking green for over 40 years.' In her documentary *Normal Is Over*, she aims to get to the bottom of the issues plaguing our planet, concluding that it's our economic systems that are most harmful. Many of the experts and academics she consulted said she was 'crazy' to take on this subject matter. 'I'm glad I came to understand the big picture. And I'm relieved I got it right!' she laughs, based on feedback from people within the financial sector.

Many documentaries 'just present the drama' and she did not want to do that; it's the solutions and hope presented in her film that make it stand out, and which have moved audiences to tears – and to action. 'People need to first deeply understand the issues, and then they can contribute on their own level.'

Dutch-born Renée moved to South Africa in 1992 to 'give my kids resilience and a sense of nature'. It's not something she mentions in the film, but she believes South Africa has a lot going for it. 'There is still so much left to protect, or which can be regenerated and expanded. We can do things

differently here. We have to be radical now – if we change course, just one per cent, that will make a difference.'

• ***Normal Is Over* will be screened at the SA Eco Film Festival, 23 – 30 March, at the Labia Cinema in Cape Town. Tickets R50. Full programme and Joburg screening dates to be announced. saecofilmfestival.com**



It's better on the big screen, but if you can't make it, many of the films can be watched online (including Renée's: normalisoverthemovie.com)