

IGNITE CLIMATE SHORTS:

GAIA FUTURES LTD

By Blessing Peters, Alexander Marsh, Darcy Hall and Eliezer Gore

Produced and Directed by Lucy Evans and Kate McAll

Characters:

Kai - intern at Gaia Corp

Blake - Kai's friend, also working at Gaia Corp

Ainsley - Director of Gaia Corp

Remy - Mayor of South

Other voices: tannoy, hospital receptionist, doctor

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OPENING CREDITS

SOUND: theme music plays under the opening credits

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SCENE 1: INT BUS DAY

SOUND: low hum of electric bus, rising in pitch as it speeds up

TANNOY: *This service is now running **ten** minutes late. This is due to **bison on the road.***

SOUND: Kai's phone rings

KAI: Where were you? You were supposed to meet me an hour ago.

BLAKE: Sorry Kai.

KAI: We're gonna be really late for the meeting now. Ainsley'll be furious.

BLAKE: I'm . . er . . not coming in today . . . There's something I gotta do.

KAI: Like what?

BLAKE: *(moment)* I can't tell you. I don't want you to get caught up in it.

KAI: Has this got something to do with you seeing Ainsley yesterday?

BLAKE: Don't worry about it, Kai. I've got this.

KAI: (Laughs) You always say that right before things get out of control.
I'll see ya later. Be careful okay?

TANNOY: Next stop **London Bridge.**

SOUND: quick music sting to indicate scene change

SCENE 2: GAIA CORPORATION MEETING ROOM

AINSLEY: . . . and at the centre of our plan for the South of the city is a series of Carbon Capture machines. We capture CO₂ directly from the air-and pump it back underground without—

SOUND: door closes, Kai walks to his seat

KAI: *(approaching)* I'm sorry I'm late, bison on the road again.

SOUND: Ainsley clears her throat as Kai sits down

AINSLEY: . . . as I was saying we pump the CO₂ back underground in a safe and controlled way.

SOUND: slideshow click

And once the existing buildings are cleared for development, we can begin work on our first carbon capture machines in the South of the city, just like we have in the North.

SOUND: Slideshow click

The biophilic design of the area includes sustainable architecture, habitat walls, green roofs, wildlife corridors, as well as nesting boxes for peregrine falcons and swifts.

SOUND: Phone rings. Kai scrambles to stop it

KAI: I'm really sorry.

AINSLEY: You'll have to excuse our intern, Mayor Remy.

REMY: You just said that existing buildings would have to be 'cleared for development', what exactly do you mean?

AINSLEY: Well, some buildings will have to be sacrificed.

REMY: Like the community centre?

AINSLEY: If it happens to be in the way, yes.

REMY: My constituents won't be happy about that.

AINSLEY: We were hoping you could... soften the blow.

REMY: I don't see how! That community centre is vital to the people in the South/

SOUND: Kai's phone buzzes one last time

AINSLEY: Kai! Turn that off or get out!

KAI: I'm switching it off, I'm so sorry, this never happens.

SOUND: ruffles through his pocket to find his phone

AINSLEY: My sincerest apologies for the disruption, Mayor Remy. Now, I think you'll agree we have an exceptionally beneficial plan for the South.

REMY: It all sounds great, it really does. But people won't want to lose the community centre.

AINSLEY: I'm sure you'll find a way to persuade them of our priorities. Plus, you'll have the full weight of the Gaia Futures behind you. So if you'd like to sign these documents . . .

REMY: I'm sorry but I'm going to need some time to think about it. Thank you for explaining everything. I really have to go now. I'll be in touch.
(leaving)

AINSLEY: *(charming, calling)* Yes, see you soon.

SOUND: door closes after Remy

AINSLEY: *(not charming)* Consider yourself on a warning, Kai. *(leaving)*

SOUND: phone buzzes

KAI: Hello?

HOSPITAL RECEP: Can I speak to Kai Dixon please?

SOUND: hospital noises can be heard in the background of the call, including voices and phones ringing

KAI: Yea, that's me.

HR: Can you confirm you're the Emergency Contact for Blake Holden?

KAI: Yes, I am . . .

HR: I'm calling from Barnes Hospital. Blake's been in an accident.

KAI: Oh my god. What happened?

HR: He's been hit by a car. The doctors are taking care of him but we need to know whether he has any allergies or medical conditions?

KAI: No, no allergies. Which hospital did you say it was?

HR: Barnes General, on the Southside.

KAI: Tell Blake I'm on my way, right?

SOUND: Kai nervously sighs as a music sting plays to indicate change of scene

SCENE 3: HOSPITAL CUBICLE

SOUND: Blake's heart monitor beeps. He groans

KAI: Blake, Blake, its Kai . . . I'm here . . .

BLAKE: *(groans, trying to move)*

KAI: Mate . . . what happened?

BLAKE: *(Hoarsley and quietly, he continues like this for the whole scene)*
They tried to kill me . . .

KAI: (Laughs) Have they give you too many drugs or something?

BLAKE: No. . . I mean it. They ran me over. . . on purpose.

KAI: Who did?

BLAKE: Gaia Futures.

KAI: You've hit your head. You'll be better soon.

BLAKE: No, I mean it . . . I found out something. The carbon capture machines. It's bad news, man.

KAI: But I thought the carbon capture machines were a good thing?

BLAKE: They are. . . but Gaia are cheating. And I've got the evidence. It's all on the memory stick. . . in my bag. Take it. Stop Remy signing that deal. Don't let them get away with it . . . don't let them *(he passes out)*

KAI: I'll take care of it, ok.

SOUND: heart monitor beeps

KAI: Blake!

SOUND: door opens

DOCTOR: You'll have to leave now

SOUND: beeping fades

SCENE 4: DOORWAY

SOUND: dial tone rings

KAI: Come on. . . pick up.

REMY: *(distant)* Hello?

KAI: Mayor Remy? This is Kai Dixon.

REMY: Who?

KAI: From Gaia Futures?

REMY: *(realising)* Ah you're the intern I met earlier. The one who couldn't manage to turn his phone off.

KAI: Yes, that's me.

REMY: What is this about?

KAI: I'm sorry to call you out of the blue but there's something very important I need to tell you. Could we meet?

REMY: I'm very busy on a site visit.

KAI: Please. I'll come to you. I'll explain everything.

REMY: Do you know the Ecology Park in Greenwich?

KAI: You mean where they're gonna build the new Carbon Capture machine?

REMY: That's the one. Meet me there in 15 minutes.

KAI: I'll be there.

SOUND: music sting for the scene change

SCENE 5 **Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park in Greenwich. The park has a community centre and a playground for children.**

SOUND: children playing on swings

REMY: Well?

KAI: My friend Blake is in hospital . . . he was run over. . . and he thinks Gaia did it on purpose.

REMY: *(disbelieving)* Why would they do that?

KAI: Blake found out that Gaia are up to something. He tried to confront Ainsley about it, but she wouldn't listen. So he went to get proof. On the way back, someone ran him over. The evidence is on this USB. I don't know what it is yet but it was bad enough for Blake to nearly get killed.

REMY: And you trust Blake?

KAI: With my life.

SOUND: phone rings

KAI: Oh, that's the hospital. Do you mind if I-?

REMY: Of course. Go ahead.

KAI: Hello? I see. Thank you.

(we don't hear the conversation)

KAI: Blake's condition has worsened. They want me there right away.

REMY: You'd better go. But look. I'm meeting Ainsley this evening to sign the documents. Bring your evidence to the office. And maybe I'll do a bit more digging on Gaia Futures myself.

SCENE 6: Gaia Corporation Office

SOUND: walking

AINSLEY: Mayor Remy, please. . . have a seat!

REMY: Good evening Ainsley.

AINSLEY: Well, now that you've had some time to think, I assume you're ready to get on board. I have all the documents here. . .

REMY: Just a minute. Let's not jump the gun. I have a few questions.

AINSLEY: Fire away.

REMY: I was going through some old files and I found that Gaia Futures used to be Tartarus Oil company, the one that caused the biggest environmental disaster in history.

AINSLEY: Ah yes, that oil spill was extremely regrettable. . . but that was an issue of the old management. The new Gaia is all about healing the planet, undoing the damage committed in the past.

REMY: But what about the buildings that will be torn down to build your new Carbon Capture machines - the community centre for example?

AINSLEY: What good is a community centre in a climate catastrophe? Look. This is your chance to do something huge for your community. Not just them but your family. Remy, I believe your son is extremely ill.

REMY: Yes, he is.

AINSLEY: If you endorse us and smooth the way, Gaia will fund his treatment in one of the state-of-the-art facilities in the North.

REMY: You'd do that?

AINSLEY: Of course. Gaia always takes care of its own.

REMY: It's a lot to take in. I. . . I don't know. . . I. . . um . .

AINSLEY: You keep looking at the door. . . Are you expecting someone?

REMY: No, no. I'm being foolish. . .this is for the future. For my son's future.

AINSLEY: Exactly. I am glad we could see eye to eye.

SOUND: pen clicks, paper rustles

AINSLEY: Here's a pen. So, if you will just sign here . . . I assure you, you are making the right decision . . .

SOUND: door opens, Kai approaches

KAI: Remy! Don't do it!

AINSLEY: Kai! What on earth do you think you're doing? Get out of my office!

KAI: Please wait Remy, before you sign any papers – you must know the truth. I know what Blake found out. Gaia are using old pipelines to pump carbon dioxide right back into the old oil reserves in the North Sea.

AINSLEY: Yes, that's public knowledge. It's a perfectly acceptable way to store captured CO₂.

KAI: But you didn't update the pipes and they're leaking! The carbon dioxide is coming straight back out again.

AINSLEY: Let me reassure you, Remy, those pipes are safe and working.

KAI: Blake was doing some maintenance and he found the test results. You're creating an environmental catastrophe.

AINSLEY: I have had enough of this nonsense. Now if you'll just sign the papers Remy, we can all go home.

REMY: No! Kai's right. You prioritise profit not people. And I nearly fell for it. I'm not gonna take your bribe. In fact I'll do everything in my power to make sure you're exposed.

AINSLEY: We don't like obstacles in our way. You both know what happened to Blake.

KAI: You don't scare me, Ainsley. I just got back from the hospital. Blake is dead. But his fight isn't over. Before I came here I made two copies of Blake's stick – one has gone to the Press, the other to the police. It's over, Ainsley.

SOUND: music plays under Kai's speech

KAI: We want a real green future, not your fake one, which just makes millions for you and your shareholders. We want to grow up in a healthy, sustainable world. . . with birdsong and flowers and clean air. We want a green new deal. We want a decarbonised world, run for people not profit. My friend cared about this planet and as long as there are people like him, we are going to hold people like you accountable, and create a world we all want to live in.

SOUND: music builds to a climax

FINAL CREDITS

SOUND: theme music plays under the closing credits

In Gaia Futures Limited by Blessing Peters, Darcy Hall, Eliezer Gore and Alexander Marsh, Kai was played by Ayomide Adegun, Blake by Yung Nguyen, Ainsley by Lila Jones, Remy by Tegan Noble, and additional voices by Elly Roberts and Joe Barber. Dramaturgy was by Dexter Flanders, sound design by Ian Hunter and music by John Biddle.

It was a Fierce Green and Rhiannon Media co-production, produced and directed by Lucy Evans and Kate McAll.

IGNITE Climate Shorts are supported by the Royal Society of Chemistry. They were recorded at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama with a cast of their members and with technical stage management by Chris Laurich.

Go to FierceGreenProductions.co.uk for more information on the project and the science behind the dramas.

SOUND: music rises to a climax before quickly fading out.

END.