

// STILL WE RIDE
// ENGLISH TRANSCRIPT WITH TIMECODE
// RT 37 MINUTES

00:00:07:20, 00:00:13:04, Critical Mass is like a way of saying, "Hey, everybody, c'mon, lets do it.

00:00:13:05, 00:00:17:24, We can all do this. We can all make our city a better, more fun place to live."

00:00:26:10, 00:00:29:02, If you ride with a bunch of other people it feels good.

00:00:38:00, 00:00:45:00, This is a story of bicycle riders, which calls themselves Critical and a system, which calls them criminal.

00:01:32:03, 00:01:34:18, You hand these out every month or is it just this month?

00:01:34:20, 00:01:37:03, Uh just distributing it today.

00:01:37:11, 00:01:38:26, Bike rules.
// (meaning bike regulations)

00:01:56:16, 00:02:00:00, On the last Friday of every month we meet at seven o'clock at Union Square,

00:02:00:00, 00:02:02:09, and we take to the streets and we ride.

00:02:02:10, 00:02:07:17, This is Critical Mass and it is very cool to be able to exercise democracy.

00:02:07:18, 00:02:09:14, This is what democracy looks like.

00:02:09:15, 00:02:13:25, You can see that there's a direct relation to more people biking and Critical Mass being big.

00:02:13:26, 00:02:16:22, This is way bigger than last time. This is mad.

00:02:16:23, 00:02:21:11, This is really about reoccupying the city on a different basis and that pleasure is a crucial,

00:02:21:12, 00:02:25:20, subversive principal of that reoccupation and reinhabitation of our lives.

00:02:25:21, 00:02:30:05, It's amazing! Like, as far as I can see in either direction is bicycles.

00:02:57:26, 00:03:00:19, When you're riding your bicycle it's an amazing thing.

00:03:00:21, 00:03:05:14, You really feel the connection between, like, what you do and how it affects everything else,

00:03:05:15, 00:03:09:07, and you really, almost without even realizing it, become very environmentally aware.

00:03:09:08, 00:03:12:00, Nothing here is for sale; you're not even welcome to sell anything here.

00:03:12:02, 00:03:16:16, It's all about just coming together with a bunch of other people, moving through the streets.

00:03:16:17, 00:03:21:25, You're mobile, you're in motion the whole time, and you don't know what's going to happen.

00:03:21:27, 00:03:26:19, It's actually open ended, and you cannot predict what is going to happen at any given moment in Critical Mass,

00:03:26:20, 00:03:28:00, and I think that's part of the magic of it.

00:03:28:05, 00:03:35:00, It speaks to people's craving for authentic, spontaneous human interaction and community.

00:03:35:02, 00:03:37:13, It's something that you don't get to very much in this society.

00:03:38:00, 00:03:40:28, I've been involved in Critical Mass since day one.

// On screen text:

// 00:03:40:15, 00:03:45:23, Over 300 cities around the world celebrate critical mass.

// On screen text:

// 00:03:48:11, 00:03:53:10, The monthly bicycle ritual spread to New York in 1993.

// On screen text: (put translated text up after the english timecode is what follows below)

// 00:04:01:20, 00:04:09:22, In August of 2004, days before the Republican National Convention, the city mounted a campaign to stop critical mass.

00:03:40:29, 00:03:46:02, I was one of the people who helped start it along with about several dozen other people here in San Francisco.

00:03:46:03, 00:03:53:22, The concept came along to try to meet up once a month and fill the streets with bikes.

00:03:53:23, 00:03:59:21, The logic of the dance between Critical Mass bicyclists and, and police wherever you are,

00:03:59:22, 00:04:04:00, there's been a number of incidents. New York is definitely on the forefront of the struggle right now.

00:04:04:02, 00:04:09:27, The police on some level, as individual rank and file policemen, are offended by Critical Mass.

00:04:09:28, 00:04:14:27, It became a clash of cultures, the police department, law enforcement,

00:04:14:28, 00:04:22:26, law and order control versus the Critical Mass freedom to ride your bicycle.

00:04:22:27, 00:04:31:15, And that tension began just before the Republican National Convention in August 2004,

00:04:31:16, 00:04:38:13, I thought that once the Republicans left town, it would go back to the way it used to be for six years in New York,

00:04:38:14, 00:04:46:03, where there was no real tension. There weren't mass arrests or anything and there was none of this seizing of the bicycles.

00:04:50:22, 00:04:53:18, Somebody! This is an illegal arrest! I didn't do anything wrong!

00:04:56:19, 00:05:02:29, Get a picture!

00:05:06:15, 00:05:10:10, You are under arrest right here.

00:05:12:05, 00:05:15:17, Under arrest at Critical Mass.

00:05:17:08, 00:05:22:07, Well, that was the week of my 50th birthday and my plan was to

00:05:22:08, 00:05:26:24, treat myself to a new bike and go on my first Critical Mass ride.

00:05:29:08, 00:05:35:24, We are vehicles. We have a right to ride in the streets just like cars.

00:05:35:26, 00:05:41:03, Riding together in, in a group is the most important thing here because the number one complaint of cyclists

00:05:41:04, 00:05:43:28, in New York City is that they don't feel safe.

00:05:43:29, 00:05:47:10, So a way to feel safe is to ride together in a group.

00:05:47:12, 00:05:52:24, If we can keep riding together in groups, keep buddying up; it will create more pressure for more infrastructure.

00:05:56:04, 00:06:03:13, The ride was glorious and everything was going well, the police seemed to be friendly.

00:06:03:14, 00:06:08:16, When suddenly the call went out, "You're under arrest!" and they, you know, mass arrests ensued.

00:06:08:17, 00:06:13:21, In South America you don't get arrested for cycling. In Europe you don't get arrested for cycling.

00:06:13:22, 00:06:17:23, They arrested 400 cyclists in the last half a year in New York City.

00:06:19:15, 00:06:26:17, There was a wall of police officers that had stopped traffic right along here.

00:06:26:28, 00:06:32:22, I naively assumed that they were just here to prevent us from going further south but that we could turn right.

00:06:32:23, 00:06:39:28, So I coasted up further toward the wall of officers, and then suddenly, out of the blue,

00:06:40:03, 00:06:44:07, they descended on us and we were all under arrest.

00:06:45;08, 00:06:50;11, There was one police officer grabbing my arm and telling me, "Drop the bike, drop the bike."

00:06:50;13, 00:06:52;27, Why are people getting arrested? For breaking the law.

00:06:52;28, 00:06:56;27, And a lot of times the police don't understand what we're doing, they think we are just blocking traffic,

00:06:56;28, 00:07:01;05, So we're trying to tell them we're not demonstrating, we're celebrating what the streets could look like.

00:07:01;18, 00:07:03;07, You hear that?

00:07:15;20, 00:07:22;02, I was on the corner of 2nd Avenue and 10th Street where the Critical Mass had just completed.

00:07:22;03, 00:07:30;03, The police came with a line of motorcycles and they started pushing the bikes and the bikers started pushing back.

00:07:30;04, 00:07:36;02, There was a man who was trapped under his bike and the police all grabbed him at once.

00:07:36;03, 00:07:42;21, One police officer violently pushed his face into the ground and put his knee on the person's neck.

00:07:42;22, 00:07:49;06, The other police officers quickly were shouting, "Get back" as everybody was chanting, "Let him go, let him go."

00:07:49;07, 00:07:55;12, The police started taking out their batons and swinging them at the protesters.

00:07:55;13, 00:07:59;16, The protesters were chanting, "The whole world is watching."

00:07:59;17, 00:08:05;08, One police officer took out his pepper spray and said, "Get back or you're all going to get sprayed.

00:08:09;17, 00:08:15;29, As soon as they hit, a lot of people started running down here to come into the front gate.

00:08:17;09, 00:08:20;26, Now we were aware of the potential of the police to follow them in,

00:08:20;27, 00:08:25;13, so we had alerted people in the church to basically lock up.

00:08:25;15, 00:08:29;09, Its a clear attempt to intimidate through open brutality,

00:08:29;10, 00:08:32;06, or what I refer to as tactical brutality.

00:08:32;08, 00:08:37;28, This is not something that spontaneously takes place with the police. They were instructed.

00:08:37;29, 00:08:47;19, Police departments uses modern science to protect you, such as teletype, photography, two-way radio.

00:08:48;12, 00:08:53;07, So since August the police department has consistently been

00:08:53;08, 00:08:55;23, as they put it "mobilizing resources"

00:08:55;24, 00:08:58;21, to monitor and police these rides,

00:08:58;22, 00:09:02;28, and when they say mobilizing resources what they mean is hundreds of police officers

00:09:02;29, 00:09:07;08, fitted to the gills with all of the latest toys.

00:09:09;12, 00:09:13;29, During the Republican convention the police department put out legal guidelines

00:09:14;00, 00:09:16;02, for rank and file police officers

00:09:16;03, 00:09:20;25, that described some of the protesting tactics that they would encounter.

00:09:20;26, 00:09:25;03, Here on page 13, section G, Swarming Critical Mass,

00:09:25;05, 00:09:29;00, it says that Critical Mass is the obstruction of public thoroughfares and transportation

00:09:29;02, 00:09:34;24, by protest crowds, street theatre, bicycle groups, marching bands or by improvised barricades,

00:09:34;25, 00:09:37;21, which doesn't seem exactly correct.

00:09:37;22, 00:09:41;27, It's pretty clear that the police department thinks of bicyclists
00:09:41;28, 00:09:48;00, as an aspect of protests and is a tactic that protesters use.
00:09:48;02, 00:09:53;23, Do you know why you're being arrested? I don't know.
00:09:56;25, 00:10:00;29, We're handcuffed and the bikes are impounded.
00:10:01;00, 00:10:07;11, We're taken to Pier 57 where we're put in these cages, then transferred to the tombs
00:10:07;12, 00:10:12;05, where we're marched around in daisy chains from one jail cell to another,
00:10:12;06, 00:10:17;00, we're photographed for mug shots. Finally, we were released; in my case is the following afternoon.
00:10:17;02, 00:10:21;27, And when I was released I find that my photograph in handcuffs
00:10:21;28, 00:10:27;00, surrounded by police had been published on the front page of The Daily News.
00:10:27;02, 00:10:30;00, They think that bicyclists are bad stopping traffic.
00:10:30;02, 00:10:32;22, Look at what's happening up at Madison Square Garden:
00:10:32;23, 00:10:37;13, Republicans are forcibly stopping traffic.
00:10:38;21, 00:10:43;15, When the RNC came and we had, Critical Mass had 5,000 people,
00:10:43;16, 00:10:47;03, I mean, that was a huge outpouring of bodies on the street,
00:10:47;04, 00:10:50;12, and I think that a lot of people saw that as a threat.
00:10:50;13, 00:10:58;19, And I think that for the NYPD and for the City to then look the other way on subsequent rides,
00:10:58;20, 00:11:07;18, I think it's very difficult for them because they've already sort of built up this monster that they have
to somehow eradicate.
00:11:21;09, 00:11:24;12, Bray is Rebecca Bray, who's one of five
00:11:24;13, 00:11:29;06, people who rode their bikes on September 24th 2005,
00:11:29;07, 00:11:37;05, and had their bikes seized by police department and came to us and asked us to represent them in a
lawsuit.
00:11:45;29, 00:11:50;22, How do you feel Nathan? I feel that we're very close to the arrest point.
00:11:50;23, 00:11:52;19, I know. I might need to peel off soon.
00:12:07;16, 00:12:10;27, The more I heard the stories of what happened that night,
00:12:10;28, 00:12:15;29, it appeared to me that what the police were doing was unnecessarily asserting their power,
00:12:16;00, 00:12:21;22, their authority, over Critical Mass bike riders, and punishing them.
00:12:21;24, 00:12:26;23, I locked up my bike, realizing that it was the only way that I was going to get out
00:12:26;24, 00:12:28;13, without being arrested.
00:12:29;14, 00:12:33;05, Then I looked behind me and there was a police officer with this huge power saw, revving it up.
00:12:33;06, 00:12:35;23, It was like a chain saw sound.
00:12:42;09, 00:12:49;15, You know, I watched them saw my lock off of my bike
and it was, it was completely shocking.
00:12:49;16, 00:12:53;00, The police were sawing the locks on people's bikes as they were standing there
00:12:53;03, 00:12:56;20, dangling their keys, saying That is my bike, I have not abandoned it.

00:12:56;22, 00:13:01;07, The City not only defended what they did by saying it was abandoned property,
00:13:01;08, 00:13:09;07, which was clearly bogus, but then they raised for the first time this cockamamie idea
00:13:09;08, 00:13:14;26, that people needed a permit in order to ride in the streets of the city of New York.
00:13:14;27, 00:13:19;00, And then the lawsuit, which was narrowly framed and very simple,
00:13:19;02, 00:13:25;10, became a huge historical test case about the rights of bicycle riders.
00:13:25;16, 00:13:30;15, There are real issues as to whether or not a permit is really just a device
00:13:30;16, 00:13:34;20, by the police to try and put an end to Critical Mass,
00:13:34;21, 00:13:40;02, because once you have that device, that permit,
00:13:40;03, 00:13:46;26, they then set the ground rules and the terms, and when, where, how far it goes.
00:13:46;27, 00:13:51;25, So once that starts then Critical Mass as it is conceived
00:13:51;26, 00:13:55;24, and as the participants participate in it will be at an end.
00:13:55;25, 00:13:58;24, If you have a right to do something,
00:13:58;25, 00:14:03;05, you should not have to ask the government for permission to do that.
00:14:03;06, 00:14:08;00, It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that these guys sit around and figure, hey, we've got to stop this.
00:14:08;02, 00:14:14;19, They had to stop "the bandshell" from being a place of free speech back some years ago so they demolished it.
00:14:14;20, 00:14:19;18, They had to stop spontaneous marches from taking place so they put permits on everything.
00:14:19;19, 00:14:23;06 They put a fee, you have to pay a fee to get the permit, and this, that, and the other thing.
00:14:23;07, 00:14:28;19, They are trying through every means to limit our ability to, to dissent.

// On screen english translation
// voice of: NYPD officer

// 00:14:29;09, 00:14:38;00, If these guys applied for a route and stuff like that, they could do whatever, but they don't want to go that route.

// 00:14:39;19, 00:14:42;17, The peaceable people probably don't come any more.

// 00:14:43;04, 00:14:46;02, They used to come with bicycles with seats on them; with their kids.

// 00:14:46;13, 00:14:49;06, You don't wanna bring your kids to the circus. This is ridiculous.

// 00:14:49;12, 00:14:52;11, They've been riding for ten years never a problem.

// 00:14:54;23, 00:14:59;06, But, at the RNC they, they decided to use it as a tool for protest.

// 00:14:59;20, 00:15:04;13, Other people, not Critical Mass people ... The Critical Mass people have been riding for a long time, never a problem.

// 00:15:07;04, 00:15:11;03, And then they were infiltrated by the ACLU and other groups,
00:15:12;17, 00:15:14;20, and now its become a political protest.

// 00:15:14;21, 00:15:18;24, Do you think it could ever go back? How could it go backwards and get the police off their back?
00:15:18;25, 00:15:20;03, It will never go backwards.

// 00:15:20;04, 00:15:23;04, And now its become this. Its become an anarchist group.

// 00:15:23;13, 00:15:27;19, I heard that they were still arresting people even if they stop at the lights.

// 00:15:27:20, 00:15:30:07, They can't. What are they going to arrest them with? What are they going to charge them with?

// 00:15:31:10, 00:15:33:03, The parade thing.

// 00:15:33:04, 00:15:35:12, You have to break the law in order for a police officer to arrest you.

// 00:15:35:13, 00:15:36:23, That's just the way it is.

// (MUSIC)

// (15:44 March 2005)

00:15:43:24, 00:15:47:00, I think that they're gonna let the cars through,

00:15:47:02, 00:15:52:16, and they've been refusing to let the bicycles go where pedestrians go,

00:15:52:17, 00:16:00:05, so now were gonna be bicycles as cars and we're gonna see if they'll let us go through as cars.

// (MUSIC)

00:16:03:06, 00:16:07:14, You won't let bicycles through as pedestrians and you wont let us through as cars.

00:16:07:15, 00:16:08:22, What's the deal?

00:16:08:23, 00:16:15:20, I'm on my bicycle, I'm riding in the street, and I can't, and I can't go through.

00:16:15:21, 00:16:18:03, You're letting cars through and not bicycles.

00:16:18:04, 00:16:21:02, You're gonna have to turn around and go that way, sir. I cant. It's a one-way street.

00:16:21:03, 00:16:24:04, Go right around here and go in that way. You're asking me to break the law.

00:16:24:05, 00:16:27:06, Sir, you're blocking the crossing. Cross over this way if you'd like to leave.

00:16:27:07, 00:16:28:27, It is open right over there.

00:16:28:28, 00:16:30:17, You're the assistant Chief? Yes, sir.

00:16:30:18, 00:16:32:24, Could you tell me why I cant, am I?

00:16:32:25, 00:16:36:06, Sir, this is closed for now. Please go this way with everybody else.

00:16:36:07, 00:16:38:20, Could you explain why? Sir! Sir! Sir, you're blocking traffic.

00:16:38:21, 00:16:45:12, I am traffic! What do you mean I'm blocking traffic? Is a bicycle part of traffic or isn't it?

00:16:45:13, 00:16:50:00, Its like being in an Alice In Wonderland world where

00:16:50:02, 00:16:52:10, the police are kind of making up little stories

00:16:52:11, 00:16:56:26, that don't have any consistency to them and are, are really absurd.

00:16:56:27, 00:17:01:10, And it really would be funny if people didn't end up in jail and manhandled

00:17:01:11, 00:17:08:27, and bikes confiscated and things like that.

// (MUSIC)

00:17:22:29, 00:17:27:02, Anyone who is organizing progressive political activity in New York knows they have to deal

00:17:27:03, 00:17:31:27, with the tactics of the of police which really tend to be based on clearing the streets at all costs

00:17:31:28, 00:17:35:26, and then dealing with any legal ramifications later on in the court system.

00:17:35:27, 00:17:39:19, and that essentially leads to your 1st Amendment right meaning

00:17:39:20, 00:17:42:26, pretty much nothing in the streets in certain circumstances.

00:17:46;27, 00:17:51;00, What's your name and badge number? Are you a New York City police officer?

00:17:51;03, 00:17:57;05, The Civil Liberties Union and other civil rights and civil liberties organizations in 1985 reached an agreement

00:17:57;06, 00:18:02;02, with the police department in a case called Handschu vs. The City Of New York

00:18:02;03, 00:18:06;08, where the only time the police could turn on their video cameras was when

00:18:06;09, 00:18:09;14, the citizen was engaged in criminal activity,

00:18:09;15, 00:18:12;11, about to engage in or threatening to engage it.

00:18:12;12, 00:18:14;28, In any other instance they could not do it.

00:18:14;29, 00:18:20;07, And it was particularly done to protect the identity of people engaged in 1st Amendment activity.

00:18:20;08, 00:18:23;18, I just want to make sure that everyone's aware and we try to get out information;

00:18:23;19, 00:18:26;18, and they're filming myself and my crew.

00:18:26;19, 00:18:32;13, That's part of it, but why does this guy. Sir, sir, they're not filming you, they're filming us.

00:18:32;14, 00:18:37;09, Why don't you get him? Have you met him before?Its ridiculous.

00:18:37;10, 00:18:43;23, The police and the government should not have the right to document citizens engaged in peaceful activity.

00:18:43;24, 00:18:47;23, They have a right to document when people are breaking the law.

00:18:47;25, 00:18:52;22, Recently there's been circulating on the Internet and on some of the local news channels,

00:18:52;23, 00:18:59;17, there's been some clips from some of that surveillance from the August 27th ride.

00:18:59;18, 00:19:05;20, And so while mass arrests were going on, a police copter hovers overhead

00:19:05;21, 00:19:11;18, and it is outfitted with infrared vision. It can see things in the dark.

00:19:12;07, 00:19:17;11, And instead of watching what was going on the street,

00:19:17;12, 00:19:22;07, whomever was operating that kept going to this couple who were making out on a rooftop.

00:19:22;08, 00:19:30;11, And it wasn't just for like a second and then back to the action; it was real surveillance.

00:19:30;12, 00:19:33;28, That obviously served no legitimate governmental objective,

00:19:33;29, 00:19:39;02, there's no law enforcement purpose I could vaguely imagine

00:19:39;03, 00:19:42;00, that you could rationally relate to that kind of conduct.

00:19:42;02, 00:19:47;20, Confronted about it, the police department took 24 hours to think about it and then had no comment.

00:19:47;21, 00:19:53;27, I interpret that to mean they couldn't come up with a means of justifying it.

// MUSIC

00:19:57;16, 00:20:03;02, Your police department serves you every day in a different way.

00:20:03;03, 00:20:05;19, Step back on the sidewalk.

// MUSIC

00:20:06;22, 00:20:09;22, Let them go! Let them go!

00:20:38;11, 00:20:43;00, No bicycles that I saw were given their Miranda rights and I heard no order to disperse.

00:20:44;12, 00:20:46;29, They should have more space on the streets to be able to ride.

00:20:47;00, 00:20:51;14, It's hard enough as it is to get from one place to another. Why not have a bike?

// MUSIC

00:21:00;07, 00:21:05;06, It's the night of October 29th, going into the 30th.

00:21:05;07, 00:21:08;17, We're at the Time's Up Environmental Space on 49 E. Houston Street New York City.

00:21:08;18, 00:21:10;17, Today we have the Critical Mass bike ride.

00:21:10;18, 00:21:16;13, We had a federal judge trying to protect us from the permit rule. We had a small party at the space.

// MUSIC

00:21:19;26, 00:21:23;13, By about 11:30 or so there had been several undercover cops including

00:21:23;14, 00:21:27;06, a Lieutenant Fanale wearing this Redskins jersey.

00:21:27;07, 00:21:32;20, She had sort of come in to the party very definitely undercover, no badge showing,

00:21:32;21, 00:21:35;13, and apparently she'd sent a distress signal. I don't know why she would've;

00:21:35;14, 00:21:40;21, if she was inside the party, she would've seen people dancing and having a good time.

// MUSIC

00:21:45;24, 00:21:48;09, The police tried to come into the space without a permit.

00:21:56;14, 00:22:00;28, Where is your Warrant? Where is your Warrant?

00:22:00;29, 00:22:04;23, We were able to hold the doors back. They started pepper spraying us, arresting people.

00:22:04;24, 00:22:07;19, Now they have the whole place surrounded.

00:22:07;25, 00:22:11;14, We do no consent to a search.

00:22:11;15, 00:22:16;20, They picked up this one woman, they took her camera, they were trying to wrench it out of her hand,

00:22:16;21, 00:22:21;02, and she ended up having damage to her wrist from it. They completely destroyed her video camera.

00:22:21;03, 00:22:26;23, It was actually Lieutenant Fanale who came at her and smacked the camera out of her hand.

00:22:26;25, 00:22:29;15, Get your hands off me. - Keep moving.

00:22:41;23, 00:22:44;14, What happened to your hand?

00:22:44;22, 00:22:50;15, They were trying to get my camera out of it, so they were hitting it repeatedly to get me to release the camera.

00:22:50;17, 00:22:53;15, What is it all about? I don't know.

00:22:53;16, 00:22:59;02, Its about people trying to show that they're in control, I guess.

00:22:59;03, 00:23:03;21, Two different crowds, two different mentalities.

00:23:03;22, 00:23:05;27, All I saw was the people dancing.

00:23:05;29, 00:23:08;00, People were dancing and the cops just showed up

00:23:08;02, 00:23:09;24, That's it, yeah. It was crazy.

00:23:09;25, 00:23:16;03, I have no idea. I'm trying to get my work up to go home.

00:23:16;18, 00:23:19;27, They called Norman Siegel. They woke him up and he came down.

00:23:22;03, 00:23:26;11, OK, this is Norman Siegel, he's our lawyer. Listen let's do this in a really orderly fashion.

00:23:26;12, 00:23:33;22, We were able to get people out. Eventually we ended whatever this standoff was.

00:23:33;24, 00:23:38;09, As people were leaving and going and getting their bikes off of the Puck building fence,
00:23:38;10, 00:23:45;20, the police at one point pulled out a saw and cut a couple of bikes off of the Puck building.
00:23:52;05, 00:23:54;23, This is part of the targeting
00:23:54;24, 00:24:02;03, and the selecting of Critical Mass bike ride community for this kind of punishment
00:24:02;04, 00:24:08;09, and its chilling, its intimidating, I think its overkill, its unnecessary.
00:24:08;10, 00:24:14;22, Have you ever been in, in a criminal court case before?
00:24:14;23, 00:24:18;28, No, I haven't even been a juror on a criminal court case.
00:24:18;29, 00:24:21;25, The whole process is, is very much political.
00:24:21;26, 00:24:26;27, The fact that I, I'm going to court and I don't know what's going to happen, and its..
00:24:26;28, 00:24:36;02, March is, its seven months or eight months after my arrest. Its like, the punishment is the process.
00:24:36;03, 00:24:42;24, I didn't have any special fear of police officers or suspicion of them or paranoia,
00:24:42;25, 00:24:46;11, or thinking that somehow they were working for the other side.
00:24:46;12, 00:24:51;06, I thought they were as much of a victim of the system as I was.
00:24:51;07, 00:24:59;00, But now, I just don't feel so trusting at all.
00:24:59;02, 00:25:04;25, It's really up to the broader public to know and to understand what's going on out there
00:25:04;26, 00:25:10;12, and for a consensus to be developed about how these types of events should be policed.
00:25:10;14, 00:25:14;26, Just crazy things are going on to stop a few people from biking.
00:25:15;13, 00:25:19;19, But if you could see what they did with the community gardens, they spent just as much money.
00:25:21;22, 00:25:28;05, So you have to wonder, is it really about the bicycling, or is it about community versus corporate behavior?
00:25:28;07, 00:25:35;00, This amount of policing has really translated into a loss of democracy for people.
00:25:35;05, 00:25:42;00, It is dangerous and illegal to ride a bicycle in a procession on the public streets within New York City.
00:25:42;02, 00:25:48;02, The police department has always sent a certain amount of police officers on bikes or scooters.
00:25:48;03, 00:25:54;08, You know they go up along the side and cork and facilitate the ride as it goes.
00:25:54;09, 00:26:00;11, And it seems to me that doesn't cost nearly as much money as the way they are cracking down now
00:26:00;12, 00:26:05;08, and it kept everyone safe for years so why can't it continue to keep them safe.
00:26:05;09, 00:26:10;05, You never kind of want to believe that that much money and governmental
00:26:10;06, 00:26:14;21, power could be wielded because essentially someone has a grudge.
00:26:14;22, 00:26:22;00, But that is really what it starts to feel like when this goes on for months and months completely unchecked.

// Upper left: VOICE OF NYPD OFFICER
// 00:26:22;02, 00:26:24;04, You want to talk about a waste of tax dollars
// 00:26:24;11, 00:26:28;02, This is a waste of tax dollars. We have to be here because of this.
00:26:28;08, 00:26:34;13, Originally I decided to take this to trial because it seemed like there were unfair
00:26:34;14, 00:26:37;22, politically motivated, preemptive mass arrests

00:26:37;23, 00:26:43;02, but that almost seems like nothing compared to what is going on now.

00:26:43;16, 00:26:46;29, There was a man who was walking down the street with his bicycle,

00:26:47;00, 00:26:50;02, who went up to see what happened and talk to the police officers

00:26:50;03, 00:26:52;20, and it wound up that he was then arrested.

00:26:52;21, 00:26:59;03, I was just dashing out to half-priced sushi and I got to this block and it was full of people

00:26:59;04, 00:27:02;25, and I didn't realize it was the critical mass bike ride but I had my bike with me

00:27:02;26, 00:27:07;28, because I was riding my bike to get sushi and the police basically blocked us in.

00:27:07;29, 00:27:12;29, I walked up to the police man and said where can I get out of here and he pointed me down south

00:27:13;00, 00:27:15;18, and I got down there and there was no way to get out.

00:27:15;19, 00:27:20;13, They jumped on me and arrested me like three or four of them grabbed my hands behind my back,

00:27:20;14, 00:27:24;06, pushed my head down. Very violent, which was totally unnecessary.

00:27:24;07, 00:27:29;07, My case was dismissed and it was dismissed because the real police videotape turned up.

00:27:29;08, 00:27:31;16, And it turned up in conjunction with another case.

00:27:31;17, 00:27:35;05, The police handed it over to a different attorney and

00:27:35;07, 00:27:36;21, that attorney gave it to Eileen Clancy

00:27:36;22, 00:27:39;00, and Eileen Clancy gave it to my attorney.

00:27:39;02, 00:27:42;12, We were very confused at what we were looking and we couldn't figure out

00:27:42;13, 00:27:46;04, why my tape had some things that his tape didn't have

00:27:46;05, 00:27:49;02, until we finally put them on monitors side by side.

00:27:49;05, 00:27:55;11, And we were stunned when we saw that there was a cut in the tape.

00:27:55;12, 00:27:58;12, The parts that had showed that I was innocent had been cut out of it.

00:27:58;13, 00:28:02;00, and the police said that it was an accident that it was edited.

00:28:02;02, 00:28:07;10, But how do you edit a tape by accident and why are you editing arrest evidence to begin with?

00:28:07;11, 00:28:11;11, We are suing which to me is not enough

00:28:11;12, 00:28:16;11, because it doesn't bring any personal culpability for the people who edited the tape.

00:28:16;12, 00:28:19;19, Or who ever directed the technicians to edit the tape.

00:28:19;20, 00:28:25;22, Or whatever the policy was to arrest people that night and then throw innocent people in jail.

00:28:25;23, 00:28:31;02, Put false charges on people and then try to convict people of crimes that they didn't commit.

00:28:31;03, 00:28:33;22, Who ever directed that there is no culpability.

00:28:33;23, 00:28:38;00, That general tactic or strategy of

00:28:38;18, 00:28:43;00, clearing the streets at all costs really saw its full culmination during the RNC

00:28:43;02, 00:28:47;08, where you have doctored video tape, police lying on the stand,

00:28:47;09, 00:28:51;22, and essentially making up arrest situations that weren't really truthful at all.

00:28:51;23, 00:28:56;19, And that strategy has really continued with the criminalization of the mass since then.

00:28:56;20, 00:29:02;27, To top it all off, now they are suing Times Up with this lawsuit to additionally try to
00:29:02;28, 00:29:10;10, sort of punish us for the way that we have stuck our head up and our necks out in this situation.
00:29:10;11, 00:29:12;29, The city of New York is suing four environmentalists
00:29:13;00, 00:29:15;06, and an environmental group that I volunteer with called Times Up.
00:29:15;07, 00:29:20;05, And in this lawsuit, it is rehashing what is in the federal lawsuit of last year
00:29:20;06, 00:29:25;12, saying that it is unlawful to ride in a procession unless you get a permit from the police.
00:29:25;13, 00:29:28;04, Then they added a new twist to it saying
00:29:28;05, 00:29:33;18, that they are seeking an injunctive relief to prevent riders or
00:29:33;19, 00:29:37;16, Times Up, or the four individual members of Times Up
00:29:37;17, 00:29:41;08, from advertising and promoting the starting point of the rides in a park.
00:29:41;09, 00:29:44;20, The city is not only trying to squelch dissent,
00:29:44;21, 00:29:49;02, they are trying to squelch the opportunity for dissent.
00:29:49;03, 00:29:53;22, At this point critical mass is advertised on
00:29:53;23, 00:29:57;18, a variety of different websites, a variety of different publications
00:29:57;19, 00:30:03;13, and this sort of singling out of Times Up in the lawsuit to a certain extent is arbitrary.
00:30:03;14, 00:30:08;12, And also very much a part of the police needing to pin blame
00:30:08;13, 00:30:11;09, for critical mass on a specific group or person.
00:30:11;10, 00:30:16;26, The fact that it is leaderless has totally complicated the crackdown for them.
00:30:16;27, 00:30:20;03, It has been ten months already since the arrest
00:30:20;04, 00:30:24;04, and there have been 14 court appearances all together
00:30:24;05, 00:30:28;11, including the trial which lasted for seven days.
00:30:28;12, 00:30:36;08, In the end I was found not guilty of the obstructing vehicular traffic charge,
00:30:36;09, 00:30:41;09, but on the charge of parading without a permit I was found guilty.

// VOICE OF NYPD OFFICER
// 00:30:41:11, 00:30:44:08, This is not going to change anything.
// 00:30:45:02, 00:30:47:19, It's not going to change people driving cars in New York City. It's not going to happen.
00:30:47;23, 00:30:52;04, Get the fuck out of the road you fucking beatniks.
00:30:52;06, 00:30:53;21, Take a shower!
00:30:53;22, 00:30:57;21, All these people doing something so beautiful when
00:30:57;22, 00:31:03;26, so many people prefer to transport themselves in such a toxic manner.
00:31:03;27, 00:31:06;18, Cars are such a big item everybody is trying to get a new SUV
00:31:06;19, 00:31:09;02, every year as some kind of status symbol.
00:31:09;03, 00:31:12;14, So it is very difficult people see a bicyclist as a poor person
00:31:12;15, 00:31:16;29, or just not a good sign for a progressive city.

// MUSIC

00:31:17;00, 00:31:21;11, People here are in a system that brainwashes you from an early age
00:31:21;12, 00:31:25;23, that you have to consume and that you have to drive a car
00:31:25;24, 00:31:29;23, and that you have to have an 80 thousand dollar vehicle that you don't need.
00:31:29;24, 00:31:32;06, Owning and operating a motor vehicle in New York City costs
00:31:32;07, 00:31:34;20, ten thousand dollars a year at least.
00:31:34;21, 00:31:38;00, Insurance, parking, gas everything is going up.
00:31:38;02, 00:31:41;11, And I think that is one reason why we have seen an increase in cycling
00:31:41;12, 00:31:45;19, and actually a decrease in vehicle ownership in New York City.

// MUSIC

00:31:49;07, 00:31:53;02, More and more people are biking, more different types of people are biking
00:31:53;03, 00:31:55;03, and I think the city is getting it.
00:31:55;04, 00:31:58;27, They are getting the message; they are not getting the message delivered the way they want it to be delivered.
00:31:58;28, 00:32:00;25, And the message is out there.
00:32:00;26, 00:32:03;02, And the message is that biking is good for the city,
00:32:03;03, 00:32:07;05, biking doesn't pollute and it is a great way to stay healthy.

// MUSIC

00:32:18;16, 00:32:22;10, The critical mass people
00:32:22;11, 00:32:28;13, have been very effective at breaking through the straightjacket of fear
00:32:28;14, 00:32:32;17, that people are living under these days for a whole host of reasons,
00:32:32;18, 00:32:39;28, but most specifically the likelihood of being brutalized by police.
00:32:39;29, 00:32:44;02, From the police perspective they desperately want to stop the mass
00:32:44;03, 00:32:45;18, and they haven't been able to.
00:32:45;19, 00:32:50;10, Right when they started to finally figure out how to stop the mass from leaving union square,
00:32:50;11, 00:32:54;27, now it is meeting in four other locations, which adds to this huge level of complexity
00:32:54;28, 00:32:57;05, in terms of what it takes for them to stop it.
00:32:57;06, 00:33:01;15, I think frustrates them. Which is in my opinion why Smolka
00:33:01;16, 00:33:08;26, arrested this woman and was caught very well by an Indymedia photographer.
00:33:12;18, 00:33:16;08, A young lady was moving down the road here on her bike she wasn't completely riding it.
00:33:16;09, 00:33:21;02, She was pushing it along but it was under her legs and the chief of police, Chief Smolka right there
00:33:21;03, 00:33:23;07, grabbed her and tried to rip her off the bike.
00:33:23;08, 00:33:24;28, The mood has changed because
00:33:24;29, 00:33:28;12, people do not want to get locked up, and who can blame them.
00:33:33;14, 00:33:37;09, The mayor and the police commissioners seem to think

00:33:37;10, 00:33:41;09, that they can control everything we do on the streets of New York.

// MUSIC

00:33:44;29, 00:33:49;26, Let her go! Let Her go!

00:34:01;17, 00:34:06;08, This is the 12th anniversary of New York's Critical Mass

00:34:06;09, 00:34:10;23, and I think New York was the third critical mass to be created,

00:34:10;24, 00:34:13;16, and it's not going to end now. It is going to keep going.

00:34:13;17, 00:34:15;22, Let her go!

00:34:15;23, 00:34:18;22, The minute that you stop participating in an event that you believe in.

00:34:18;23, 00:34:23;04, The minute that you are altering behavior is the minute that you have lost your 1st Amendment rights.

00:34:24;07, 00:34:25;23, Fascists!

00:34:27;09, 00:34:34;00, The mayor and the cops are using Critical Mass as a test case I believe against all protests.

00:34:34;08, 00:34:38;14, Critical Mass bike riders are not criminals by any stretch of the imagination

00:34:38;15, 00:34:43;11, and it is all out of whack. Something has run a muck here,

00:34:43;12, 00:34:48;26, and we have got to get it back to where it was before the Republicans came in August of 04.

00:34:48;29, 00:34:53;26, I think critical mass needs to go beyond itself not as a bicycle experience but as a social experience.

00:34:53;27, 00:35:00;10, There needs to be more going on that partakes in the logic of social spaces that escape the market,

00:35:00;11, 00:35:08;20, escape the pervasive domination of pecuniary calculation and monetary remuneration.

// (MUSIC)

// Directed by:

00:35:23;07, 00:35:25;04, I am in the back of the paddy wagon.

00:35:25;05, 00:35:28;22, At least we are not wasting gas. We're carpooling.

00:35:28;23, 00:35:32;04, If I wanted to ride in a truck I would have fucking bought one!

00:35:32;10, 00:35:34;17, I have a case pending.

00:35:34;20, 00:35:36;20, Did you take an ACD?

00:35:36;21, 00:35:39;26, No, I am pleading not guilty all the way

00:35:39;27, 00:35:44;12, because I don't think that I should be charged with a crime for riding my bike.

00:35:44;16, 00:35:52;21, And another thing, just because I got arrested a second time isn't going to stop me from riding my bike in next month's critical mass bike ride.

// STILL WE RIDE (Title)

// Credits 37:20