



Critical Acclaim For
“IF A TREE FALLS: A STORY OF THE EARTH LIBERATION FRONT”

By Marshall Curry

“The film’s sobriety and carefully balanced arguments make it an exemplary piece.”
— **Stephen Holden, *The New York Times***

“Engrossing.”
— **Nancy deWolf Smith, *The Wall Street Journal***

“A well-rounded approach to the story of both McGowan and the history of the ELF. . . . Curry tells a compelling tale about the differences of opinion over what constitutes desperate measures, and how readily we throw around a term like terrorism.”
— **Stephanie Merry, *The Washington Post***

“Provides a concise, temperate but penetrating history of how the ELF came to be. . . . the footage Curry collects has to be seen to be believed. . . . Curry lays out the strategies of the ELF with precision and clarity, abetted by handsome animation and terrific ancillary players.”
— **John Anderson, *Variety***

“The film sweeps us up like a thriller.”
Owen Gleiberman, *Entertainment Weekly*

“A sterling example of journalistic documentary, clearer, fairer and more engrossing than any of the sensationalistic newspaper or magazine stories about ELF.”
— **Andrew O’Hehir, *Salon.com***

“Fascinating.”
— **Martin Bashir, *MSNBC***

“Gripping The filmmakers . . . rightly examine both sides of the debate.”
— **Gary Goldstein, *Los Angeles Times***

“A clear-eyed, even-handed and honest film. . . . *If a Tree Falls* never loses sight of the human beings at the heart of the conflict — no matter what side of the conflict they’re on.”
— **Shawn Levy, *The Oregonian***

“Compelling, adroitly edited portrait of the radical group. Critics’ Pick.”
— ***New York Magazine***

“A truly fascinating documentary that unravels the complex morality of taking on a cause . . . the perfect starting point for what we can only hope is a continuing discussion of how to care for the planet.”
— **Katherine Monk, *Vancouver Sun***

“A powerful and mesmerizing documentary.”
— **David Seideman, *Audubon Magazine***

“A compelling doc about radical environmentalism.”

— **Justin Lowe, *The Hollywood Reporter***

“The triumph of Curry's film is the way it picks apart every presupposition we have about tree huggers, firestarters, riot police, prosecutors, snitches and timbermen. Watching it may not change anyone's ideology, but it will force you to see the players as complex people with understandable motivations.”

— **Colin Covert, *Minneapolis Star Tribune***

“An informative, if troubling, narrative about the future of the environmental movement.”

— **Bruce Diones, *The New Yorker***

“A true life outlaw tale, as stirring as it is tragic, the story of the Earth Liberation Front offers a DeLillo-flavored draught of high-proof righteous excitement.”

— **Michael Atkinson, *The Village Voice***

“Thought-provoking. . . . An intelligent look at civil disobedience and the official criminalization of enviros who take peaceful demonstrations one step further.”

— **Kelly Vance, *East Bay Express***

“An intriguing and important film.”

— **Stewart Nusbaumer, *Filmmaker Magazine***

“[The] filmmakers raise questions and stir public debate about the definition of terrorism, especially in the post 9/11 security environment. . . . very compelling. 5 Stars.”

— **Jennifer Merin, *About.com***

“A remarkable and moving film. . . . The environmental documentary genre can be ripe for groupthink and complacency, and occasionally I find myself refreshed to see a doc that forces viewers to challenge their own preconceptions and opinions. *If a Tree Falls* . . . is one such film.”

— **Keith Goetzman, *Utne Reader***

“A great film for anyone who likes to think about some of the most important, difficult issues of our time.”

— **Rick Marianetti, *Examiner.com***

“Fascinating The story of how a muscular anti-logging campaign devolved into sectarian turmoil that shot off radicalized cells like burning cinders is ultimately what drives the film and makes it so rewarding.”

— **Chris Barsanti, *FilmCritic.com***

“Its focus is narrow, but sharp.”

— **Sam Adams, *Time Out New York***

“Marshall Curry [had] extraordinary access. . . . *As If a Tree Falls* reveals, all of the activists have multiple and complicated reasons for what they do.”

— **Cynthia Fuchs, *PopMatters.com***

“By turns elegiac, tender, funny and horrifying.”

— **Matt Zoller Seitz, *Salon.com***