



# “BIO THIEVES”

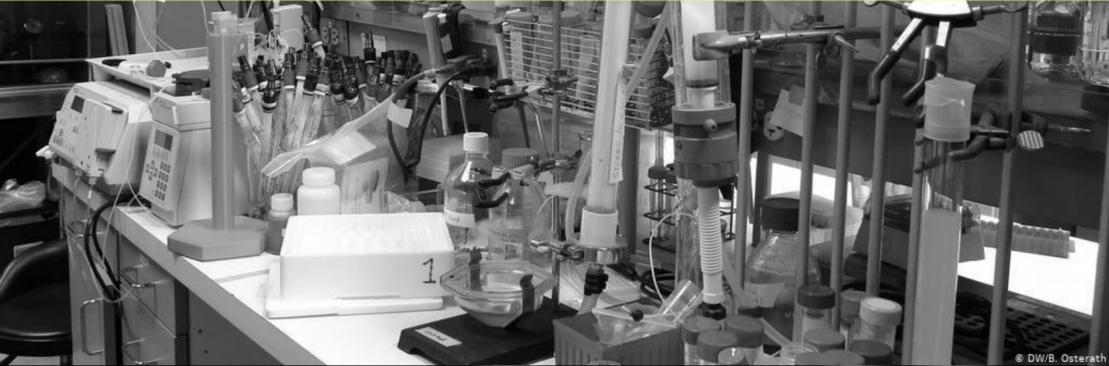
*“BIG PHARMA... YOUR MONEY OR YOUR LIFE”*

TREATMENT BY: NICKOLAS GILBERT

## THE CONTEXT.

Bio Thieves is a cinematic investigation into the polarizing ethics of large pharmaceutical companies or “Big Pharma”, and how many of these companies have price gouged lifesaving medications to the point where they are inaccessible to some patients that need them in order to stay alive. Bio Thieves will contrast the perspectives of Big Pharma with organizations like the Four Thieves Vinegar Collective, a bio-hacking team of modern-day pirates who are empowering dying patients to take healthcare into their own hands by providing them with plans to make their own DIY pharmaceuticals, even if it means infringing on Big Pharma’s intellectual property. At its core, Bio Thieves asks if it is ethically permissible to encroach on intellectual property and break the law, in order to save life.

# MOOD BOARD.





## THE STORY.

If you have the capacity to save a life do you also have an obligation to do so? While most physicians who take the Hippocratic Oath tend to think so, business man Martin Shkreli, AKA “Pharma Bro,” does not. Overnight Shkreli raised the price of Daraprim, a life saving HIV medication, from \$13 to \$750, making it inaccessible to many of those who depend on it to stay alive and earning him the moniker of “the most hated man in America.” While many politicians lobbied to enact legislation that would level the price of life saving pharmaceuticals, to date no laws have been enacted and companies are free to set prices that the market will bear. With major hospital conglomerates, Big Pharma, government agencies and massive insurance companies involved, the answer is not as simple as you might think.



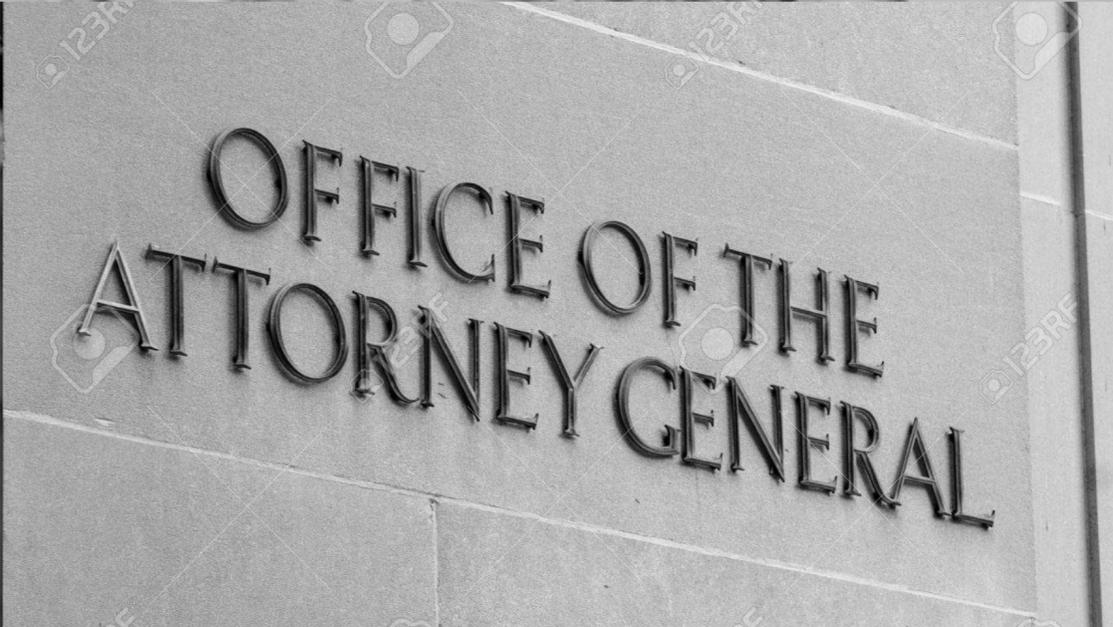
# CITIZENS FOR SCIENCE SCIENCE FOR CITIZENS

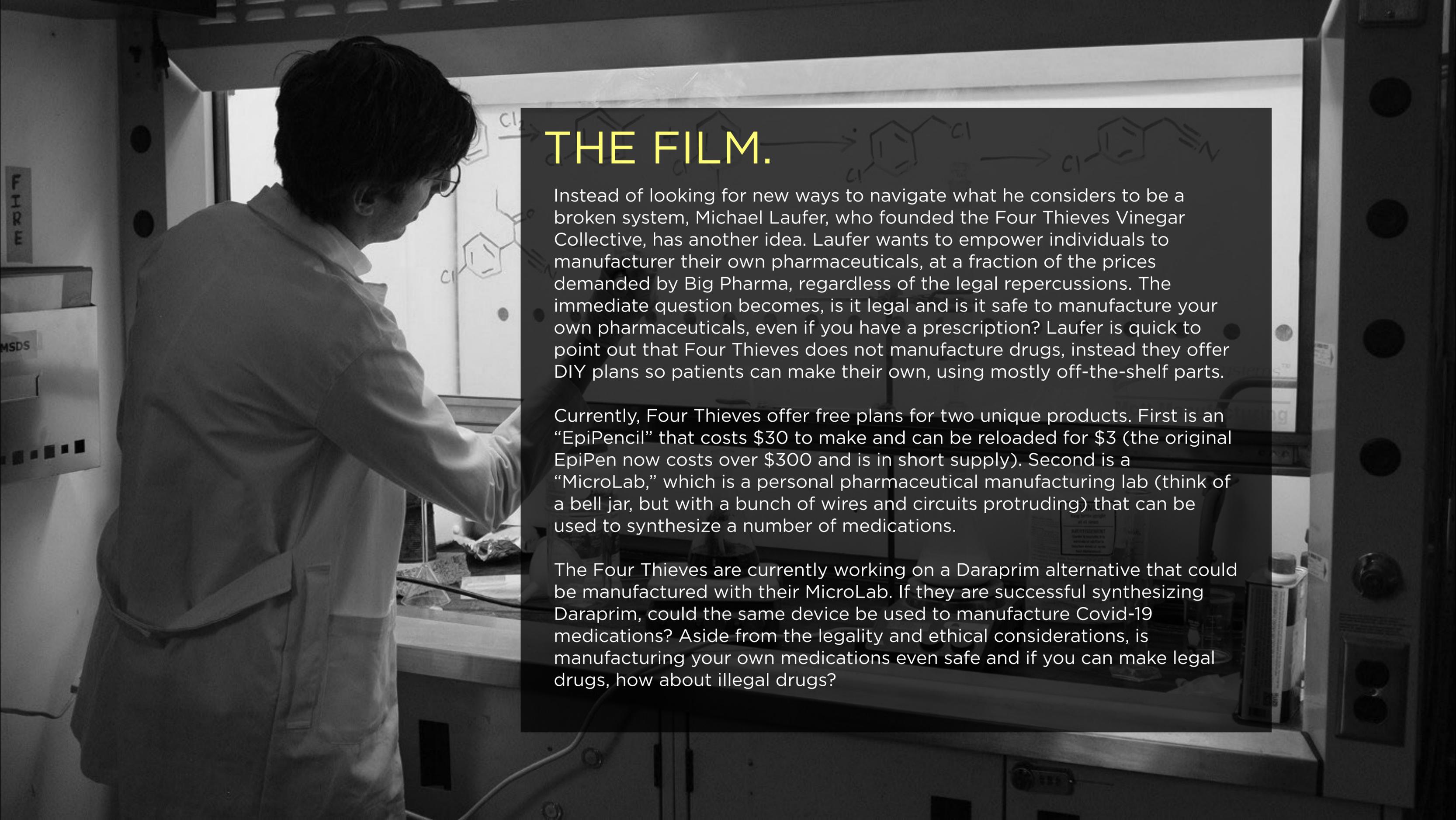
Counter Culture Labs Your home for Citizen Science [www.counterculturelabs.org](http://www.counterculturelabs.org)

## THE SETTING.

Bio Thieves will contrast the biohacking, mad scientist, DIY buccaneering environments of those making their own pharmaceuticals with the streamlined biolabs of Big Pharma and the businesses and government agencies that support them.

THE SETTING.





## THE FILM.

Instead of looking for new ways to navigate what he considers to be a broken system, Michael Laufer, who founded the Four Thieves Vinegar Collective, has another idea. Laufer wants to empower individuals to manufacture their own pharmaceuticals, at a fraction of the prices demanded by Big Pharma, regardless of the legal repercussions. The immediate question becomes, is it legal and is it safe to manufacture your own pharmaceuticals, even if you have a prescription? Laufer is quick to point out that Four Thieves does not manufacture drugs, instead they offer DIY plans so patients can make their own, using mostly off-the-shelf parts.

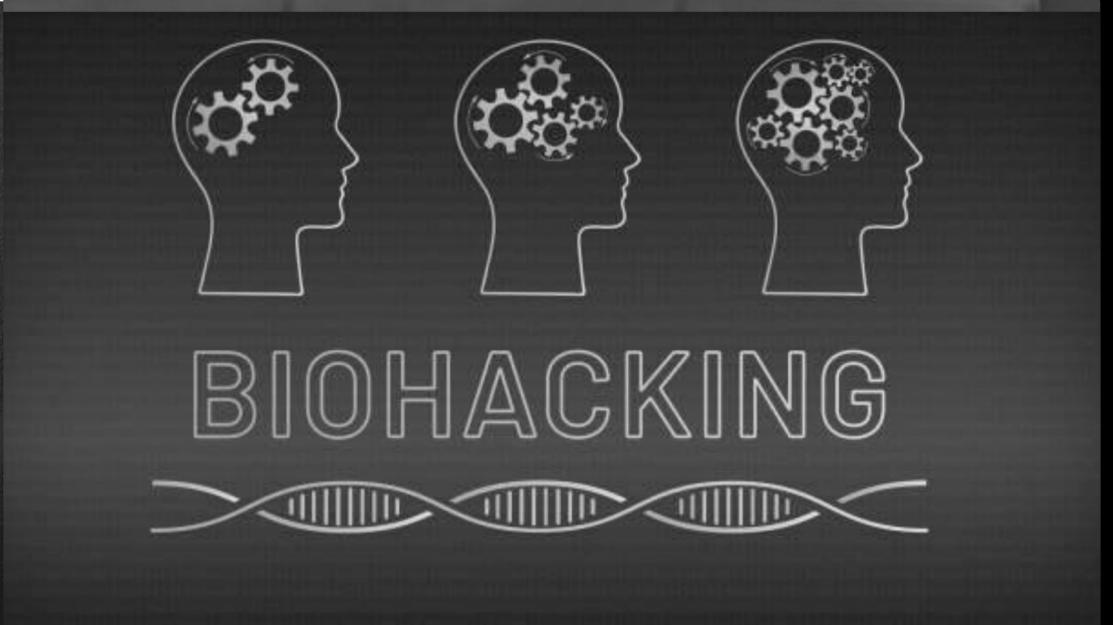
Currently, Four Thieves offer free plans for two unique products. First is an “EpiPencil” that costs \$30 to make and can be reloaded for \$3 (the original EpiPen now costs over \$300 and is in short supply). Second is a “MicroLab,” which is a personal pharmaceutical manufacturing lab (think of a bell jar, but with a bunch of wires and circuits protruding) that can be used to synthesize a number of medications.

The Four Thieves are currently working on a Daraprim alternative that could be manufactured with their MicroLab. If they are successful synthesizing Daraprim, could the same device be used to manufacture Covid-19 medications? Aside from the legality and ethical considerations, is manufacturing your own medications even safe and if you can make legal drugs, how about illegal drugs?



## THE MOOD & TONE.

Tonally, Bio Thieves will embrace a rapid-fire point/counterpoint in the visual style of Frontline or Take Your Pills, while also embracing the stylized investigative techniques employed by Errol Morris in The Thin Blue Line. Bio Thieves will feature original interviews and b-roll, artfully cut with archival footage and Stylized motion graphics.





## THE CHARACTERS (MAY INCLUDE).

The interviews in Bio Thieves will be conducted by a celebrity biohacker such as Tim Ferriss. We will interview members of the Four Thieves Vinegar Collective to get their thoughts on DIY bio-hacking, safety and the permissibility of theft to save lives. We will also speak with patients that cannot afford the medication needed to save their own lives. We will talk with representatives from Big Pharma to learn about what goes into the development of lifesaving drugs, what the actual costs are and their thoughts on the bio-hacking movement. We will speak the FDA and DEA to get their perspective on the safety of DIY bio-hacking and the long and costly process that pharmaceuticals must go through in order to get approved in the United States. We will talk to qualified doctors and chemists to gain a scientific perspective into the viability of producing DIY lifesaving pharmaceuticals in devices like the Micro-Lab from the Four Thieves Vinegar Collective. We will speak with lawyers, politicians and lobbyists to gain insight into the murky legal realm of DIY pharmaceuticals. We will speak with prominent figures in the bio-hacking movement to get their perspectives on where the bio-hacking movement is and where it could go. We will discuss the viability of patients manufacturing patented covid-19 medication in their own MicroLabs.

# TIM FERRISS.

*Tim Ferris is a well-known American biohacker, author and entrepreneur who has written several books and guides for self-improvement including the 4-hour workweek and tools of titans. As both an entrepreneur and biohacker ,ferris is ideally suited to bridge both side of the bio thieves argument.*



# MICHAEL LAUFER.

*Instead of looking for new ways to navigate what he considers to be a broken system, Michael Laufer, who founded the Four Thieves Vinegar Collective, has another idea. Laufer wants to empower individuals to manufacturer their own pharmaceuticals, at a fraction of the prices demanded by Big Pharma, regardless of the ethical repercussions.*

# MARTIN SHKRELI.

*"Pharma Bro" Shkreli raised the price of Daraprim, a life saving HIV medication, from \$13 to \$750, making it inaccessible to many of those who depend on it to stay alive and earned him the moniker of "the most hated man in America." He is currently serving a seven year sentence for insider trading.*





# JOSIAH ZAYNER.

*Josiah Zayner is a Biohacker famous for performing medical procedures on himself, including injecting his arm with crispR. He often challenges the FDA for blocking innovation. He is currently under investigation for practicing medicine without a license.*

# WILLIAM BARR.

*William Barr is the current Attorney General of the United States. He represents the case for intellectual property owned by big Pharma and against DIY pharmaceuticals.*



# DR. STEPHEN HAHN.

*Dr. Stephen Hahn is the current FDA Commissioner. Argues against the safety of DIY pharmaceuticals and the ethical obligation to save life if you have the ability to do so.*

# DAVE ASPREY.

*Dave Asprey is an American entrepreneur, biohacker and author. He founded Bulletproof 360, Inc. in 2013, and in 2017, founded Bulletproof Nutrition Inc. He has written five books. Men's Health described Asprey as a "lifestyle guru."*



# AARON TRAYWICK.

*Aaron Traywick, a self-proclaimed bio-hacker who founded Ascendance Biomedical in 2017, was found dead in a sensory deprivation tank after posting a video that claimed he would be announcing a "disruptive technology that would upend Big Pharma."*

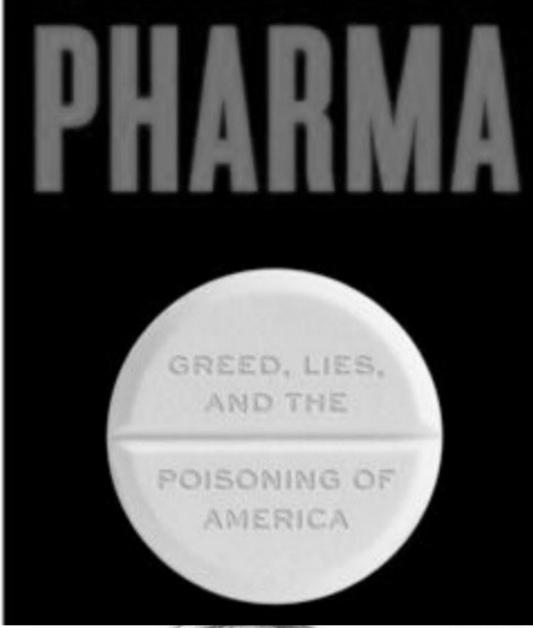
# DR. ALBERT BOURLA.

*Dr. Albert Bourla is CEO of Pfizer, one of the largest international pharmaceutical manufacturers in the world. He made 18 million in his first year as CEO.*



# GERALD POSNER.

The author of thirteen acclaimed books, including New York Times nonfiction bestsellers *Case Closed*, *Why America Slept* and *God's Bankers*. Posner was a finalist for the Pulitzer in History. "A merciless pit bull of an investigator" concluded the *Chicago Tribune*. The *New York Times* said his latest book (2020), *PHARMA*, was "a withering and encyclopedic indictment of a drug industry that often seems to prioritize profits over patients...[it] reads like a pharmaceutical version of cops and robbers."



**The politics of gene editing**  
How to handle a post-CRISPR world  
featuring  
**Alex Pearlman**  
Science Journalist, Kings College London  
recorded at  
**Transpolitica 2016**  
Sat 3rd Dec  
transpolitica.org  
Meeting chaired by David Wood  
Camera operated by Kiran Manam  
A meeting of London Futurists, londonfuturists.com

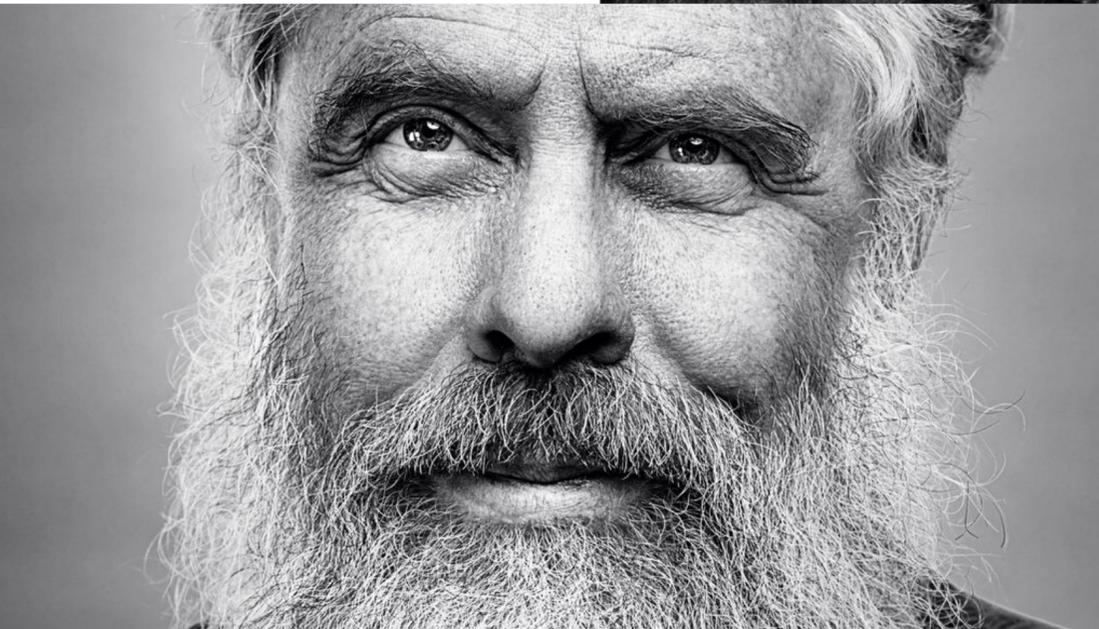


# ALEX PEARLMAN.

Alex Pearlman is a unique policy nerd/digital journalist/product manager with experience researching humanity's next big thing: biological inequality. Her reporting has been focused on stories related to novel advances in science and technology, where innovation intersects with human rights, policy, and ethics. She is a leading voice on ethical issues within the biohacker/DIYbio/Community Bio movements and her current research, in affiliation with the MIT Media Lab, focuses on the creation of a novel ethical framework for use by independent community labs, pressing bioethical issues, such as human enhancement, genome editing, access to health care, and do-it-yourself medicine.

# GEORGE MCDONALD CHURCH.

George McDonald Church (born 28 August 1954) is an American geneticist, molecular engineer, and chemist. He is the Robert Winthrop Professor of Genetics at Harvard Medical School, Professor of Health Sciences and Technology at Harvard and MIT, and a founding member of the Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering.[3][2][7] As of March 2017, Church serves as a member of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists' Board of Sponsors.[



# THE FILMMAKERS.

## PRODUCTION COMPANY

*Distortion Field is a Los Angeles development and production company founded by Nicholas Gilbert in 2013. It has produced the festival hits Nailed, Through the Smokescreen, The Shooting Gallery and many others. Distortion Field Theory suggests that one can amplify their ability to influence others to believe almost anything is possible through a potent cocktail of allure, magnetism, pacification, charisma, pizzazz, embellishment, persistence, marketing and persistence.*

## PRODUCERS

*Producing with Nicholas Gilbert is Christian. Going up a Hoosier, Christian moved to San Diego to attend college. He started his career in politics as a fellow on Capitol Hill and worked as a legislative analyst in multiple Congressional Offices. He returned to California to receive his Master of Public Policy Degree from Pepperdine University. As the Managing Partner of Ascendance Strategies, he worked as Geo-Political Analysts and political strategist, consulting on nearly two-dozen campaigns. For the last five years, he has worked as a commercial producer and independent filmmaker.*

## DIRECTOR

*Nicholas Gilbert is a Writer/Director/Producer based in Los Angeles, California. He has worked in the film business for over twenty years in both the camera and art departments, as well as writing, producing and directing his own projects. He holds an MFA in screenwriting from Maine Media College and is a member of the International Cinematographer's Guild and the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.*

## EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

TBD



THANK YOU.

CONTACT:

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