

# MEDIA RELEASE

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# IT'S PEOPLE LIKE US

A DOCUMENTARY  
ABOUT US AND  
OUR PHONES

## NEW DOCUMENTARY SHINES LIGHT ON HOW SMARTPHONES ARE RULING OUR LIVES

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*A documentary about us and our phones. Directed by Eva Orner. Conceived by Taboo.  
Produced by Positive Ape. Supported by the Transport Accident Commission.*

Academy Award Winner, Eva Orner, returns to her hometown of Melbourne set to expose the increasing dependence Australians have on smartphones, with the launch of a new documentary, It's People Like Us premiering in Melbourne on 21 September.

It's People Like Us follows five young Australians who have found themselves drawn to their screens, sometimes at the expense of common sense and self-preservation.

Director of It's People Like Us, Eva Orner says "With the average person checking their phone 150 times a day, and 2017 marking 10 years since the first iPhone, phone attachment has become engrained in our everyday lives, and everyone is doing it. We haven't established boundaries on when and where it is okay to use our phones, resulting in a profound impact on our behaviour, our relationships as well as our personal health and safety."

"It's People Like Us aims to get each and every one of us to think about how we use our phones in everyday life, question how they have become an extension of ourselves and most importantly inspire change and self-regulation," she added.

Eva Orner has had a remarkable career bringing cultural and political issues into the public consciousness, via her documentaries. Her previous projects have seen her filming within the walls of Guantanamo Bay (Taxi to the Dark Side, 2008 Oscar Winner and 2009 Emmy Winner) and Nauru and Manus Island (Chasing Asylum, 2016 AACTA Award Winner). These acclaimed projects have both stimulated debate and inspired attitudinal, social and political change on these subjects.

Through the voices of five Australians from Victoria, It's People Like Us tells the story of dependence on phones and brings to the fore the impact of mobile phones in all aspects of our lives. The film aims to start a community conversation about an issue that is now everyone's problem – it's people like us who are using phones in inappropriate places and it's people like us who must collectively decide that it's not okay.

It's People Like Us will be released online on at 7pm Thursday 21 September via [itspeoplelikeus.com.au](http://itspeoplelikeus.com.au). For more information visit [itspeoplelikeus.com.au](http://itspeoplelikeus.com.au).

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### NOTES TO THE EDITOR:

The Transport Accident Commission has supported Eva Orner to return to her hometown of Melbourne to examine the issue of phones in society and the dangerous impact they're having on our roads. The TAC supported Eva to explore this topic and has provided funding for the production of the documentary. From the outset of the project, TAC have taken a backseat in terms of the narrative and execution of documentary.

### HANDLES:

- [itspeoplelikeus.com.au](http://itspeoplelikeus.com.au)
- [Facebook.com/itspeoplelikeus](https://www.facebook.com/itspeoplelikeus)
- [#itspeoplelikeus](https://twitter.com/itspeoplelikeus)

Eva Orner is currently in Australia and is available for an interview on Wednesday 16 and Friday 18 August.  
To arrange an interview with Eva and to be added to the media list for more information on the launch, please contact:

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