

SHIFT CHANGE

A NEW FILM BY
MARK DWORKIN
& MELISSA YOUNG

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SHIFT CHANGE PREMIERES APRIL 6 ON KCTS 9

New documentary highlights employee-owned businesses
that compete successfully in today's economy

SEATTLE— **SHIFT CHANGE**, the inspiring documentary film produced by Northwest filmmakers Mark Dworkin and Melissa Young, premieres on KCTS 9 on **April 6 at 5:00 pm.**

At a time when many are disillusioned with big banks, big business, and growing inequality in the United States, employee ownership offers one of the solutions for workers and communities. **SHIFT CHANGE** visits thriving cooperative businesses in the U.S. and Spain, sharing on-the-ground experiences from the worker-owners on the front lines of the new economy.

Filmmakers Dworkin and Young gained unprecedented access to the world's oldest and largest network of worker cooperatives in Mondragon, in the Basque Country of Spain, where 60% of local residents are employee-owners. With high job security and competitive salaries, the Basque Country boasts half the unemployment rate of the rest of Spain, and the Mondragon Corporation is the country's 10th largest. **SHIFT CHANGE** explores the qualities that have helped to drive Mondragon's business success while also perpetuating the democratic, socially responsible, community-oriented principles upon which it was founded.

Here in the U.S., where a long decline in manufacturing and an economic crisis have led to millions of Americans being thrown out of work, some are looking to Mondragon as a model. Worker-owned businesses are on the rise, with hundreds of coops in the U.S. today, representing thousands of individuals. **SHIFT CHANGE** highlights vibrant worker-owned companies across the nation, from bakeries to solar energy to engineering firms.

One local example appearing in the film is the Equal Exchange Espresso Bar at the Ballard Market. Equal Exchange, a Massachusetts-based worker-owned cooperative, imports and distributes fair trade coffee, chocolate, tea and other products produced by small farm cooperatives.

Through in-depth interviews with worker-owners, attendance at coop meetings, and visits to the factory floor, the film conveys the promise that these businesses offer to reinvent our failing economy, provide a pathway to long term stability, and nurture a more egalitarian way of life.

SHIFT CHANGE was first released during the U.N.-declared *International Year of Cooperatives* (2012). It has screened in hundreds of U.S. and Canadian festivals, theaters, universities and community settings to enthusiastic audiences. It has also screened in Spain, Austria, Australia, and Taiwan.

Click [here](#) for the online *Shift Change* trailer. For a press preview or to arrange an interview with *Shift Change* filmmakers Mark Dworkin and Melissa Young or with Equal Exchange Espresso Bar

manager Alison Booth Gribas, contact [Hilda Cullen](#). For the latest information about *Shift Change*, follow the film on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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Mallory White of Equal Exchange checks coffee roast. (Mark Dworkin photo)

About KCTS 9

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