

OFFICIAL SELECTION
hotdocs
2022 OUTSPOKEN. OUTSTANDING.



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF *IT'S NOT YET DARK*

ATOMIC HOPE

INSIDE THE PRO-NUCLEAR MOVEMENT

A FILM BY FRANKIE FENTON



ATOMIC HOPE

A documentary by **FRANKIE FENTON**
2022 / Ireland / English / Documentary
83 min / HD / 16:9 / Dolby 5.1

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TRAILER LINK <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZKK2wk8uayQ>

PUBLICITY STILL LINK

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/rk08q6tts9i6vhl/AAD5nzjLiUe73o0ag-5-sKs_a?dl=0

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

World Premiere at Hot Docs
2022 May 3rd / May 8th

The Changing Face of Europe Strand



In 28 years we will have ten billion people on this planet. When that happens our current energy usage will either double or triple. 83% of our world energy usage is oil, coal and gas and we're trying to bring that down as far as possible... while also closing nuclear plants early. Those plants are being replaced with coal and gas. It occurred to me that we cannot take any carbon free energy sources off the table because climate change has changed everything, including how we see nuclear power. I thought it was important to point my camera at the people who were saying this, and address our fears around our understanding of a deeply important topic.

FRANKIE FENTON



FRANKIE FENTON

Director / Producer /Cinematographer

Frankie Fenton is an award winning Irish Director/ Producer. He worked primarily in London's post production sector before returning home to Ireland to begin a career in production. He regularly participates in pitching, financing and lecturing in many forums internationally. He is also the company director of Kennedy Films Ltd, alongside producer Kathryn Kennedy.

Recent directing credits include the multi award winning and theatrically released "It's Not Yet Dark", a feature documentary co-produced by Kennedy films. This film explores the work of Irish film director and bestselling author Simon Fitzmaurice who wrote and directed "My Name Is Emily (2016)" under the burden of motor neuron disease. Simon used his eye to communicate through Eye Gaze technology. The film was narrated by Colin Farrell and won the "Best Documentary Feature" and "Best Cinematography" at the 2016 Galway Film Festival. It went on to compete in the World Competition at Sundance Film Festival 2017 and enjoyed a US and European theatrical release before resting on all major VOD platforms including Netflix. The film has since been screened in over 50 countries.

His second feature documentary "Atomic Hope – Inside the Pro-Nuclear Movement" will have its world premiere at Hot Docs Film Festival 2022. It follows over a ten-year period environmental activists and scientists who strongly believe nuclear power is the key to solving both our energy and climate crisis.



KATHRYN KENNEDY FENTON

PRODUCER

Winner of the ADIFF Discovery award and the Bingham Ray New Talent award, Kathryn Kennedy is a creative Irish Producer and Writer, with her company Kennedy Films.

Kathryn Kennedy's first feature as a producer is 8-time IFTA nominated, My Name is Emily (2015), with writer/director Simon Fitzmaurice. The film is a world-first as the Director Simon Fitzmaurice was physically paralysed with Motor Neuron Disease (ALS), he wrote and directed the entire film solely with his eyes and Tobii eye gaze technology.

Kennedy's first feature documentary 'It's Not Yet Dark', directed by Frankie Fenton is based on the best-selling book of the same name written by Simon Fitzmaurice, and is narrated by Colin Farrell. It won Best Documentary and Best Cinematography at the Galway Film Fleadh 2016, and was selected for International Premiere at the Sundance Film Festival 2017. It had a highly successful festival run and successful theatrical, VOD releases in the US and internationally. Kathryn is producing Fenton's next documentary Atomic Hope, a climate-change documentary supported by Screen Ireland which is due for release in 2022.



JOHN MURPHY

EDITOR

John Murphy is a multi award winning Irish editor working across both drama and documentary. His film work has screened at major festivals like Sundance, Berlin, SXSW, HotDocs, Sheffield and beyond. For television, he has cut multiple award winners ranging from profiles of cultural icons in sport and music to history and politics. He edited *The Quiet Girl* with which he won best editing at the Irish Film and Television Awards. The film won the Grand Prix award at the 2022 Berlinale.



NATASA PAULBERG

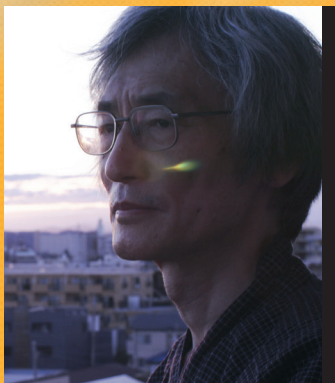
COMPOSER

Natasa Paulberg is an Australian/Irish composer, performer and conductor based in Dublin and Los Angeles, with compositions for the concert hall, television, film, advertising and gaming. Natasa currently lectures in Scoring Music for Games, Film Composer Career & Major Project Development and thesis supervision on the M.F.A. in Music for Motion Pictures and Contemporary Media at the Film Scoring Academy of Europe.

Natasa has worked on Los Angeles projects with composers Garry Schyman (*The Bureau: XCOM Declassified*, *Bioshock Infinite*) and Christopher Young (*Gods Behaving Badly*, *A Madea Christmas*) and with orchestrator Peter Bateman. She has also written music for concert commissions with performances at The National Concert Hall, Samuel Beckett Theater, Cake Contemporary Centre, Centre for Creative Practices and Smock Alley Theatre. Her piece *A Star* was included on UCD Choral Scholars *Perpetual Twilight* CD (2019).

Her works have been performed by Los Angeles studio musicians and at many exhibitions and festivals worldwide including the York New Music Festival (UK), New Music Dublin Festival (IRL) and in Washington DC as part of the Capital Irish Film Festival. Natasa also has an interest in promoting film and game music and conducted and arranged the *Pixels* (2014) audiovisual concert with Téada Orchestra, which presented game music from *Bioshock*, *Final Fantasy* and *Journey*. She also curated and arranged the *Minimal Film* (2016) film music concert, which showcased minimalist inspired film scores from Philip Glass (*The Hours*) and Michael Nyman (*The Piano*), as well as premiered the *Butterfly* film suite, composed by Natasa for the documentary *Butterfly* (2014).

MOTO YASU KINOSHITA
JOHN KUTSCH
ERIC MEYER
MICHAEL SHELLENBERGER
IIDA RUSHALME
PROF. JIM SMITH
PROF. GERALDINE THOMAS
DR. BEN HEARD
MADISON CZERWINSKI



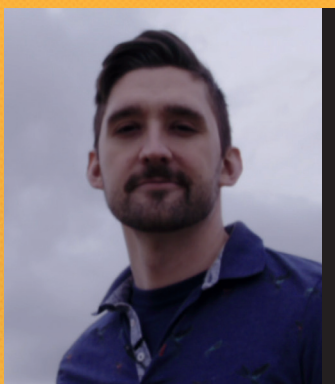
MOTO YASU KINOSHITA

Is a scientist who has dedicated his long career to using nuclear technologies for peaceful means. He has spent most of his life studying nuclear energy. His recent work has been primarily on newer 4th generation nuclear reactor designs largely to do with experimental studies on freeze valve performances on Molten Salt Reactor at The University of Tokyo Japan. He has more than 100 papers in refereed scientific literature.



JOHN KUTSCH

In 2006 after spending several years researching thorium applications and reactors for an industrial client he became a founding member of the Thorium Energy Alliance, a 501(c)3 organization. Within four years of the Thorium Energy Alliance founding, eight conferences with international participation had been organized. He has provided expert testimony and commentary in support of uranium 233 preservation, Rare Earth Refining and Thorium Energy Research to the Blue Ribbon Commission on the Future of Nuclear Energy and he has made scores of trips to Federal and State Legislatures promoting changes in federal policy regarding uses and storage of thorium and rare earth elements.



ERIC MEYER

Eric is the Founder and Executive Director of Generation Atomic. He started out pursuing a career in professional singing, but after hearing about the promise of advanced nuclear reactors, he decided to devote his life to saving and expanding the use of atomic energy. He worked as an organizer on several political, union, and issue campaigns while in graduate school for applied public policy, taking time off to attend the climate talks in Paris and sing operas about nuclear power. He has organized marches, rallies, and advocacy training across North America and Europe and been a featured speaker at several conferences hosted by organizations such as EarthX, American Nuclear Society, Energy Disruptors, and the International Atomic Energy Agency.



MICHAEL SCHELLENBERGER

Michael Schellenberger is the best-selling author of San Fransicko (HarperCollins 2021) and Apocalypse Never (Harper Collins 2020), a Time Magazine “Hero of the Environment,” and Green Book Award Winner. He is Founder and President of Environmental Progress, an independent and nonprofit research organization based in Berkeley, California. He is a candidate in California’s primary elections.



IIDA RUSHALME

A biologist specialising in biomedical research, a science communicator, and a fiction writer. Her pieces have been published at Food and Farm Discussion Lab, Genetic Literacy Project, Biofortified, Mothers for Nuclear, Medium publications The Method and Generation Atomic, as well as the cultural journal The Woolf and the Finnish newspaper Aamulehti.

A Finn by birth she has a Master’s degree from Sweden. Her work experience includes environmental chemistry, diabetes research, pharmaceutical bio-bank labs, and lab robotics. She co-authored four scientific papers in the fields of insulin cell signalling and immunology. Nowadays she lives in Switzerland with her husband and two little children.



PROF. GERALDINE THOMAS

Geraldine Anne Thomas OBE is a senior academic and Chair in Molecular Pathology at the Faculty of Medicine, Department of Surgery & Cancer, Imperial College London. She is an active researcher in fields of tissue banking and molecular pathology of thyroid and breast cancer. Thomas is also a science communicator and has written opinion editorial pieces and provided comment to the media following the Fukushima nuclear disaster. Thomas was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the 2019 Birthday Honours for services to science and public health. She is currently a Professor of

Molecular Pathology at Imperial College and a Director of Chernobyl Tissue Bank. In the past, she has been a Clinical Director of the West London Genome Medicine Centre and Professor of Molecular Oncology at the South West Wales Cancer Institute.



PROF. JIM SMITH

Jim is Professor of Environmental Science in the School of the Environment, Geography and Geosciences at the University of Portsmouth. His expertise is in modelling pollution of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, having worked for more than 30 years on the environmental consequences of radioactive pollutants in the environment. He was editor and lead author of a major book on the Chernobyl nuclear accident: Chernobyl: Catastrophe and Consequences and has more than 100 papers in the refereed scientific literature.

His current research interests are the long term environmental consequences of the Chernobyl and Fukushima nuclear accidents. He coordinated the project with colleagues in Belarus, the U.S. and Japan to study the recovery of wildlife in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone in the decades after the accident, showing that mammal populations are now similar to those in nature reserves in the region. This work attracted global media coverage including BBC, Washington Post, CNN, Le Figaro, El Pais and hundreds of other national newspapers around the world. As part of this research, he led the ATOMIK vodka project; a radioactive-free vodka produced from crops in Chernobyl’s abandoned zone. At least 75 per cent of profits from sales of the artisan vodka will go towards wildlife conservation and supporting communities in the affected areas.



DR. BEN HEARD

Dr Benjamin Heard is the founder of Bright New World. He is a leading voice for the use of nuclear technologies to address our pressing global challenges. Following a critical appraisal of his anti-nuclear stance, he found it unsupportable. Ben holds a Masters in Sustainability from Monash University and a Ph.D. in science from the University of Adelaide.

His thesis modelled Australian electricity supply with a focus on the potential role of nuclear technologies in lowering greenhouse emissions in partnership with renewable technologies. He has presented his published research findings around Australia and the world. Ben is a sustainability advisor to Canadian nuclear innovator Terrestrial Energy, and was a member of the public advisory panel for siting Australia's domestic nuclear waste repository. Founding Bright New World took Ben back to his NGO beginnings but it ceased operation in 2021. Ben had to leave his activism to get work as a consultant at Frazer-Nash Consultancy.

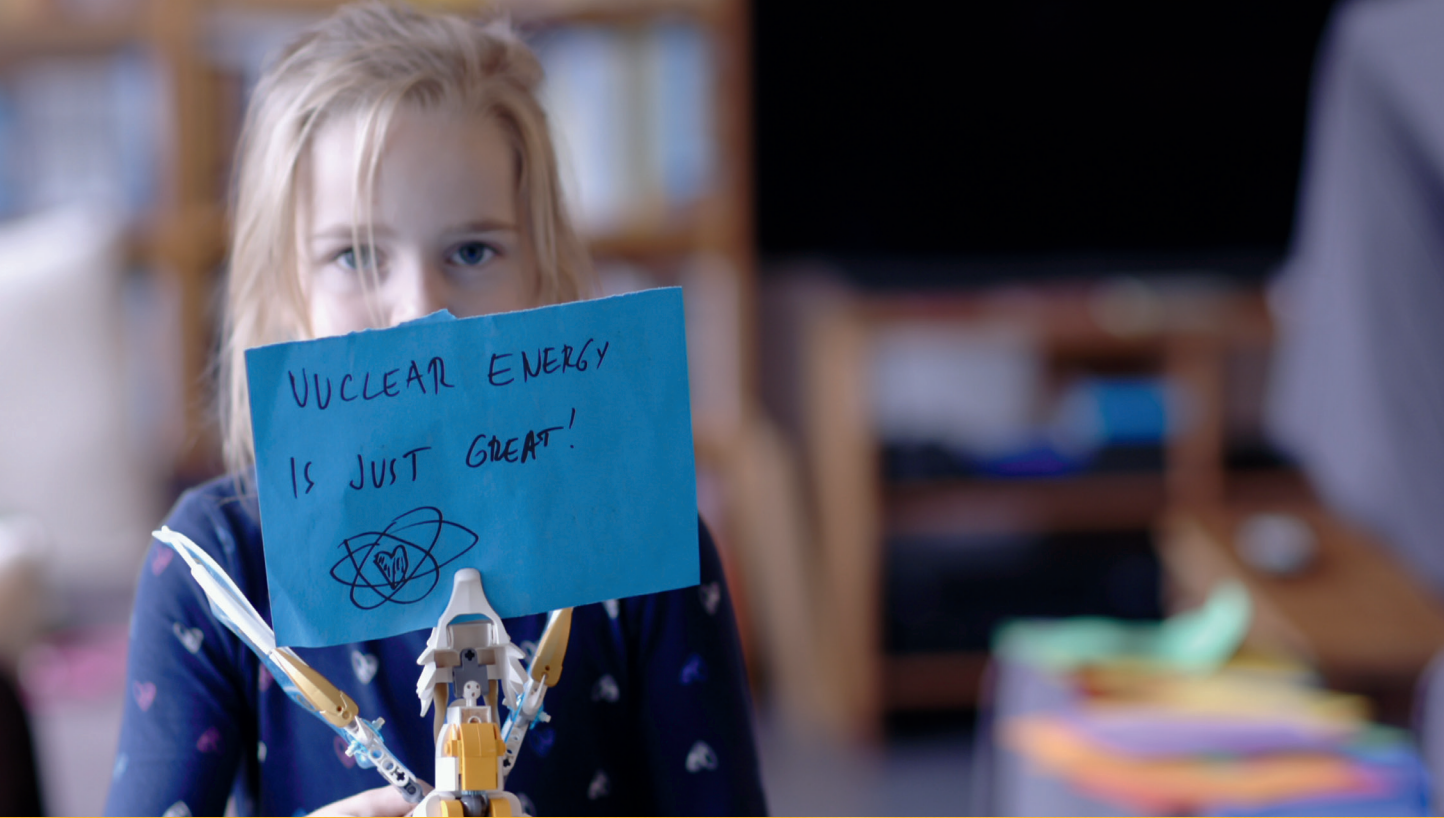


MADISON CZERWINSKI

Madison Czerwinski is founder and executive director of Campaign for a Green Nuclear Deal, a nationwide advocacy effort to articulate a new vision for nuclear growth as a way to regain US industrial capabilities and create jobs in clean energy and manufacturing. Madison began her career advocating for nuclear power as a researcher and analyst for Environmental Progress (EP), a pro-nuclear research and policy organization in Berkeley, California. She supported and co-authored analyses that have been cited in Forbes, the Washington Post, USA Today, and the New York Times.

As executive vice president of EP, Madison oversaw all of the organization's research, advocacy efforts, and campaigns.

Madison has travelled to meet with and advise policymakers and journalists around the world, including in France, Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Taiwan, and South Korea. Her organizing efforts built a coalition of industry and civil society representatives that led to the world's largest pro-nuclear demonstration, Stand Up For Nuclear.



ATOMIC HOPE is a feature documentary, following a tiny global movement of unpopular pro-nuclear activists, who strongly believe we need nuclear power in order to decarbonize our energy systems, before catastrophic climate change occurs.

Intimately filmed over a ten year period, these advocates for nuclear energy come from all over the world; from Japan to Switzerland, America to Australia. But these individual activists face clashes and opposition at every juncture. Nuclear meltdowns, costs, radiation fears and nuclear waste are just some of the very serious issues which traditional environmentalists have against this technology.

However in the face of this pushback and conflict, they argue that “science and data is all we have”. It’s the science they base their environmental movement on, which directly challenges popular beliefs and myths around nuclear energy and these prevailing issues.

So are they right? In the face of a very real climate emergency, with time ticking towards irreversible climate change - is it now time that people around the world pause to take a sober look at the science, stop the mass closure of nuclear power plants and fully reconsider nuclear energy as a viable solution to this ensuing catastrophe?

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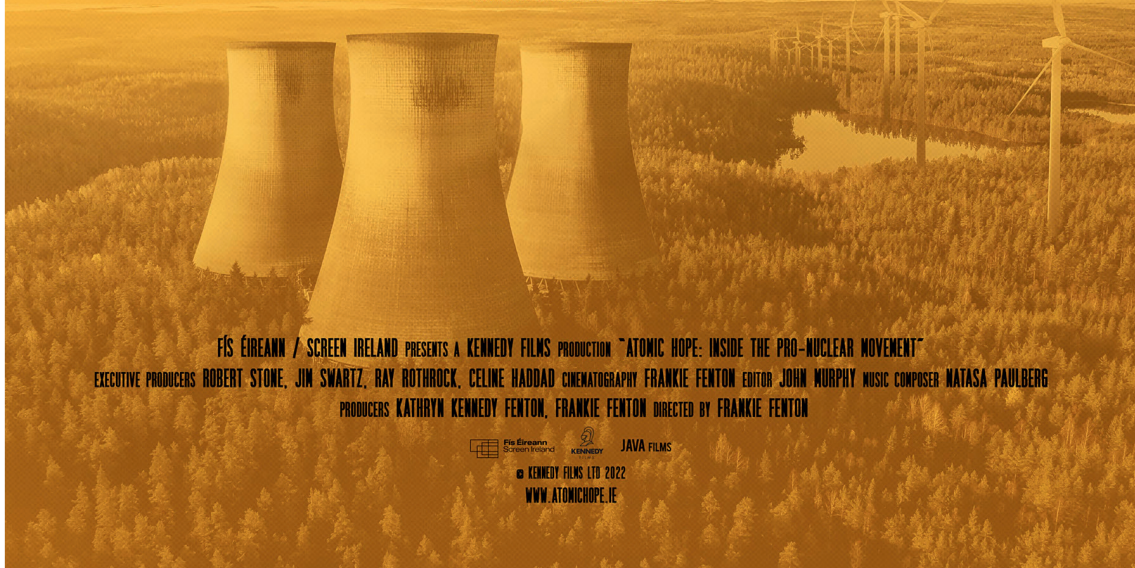


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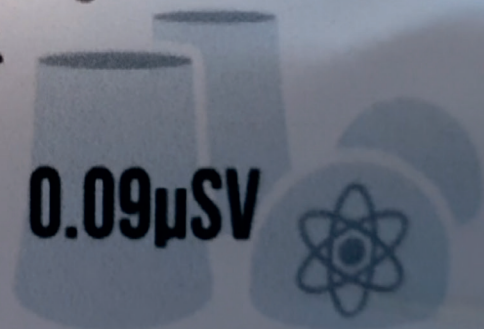
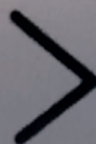
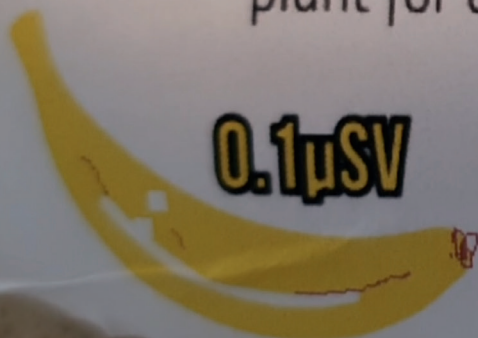
FÍS ÉIREANN / SCREEN IRELAND PRESENTS A KENNEDY FILMS PRODUCTION "ATOMIC HOPE: INSIDE THE PRO-NUCLEAR MOVEMENT"
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ROBERT STONE, JIM SWARTZ, RAY ROTHROCK, CELINE HADDAD CINEMATOGRAPHY FRANKIE FENTON EDITOR JOHN MURPHY MUSIC COMPOSER NATASA PAULBERG
PRODUCERS KATHRYN KENNEDY FENTON, FRANKIE FENTON DIRECTED BY FRANKIE FENTON

Fís Éireann Screen Ireland KENNEDY JAVA FILMS

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RADIATION FACTS

This normal, every-day **banana** is more radioactive than living near a nuclear plant for one year.



WHAT ARE THE PRO-NUCLEAR ACTIVISTS SAYING?

- Climate activists argue that the UK and EU will miss crucial climate targets if they don't build more nuclear reactors.
- Despite the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) demonstrating that nuclear energy is essential to avoiding climate breakdown most green groups (such as Greenpeace and WWF) are still actively campaigning against it
- UK government's own advisors on climate change warned of a 'huge margin' between the country's ambitious climate targets and its 'disappointing' policies. It is now planning to build a further 8 reactors.
- As well as calling on world governments to build more nuclear power stations and extend the life of existing ones, the activists want anti-nuclear green NGOs such as Greenpeace and WWF to drop their opposition to nuclear energy,
- All 4 decarbonization pathways from the IPCC call to vastly increase and upscale the amount of nuclear energy plants we currently have in the world today. So nuclear power actually represents the scientific consensus.

According to Oxford University's Our World in Data, nuclear energy is one of the safest and cleanest forms of energy: <https://ourworldindata.org/safest-sources-of-energy>

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) includes nuclear in all four of emission reductions pathways <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

Leading NASA Climate Scientist Dr James Hansen and other leading Climate Scientists have said "Nuclear power paves the only viable path forward on climate change"

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/dec/03/nuclear-power-paves-the-only-viable-path-forward-on-climate-change>



THE FACTS IN THE FILM ABOUT CHERNOBYL

What is the science behind this?

Prof Geraldine Thomas OBE from Imperial College London and Director of Chernobyl Tissue Bank says

“There's absolutely no evidence at all that fetal deformities were caused by radiation from Chernobyl. Unfortunately birth defects are a natural occurrence in a population and actually a lot more common than most people think they are. But there is no evidence that radiation exposure has increased that at all”

The reference comes from one of the UNSCEAR* reports. Radiation only causes issues when given at high (medical) doses at certain times in pregnancy. When pressed on this in the interview Professor Thomas said...

“It is important that people understand that the general population (in Chernobyl) only received low doses of radiation – it is a huge myth that doses were high.”

Professor Thomas when asked is this verifiable in recent science she pointed to Science journal from May 2021 “Lack of transgenerational effects of ionizing radiation exposure from the Chernobyl accident” Published in Science.**

* United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation

<https://www.unscear.org/unscear/en/chernobyl.html>

**<https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abg2365>

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