5th INTERNATIONAL URANIUM FILM FESTIVAL 2015

YELLOW OSCAR AWARD WINNERS
"Photography is truth. The cinema is truth twenty-four times per second."

Jean-Luc Godard
ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

The International Uranium Film Festival has reached its 5th year. From its first call for entries in 2010 the Brazilian-born Uranium Film Festival became now the world's most well-known film festival about nuclear power, "The Atomic Cannes".

In the past 5 years the festival already traveled with a selection of the best & most important films to three continents and six countries. It was guest in the world's capitals Amman, Berlin, Lisbon, New Delhi, Washington, Window Rock and in famous cities like New York, Santa Fe, Hyderabad and Mumbai. Thanks to invitation and support of the The Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) the Uranium Film Festival was guest in Quebec City and Montreal in April 2015. Next festivals are planned in Rio de Janeiro in July, 9 to 19 and in Berlin September, 24 to 29.

The Uranium Film Festival was created to bring light to an issue that many people around the globe still prefer to ignore: The question of nuclear power. "The nuclear issue is huge, complicated and dangerous: from uranium mining to nuclear waste, from the first atomic bomb test in New Mexico to the nuclear accident in Fukushima. From radioactive pollution to food irradiation. In addition it's a huge challenge to make films about something that you cannot see, hear or smell, something that has no colour, no taste but something that still can kill you or can hurt your next generation: radioactivity", says Norbert G. Suchanek, Co-founder and director of the Uranium Film Festival. "For that the festival honours every the best nuclear filmmakers and their work with the Yellow Oscar Award and the festival's Special Achievement Award."

ABOUT THE YELLOW OSCAR

The Yellow Oscar is a piece of art produced by Brazilian waste-material-artist Getúlio Damado (photo), who lives and works in the famous artist quarter Santa Teresa in Rio de Janeiro where the first International Uranium Film Festival was held in May 2011. For more than a decade Getúlio collects garbage and transforms it into "gold". Meanwhile his waste-art is part of exhibitions not only in Rio de Janeiro but also in São Paulo and other parts of the world. In contrast to the "Hollywood Oscar", the Uranium Film Festival Award is not of gold. Getúlio creates the "Yellow Oscar" from waste material, that he finds in the streets of Santa Teresa. He uses also old watches to remember the first atomic bomb dropped over Hiroshima. Watches in Hiroshima stopped exactly at 8:15 in the morning when the A-bomb exploded on August 6th, 1945.
**BEST FEATURE DOCUMENTARY**

**ARE VAH !**

France | 2014 | 71’ Documentary. 
Director: Micha Patault and Sarah Irion | Producer: 
Antoine Cayrol. Original Language: Hindi, English, 
French | Subtitled Language: English and French 
Trailer: [https://vimeo.com/96933862](https://vimeo.com/96933862)

Synopsis: In India, Jaitapur, a seismic zone by the seaside. Areva plans to build six EPR reactors, making it the largest nuclear power plant in the world. A project the population is hostile to. But India opened up to the civil nuclear market. Is India ready for the nuclear rebirth? Film Blog: [http://www.arevah-blog.com/auteurs-contact/](http://www.arevah-blog.com/auteurs-contact/)

**Director’s Biography of Sarah Irion:** Born in 1986, lives and works in Paris, France. Graduate of the CUEJ with a master in journalism. "I begin with radio documentaries and written reports as well as a webdocumentary adventure. Social issues are what interest me, from Jaitapur villagers to leftist communities, or African prostitutes of Paris."

**Micha Patault:** Born in 1979, lives and works in Paris, France. Member of the cooperative Picturetank. "I’m interested in the relation between big industries and democratic societies. I went to India a dozen times, back then, to document the fight for justice in Bhopal. While creating the photo documentary *No More bhopals* I looked into the responsibility of companies in case of major incidents. Then I learned that my dad was a survivor of the atomic tryouts of Fangatofa, and my mother a victim of the fallouts of Chernobyl. I became passionate about the nuclear files."

"Excellent documentary describing the population’s resistance against a French-Indian project to establish 6 nuclear power plants on behalf of the country’s development. The arguments are all the same: Nuclear power is clean and save and will bring development to the country. But the local population does not trust the Government."  
*Alphonse Kelecom, International Uranium Film Festival 2015 Jury*
INSEPARABLE (MOTYLKI)

Ukraine | 2013 | 118’ | Fiction.

Synopsis: April, 1986. Pripyat, Ukraine. A core meltdown occurred at Reactor 4 of the Chernobyl Power Plant. Over thirty people died during the blast but the estimated death toll as a result of the radiation fallout will reach a four-digit number. This accident will be considered the world's largest ecological disaster. Set at ground zero of a catastrophe, this film will reveal the details of the Chernobyl event. The shocking news of the explosion at the nuclear plant has spread, as the world watched the tragedy in fear and confusion. Hearts went out to those who displayed selfless courage and integrity in the initial efforts to stabilize the reactor power. But some were too busy being in love to notice what had just happened in nearby Chernobyl. The disaster has faded into the background... This is an account of love and loss, bravery and supernatural stoicisim in the face of unbeatable odds. "Courage exceeding radiation levels!"

"Inseparable is simply the best fiction movie I have ever seen about the Chernobyl desaster. Hard facts and good entertainment." Márcia Gomes de Oliveira, Executive Director Uranium Film Festival

Film: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fT7XyBs9yNl
Making off: https://vimeo.com/64224323
THE RADIOACTIVE THING (LA COSA RADIACTIVA)
Spain, 30 min, 2013, Documentary, Directors: Sergio Galán and Alejandro Perez
Original Language: Spanish / Subtitled Languages: English / French

Synopsis: La Cosa Radiactiva is a road trip of engineers, musicians & artists in order to explore several sites related with radioactivity in Spain. We travel fully loaded with our free hardware equipment, designed to measure & visualize the natural radioactivity from earth, as well as the artificial one created by us humans. We organized debates and performances in places with some sort of connection with the history of the nuclear Industry in Spain. We played with the Do It Yourself Geiger counters and tried to bind a connection between. The movie is a compilation of several short pieces recorded during this trip, mainly intended for distribution on Internet. It combines visual expression, debate and scientific divulgation. www.lacosaradiactiva.uncoded.es
Trailer: https://vimeo.com/54418302

“The well-titled series of short films called Radioactive Thing is positively brilliant. It is highly educational, completely natural, and an effective tool to make radiation visible. It makes untutored people (which includes ALL of us) understand the hidden nature of radioactivity, and it does it by appealing to people’s curiosity rather than to their anger. The shooting appears effortless, the structures of the films are very fresh, and the film DELIVERS such valuable information that I think this cinematic work stands head and shoulders above the other, earlier first place winner. This film has universal appeal and importance. And the devices - let them be copied and proliferated to any community under the threat of radiation. Imagine what could be done with this methodology in Fukushima, for example. The film-maker is very gifted, he treads lightly, and he strikes clean through the heart of the nuclear industry with this work, while managing to be both clever and creepy into the bargain. I would give this film the Big Yellow. I am so glad to have seen it!” Robert del Tredici, International Uranium Film Festival 2015 Jury
SEVEN YEARS OF WINTER

Germany/Denmark/Ukraine | 2011/12 | 21’52” | Fiction. Director: Marcus Schwenzel Producer: Hans Henrik Laier and Marcus Schwenzel. Original Language: Russian, English subtitles

https://vimeo.com/56861309

Synopsis: Seven-year-old Andrej scavenges the nuclear wasteland of Chernobyl for discarded documents to trade on the black market. Shot entirely on location, this is a haunting rumination on the heartbreaking effects of the political on the personal. Schwenzel's film starts off as a straightforward narrative but once Andrej enters the radiated Chernobyl, the film soon turns into a location showcase of the desolate environment. Because the setting is so unforgettable and the cinematography is captured so excellently, we never have a problem with this change. Sasha Savenkov puts forth a fascinating one-man (or in this case, one-little boy) performance that will certainly have moviegoers looking out to see where his acting career goes from here. The technical feats trump the story, which the film is light on. www.thelabstudios.net/seven-years-of-winter/

Director’s Biography: Marcus Schwenzel lives in Berlin. He works as a TV Journalist and Screenwriter. So far he has realized 3 Films: Bruderliebe / Brotherly Love, Seven Years of Winter and Ricky. Marcus is writing ion his first feature Script at the moment.

“Seven Years of Winter is a very sensitive movie about the Chernobyl nuclear accident. It received already international awards like the Prize in the category Best West-Danish Film at the Nordisk Panorama Film Festival in Malmö. Now it receives our Yellow Oscar”, Márcia Gomes de Oliveira.
THE RETURN OF NAVAJO BOY

USA 2000/2008, 57 min and 15 min Epilogue, Documentary, Director: Jeff Spitz, Produced by Jeff Spitz and Bennie Klain
www.navajoboy.com

Synopsis: The film chronicles an extraordinary chain of events, beginning with the appearance of a 1950s film reel, which lead to the return of a long lost brother to his Navajo family. Living for more than six decades in Monument Valley (on the Arizona/Utah border), the Cly family has an extraordinary history in pictures. Since the 1930’s, family members have appeared as unidentified subjects in countless photographs and films shot in Monument Valley including various postcards, Hollywood Westerns and a rare home movie by legendary director John Ford. But it is the sudden appearance of a rarely seen vintage film that affects their lives the most. With the return of “Navajo Boy,” Elsie seizes the opportunity to tell her family’s story for the first time, offering a unique perspective to the history of the American west. Using a variety of still photos and moving images from the 40s and 50s and telling their family story in their own voices, the Cly’s shed light on the Native side of picture making and uranium mining in Monument Valley.

The Return of Navajo Boy, an official selection of the Sundance Film Festival and PBS, is an internationally acclaimed documentary that reunited a Navajo family and triggered a federal investigation into uranium contamination. It tells the story of Elsie Mae Begay, whose history in pictures reveals an incredible and ongoing struggle for environmental justice. A powerful new epilogue (produced in 2008) shows how the film and Groundswell Educational Films' outreach campaign create news and rally supporters including Congressman Henry Waxman (D-CA). The Chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform mandated a clean-up plan by the five agencies that are responsible for uranium contamination.

The documentary, epilogue and now 15 webisodes have leveraged several remarkable impacts: Bernie Cly, one of the Navajo family featured, has been awarded $100,000 in compensation from the US government; the EPA demolished a dangerous house made out of uranium which was featured in the film and completed its $8 million dollar clean up of the abandoned uranium mine located in the backyard of the Navajo family featured in the documentary. The most recent webisode in April 2014, informs viewers that the Navajo tribe won the largest environmental settlement in American history, $1 billion payout from Kerr-McGee, the corporate contaminator exposed by the documentary. www.navajoboy.com/webisodes

“The Return of Navajo Boy, with its Epilogue and webisodes, demonstrates how a skillful film made with a social conscience [and a social impact campaign] can change the world.”
Robert del Tredici, International Uranium Film Festival 2015 Jury
FESTIVAL JURY 2015

Alphonse Kelecom

He is Professor for radio-biology at the Instituto de Geociências of the Universidade Federal Fluminense, Niterói in the state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He was born in Belgium and is living in Rio de Janeiro.

Leo Ribeiro

He is award winning Filmmaker & Professor for animated film, born in Minas Gerais, living in Rio de Janeiro. http://leoribeiroanima.blogspot.com

Norbert G. Suchanek

He is journalist, photographer, filmmaker, founder of the Uranium Film Festival and is working with environmental & human rights issues since 1988. He was born in Germany and is living in Rio de Janeiro.

Márcia Gomes de Oliveira

She is social scientist, teacher and filmmaker, born in Rio de Janeiro. Co-Founder of the International Uranium Film Festival.

Robert Del Tredici

He is a photographer and artist who has been teaching cinema history and the art of animated film in Montreal since the 1970s. He has also been documenting the nuclear age since 1979. He was born in USA and is living in Canada. www.bobdeltredici.com

Shri Prakash

He is a National Award winning filmmaker from India, based out of Ranchi whose career as a filmmaker is nearing 25 years now. www.shriprakash.com
“Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” George Santayana.

Art, Cinema, Science and Awareness: The challenge of the International Uranium Film Festival is to inform about all issues of nuclear power, from uranium mining to nuclear waste, from nuclear weapons to radioactive accidents, from Hiroshima to Fukushima. The festival brings important films about nuclear power to the big screen, stimulates the production of nuclear films and the global discussion about the nuclear question.

A further important achievement of the festival is the creation of a film library and film documentation centre dedicated to all films about the whole nuclear fuel chain and radioactivity: The “Yellow Archives”, an international centre for the preservation, study and exhibition of nuclear and atomic films from all over the world and to make them available for education and science purposes. Since our start in 2010 we have already collected about 200 „atomic“ films from more than a dozen countries.

Both, the Uranium Film Festival and the “Yellow Archives” are only made possible with financial support from individual donors to foundations and to corporate sponsors. The legal organizer of the Festival is the non-profit arts and cultural organization “Arquivo Amarelo”, based in Rio de Janeiro and registered as Brazilian charity.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Márcia Gomes de Oliveira
Executive Director, born in 1970 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Social Scientist, Documentary Filmmaker, Representative of the Agenda 21 of FAETEC
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Norbert G. Suchanek
General Director, born in 1963 in Wuerzburg, Germany, Journalist, Author, Filmmaker, Correspondent, living in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
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Shri Prakash
South Asia Director Uranium Film Festival born in 1966 in Ranchi, India, Filmmaker & Activist, Winner of India’s National Award for Best Documentary 2009
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International Uranium Film Festival

Festival international du film de l'uranium

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