



FROM RIO DE JANEIRO  
TO WASHINGTON DC

**INTERNATIONAL  
URANIUM  
FILM  
FESTIVAL**

**WASHINGTON DC**  
February 10-12, 2014  
**Goethe Institute**  
812 7th Street, NW

**The International Uranium Film Festival**

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**PROGRAM**

**About the International Uranium Film Festival**

Climate and demographic change as well as energy security will determine the global development agenda in the twenty-first century. The nuclear industry would like to have us believe that the solution to meeting these challenges can be found in nuclear energy, and mining companies are constantly looking for new uranium deposits. Yet, nuclear accidents do happen and when they do have most devastating effects on local and regional populations, whether nuclear reactor accidents like Fukushima, Chernobyl, or uranium mine disasters such as Church Rock and Goiânia (Brazil). Concerned citizens and indigenous peoples the world over from Australia to India and the United States are fighting every risky phase along the uranium fuel chain from uranium mining to radioactive waste dumps.

The International Uranium Film Festival aims to highlight some of the personal stories associated with these developments. It is the first annual film festival that addresses the problems with nuclear and radioactive issues, such as the nuclear fuel chain, uranium mining, atomic weapons, nuclear power plants and nuclear waste deposits.. The most important films of the year receive the Uranium Film Festival’s award, the „Yellow Oscar“.

After premiering in Rio de Janeiro in 2011, the festival has traveled to other major cities in Brazil and around the world. The festival has been featured in São Paulo, Recife, Salvador & Fortaleza, Lisbon and Porto in Portugal, in Berlin and Munich in Germany, and in ten major cities in India including New Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai.

The Uranium Film Festival Team is grateful to the Heinrich Böll Stiftung North America and the Goethe Institute Washington DC for supporting and hosting the festival in February 2014. And the festival is grateful to the Brazilian supporters, the FAETEC (Fundação de Apoio à Escola Técnica) of the State of Rio de Janeiro and Heinrich Böll Stiftung Brasil.

**DNA 50 hrs.**

As the travelling International Uranium Film Festival lands in Pune to inform people and create awareness about the next big thing in energy, After Hrs interacts with filmmakers and co-directors of the festival, Norbert Suchanek and Marcia Gomes de Oliveira, as they give an insight on the global nuclear scenario and the purpose of their visit.

# A NUCLEAR TAKE

**Omkar Raje**

Addressing one of the biggest concerns of today's world, nuclear energy and the challenges it poses in our world, the International Uranium Film Festival brings a collection of films that will educate, inform, excite and create a sense of global consciousness about the risks of land. The festival began in Rio de Janeiro in 2011 and has traveled to many other cities. This year, it made its debut in India, starting in New Delhi in January & the festival plans to travel through 10 major cities in India. It's current host being Pune.

Speaking about the purpose of this initiative, Norbert says, "People are not even aware of what radioactivity is. That is the primary aim. To make them aware of the process of radioactivity, to make them realize the characteristics of different kinds of radiation and most importantly give them an insight on the complexity of the nuclear fuel cycle. He further explains, "Right from the initial reaction in the device to the fuel preparation in the reactor, waste disposal, there are problems on every level that people are unaware of."

The basic know how about nuclear energy and radioactivity comes via the coverage that major disasters like Chernobyl and Fukushima got. To add to that, the news media's coverage creates a danger notion about the inevitable doom which makes the common man avoid thinking about it entirely. "Some of the films are dull because they are true, it is indeed necessary to make more and more films that convey the message without spreading fear, but you can't come directly about it," Marcia states.

"We have tried to get various kinds of films. There's a short animated film called Leonard's Story, which is a comedy about a family dealing with the Chernobyl disaster. Talking stories in an attractive manner and making good films is the only way to make people aware of this as that things are change the perception," adds Norbert.

The upcoming some films feature day and people felt motivated. Some people admitted that they didn't even know that there is uranium mining in India, whose waste left the activity and the need to do something about it," he adds.

What looks like a first step in trying to change the status quo on nuclear energy, the festival has taken an initiative to deal with a sensitive issue that many people have turned a blind eye to so far. "The problems covered by radioactivity are not local problems, they are everybody's problems. The effects last more a generation and people need to be informed so that they can make the right choice," says Norbert, who is personally anti-nuclear. He says all these experiments are too risky and history has taught us that we cannot really control it. Therefore, while scientists make strides in making nuclear energy a great source of power, we continue to live inside a ticking time bomb, unaware of what it may go off.

**TWO FOR TANGO**

**WE HAVE TRIED TO GET VARIOUS KINDS OF FILMS, THERE'S ANIMATED FILM, LEONARD'S STORY, WHICH IS A COMEDY**

—Norbert Suchanek

**ENTERTAINMENT**

Pune, Wednesday, Jan 22

Photo: Sankha DSA

Marcia Gomes de Oliveira (left) and Norbert Suchanek

# PROGRAM

## MONDAY – FEBRUARY 10

4 PM (Opening movie)

THE ATOMIC STATES OF AMERICA – USA, 2011, 92 min, documentary, English

6:30 PM (Evening theme: Uranium mining)

TAILINGS – USA, 2012, 12 min, documentary, English

YELLOW CAKE: THE DIRT BEHIND URANIUM – Germany, 2010, 108 min, documentary, English

## TUESDAY – FEBRUARY 11

6:30 PM (Evening theme: Atomic weapons)

THE LAST FLOWER – Iran, 2013, 6 min, animation, no dialogue

MOAB – Israel, 2012, 3 min, experimental movie, no dialogue

ATOMIC BOMBS ON THE PLANET EARTH – UK/The Netherlands, 2011, 13 min, experimental documentary, English

NUCLEAR SAVAGE: THE ISLANDS OF SECRET PROJECT 4.1 – USA, 2012, 87 min, documentary, English

## WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 12

6.30 PM (Evening theme: Nuclear power)

ABITA: CHILDREN FROM FUKUSHIMA – Germany/Japan, 2012, 4 min, animation, German with English subtitles

FORBIDDEN GROUND FUKUSHIMA – Japan, 2012, 57 min, documentary, Japanese with English subtitles

ROTTEN ROCK – Brazil, 1990, 26 min, documentary, Portuguese with English subtitles

HIGH POWER – India, 2013, 27 min, documentary, Marathi/English with English subtitles

## MOVIE OVERVIEW

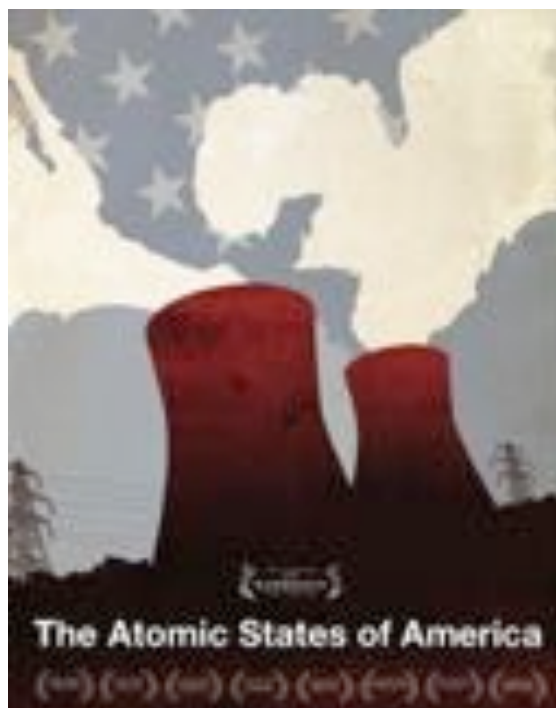
**Monday, February 10 - 4 PM**

### **THE ATOMIC STATES OF AMERICA**

USA, 2011, 92 min, Directors: Don Argott & Sheena M. Joyce, Documentary, English

In 2010, the United States approved the first new nuclear power plant in 32 years, heralding an anticipated "renaissance." But that was before the Fukushima accident in Japan renewed a fierce public debate over the safety and viability of nuclear power. The Atomic States of America journeys to nuclear reactor communities around the country to provide a comprehensive exploration of the history and impact to date of nuclear power, and to investigate the truths and myths about nuclear energy. Potent, emotionally powerful, and highly revealing, the film by Don Argott and Sheena Joyce does an outstanding job of opening our eyes to the reality of nuclear power. "We all live downstream from

something," one protagonist reminds us in this cautionary call for action. Trailer:<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vf1A8rbeZiE>



**6:30 PM**

### **TAILINGS**

USA, 2012, 12 min,  
Director: Sam Price-  
Waldman  
Documentary, English

Just outside Grants in New Mexico there is a 200-acre heap of toxic uranium waste known as tailings. After 30 years of failed cleanup, the waste has deeply contaminated the air and water near the former uranium

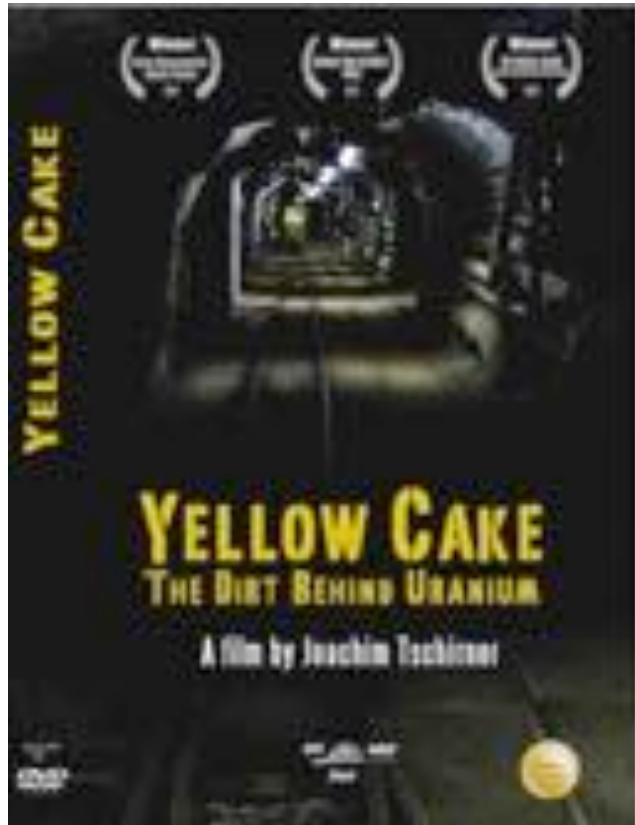
capital of the world. The film is a cinematic investigation of the pile that is gravely shaping the lives of those who are stuck living in its shadow. <http://tailingsfilm.com>



## YELLOW CAKE: THE DIRT BEHIND URANIUM

Germany, 2010, 108 min, Director:  
Joachim Tschirner, Documentary, English

Uranium mining, the first link in the chain of nuclear development, manages again and again to keep itself out of the public eye. A web of propaganda, disinformation, and lies covers its 65-year history. The third largest uranium mine in the world was located in the East German provinces of Saxony and Thuringia. Operating until the Reunification, it had the codename wismut (bismuth – translated from German) although it supplied the Soviet Union exclusively with the much sought-after strategic resource - yellow cake. Until 1990 WISMUT supplied the Soviet Union with 220,000 tons of uranium. In absolute terms this quantity was enough for the production of 32,000 Hiroshima bombs. The film explores the biggest clean-up operation in the history of uranium mining and also takes viewers to huge mines in Namibia, Australia and Canada. [www.umweltfilm.de](http://www.umweltfilm.de)



“Yellow Cake is a result of a project that began in 2002. The declaration from the World Uranium Hearing became essential for the meaning of the film (I think we need to know what that was to understand why it inspired him). According to Joachim: “Radioactivity knows no cultural differences or political boundaries. In a mutated world, poisoned by deadly radioactivity, it will no longer be of importance whether we separate our garbage, drive fewer cars, use phosphate free detergent, or plant a tree. Nor will it

matter if we spend our time trying to save the elephants. Whatever action we would take at that point would be superfluous and devoid of meaning. That is why the end of the atomic age must begin with the first link in the chain of nuclear production – the uranium mining. During my research, I experienced that despite its explosive nature, uranium mining seldom makes it into public awareness. The film Yellow Cake is my reaction to this unacceptable situation. For me it was quite clear that unbiased, well researched information about uranium mining is absolutely necessary.” Joachim Tschirner

**Tuesday, February 12 - 6:30 PM**

**THE LAST FLOWER**

Iran, 2013, 6 min, Director: Sima Bagheri,  
Fiction, Animation, No dialogue

An atomic world war destroys all of civilization. Everybody is wondering around lost, neglecting each other. Until one day when a young girl finds the last flower on Earth. She runs to people telling them about the flower, but people do not care. At last, a young man shows interest... Meanwhile the war machine factories appear and the story of war begins again. Special Achievement Award, Uranium Film Festival 2013.



**MOAB**

Israel, 2012, 3 min, Director: Keren Zaltz  
Experimental Film, No dialogue

Moab includes authentic footage of bombing from the popular and propaganda movies that were created by the American government during the Cold War. The footage was edited using a technique reminiscent of the photomontage style that was used in photography at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and in filmmaking between the two world wars. The photomontage brings up questions of reality and fiction and deals with the areas of ethics and aesthetics.



**ATOMIC BOMBS ON THE PLANET EARTH**

UK/Netherlands, 2011, 13 min,  
Director: Peter Greenaway, Video  
Design: Irma de Vries,  
experimental documentary,  
English

Astonishingly, between 1945 to 1989, 2201 atomic bombs were dropped on planet Earth - an astonishing number implying huge destruction and fall-out. The film shows evidence of every bomb explosion, documented with the nation responsible for it, the date and location, the force and the height about the earth or at sea level. It builds up the accumulating destruction that is both awe-inspiring and dreadful in the true biblical sense of the phrase - full of dread. Special Achievement Award, Uranium Film Festival 2012

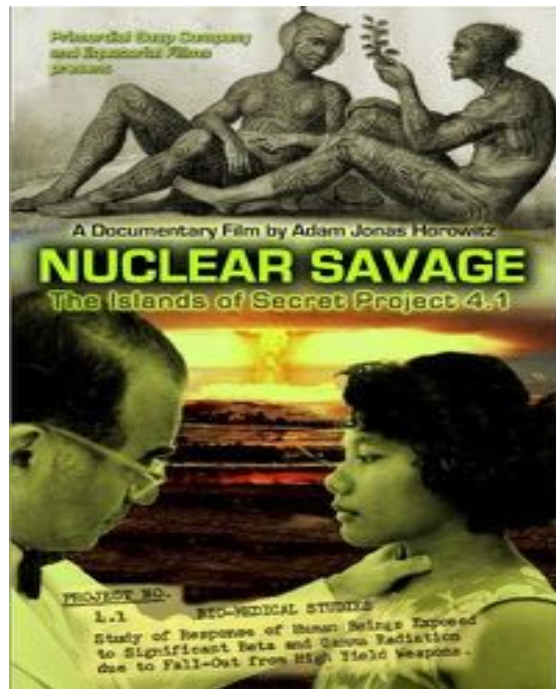


## NUCLEAR SAVAGE: THE ISLANDS OF SECRET PROJECT 4.1

USA, 2012, 87 min, Director: Adam Jonas Horowitz, Documentary, Marshallese & English

The term savage is used to refer to people from primitive cultures. But this documentary shows how savagery reaches new levels with the advent of advanced technology. In the 1950s the U.S. conducted 67 nuclear tests in the Marshall Islands, vaporizing islands and exposing entire populations to fallout. The people of Rongelap received near fatal doses of radiation from one of these tests, and were then moved to a highly contaminated island to serve as guinea pigs to test the effects of radiation on humans for almost 30 years, where they suffered from recurring cancers and birth defects that have affected multiple generations. Jury Prize, Festivals Internationales des Filmes Environnementales, Yellow Oscar 2013. Trailer:

[www.nuclearsavage.com](http://www.nuclearsavage.com)



**Wednesday, February 12 - 6:30 PM**

### ABITA: CHILDREN FROM FUKUSHIMA

Germany, 2012, min, Directors: Shoko Hara and Paul Brenner, Animation, English subtitles

A film about children in Fukushima who can't play outside anymore because nature is radioactive contaminated. To play outside is only a dream. Yellow Oscar, 2013.



### FORBIDDEN GROUND FUKUSHIMA

Japan, 2012, 57 min, Director and Producer: Kazunori Kurimoto, Documentary, Japanese, English subtitles

The film is a documentary on the aftermath of the disaster in Fukushima. Someone said "Fukushima is like a parallel world." But it is another world. From the outside, everything seems to look normal. Outside the exclusion zone of 20km, life continues as before. But not quite. This is only an appearance. The danger is invisible. In making this documentary, the filmmaker saw his challenge as: how to make visible what is invisible. Interviews with the former governor of Fukushima, a resident who returns, briefly, and others affected, help to tell the story of the Fukushima aftermath.



### **ROTTEN ROCK (PEDRA PODRE)**

Brazil, 1990, 26 min, Directors: Eve Lise Silva, Ligia Girão, Stela Grisotti and Walter Behr, Documentary, Portuguese with English subtitles

This is the first documentary made about Brazil's nuclear power plants Angra 1 and Angra 2, built in the Atlantic Rainforest region in the South of Rio de Janeiro by U.S.

Company Westinghouse and the German nuclear company Siemens/Kraftwerksunion. With irony it shows that the official safety and evacuation plans to protect the local population and tourists in case of a nuclear meltdown are just a joke. Even worse, Angra 1 and Angra 2 are constructed on a beach, which the indigenous population calls Itaorna – the Rotten Rock.



### **HIGH POWER**

India, 2013, 27 min, Director and Producer: Pradeep Indulkar Documentary, Marathi & English, English subtitles

Tarapur Nuclear Power Project is India's first civil nuclear establishment which started its work around 50 years ago, displacing villages near town Tarapur. After 40 long years the film's protagonist visits those villages - Dandi, Pofaran, Ghivali, Unbhat and Tarapur. He observes the situation of

thousands of displaced people. He finds that they lost their traditional jobs, their land and homes. They did not get any proper compensation or the promised services and infrastructure such as roads, water, electricity, medical facilities and schools. Instead they suffer from illnesses and unknown diseases. Cases of high blood pressure and heart attacks have drastically increased. Kidney failure, miscarriages, and impotency have increased among newly married couples. Children under 5 years old are suffering from mental disorders. When the protagonist returns to his home in the city he realizes that while he only pays the actual electricity bill for the power he uses, the real cost of power is paid by the unknown and innocent people he just encountered.

Yellow Oscar 2013, Trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=msxq0UifZIE>





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FESTIVAL SUPPORTERS

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