

HAF 13 Pandora's Box



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: China, France

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME: Documentary | Digital Format | English | 120 mins

DIRECTOR:

ZHAO Liang

PRODUCER:

ZHAO Liang
Serge LALOU

HAF GOALS:

Funds, Co-producers, Sales agents, Pre-sales

BUDGET:

US\$ 920,000

SECURED BUDGET:

US\$ 500,000

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

2015 *Behemoth*

2010 *Together*

2009 *Petition*

2007 *Crime and Punishment*

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

In the context of contemporary high-advanced technology and totalitarianism, this film presents the predicament of global warming terms of in humanity's choices about nuclear power.

SYNOPSIS

Anchored by a man whose quest humanizes global changes, this film traces the historical events and present situation of nuclear disaster across human society. Every nuclear site he revisits represents a specific temporality — Northeast Asia as a vaguely uncertain future; Fukushima, Japan, as the ongoing present; Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan, as the concealed past; Chernobyl, Ukraine, as the forever alienated present and Eurajoki, Finland, as the future of the future. The film unfolds from one place to another, from the remote past to the near present towards the possible future. The narrative created through deconstruction and reconstruction of histories and presents provides a new space to reflect on nuclear issues. In this space, a panorama of global apocalyptic landscapes after nuclear disaster as well as the daily lives of humans on these lands is brought to life. Between ruins and survival, history and future, daily life and apocalypse, alienation and familiarity, reality and bizarreness, the film, visually futuristic yet close to cyberpunk science fiction, seeks to create a human allegory in the present.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

As the crystallization of highly-advanced human reason, like the opened Pandora's Box, nuclear power probably is the most severe threat that science has ever created. And the existential conundrum facing human today is to make sure of human life survives the high risks of nuclear energy. However, history has clearly revealed the harsh reality to us: when individuals' well being is at odds with the interests of the state, the fate of individuals is defined by their powerlessness. And their misery may be conveniently excluded from official writing of history and ignored henceforth.

Are nuclear bombs resonating from Northeast Asia a wake-up call for us to be aware of this issue? How are the victims of past nuclear disasters continuing with their lives? Who makes the call for human society? What should we do?

I attempt to create a present day allegory through a visual narrative of both the apocalyptic landscape and human's daily lives in those areas ruined after nuclear disasters. Hence, I holistically present how the human trajectory has been changed in the past, how it is being changed in the present and how it will be changed in the future due to our reliance on nuclear technology.

DIRECTOR

ZHAO Liang

Living in Beijing since 1993, Zhao Liang has been working as an independent documentary filmmaker as well as a multimedia artist in photography and video art. His films have premiered at Cannes, Venezia, and the Berlinale; his art works have been exhibited at the International Center of Photography (New York), Walker Art Center (Minneapolis), Haus der Kulturen der Welt (Berlin), Sala Grande Venezia (Venice), Museo Reina Sofía (Madrid) and numerous film festivals, art galleries and museums worldwide.

PRODUCER

ZHAO Liang (same as director)

Serge LALOU

Over nearly 30 years, Serge Lalou has produced more than 400 documentaries and feature films with international partners, including award-winning length-features like *Fuocoammare* (2017), *Age of Uprising: The Legend of Michael Kohlhaas* (2013), and *Waltz with Bashir* (2008).

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Zhao's Image Production Limited

Founded in Hong Kong, Zhao's Image Production Limited is a production company focusing on the development and creation of arthouse films and other contemporary audio-visual content.