



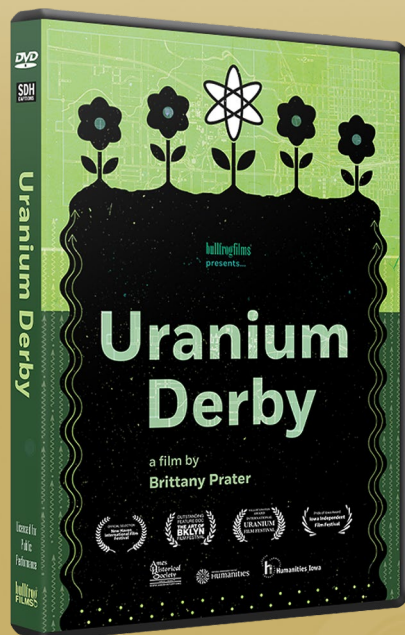
Community Screening & Discussion Guide

Uranium Derby

Use your screening of **URANIUM DERBY** as a tool for educating your audience about a little-known aspect of American history, the development of atomic energy, and the impact of those activities on one Iowa community. This guide offers background information, tips & discussion questions for an informative, rewarding screening. **Good Luck!**

what you'll find inside!

- about the film & filmmaker
- ready to watch! screening guide
- ready to talk! discussion guide
- ready to act! handout



About the film

URANIUM DERBY centers around an experiment gone wrong—the American nuclear experiment. In the film, director Brittany Prater's investigation into her Iowa hometown's secret involvement in the Manhattan Project triggers a chain reaction of encounters through which it becomes clear that the topic of nuclear waste was more successfully buried than the waste itself. This film depicts the manner in which toxic nuclear waste, generated and collected in a few specific places, was allowed to spread to numerous sites around a small Midwestern university town and, subsequently, the country.



About the filmmaker

Brittany Prater is a filmmaker and artist living and working in New York. Founder of Cornfield Productions LLC, Prater has screened short films, videos and other works in New York and internationally. Her work has been reviewed in ArtNews, The L Magazine and Hyperallergic as well as the Kansas City Star, The Des Moines Register and The Ames Tribune. She received her MFA from Temple University her BFA from Kansas City Art Institute.

ready to watch!

Ideas and best practices to help make your community screening a success!

1. Publicize Your Event! This is the most important step because it not only tells the world what you're up to, but it lets the Bullfrog Community team know what your plans are so we can help you publicize your event. Visit <https://www.bullfrogcommunities.com/uraniumderby> to register and get the word out about your upcoming screening. You can also email us at info@bullfrogcommunities.com if you need help getting started!

2. Visualize Your Goal! What do you hope to achieve with your screening? Your goal could be to generate a lively post-film discussion about issues raised in the film, gain support or recruit volunteers for a local grassroots campaign, or raise funds for a group on your campus or in your community. Or, you can simply use the screening to provide an opportunity for your audience to watch and learn together.

3. Where To Host? Consider which locations in your area would be ideal for accommodating an in-person community film screening of the size you anticipate: downtown movie theaters, churches and synagogues, town halls, community centers, public libraries, school auditoriums, university and college venues, warehouse spaces, a local business, outdoor screenings at parks and playgrounds, and even private homes have been venues for many successful community screenings. Virtual screenings can be hosted on <https://streaming.bullfrogcommunities.com>, or by using a customized screening room on Vimeo.

4. Find A Partner! Give some thought to who is already working on this issue in your community. Can they help sponsor the event? Spread the word? Participate in a panel discussion or Zoom meeting after the screening? Some potential partners include: student groups at schools, universities and colleges; a local public or campus library; representatives from local religious congregations or faith-based community groups; local chapters of national/global activist or grassroots organizations; faculty members at nearby universities and colleges; reporters/journalists from local news publications such as newspapers and magazines; local nonprofits; and any community organizations that share goals or views with the film you are screening.

5. Invite A Guest Speaker! Guest speakers and panelists are a great way to encourage discussion and debate after a community screening. When people are engaged and thinking about the issues they will stay engaged long after the screening has passed. Contact representatives of local non-profits, faith groups, journalists and reporters from local media outlets, or teachers and professors who have expertise and/or insight into the issues raised by the film, and invite them to attend your screening—in person, via Skype or Zoom, etc—and participate in a discussion or Q&A session with your audience.

6. Engage Your Audience! Use this discussion guide to engage your audience. Included in this guide is a section called Ready to Talk! with a few suggested discussion questions to get the conversation started, and a section called Ready to Act!— which can be used as a handout — listing additional resources for further investigation about key issues raised in the film.

7. Spread The Word! Think about the best methods available to you for publicizing your film screening to people in your community. Sending emails to a contact list, creating event notifications on Facebook, Instagram, Eventbrite or an online community calendar, using Twitter to announce your event, and placing screening announcements in local newspapers and newsletters is a good start. In addition to this guide, you can download a screening poster and press photos that can be used to help publicize your event: <https://www.bullfrogcommunities.com/uraniumderby>

8. Tell Us How It Went! Visit <https://www.bullfrogcommunities.com/uraniumderby> to tell us about your event. Contribute to the film's discussion page (if available) to help other student groups, universities, non-profits, congregations and community groups further the discussion and put on successful screening events of their own. Where was your screening held? Who attended? What went well, and what was challenging? What did you discuss? Your feedback will help others to organize their own events, and will energize Bullfrog Communities as a whole.

ready to talk!

**Your audience will be excited to discuss the issues raised by the film.
Here are some questions that will get people talking.**

- 1.** Does this film make you think differently about where you live? Are there stories you've heard in your own city that might parallel this one in terms of waste and cleanup?
- 2.** Are there other parallels to our current time? What are the new technologies now that could have unintended consequences?
- 3.** When we are in a certain type of work culture in our own offices, what kinds of obligations do we have to our job verses to our environment, are there times when these two come in conflict and how do we think about that?
- 4.** How have our mindsets about the environment shifted with the passing of time?
- 5.** Do you think that there have been some improvements in terms of public health and our awareness of the environment?
- 6.** Can histories be accurately told and conveyed by word of mouth? How do they compare to histories of written documents?
- 7.** What are your thoughts on sources of clean energy as we look to the future?
- 8.** Do you think Manhattan Project workers were aware on some level of the extent of the waste?
- 9.** Did you learn any new information about radiation through the film? What were the points that stuck with you about ionizing radiation?
- 10.** Is there anything that resonated with you about the culture of the place where the film is set and how that might have affected a history of secrecy?
- 11.** What are your thoughts about the dropping of the atomic bombs and the invention of the technology?

ready to act!

handout

Ames History Museum — <https://ameshistory.org/>

The mission of the Ames History Museum is to engage a diverse public audience and provide unique opportunities to learn about Ames history.

Atomic Heritage Foundation — <https://ahf.nuclearmuseum.org/ahf/location/ames-ia/>

The Atomic Heritage Foundation (AHF), founded in 2002, is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of the Manhattan Project and the Atomic Age and its legacy.

Ames Lab & Uranium Production in World War II — <https://www.acs.org/education/whatischemistry/landmarks/ames-uranium-production.html>

Founded in 1876 and chartered by the U.S. Congress, the American Chemical Society is one of the world's largest scientific organizations with more than 200,000 individuals across 140 countries.

Ames Laboratory at the CDC's Division of Compensation Analysis and Support <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/ocas/ames.html>

The Division of Compensation Analysis and Support (DCAS) primarily responsible for estimating work related radiation exposure (dose reconstruction) for certain workers with cancer under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000

Council for a Livable World — <https://livableworld.org/>

A nonpartisan nonprofit promoting policies to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons, and to minimize the risk of war through lobbying and by helping elect and support Members of Congress who share its goals.

Arms Control Association — <https://www.armscontrol.org/>

The Arms Control Association, founded in 1971, is a national nonpartisan membership organization dedicated to promoting public understanding of and support for effective arms control policies.

Beyond Nuclear — <https://beyondnuclear.org>

Beyond Nuclear is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) membership organization whose aim is to educate and activate the public about the connections between nuclear power and nuclear weapons and the need to abandon both to safeguard our future.

Global Zero — <https://www.globalzero.org>

Global Zero is an international movement for nuclear abolition, combining intersectional grassroots organizing, bold thought leadership, authentic partnerships, evocative storytelling, and innovative policy solutions.