

## Document Citation

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# Nuclear Controversy



USA 1982

## The Atomic Cafe

Sat 20 Nov 11.15

**Directors: Kevin Rafferty, Jayne Loader, Pierce Rafferty**

*Production Company:* The Archives Project Inc

*Producers:* Kevin Rafferty, Jayne Loader, Pierce Rafferty

*Photography (B&W/Colour):* Newsreel and documentary cameramen

*Editors:* Jayne Loader, Kevin Rafferty

*Archival Research:* Pierce Rafferty

*British Distributor:* Mainline Pictures, 1 Prince of Wales Passage, Hampstead Rd, London NW1

*Export Agent:* The Archives Project Inc, 4717 Arlington Blvd, Arlington, Virginia 22203

*Running Time:* 87 mins

*Festivals:* Los Angeles, Edinburgh, San Sebastian, Venice, Sydney

'A feature-length film created entirely from American Atomic propaganda of the 40s and 50s. With no narration, it tells its story by juxtaposing government propaganda, television and radio shows, cartoons and the now-forgotten "bomb songs" that saturated the airways to reveal fifteen years of concerted efforts by the US government and media to mislead the American public on the subject of nuclear warfare and atomic weapons testing. By turns ridiculous and horrifying, *The Atomic Cafe* is a comic nightmare, a *Dr Strangelove*. Graphic images of the official lunacy of the period include American soldiers witnessing an A-bomb test and then charging into ground zero after a chaplain regales them with tales of bomb-blast beauty and children being advised to duck under their desks to live through an A-bomb attack. *The Atomic Cafe* is a documentary natural that knocks you for a loop on three counts: it's profoundly shocking, very funny and should be a lesson to all of us with respect to official propaganda.'—*New York Post*.

Short: *Nick Mazzucco: Biography of an Atomic Vet* (USA 1981/Dir Richard Schmiechen). One soldier's experiences as a naive participant in the US Army nuclear testing in Nevada in 1955. 23 mins.