

Mongrel Media

Presents

GASLAND



A Film by Josh Fox
(104min., USA, 2010)
gaslandthemovie.com

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High res stills may be downloaded from <http://www.mongrelmedia.com/press.html>

Synopsis

Can you imagine being able to light your tap water on fire? The Halliburton-developed drilling technology of "fracking" or hydraulic fracturing has unlocked a "Saudi Arabia of natural gas" just beneath us. But is fracking safe? This is just one of the many absurd and astonishing revelations of a new country called GASLAND. The largest domestic natural gas drilling boom in history has swept across the United States.

Part verite travelogue, part expose, part mystery, part bluegrass banjo meltdown, part showdown, When filmmaker Josh Fox is asked to lease his land for drilling, he embarks on a cross-country odyssey uncovering a trail of secrets, lies and contamination.

Josh encounters EPA whistleblowers, congressmen, world recognized scientists, and some of the most incredibly inspiring and heart-wrenching stories of ordinary Americans fighting against fossil fuel giants for environmental justice.

Background

When filmmaker Josh Fox discovers that Natural Gas drilling is coming to his area—the Catskills/Poconos region of Upstate New York and Pennsylvania, he sets off on a 24 state journey to uncover the deep consequences of the United States' natural gas drilling boom. What he uncovers is truly shocking—water that can be lit on fire right out of the sink, chronically ill residents of drilling areas from disparate locations in the US all with the same mysterious symptoms, huge pools of toxic waste that kill cattle and vegetation well blowouts and huge gas explosions consistently covered up by state and federal regulatory agencies.

The United States and major energy companies are currently conducting the largest domestic natural gas drilling campaign in history, now occupying 34 states. A major upswing in production took place in 2005 when the Congress and the Bush Administration exempted the industry and its new process of drilling, "Hydraulic Fracturing" from the Safe Drinking Water Act and many of our primary environmental protection laws. While the PR campaign for the Natural Gas industry promotes its product as "clean burning" it hides the fact that the new form of drilling, pioneered by Halliburton, is incredibly harmful to our environment and threatens to permanently contaminate a huge amount of the country's water supply, create drastic air pollution conditions, and despoil huge areas. Despite overwhelming evidence of contamination, mismanagement and corruption, the general public remains unaware of the extreme effect the drilling may have on their lives.

Part verite travelogue, part expose, part mystery, part bluegrass banjo meltdown, part showdown, Josh and his banjo encounter EPA whistleblowers, congressmen, world recognized scientists, and some of the most incredibly inspiring and heart-wrenching stories of ordinary Americans fighting against fossil fuel giants for environmental justice.

Exemptions

After decades of well-funded lobbying, they are exempt from key provisions of most of our environmental regulations. These include: Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Resource Conservation & Recovery Act, Right-to-Know Act, and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, or the Superfund law). Most recently, the 2005 Energy Policy Act exempted "hydro-fracking" from the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

We see the consequences of this deregulation in ruined landscapes, streams, and rivers—Not to mention the cases of nervous system disorders, and cancer that are cropping up in every high-density drilling area.

Featuring

Josh Fox, Dr. Theo Colborn, EPA Whistleblower Weston Wilson, Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), Congresswoman Diana DeGette (D-CO), Congressman Louie Gohmert (R-TX), Al Appleton, (Former NYC DEP Commissioner), Scott Stringer, Manhattan Borough President, Lisa Bracken, Colorado Resident, Dr. Al Armendariz, EPA Administrator for Region 6, Wilma Subra, MacArthur Genius Award recipient in the field of Water/Soil contamination, John Fenton, Wyoming Rancher, Shirley McNall, New Mexico Resident, Rick Roles, Colorado Resident, James Gennaro, NYC Council Environmental Board Chair, and Residents from Dimock, PA, Booneville, AR, Dallas/Ft. Worth and more..

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

JOSH FOX (Director/Writer)

GASLAND is the first documentary feature film by celebrated filmmaker and theater artist Josh Fox. It is his second feature film in two years, following the narrative feature *Memorial Day* released in 2009.

Josh Fox grew up in Milanville, PA and New York City and his work is known for its mix of gripping narrative, heightened imagery and its commitment to socially conscious themes and subjects.

He is the founder and Artistic Director of International WOW Company, a film and theater company that works closely with actors and non actors from diverse cultural backgrounds, including members of the US Military, activist communities in sustainable energy and design and actors, dancers, designers and filmmakers from around the world to create new work that addresses current national and global social and political crises.

The company has premiered new work in 8 countries with a rotating network over 100 actors, dancers, musicians, technical, and visual artists spanning 35 countries on 5 continents. With International WOW Company, Josh has received a Drama Desk Nomination, an Otto Award, five grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and five prestigious MAP Fund Grants, A Ford Foundation grant, an Asian Cultural Council Fellowship among many other awards and honors.

In 2008 Josh completed his first feature film, *Memorial Day* produced by Artists Public Domain, Journeyman Pictures and C-Hundred Film Corp. *Memorial Day* is a genre-bending examination of American culture and the atrocities of Abu Ghraib, where war is a party and partying is a war. The film premiered at CineVegas Film festival in 2008 and was hailed as "Unforgettable" by Variety and "Uniquely fascinating" by Indiewire garnering a reputation as "the most controversial film at the festival" –Spoutblog.

As the Artistic Director of International WOW, Josh has established himself as a significant force New York theatre. In 2004, the New York Times hailed him as "one of the most adventurous impresarios of the New York avant-garde," and Time Out NY has called him "one of downtown's most audacious auteurs," citing his "brilliantly resourceful mastery of stagecraft."

On stage with International WOW Company Josh has conceived, written, directed, and/or produced over 30 productions in Thailand, Indonesia, The Philippines, Japan, Germany, France and New York City, which have included *SURRENDER* (2009 Drama Desk Nomination) *You Belong To Me*, *Death of Nations Part V*, "Heimwehen", *The Comfort & Safety of Your Own Home* (Top Ten of 2004, NY Theatre Wire), *Limitless Joy*, *The Expense of Spirit*, *Death of Nations, parts 1-4* and *The Trailer*, *Orphan On God's Highway*, *The BOMB*; *HyperReal America* (Top Ten Shows of 2001, Time Out NY); *Soon My Work*; *This is Not the Ramakian*; *The Sleeping and the Dead*; *Stairway to the Stars*; and *American Interference* (Best in the Fringe Festival, Village Voice).

TRISH ADLESIC (Producer)

Trish is a seasoned New York City filmmaker and producer, having spent the past twenty years on multiple television and feature film productions in various capacities. She started out working on the pilot for the hit television show, "Law and Order." She continued to hone her craft working on feature films with esteemed directors such as: Robert Benton, Sidney Lumet, Michael Mann, James L. Brooks, Gus Van Sant and Jim Sheridan as Unit Production Manager, Production Supervisor and Location Manager. She currently and has for the past ten years worked as the Location Manager for "Law and Order: Special Victims Unit." She is a member of the Director's Guild of America and serves on the Eastern AD/UPM council.

MOLLY GANDOUR (Producer)

is a filmmaker and writer. Working for Barack Obama during the primaries, she saw firsthand how direct action and organizing can lead to a sea change in the national consciousness. Most recently, she was an Associate Producer at Thirteen/WNET, a flagship PBS station in New York City, where she worked on Emmy-award winning programming on local arts, politics and public affairs.

MATT SANCHEZ (Editor)

cut MR. BACH COMES TO CALL, an Emmy-nominated PBS program, and HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HARRIS MALDEN, which premiered at Cinevegas. He's received 4 Telly Awards. He's house editor at GreenTreks, a non-profit for environmental awareness. He's co-founder of SWEATY ROBOT, hailed as a new voice in independent filmmaking.

International WOW a film and theater company that works closely with actors and non actors from diverse cultural backgrounds, including members of the US Military, activist communities in sustainable energy and design and actors, dancers, designers and filmmakers from around the world to create new work that addresses current national and global social and political crises. The company aims to respond immediately to the world's ever-changing political landscape, exploring what it means to be a human being at a particular time and place in history. Founded in 1996, International WOW has created over 40 new works, which have premiered in cultural centers around the world. The company's works have garnered numerous awards and grants.