

Journey to the Safest Place on Earth

A documentary by Edgar Hagen, 100/52 Minutes, Release 2013



Synopsis

Lethal, highly radioactive nuclear waste from decades of nuclear power use will endure for centuries. Locating a final repository for the waste is one of the great challenges facing the world, and experts are searching for secure, geologically stable places around the world.

China is intensely searching for a safe place in the desert. Switzerland is on the threshold of finding a community that is willing to accept a repository. German activists are fighting the construction of an interim storage facility in Gorleben. In the UK the surrounding municipalities of the reprocessing plant Sellafield don't accept a final repository. But in Sweden a local community is willing to take the risk and in New Mexico a mayor sees income opportunities for his municipality.

For 35 years, the Swiss-British nuclear physicist, Charles McCombie, has been searching for a final repository for nuclear waste, working as a top expert for international organizations all over the world.

Director Edgar Hagen examines the limitations and contradictions of this global quest. Nuclear power advocates and opponents face up to this responsibility and struggle for solutions. Dogmatic attitudes from both sides become unstable.

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A Mira Film production In Coproduction with Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen SRG SSR

Author / Director	Edgar Hagen
Producer	Hercli Bundi, Mira Film
DOP	Peter Indergand
Editing	Paul Sedlacek, Edgar Hagen
Shooting locations	USA, UK, Sweden, Germany, Switzerland, Australia, China, Japan
Duration	100 min. / 52 min.
Distribution Format	DCP, HDCam, Digibeta
Completion	August 2013
World Sales	AUTLOOK Filmsales GmbH



Director **Edgar Hagen** was born in 1958 in Basel (Switzerland). He studied Philosophy and German Philology in Berlin. In "Someone Beside You" (2007, 98 min.), he features psychiatrists and their patients on their search for recovery from severe schizophrenia in Switzerland, Europe and the USA. In "Time of the Titans" (2001, 80 min.), he returns with old workmen into the interior of the Swiss Alps, to the biggest construction site after World War II in Europe, for the Grande Dixence dam. In his films Edgar Hagen devotes himself to the conflicts at the breaking points between individuals and society.



Mira Film has produced numerous internationally acclaimed films. The documentary film "Die Frau mit den 5 Elefanten / The Woman with the 5 Elephants", (2009, 90 min.) was theatrically released in Germany, Austria, France, US, Canada and Japan and received numerous awards at festivals like Silverdocs, Yamagata, Leipzig, Nyon and others.