

Nuclear Nation

Film Showing and Discussion with:

 **Funahashi Atsushi** (Director) &  **Aaron Gerow** (Yale University)

Sophia University, Yotsuya Campus, Bldg. 2, Room 508

July 25th, 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

NUCLEAR NATION is a documentary about the exile of Futaba's residents, the region housing the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. Since the 1960s, Futaba had been promised prosperity with tax breaks and major subsidies to compensate for the presence of the power plant. The town's people have now lost their homeland. Through their agonies and frustrations, the film questions the real cost of capitalism and nuclear energy.

ATSUSHI FUNAHASHI was born in Osaka, Japan, and graduated from Tokyo University with a B.A. in cinema studies. He moved to New York in 1997 and studied film directing at the School of Visual Arts. His debut feature echoes (2001) won three jury and audience awards at Annonay International Film Festival in France. His second film, Big River (2006), was selected for the Berlinale Co-Production Market and PPP (Pusan Promotion Plan) at its project stage. Produced by Office Kitano, the film was shown at various film festivals (including Berlin, Pusan, Karlovy Vary, Sao Paolo, and Shanghai) and was distributed worldwide. Funahashi moved back to Tokyo in 2007 and has started directing films and television dramas in Japan. Deep in the Valley (2009), his first Japanese film, was invited to Berlin, Hong Kong, Cinema Digital Seoul, and numerous film festivals around the world.

AARON GEROW is Professor in Japanese cinema at Yale University and has published widely on variety of topics in Japanese cinema and popular culture. His publications include *Visions of Japanese Modernity: Articulations of Cinema, Nation, and Spectatorship, 1895-1925* (University of California Press), *A Page of Madness: Cinema and Modernity in 1920s Japan* (Center for Japanese Studies at the University of Michigan), and Kitano Takeshi (British Film Institute). With Abé Mark Nornes he also wrote *Research Guide to Japanese Film Studies* (Center for Japanese Studies at the University of Michigan). He also manages the KineJapan mailing list and runs his own Japanese film website Tangemania (www.aarongerow.com). He is currently writing about the history of Japanese film theory and about Japanese cinema of the 1990s.

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