

# "Chernobyl Forever"

*a documentary by Alain de Halleux*

The 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster remains one of the defining moments in the history of nuclear energy. For a period, it seriously hindered the growth of the nuclear industry, and left a lasting legacy of damage in the region affected. It demonstrated the inherent dangers of this technology, and proved that the risks of nuclear energy far outweigh its potential benefits.

Twenty five years later, this documentary by Alain de Halleux charts the history of the catastrophe since 1986 and examines the impact that it continues to have on present day Ukraine. It looks at the efforts to minimise the physical fallout from the disaster, with a focus on current attempts to replace the protective sarcophagus. In doing so it points at the commitment from international donors and the role that nuclear companies play in shaping the ongoing technical response to the disaster.

This documentary also takes a look at the effect that Chernobyl has had on the generation of Ukrainians born in 1986. It shows a generation that is increasingly unaware of the disaster's consequences and demonstrates the success that the nuclear industry has had in burying memories of its fallout.

Recent years have seen a rebirth of support for nuclear energy, as demonstrated by the commitment by many countries to extend the lifetime of nuclear power plants and build new generations of nuclear reactors. However, the ongoing tragic events at the Fukushima reactors in Japan have upended the nuclear debate once more.

This documentary makes an important contribution to the nuclear debate, and reminds us that the consequences from this deadly form of energy are immeasurable and truly long lasting.



**Alain de Halleux – Director**

Director Allan de Halleux has an extensive and varied thirty year career in Directing and journalism that includes reporting from conflict zones and work on a series of documentaries on topics such as Roma rights and nuclear energy.