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A TIN ROOF MEDIA COMPANY

3 x 60'

CHERNOBYL

NEW EVIDENCE

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It's the worst nuclear disaster in history. At 1:23am on 26th April 1986 Reactor 4 of Ukraine's Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant exploded and began spewing deadly radioactive material all over Europe. The accident and its fallout killed an estimated 16,000 people and caused a wave of horrendous birth defects across the continent. But the Soviet Union kept the truth behind the disaster shrouded in secrecy. Now, in 2020, the Ukrainian Secret Service has released more than one hundred top-secret KGB files on the accident for the first time ever. After decades of coverup, falsification and open lies, the secrets of Chernobyl can finally be revealed.

This authoritative 3-part documentary series draws on newly-released evidence to uncover brand new revelations about why Chernobyl's nuclear reactor exploded, the events of that fateful night – and its horrific aftermath.

Using newly-declassified evidence, special access to extensive images and videos of the disaster, poignant interviews with Chernobyl rescue workers and survivors, and visuals from a multi-award-winning graphics artist, *Chernobyl New Evidence* reveals what *really* happened behind the Soviet Union's Iron Curtain.

Across the series, startling revelations will be shown for the first time on TV. Episode 1 will explore the catalogue of errors building up to the explosion. We'll reveal files exposing worker violations, poor construction and deadly accidents dating back to 1978, plus serious concerns over the safety of the now notorious RMBK-1000 reactors from 2 years before the explosion. Chernobyl was an accident waiting to happen. So why wasn't this disaster prevented? Episode 2 replays the night of the disaster, minute-by-minute. Stunning 3D graphics backed up by expert opinions from leading nuclear physicists will take us deep inside the V.I. Lenin Nuclear Power Station, deconstructing the infamous Reactor 4 and exposing what exactly went wrong. We'll conduct poignant interviews with the surviving chief engineers, who braved underground tunnels filled with radioactive water beneath the damaged reactor to open a vital drainage valve – and lived to tell the tale. Episode 3 will reveal the immediate and long-term aftermath of the disaster. Using never-before-seen KGB files, we'll expose the startling but little-known facts about days, weeks and months after the accident and the dangerous lengths Russian authorities went to keep the devastating impact under wraps. Brand new evidence reveals how children were exposed to deadly background radiation at the Kyiv May Day parade – an event Gorbachev ordered to be held at any cost; Ukrainian doctors were ordered to lie to patients suffering from radiation sickness; and years after the incident, disguised KGB agents were still intercepting and lying to foreign journalists, tampering with evidence to keep the truth from coming out. And we'll work with acclaimed screenwriter of HBO's *Chernobyl*, who's extensive research will offer unparalleled insights into the events as they unfold.

Chernobyl New Evidence pulls back the Iron Curtain, revealing the truth behind the deadliest nuclear accident in history, and the devastating cost of the lies that followed.



NEW REVELATIONS

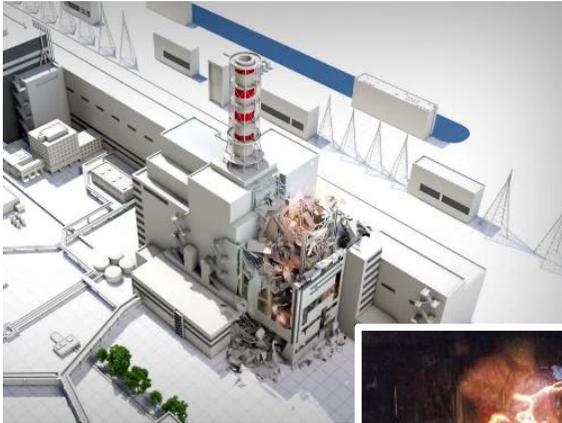
We have access to over 200 recently declassified documents released in Spring 2019 and June this year from Ukraine’s secret service (SBU) archive. Over half of these top-secret KGB files have been published for the first time. They reveal a detailed overview of the huge number of construction errors, accidents and emergency interruptions at the plant dating back to its 1971 opening – and the true extent of the desperate government coverup that followed. Using brand new evidence, we’ll reveal how Russian authorities risked not only the lives of their own citizens, but a whole continent, in their attempt to hide the truth about the disaster.

The startling brand new revelations include:

- Chernobyl files dating back to 1978 report deadly accidents, poor construction quality, worker violations, fires breaking out across the plant and several ominous warnings that this could lead to an emergency.
- A dismissed inspector report shows for the first time serious concern over the safety of the now notorious RMBK-1000 reactors – 2 years before the explosion.
- Never-before-seen files confirm how, just after the accident, children were exposed to deadly radiation while rehearsing and performing in Kyiv’s May Day parade. Their radioactive costumes were confiscated and destroyed. Authorities knew the risks, but Gorbachev ordered the parade be held at any cost.
- The first concrete proof that Ukrainian doctors were ordered by the Ministry of Health to lie to patients suffering from radiation sickness. Documents reveal how first responders were deliberately misdiagnosed to hide the true impact of the accident.
- Brand new evidence dating three days after the accident, revealing how government agents lied about the full extent of the disaster to the Ukraine’s 24,000 foreign visitors, preventing many from leaving the country despite the growing danger of radiation poisoning.
- Newly-released KGB agent reports dated 2 weeks after the explosion revealing how vegetable sellers bribed their way out of dosimetric control testing – selling dangerous radioactive radishes to the public.
- New-for-TV KGB memos from years after the incident showing how Russian authorities were still deceiving the public – secretly replacing one journalist’s contaminated samples with radiation-free soil.



VISUAL STYLE



INTERVIEWS In beautifully-lit interviews, survivors of the Chernobyl disaster will drive each story forward. Experts will include HBO's award-winning Chernobyl screenwriter, Craig Mazin – who researched extensively for the series; Belarusian investigative journalist and historian, Svetlana Alexievich, author of 'Voices From Chernobyl' (2006) – who has interviewed over 500 eyewitnesses over a period of 10 years after the disaster; and American investigative journalist Adam Higginbotham - who trawled through hours of interviews, letters, unpublished memoirs and recently-declassified documents to write his recently published bestselling book 'Midnight in Chernobyl' (2019). We'll hear first-hand accounts from the survivors themselves, including Oleksiy Ananenko, one of the plants chief engineers – who braved radioactive waters in underground tunnels beneath the damaged reactor to open a vital drainage valve – and lived to tell the tale; journalist Sophia Moskalenko, whose life was turned upside down when she was evacuated from her Kyiv home at 10 years old after the disaster struck; and Dr. Alla Shapiro shares some real-life on-site experiences as one of the first medical responders sent to the most radiation contaminated areas. We'll visit Vesnova Home for Invalid Children - a facility in nearby Belarus caring for over 170 children born with severe birth defects caused by radiation left over from the Chernobyl disaster, and talk to volunteers from Chernobyl Children International Charity - who come from across the world to help care for affected children and families. Interviews will be at least 70% in English, and will use English voiceover for non-English speakers.

ARCHIVE Through special deals with the world's leading archive houses, our dedicated archive team will source captivating footage from over 4,000 high resolution images and over 1,000 videos documenting the Chernobyl disaster – revealing unique insights into what really happened in April 1986. We'll use stunning footage to set the scene: contrasting archive of the lively pre-disaster working town of Pripyat to the eery images of the now abandoned nuclear ghost town, contemporary footage of the emergency workers decontamination efforts, archival aerial video surveying the extent of the damage to the powerplant and terrifying images of Kyiv's May Day children's parade held just days after the explosion. Archive will also reveal our protagonists, the worlds where they lived and worked and their own thoughts on surviving the biggest nuclear disaster in history.

GRAPHICS Throughout the series, we'll use distinctive 3D graphics to get deep inside the secrets of V.I. Lenin Nuclear Power Station – all created by multi award-winning graphics artist, Tim Varlow. We'll see a detailed layout of the powerplant and reactor building – mapping out the locations of earlier accidents and lingering hazards, creating a detailed image of the dangers building up inside the plant. We'll intricately deconstruct the infamous Reactor 4 – locating the exact place where the sudden power surges started, tracking the nuclear chain reaction second-by-second, and exploring every vital element that led to the explosion. We'll replay the disaster in stunning detail, showing the impact of the two explosions – from the 1,000 tonne reactor roof being blown off, the reactor's nuclear core flipping, to the fires that broke out through the plant. We'll see the deadly invisible radiation spewing out and spreading across not just Chernobyl – but the whole of Europe – before our eyes.