



PENTAGON HOME MOVIES

The Film That Just Might Calm You Down Before the End of the World

James Forsher Production

j_forsher@yahoo.com 206 265 2382

Format: 46-minute documentary (Part One of an 8-part series)

Genre: Archival satire / Essay documentary / Dark comedy

Status: In development

Episode One Subtitle: *A Surprisingly Cheerful Survivor's Guide to the Upcoming Nuclear War*

LOGLINE

Long before push notifications and doom-scrolling, the U.S. government produced a cheerful collection of instructional films calmly explaining how American families could avoid VD, smell better, avoid becoming a living zombie and of course, survive nuclear war. **PENTAGON HOME MOVIES** dusts off these forgotten reels—equal parts comforting, absurd, and unintentionally hilarious—to ask a simple question: *If the end of the world once came with instructions, why doesn't it anymore?*

THE FILM

For decades, nuclear annihilation came with a user manual.

During the Cold War, the U.S. War Department and Pentagon produced thousands of films—polite, reassuring, and often bizarre—designed to help civilians navigate life's biggest challenges: dating, hygiene, secrecy... and surviving a nuclear blast.

Then, without ceremony, the films stopped.

PENTAGON HOME MOVIES dives deep into government archives to rediscover these strange cinematic artifacts: films that promise order in chaos, optimism in catastrophe, and solutions delivered with impeccable posture and calm narration—no matter how unthinkable the scenario.

Through a first-person essay voice shaped by growing up under the shadow of mushroom clouds, the film playfully contrasts yesterday's over-prepared America with today's official silence. Other nations still run drills. Americans get alerts about flash floods—and nothing about fallout.

The result is a documentary that is funny first, unsettling second, and deeply revealing by accident.

WHY THIS FILM — WHY NOW?

Because the threats of nuclear war have quietly returned...
...but the instructions didn't.

- Global nuclear tensions are rising again
- Warning times are shorter than ever
- Weapons are vastly more powerful
- And Americans and Europeans receive exactly zero guidance on what to do

Rather than panic, **PENTAGON HOME MOVIES** asks with a smile and a raised eyebrow: *Why were we once trusted with this information—and why did it suddenly become classified by neglect?*

APPROACH & TONE

- Bright, colorful Cold War civil-defense films
- contemporary commentary by experts and person on the street interviews.
- Cheerful government narration paired with catastrophic subject matter
- Wry, personal essay voice grounded in lived Cold War memory
- Humor through contrast, not mockery
- Entertainment first, reflection later

The film never lectures and never sensationalizes. It lets the government's own images do the talking—and trusts the audience to catch the irony.

WHAT MAKES IT UNIQUE

- A treasure trove of rarely seen Pentagon and War Department films
- Satire that emerges organically from archival reality
- A reframing of civil-defense propaganda as accidental comedy—and historical evidence
- A film that treats nuclear preparedness as both a cultural artifact and a vanished public service
- expert input explaining the current environment and how these films are not as dated as they might seem at first glance
- The film also features a contemporary cartoon co-host, Nukie, who channels the 1950's 'Duck and Cover' star, Bert the Turtle, in teaching the lessons of how to survive a nuclear conflict.



AUDIENCE

- Fans of *Dr. Strangelove*, *Oppenheimer*, *The Fog of War*, *The Atomic Café*
- Viewers drawn to irony-rich archival storytelling
- Audiences interested in history, media literacy, and government communication
- Broad public audiences who want to laugh first—and think later

- Today's Gen Z who have had no exposure to what the cold war was really all about.. and that the risks we face are both very much still present and equally as dangerous today as it was when films like *Fail Safe* and *The Day After* shook the core of America.
-

SERIES POTENTIAL

PENTAGON HOME MOVIES is designed to be modular and expandable:

- A standalone documentary, ranging from a half hour to a feature-length presentation.
 - The film will explore a number of themes often seen in these war department productions;
 - Nuclear survival
 - Dating and morality
 - Hygiene and obedience
 -
- It can also serve as the pilot episode for a 6-part series **A GUIDE TO SURVIVING THE UPCOMING NUCLEAR WAR**, exploring how Cold War instruction films can come in handy in our contemporary global situation.
 - Each episode uncovers how the government once tried to make the unthinkable feel manageable. Show themes include:
 - Where we are today, and how the classic films are once again pertinent.
 - How could a war begin. The nuclear game of poker.
 - How to prepare for the big one? Fallout shelters, food and practical tips.
 - What will the days and weeks afterwards look like
 - And finally, what can we do today to avoid this outcome.



