TOXIC SOUP

a film by Rory Owen Delaney

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2010 / Color / Stereo / HD / 88 mns
SYNOPSIS
“Toxic Soup” shares the stories of everyday Americans fighting to keep their blood, water and air safe from pollution.

In Parkersburg, WV, school teacher Joe Kiger discovers C8, an unregulated chemical, in his community's drinking water. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, C8 can be found in 96 percent of Americans' blood.

In Louisville, KY, west-end resident Eboni Cochran petitions the city council to set standard operating procedures for chemical leak and odor investigations.

In Institute, WV, an explosion at the Bayer plant comes within 80 feet of a stockpile of MIC, the chemical responsible for the world's worst industrial accident in Bhopal, India, which has resulted in the deaths of more than 20,000 people to date.

In Red Bush, KY, nationally known radiation safety officer Wade Smith takes us on a tour of Ashland Oil's radioactive oil fields where local residents are diagnosed with brain tumors at alarming rates.

In Mingo County, WV, attorney Kevin Thompson and pastor Larry Brown expose dangerous toxins and chemicals in local well water due to Massey Energy's negligent disposal of coal slurry.

Along the way we crash the DuPont shareholders meeting, march with Jim Carrey in Washington DC, pull a political prank on Hillary Clinton, interview filmmaker Morgan Spurlock, and ask Bill Clinton about the connection between chemicals and autism.
THE FILMMAKERS

RORY OWEN DELANEY, DIRECTOR
Rory grew up in Louisville, KY. He holds a BA in English from Yale University and an MFA in Dramatic Writing from New York University. Rory wrote the short film "Rosy" (Official Selection of the 2008 Florida and Nantucket film festivals) and edited the feature doc "Method in the Mountains" (Audience Choice winner at 2007 WV Filmmakers Festival).

KYLE STRATTON CRACE, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
Kyle grew up in Marmet, WV, wedged between the coal fields of Boone County and the petrochemical plants of the Chemical Valley. He believes his family has suffered from their surrounding environment.

CHRISITNA VOROS, CINEMATOGRAPHER
Selected by Filmmaker Magazine as one of the "25 New Faces in Independent Film," Christina’s first documentary short, “The Ladies,” received a Gold Hugo at the Chicago International Film Festival and jury prizes at Slamdance, GenArt and San Francisco film festivals. A graduate of Harvard University, Christina recently compelled a dean's fellowship in cinematography at New York University.

SERGEI KRASIAKU, PRODUCER
Born in Belarus, Sergei began his career as a journalist for his nation’s largest independent newspaper. Upon arriving in the United States in 2000, Sergei apprenticed with German filmmaker Karola Ritter on "The Last Piece." His other credits include principal US photography for "Shame," a SHOWTIME documentary on ritual gang rape in Pakistan.

P.G. BANKER, PRODUCER
P.G. was raised in Nashville, TN, and graduated from Boston College with a BA in Music and English Literature. At Genesco Inc., P.G. programmed and designed content until 2008, when he joined the team at Hummingbird Productions where he does marketing and music production for film, television and radio.

JASON P. BRUBAKER, PRODUCER
Jason is a Hollywood-based motion picture producer. Jason became interested in environmental advocacy after revisiting the Pennsylvania trout streams he once fished with his father – the fish are no longer safe to eat due to high levels of PCBs.

WADE SMITH, PRODUCER
Wade grew up in Paintsville, KY, a small town in the rolling eastern Kentucky hills. Wade is an environmental consultant who has worked on some of the largest environmental litigation cases in the United States. Wade is a certified radiation safety officer and holds a private pilot’s license.
THE CAST
Bill Clinton
Hillary Clinton
Jim Carrey
Jenny McCarthy
RFK Jr
Chad Holliday
Don Blankenship
Wade Smith
Kevin Thompson
Larry Brown
Callie Lyons
Dr. Adewale Troutman
Vicky Debold
Eboni Cochran
Joe Kiger
Harry Dietzler
Pam Nixon
Randy Huffman
Shawn Gilchrist
Rory Owen Delaney
Kyle Stratton Crace
Jane Houlihan
Dr. Jenn Sass
Glenn Evers
Mark Schapiro
Bill Mullins
DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Today there is a lot of media attention surrounding issues such as global warming and mountaintop removal – and deservedly so. But I wanted to make a documentary that addressed some of the United States' lesser-known environmental problems.

After getting my MFA from New York University and moving to Los Angeles, I met a West Virginian named Kyle Stratton Crace. I told Kyle about "Method in the Mountains," a documentary that I had just finished editing in West Virginia.

In turn, Kyle spoke about his life in Marmet, WV, an area known as the "Chemical Valley." From this conversation "Toxic Soup" was born.

I had an initial vision for the documentary based on research, but that vision grew after beginning the interview process. One person referred us to another, and another to another, and soon we had crossed eight states in our pursuit of answers.

From Charleston to Louisville and Pittsburgh to Bhopal, India, everyday people were fighting to protect their air, water and blood from pollution. And while the toxins changed and the polluters varied, a haunting pattern connected the communities. “Toxic Soup” shares their stories.