



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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OFFICE OF  
THE CITY CLERK

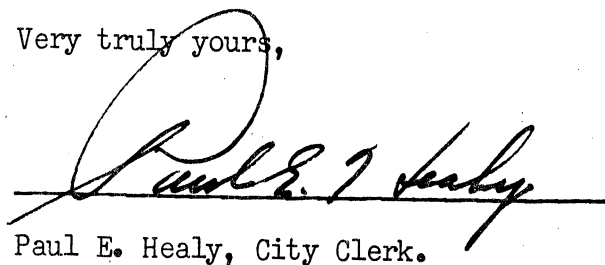
January 14, 1982

Susanne Simpson, et al  
36 Antrim Street  
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Ms. Simpson:

In behalf of the entire membership of the Cambridge City Council, I have been requested to formally accept your kind invitation to the Cambridge area premiere of the film "Eight Minutes to Midnight". The Council further wishes to go on record urging all Cambridge citizens to attend this most worthy event and view this film which premieres on January 22, 1982.

Very truly yours,



Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

PEH/mh

## Service & Ordering Information

### Rentals:

Rentals must be ordered in writing. Please order at least five weeks in advance. Be sure to give the following information:

Film Title

Exact date you will show the film(s)

An Alternate date (at least three weeks later)

Name and address of person/place to ship film to

Name and address of person/place to be billed

Purchase order number when applicable

All orders will be confirmed by our print library. Rental rates are for one showing and one day only. If you need the film longer, state this when ordering and arrangements can probably be made at no additional charge. Please return prints promptly.

Cancellations must reach us at least five days before the shipping date noted on the confirmation form.

A small handling fee will be added to all rentals.

### Previews:

Preview prints are available for screening and evaluation by individuals within non-profit organizations or institutions who purchase films. Please book previews at least five weeks in advance. There is no charge for this service except for return postage and insurance. Films are not available for previews prior to rental. In most cases, preview prints can only be made available for a ten business day evaluation period.

### Format:

All films are available for license in U-Matic and other video formats. Contact our Los Angeles office for prices of titles in formats other than 16mm. Previews and rentals are available in some cases in formats other than 16mm.

### License and Replacement Information

All films are licensed for a term of 6 (six) years. Replacement copies will be provided under the license at anytime for 45% of the current 16mm selling price.

Replacement footage is available under our license plan for actual cost plus a small handling fee. License renewal fee for an additional 6-year license is 35% of our current license price of the film in the 16mm format.

*If you feel that our license policy is not acceptable to your organization, please contact us. We may be able to make an adjustment.*

### For All Rentals Contact:

Direct Cinema Ltd. Library  
P.O. Box 315, Franklin Lakes, N.J. 07417  
(201) 891-8240

### For Other Information Contact:

Direct Cinema Limited  
P.O. Box 69589, Los Angeles, California 90069  
(213) 656-4700

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# EIGHT MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT

*A Portrait of Dr. Helen Caldwell*



## EIGHT MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT

EIGHT MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT is a documentary portrait of pediatrician, author and nuclear activist, Dr. Helen Caldicott. The film is the story of Dr. Caldicott's struggle to inform and arouse the public about the medical dangers of the nuclear threat. The film is also the story of her personal struggle with the demands of being a wife, mother, professional and activist—the demands of a committed life.

Filming took place over a critical period in the nuclear debate between 1978 and 1980. EIGHT MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT begins in the fall of 1978 as Dr. Caldicott speaks to other Boston-area doctors about the nuclear issue. In January 1979, she completes her book, *Nuclear Madness: What You Can Do*, and appears on a local TV talk show to discuss it.

We then follow Dr. Caldicott on a barnstorming media and speaking tour of Australia which takes place in March 1979. She points out the dangers of the proposed mining of Australia's vast stores of uranium, the basic material used for nuclear power and weapons. One of her lectures takes place at a remote Aboriginal community whose sacred lands are about to become the site of a uranium mine.

When she returns to the United States, Dr. Caldicott's first stop is Three Mile Island, the site of the nuclear accident which occurred on March 29, 1979. She then travels to Colorado to speak at a large demonstration at the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons arsenal, and to a meeting of Native Americans near Mt. Taylor, New Mexico.

As one of the key speakers at the May 1979 March on Washington, Dr. Caldicott addresses the crowd of 100,000 anti-nuclear protestors, sharing the podium with Dr. John Gofman, Jane Fonda, Tom Hayden and Ralph Nader. In the film's final scene, she shares her concern about the increasing danger of nuclear war, which she considers the ultimate medical disaster, with a group of physicians. She urges them to join her:

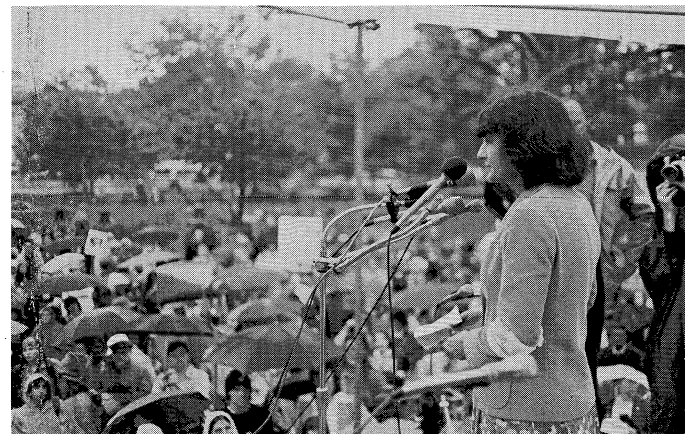
"... you must take the world on your shoulders like Atlas and make a total commitment—you inherited the earth—it is your birthright—and they are your children."

EIGHT MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT captures both Dr. Helen Caldicott's passion as a tireless advocate and her special ability to communicate as a physician about how radiation affects our bodies and will continue to affect our children and future generations.

Producer and Director Mary Benjamin  
Cinematographer and Co-Director Boyd Estus  
Associate Producer and Editor Susanne Simpson

60 minutes Color 16mm Released 1981

**"I view nuclear weapons and nuclear power as the greatest public health hazard the world has ever known."** Dr. Helen Caldicott



**"Can the excitement and urgency of *The China Syndrome* be matched by a documentary? Look no further than EIGHT MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT, a riveting film."**

Gerald Peary, *Real Paper*

**"The film is riveting, an overwhelming experience."**

David Harris, *New Age*

**"... a work as insightful as it is passionate, as informative as it is partisan. The title suggests a race-against-the-clock suspense thriller, and it isn't misleading... packed with more drama and power than most fictional films—and it is certainly more disturbing. EIGHT MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT is, like its formidable subject, clearly on the side of life, and makes its plea with eloquence."**

Frederick Rappaport, *The Boston Phoenix*

**"...remarkable...devastating...sure-footed... Benjamin captures her antimegaton wrath full-blast!"**

Michael Sragow, *Rolling Stone*

**"... one of the few films of which it can be said one has an obligation to see it... a testament to the power of one woman's conviction. Producer-director Benjamin's focus is clear and unerring and her film blooms with a fascinating intensity."**

Bruce McCabe, *The Boston Globe*

### Dr. Helen Caldicott

Pediatrician Dr. Helen Caldicott is one of the world's most articulate and compelling speakers and experts on the medical implications of nuclear weaponry and power. She is the author of *Nuclear Madness: What You Can Do* (Bantam Books). A native of Australia, she has lived in Boston with her husband, who is also a physician, and their three children since 1977.

Dr. Caldicott recently resigned her position at Harvard Medical School to devote full time to the nuclear issue. She is President of Physicians for Social Responsibility, a national group of physicians working against the nuclear threat. She is also the Founder of the Women's Party for Survival, a new political party with a single-issue focus of peace and nuclear survival.

### What is the Caldicott Project?

The Caldicott Project is the organization which has produced and is now distributing EIGHT MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT: A Portrait of Dr. Helen Caldicott with Direct Cinema Limited.

The Caldicott Project has been funded by a unique combination of sources including the National Endowment for the Arts, private foundations, and contributions from hundreds of concerned individuals throughout the United States.

Revenues from distribution and ongoing fund raising efforts will be used by the Caldicott Project to fulfill its commitment to distribute EIGHT MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT on a non-profit basis as quickly, widely and effectively as possible throughout the United States and abroad.

The Caldicott Project operates under the auspices of Fund for Theatre and Film, a non-profit organization based in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

### Speaker Program

Dr. Helen Caldicott and the filmmakers, Mary Benjamin and Susanne Simpson, are available for a limited number of speaking engagements to accompany showings of the film. For additional information, please contact our Los Angeles office.



### The Filmmakers

#### Mary Benjamin

Producer and Director, Mary Benjamin, has been working in film and television in Boston since 1968. From 1968 to 1975 she was on staff at WGBH-TV. While there she produced more than fifty documentary portraits of children for the PBS children's series, *Zoom*, and received an Emmy Award for her work on *Zoom* in 1976. In 1977 she produced a group of films about disabled children and adults for the PBS series, *Feeling Free*. Ms. Benjamin began work in 1978 on EIGHT MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT, which is her first independent production.

#### Susanne Simpson

Associate Producer and Editor, Susanne Simpson, has been working in film and television in the Boston area since 1976 for public television and various independent productions. She was Co-Editor of *Einstein*, in the PBS *Nova* series, which was nominated for an Emmy Award in 1979. Ms. Simpson has been working on the production and distribution of EIGHT MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT since February 1979.

#### Boyd Estus

Cinematographer and Co-Director, Boyd Estus, has been the cinematographer of numerous films for American and foreign television for the past fifteen years. During part of that time he was on staff as a filmmaker at WGBH-TV. He was cinematographer of *The Flight of the Gossamer Condor*, which received the 1978 Academy Award for Best Documentary Short.

# CALDICOTT PROJECT

## **EIGHT MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT**

36 Antrim Street  
Cambridge  
Massachusetts  
02139

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# The Boston Globe

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1981

## CRITIC'S TIP

### MOVIES: ONE-WOMAN NO NUKE SHOW



*Producer/director Mary Benjamin and anti-nuclear activist Dr. Helen Caldicott*

Mary Benjamin's **"Eight Minutes to Midnight,"** a one-hour documentary about Dr. Helen Caldicott, the pediatrician and antinuclear activist, is one of few films of which it can be said one has an obligation to see it. The film is about a woman's attempt to come to grips with, as she puts it so eloquently, "the most important issue that ever faced the human race" — the issue of its possible extinction. Although the film deals with tragedy, it's also a testament to the power of one woman's conviction. Producer-director Benjamin's focus is clear and unerring and her film blooms with a fascinating intensity. It opens next Wednesday at the Coolidge Corner in Brookline.

— Bruce McCabe

# The Boston Globe

Wednesday, March 25, 1981

## REVIEW | MOVIE

### A doctor's diagnosis

*EIGHT MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT* — A documentary produced and directed by Mary Benjamin; co-director and cinematographer, Boyd Estus; associate producer and editor, Susanne Simpson. At the Coolidge Corner, Brookline.

By Bruce McCabe  
Globe Staff

Although this film is an eloquent, persuasive and moving argument against nuclear power — and can be seen for that reason alone — it is also a compelling portrait of a woman and a physician who is obsessed by the most fundamental issue of the age: Survival.

The woman is Dr. Helen Caldicott, an attractive, articulate, intelligent mother of three who is also a pediatrician, author ("Nuclear Madness: What You Can Do") and antinuclear activist.

Caldicott isn't a woman one warms to immediately in this film. She seems too determined, too focused, too organized. She could be the kind of person we've come to know and recognize in the media — the confident, well-heeled professional crusader who knows a lot about issues but not much about how people try to survive and get by in their mundane daily lives.

But Caldicott blooms as the movie progresses. She comes to life when she travels to Australia, her native country, and sounds the alarm there. The metamorphosis occurs at an Australian radio station at which a talk show hostess



**DR. HELEN CALDICOTT**  
Wages war on the Bomb

smoothly manages to give Caldicott's argument short shrift. The hostess lets a pronuclear scientist talk while hushing Caldicott. Suddenly, Caldicott's anger, perhaps even rage, takes over. She dresses down the talk show hostess. And we begin to see the urgency of what Caldicott is saying. Her argument transcends and shatters the trivial issue of talk show decorum.

The film gathers momentum quickly from there on. Caldicott seems less remote and more real, more genuine. At a public rally, she breaks down while recalling the heartbroken words of a widow whose husband was infected with radiation poisoning. The viewer finds himself less able to deal with Caldicott and her argument as abstractions. Her message — i.e., that it is life and death on a global scale we are talking about here — begins sinking in. We're sympathetic by the time we get to the climax, when a student asks Caldicott why we shouldn't despair of the seeming irrationality of the argument for nuclear power. Even Caldicott herself finds it hard to be encouraging. Yet, as she points out, there's no other choice.

# Los Angeles Times

Saturday, November 7, 1981

## One Woman's Anti-Nuclear Crusade

By SHEILA BENSON, *Times Film Critic*

At a crucial juncture in "Eight Minutes to Midnight" (limited showings this month at the Monica), pediatric-activist Dr. Helen Caldicott, speaking to a gathering of Navajo Indians in Grants, N.M., breaks down. Exhausted from a draining trip to Australia, she stops, fights for control, then continues. She has taken slides of how uranium mining has affected the lives of the Native Americans to Australia, where the government wants to mine uranium from the aborigine's sacred land. Now, as she carries a message back from her native Australia, she says slowly, "We are about to destroy the most beautiful people in the world. The Indians and the aborigines. They know that we belong to this earth; we are part

of it and we must obey the natural laws. *We musn't destroy the earth.*"

This is the crack in the film. Behind the firm, organized intelligent woman we have watched earlier, we now see the intensely human being. We feel all at once the depth of Caldicott's commitment as we see some of the personal cost. From this point on, in film maker Mary Benjamin's moving work, we not only follow Caldicott's journey, perhaps we begin to accompany her.

It is conceivable that if you went into the film pro-nuclear you might still come away admiring Caldicott's spirit and passion as she struggles to inform doctors and the public alike of the encroaching dangers of nuclear wastes and the full medical



Please see ANTI, Page 6

Dr. Helen Caldicott

## ANTI-NUCLEAR: One Woman's Crusade

### Continued from Third Page

implications of the use of nuclear power.

Her emergence as an assured public figure wasn't easy. Caldicott describes herself in 1970 as a "housewife who had never talked in public before, and a rusty g.p." But nuclear weapons frightened her and in her practice of pediatrics, with a specialty in cystic fibrosis, she watched too many children die. After she and her physician-husband moved to Boston to practice at Harvard Medical School, she began to search out information on nuclear energy. It couldn't be found in medical texts, so she searched it out in scientific and government papers.

And she learned, she mastered speaking to different levels of audiences. We see her in Australia, promoting her book "Nuclear Madness: What You Can Do," talking directly and carefully to uranium miners who have not been told quite everything about the hazards of their exposure to radiation.

She keeps her composure and her urgency on a local Boston TV show, sandwiched in between Marjoe Gortner and Dr. Hook. She reinforces, in simple terms, her most often quoted phrase: "I view nuclear weapons and nuclear power as the greatest public health hazard the world has ever known."

The children, she reiterates, are 10 to 20 times more susceptible to radiation than adults. And Caldicott speaks as she has encouraged the timorous widow of a nuclear plant worker poisoned by radiation to speak: "From your guts and from your heart—then people will listen."

Film maker Benjamin lets us see more and more of the price of a committed life. Caldicott has had to wrestle with very real fears. She hates to fly. She worries about saving the world while losing her family, an irony that troubles her. Where is she, she wonders, "If my family's in a mess and I bring up three angry children? So my No. 1 priority is my family." But they can't always be with her; loneliness is another part of the bargain.

During the two years of the film's span, Caldicott gives up the medical practice she so obviously loves and channels her work through Physicians for Social Responsibility. She is part of the thousands in front of the White House during the May, 1979, anti-nuclear march.

Near the close of the film, when Caldicott is addressing a group of doctors in Boston, a young woman in the back of the meeting hall asks soberly, "What are your grounds for hope?" Caldicott concedes first that her willful optimism probably isn't rational. Then she speaks with the urgency which illuminates her whole being. "But I'm just *damned* if I'm going to let those bastards kill us all. Life is my religion. I worship it, I'm a mother, and I can't tolerate the fact that we might wipe it all out. I just *won't* accept it. The power of good *must* be greater than the power of evil."

"Eight Minutes to Midnight" will be shown every Saturday and Sunday in November at 11 a.m. only, at the Monica. For information on group rates, call 478-1041.

# CALDICOTT PROJECT

36 Antrim Street  
Cambridge  
Massachusetts  
02139

617-547-4483

Cambridge City Council  
Cambridge City Hall  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

January 7, 1982

Dear Members of the Council,

We are very pleased to announce the Cambridge theatrical premiere of the film EIGHT MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT: A PORTRAIT OF DR. HELEN CALDICOTT, and we cordially invite you to attend the opening night on Friday, January 22, at 8 p.m. at the Galeria Cinema in Harvard Square.

Many of you will remember Dr. Caldicott's appearance at a hearing prior to your decision to publish the booklet "Cambridge and Nuclear Weapons: Is There a Place to Hide?" The fact that the Council chose to take such a bold step toward the education of local citizens on the nuclear issue makes us feel that we share a common commitment, and we would be very pleased to have you in attendance for the first theatrical showing in Cambridge. We would like to make this a night where we could honor Cambridge, the Council, and other members of the City Government for their leadership regarding this issue.

As local filmmakers, we are especially excited that Eddy Lider and the Galeria Cinema have decided to utilize the theater in a city-wide educational effort. Each night speakers representing Cambridge community groups will be present to answer questions from the audience and offer information on how citizens can become actively involved in related community projects and programs. We strongly believe that these showings will be an important next step in drawing people into the public debate on this extremely crucial issue.

We look forward to having you join us and Dr. Caldicott on opening night, which will be a special benefit evening in support of the Cambridge Peace Education Project and the Cambridge chapter of the Women's Party for Survival.

Sincerely,

*Susanne Simpson*  
*Mary Benjamin*

Susanne Simpson  
Mary Benjamin  
CALDICOTT PROJECT and

*Mike Amato*  
Mike Amato

Please RSVP by January 20  
Caldicott Project 254-4466

Comm. from the Caldicott Project Re: Cambridge theatrical premiere of the film "Eight Minutes to Midnight: A Portrait of Dr. Helen Caldicott".

In City Council,

January 11, 1982

1/11/82

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