

AIR WAR, HIROSHIMA-NAGASAKI REMEMBRANCE 2011

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News Release for August Remembrance of Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and the Victims of Air War Everywhere

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Top 10 Songs Against Nuclear War

NEWS RELEASE JULY 25, 2011

Contact: Gladys Tiffany, 935-4422; Dick Bennett, 442-4600

Subject: OMNI'S ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI BOMBINGS (August 6 and August 9, 1945)

Events to take place at OMNI, 3274 Lee Avenue, on August 6 and 7, starting at 6:30 pm each night.

Saturday, August 6 we will show, *Grave of the Fireflies*, a Japanese animated film on the firebombing of Kobe (88 min.). This film won many awards.

Sunday, August 7, a film on the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, *White Light, Black Rain* (86 min.). An HBO production, the film won a Primetime Emmy and other awards.

OMNI's Open Mic will follow the film. Mark Prime will be our moderator. Music, poems, and prose about Hiroshima and Nagasaki and air war are invited. The names of victims will also be recited.

Desserts and drinks will be available, and your contributions are welcome.

At OMNI: Center for Peace, Justice, and Ecology, August 6 and 7, 6:30 p.m., 3274 Lee Ave. north of Office Depot.

Grave of the Fireflies

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This article is about the film. For the semi-autobiographical novel of the same name, see [Grave of the Fireflies \(novel\)](#).

Grave of the Fireflies

火垂るの墓

Directed by	Isao Takahata
Produced by	Toru Hara
Screenplay by	Isao Takahata
Based on	<i>Grave of the Fireflies</i> by Akiyuki Nosaka
Release date(s)	April 16, 1988
Running time	88 min.
Country	Japan
Language	Japanese

[Bombing of Kobe in World War II](#)

Grave of the Fireflies (火垂るの墓 *Hotaru no Haka?*) is a 1988 Japanese animated war drama film written and directed by [Isao Takahata](#). This is the first film produced by [Shinchosha](#), who hired [Studio Ghibli](#) to do the animation production work. It is an [adaptation](#) of the semi-autobiographical [novel of the same name](#) by [Akiyuki Nosaka](#), intended as a personal apology to the author's own sister.

[Roger Ebert](#) considers it to be one of the most powerful [anti-war](#) movies ever made. Animation historian [Ernest Rister](#) compares the film to [Steven Spielberg](#)'s *[Schindler's List](#)* and says, "it is the most profoundly human animated film I've ever seen."^[1]

Why for Hiroshima-Nagasaki Remembrance do we remember the fire-bombing destruction of *Kobe*? The answer is simple. The US decision to annihilate Hiroshima and Nagasaki was only part of the larger plan to destroy Japanese cities and to slaughter and terrorize their citizens. The same policy prevailed in the hideous bombings and fire-bombings of German cities. These bombings killed some 800,000 noncombatants in Germany and Japan, and injured hundreds of thousands of civilians. We remember them all, swearing a vow of resistance to the war crimes of air war.

White Light/Black Rain: The Destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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White Light/Black Rain: The Destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

The film's poster.

Directed by	Steven Okazaki
Produced by	Steven Okazaki

Written by Steven Okazaki
Distributed by [Home Box Office](#)
Release date(s) August 6, 2007
Running time 86 minutes
Country United States
Language [English](#)

White Light/Black Rain: The Destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki is an [HBO documentary film](#) that was [directed](#) and [produced](#) by [Steven Okazaki](#) and was released on August 6, 2007 on HBO, marking the 62nd anniversary of the first atomic bombing. The film features interviews with fourteen Japanese survivors and four Americans involved in the 1945 [atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki](#).

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Interviews

Japanese survivors

Main article: [Hibakusha](#)

In preparation for the film, Okazaki met with more than 500 [Japanese survivors of the bombings](#) and collected over 100 interviews before settling on the fourteen subjects featured in the film. They were, in order of appearance, including age at the time of the bombings:

- Shigeku Sasamori, 13 years old. Sasamori came to the United States in [1955](#) to undergo reconstructive [plastic surgery](#) as part of a group of women called the [Hiroshima Maidens](#).
- [Keiji Nakazawa](#), 6 years old. Nakazawa lost most of his family in the bombing and later recounted his story in the *[Barefoot Gen](#)* series of comic books.
- Yasuyo Tanaka and Chiemi Oka, 9 and 10 years old. Tanaka and Oka were the only survivors among 20 children housed at a Catholic orphanage in Nagasaki.
- Sakue Shimohira, 10 years old. Shimohira survived along with her sister, but lost her mother and brother to the bombing. Her sister later committed suicide.
- Kyoko Imori, 11 years old. Imori and her friend were the only survivors out of 620 students attending a Hiroshima school, although her friend died a week later from [radiation poisoning](#).
- Katsuji Yoshida, 13 years old. Yoshida incurred several injuries in the blast, including the right side of his face, which was disfigured by a severe burn.
- Sunao Tsuboi, 20 years old. At the time of the bombing, Tsuboi majored in science at a Hiroshima University.
- [Shuntaro Hida](#), 28 years old. Military doctor who treated Hiroshima survivors after the bombing.

- Satoru Fukahori, 11 years old. Orphaned
- Pan Yeon Kim, 8 years old. Prior to the bombing her family immigrated to Japan from [Korea](#) to escape starvation.
- Etsuko Nagano, 16 years old. Nagano lost her brother and sister to the bombing.
- Senji Yamaguchi, 14 years old. During his lengthy hospitalization Yamaguchi started a survivors' group to petition the Japanese government to provide medical care to victims of the bombings.
- [Sumiteru Taniguchi](#), 16 years old. Taniguchi was a mail carrier and incurred heavy burns during the blast.

[edit] American personnel

Okazaki also interviewed four Americans for the film. [Morris R. Jeppson](#), weapons test officer, and [Theodore "Dutch" Van Kirk](#), navigator, were on board of the [Enola Gay](#) during the bombing missions. [Harold Agnew](#) joined them as a scientific observer during the Hiroshima mission. Lawrence Johnston was a scientist at [Los Alamos](#) who claims to be the only person to have witnessed the [Trinity test](#) as well as the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Recognition

White Light/Black Rain was named by the [Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences](#) as one of 15 films considered for nomination as the [Best Documentary Feature](#) for the [80th Academy Awards](#). It was not included among the five nominees.^[1] The film was also a nominee for the Motion Picture Producer of the Year Award at the 2008 [Producers Guild Awards](#) and the Grand Jury Prize at the [2007 Sundance Film Festival](#). It did win the 2008 "Exceptional Merit in Nonfiction Filmmaking" [Primetime Emmy Award](#).

See also

- [Atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki](#)
- [Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission](#)
- [Hibakusha](#)
- [Hiroshima Peace Memorial](#)
- [Hiroshima](#) (BBC documentary)

WHY REMEMBER HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI BOMBINGS?

The bombings were decided during a time of immense national fear, grief, anger, hatred, and patriotism over the attack on Pearl Harbor and the loss of US lives during the WWII Pacific campaign. There seemed an urgent need to end the war before the planned land invasion of Japan occurred, which some people estimated would result in a million US casualties (later shown to be exaggerated). Options to the bombings were available, but were not chosen; for example, bombing an uninhabited island. Instead, heavily populated civilian cities were targeted. **We remember those innocent civilians and the lost opportunities to choose alternatives to this horrendous weapon of mass destruction.**

The bombings are also reprehensible because they started the nuclear arms race which still, perhaps increasingly, threatens the planet. Whereas on the one hand our leaders did not reflect upon the immediate immorality of bombing civilian cities, on the other hand they did not reflect about the long-range consequences. They did not consider what the Soviet Union would do to counter US power, or believe they could do it, despite the manifest evidence of Soviet capacity and will for war-making in the defeat of the Nazi empire. Soon the Soviets developed their Bomb. Then the US made the hydrogen bomb, soon followed by the Soviet Union. And the pattern continued—the US initiating, the Soviets imitating (with about two exceptions when the Soviet Union preceded the US in nuclear innovation). And our leaders did not consider another certain consequence—that other countries would want the weapon too, as nations always had in the past. Now eight countries have the nuclear weapon of doom. **We remember the lost opportunities of statesmanship and for negotiation to end the arms race, which eventually produced over 40,000 nuclear weapons each one exceeding exponentially the explosive power of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs.**

We remember neither to establish justice with this past, nor to console, nor to inflame, for where is justice to be found in all that destruction, what can console us for all those killings, and why would we wish to repeat that violence of fire and ashes? There will be no closing of those accounts. We remember, rather, at each commemoration, the familiar message of Hiroshima and Nagasaki: Never Again. We resolve again individually and collectively to stand against killing. Ahimsa declared Gandhi: Do Not Kill, a-himsa: No killing. That is our foundation. Not passively, not out of fatigue or timidity, but because we have chosen to be different from those who kill, especially those who order the killings. Another form of love in action. Thus we remember to prevent violence with all of our resources; to reject vengeance and retaliation; to rescue the vulnerable people and animals; to build shelters and feed the refugees; to refuse defense as a ruse for war. Out of these actions for peace, we will grow a nurturing world.

CINDY SHEEHAN

“August 6th, 1945: A Day that will live in Infamy”

<http://cindysheehanssoapbox.blogspot.com/2011/08/august-6th-1945-day-that-will-live-in.html>

TOP TEN SONGS AGAINST NUCLEAR WAR

Top Ten Songs About Nuclear War

[Peter Rothberg](#)

August 5, 2011

- [Share99](#)

This Saturday marks the sixty-sixth anniversary of the [US bombing of Hiroshima](#), the first use of atomic weapons in history. In Hiroshima, the five-ton uranium bomb Little Boy's huge fireball and explosion killed 70,000 to 80,000 people instantly. Another 70,000 were seriously injured.

Related Content

[66 Years Ago Today: When Truman Opened the Nuclear Era -- With a Lie](#)

[Hidden History: American POWs Were Killed in Hiroshima](#)

[COUNTDOWN TO HIROSHIMA: August 5, 1945 \(X Minus 1 Day\)](#)

[COUNTDOWN TO HIROSHIMA: August 4, 1945 \(X Minus 2 Days\)](#)

[The Great Hiroshima Cover-up](#)

About the Author

[Peter Rothberg](#)

Peter Rothberg, the Nation's Associate Publisher for Special Projects, has been writing the Act Now blog covering the...

[Nuclear Weapons: A Very Short Introduction](#), writes: "In one terrible moment, 60 percent of Hiroshima...was destroyed. The blast temperature was estimated to reach over a million degrees Celsius, which ignited the surrounding air, forming a fireball some 840 feet in diameter." The Hiroshima bombing was followed up three days later by an equally devastating blast on the Japanese city of Nagasaki.

To mark the anniversary, I've assembled a top ten list of songs about nuclear war. There's a surprisingly long list of choices, nearly all calling, in various ways, for a cessation of nuclear hostility and an abolition of nuclear weapons. Happily for music fans, the fear of this worst of all apocalypses has provided serious creative juice for songwriters and musicians of all

genres. Please use the comments field to let me know what I missed. MORE

<http://www.thenation.com/blog/162599/top-ten-songs-about-nuclear-war>

END 2ND NEWS RELEASE ON HIROSHIMA-NAGASAKI
REMEMBRANCE