The Return of Navajo Boy

Moving Audiences to Action

JENNIFER AMDUR SPITZ
Co-Founder
jennifer@groundswellfilms.org
What We Found: Uranium Contamination
500+ Abandoned Mines

Red dots mark mines discovered by the US EPA as of 2006
Homes made of radioactive rock
Contaminated Water
Cancer

I got a surgery right here.
Lack of Awareness

Both inside *and* outside Navajo Nation
Cultural Divide
Majority & Native Cultures
The Return of Navajo Boy
Trailer
Groundswell Makes a Difference
Impact 1: Raising Awareness

News About Navajo Uranium Issues

Source: Google News Archives
Navajo Story Put on Film

Movie will be shown at two free screenings in Albuquerque today

Return of Navajo Boy to family after 40 years

Family reunites with Navajo Boy

Kennedy sees uranium impact on Navajos

EPA destroys radioactive waste

Documentary filmmaker’s hunch led to ‘Navajo Boy’

Film works a healing miracle of its own

By Mark Caro
Tribune Movie Writer

Little did Spitz know that when he named the future ‘Lost’ 1952 documentary movie ‘The Return of Navajo Boy,’ the title would capture just how much truth there was in the story.
“A Peril That Dwelt Among the Navajos”

“Film Exposes Family, Land History”

“Mystery in The Desert”

“Navajo Man Finds Family After 41 Years”

“Documentary Uncovers Health Catastrophe”

“A Legacy of Uranium, a Prayer for Healing”

“Navajo Boy Returns”

“Film Works Healing Miracle of its Own”

“A Good Example of Successful Activist Media”

“Sundance Film Festival Applauds The Return of Navajo Boy”
Impact 2: Contaminated Homes

US EPA investigates and demolishes “uranium houses,” starting with Elsie Mae Begay’s
Impact 3: Health Compensation

Federal Legislation: Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA)

$100,000 payment to former miner Bernie Cly

After coughing up blood in the mine I was taken to Albuquerque hospital.
Impact 4: Bridging the Gap Between Cultures
Impact 5: Uranium Clean Up

5-Year Plan

Elsie’s story inspired Congressman Henry Waxman (D-CA) to order the five responsible federal agencies to work together and develop a plan...
2011 - US EPA allocates $6 million to clean up the Skyline Mine and Elsie’s backyard
Groundswell’s Methodology
The Return of Navajo Boy Screenings

Sundance Film Festival (2000 Premiere)

US Department of Energy Environmental Justice Conference
Popular Culture Association & American Culture Association Conference
Sapatq'ayn Cinema Film Festival
The Public Interest Environmental Law Conference
Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Outreach Event
Wilkinson Public Library
Moab to Monument Valley Film Commission
Oregon State University
University of Chicago
Columbia College Chicago
University of Wisconsin Center for Culture, History and Environment
Westminster College
SLC Indian Walk-In Center
SLC Public Library
Many Nations Longhouse
Diné College Screening
The Environmental Law & Policy Center
Indian Health Service Awareness Event
Amnesty International Human Rights Film Festival
Rough Rock Trading Post
Daley College, Chicago
Dine College Uranium Ed Program
The American Indian Christian Mission
The University of Chicago
The University of Illinois at Chicago
Miami U’s Native American Film Festival
Capitol Hill
Finger Lakes Environmental Film Festival
Sedgwick Cultural Center
Stars in the Desert Festival
Big Sky Documentary Festival
Siskiyou Environmental Film Festival
Mashantucket Pequot Museum
INPUT in the USA
Hirshhorn Museum, Environmental Film Festival
Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian
Museum of Modern Art
Columbia College Chicago
Toronto International Environmental Film Fest
Festival of Narrative Arts
George Eastman House
Peabody Essex Museum
Lewis & Clark College
University of Michigan
University of New Mexico
Dartmouth College
Honolulu Academy of Arts
Docupolis Film Festival
Mesa Verde Nat'l Park
Association of Health Physicists
First People's Festival
University of California
Cape Town
Northeastern Illinois University
Northern Illinois University
Shiprock Campus of Dine College
Flagstaff, AZ du Bois Center Ballroom, NAU south campus
University of New Mexico, Albuquerque
Albuquerque Public Library (Albuquerque, NM)
Durango Film Festival
California State - Fullerton
Native Visions Film Festival
University of Utah
Santa Fe Film Festival
Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, US Geological Survey
Native American Film & Video Festival
American Anthropological Association Conference
Landmark's Embarcadero Center Cinema
American Indian Film & Video Festival
Texas Union Theatre
San Jose State University
Durango Film Society
Denver International Film Festival
Mill Valley Film Festival
Navajo Studies Conference
Chicago Historical Society
NAES College, Chicago
American Indian Center
Old Town School of Folk Music Auditorium
Reel Aboriginal Voices Film Fest
University of Chicago
American Indian Center, Chicago
Eastern Connecticut State University
Alamo Drafthouse
Arizona Film Festival
Nations Hall Arizona Film Festival
Navajo Nation Museum
University of New Mexico
Monument Valley High School
Post Effects, Chicago
The Public Interest Environmental Law Conference
US Department of Energy Environmental Justice Conference
The Return of Navajo Boy Screenings

Not Pictured: Screenings in Hawaii, Germany, Spain, France, South Africa, Brazil
Live Events, Conferences, Panel Discussions, Talk Shows
Free Curriculum for Schools

I encourage you to learn
Advocacy

Cross-cultural and face to face communication
Webisodes: The Story Continues

www.navajoboy.com/webisodes
NavajoBoy.com Website
Facebook

The Return of Navajo Boy

The Return of Navajo Boy activist, Lori Goodman, is a champion for Navajo environment.

OpedNews - Article: Navajo activists for another way, beyond coal and nuclear, after Japan
www.opednews.com

On 03.20.2011, KPFA Radio Weekend News spoke to Lori Goodman, lifelong Navajo environmental activist, about the Navajo response to the Japanese nuclear catastrophe and ongoing Navajo struggles with uranium and coal mining and coal-fired power plants.

about an hour ago · Like · Comment · Share

9 people like this.

Write a comment...

The Return of Navajo Boy
Mary & Jeff will travel with film to State of Environmental Justice Conference April 27 – 29 in WASHINGTON, DC.
Collaborations: Diné College
Collaborations: Indian Health Service
Collaborations: Northwestern University
Navajo Nation Water Quality Project

Ya’alteeh! Welcome! The Navajo Nation Water Quality Project is a new interactive website and outreach campaign designed to make Navajo Nation water quality information easily available and analyzable for the first time online.

Watch a video introducing the Navajo Nation Water Quality Website.

A joint initiative of the Northwestern University Chemistry Department and Groundswell Educational Films.

Find a Well or Spring

Or, browse by location

Spotlighted Water Source

Alewife Canyon Springs

Compare by Contaminant

- Alpha Particles
- Thorium238
- Uranium238

Browse by Contaminant

Export Raw Data
A legacy of uranium, a prayer for healing

Reservation residents have lived — and died — near uranium for generations.

BY JUDY FAHYS
The Salt Lake Tribune
First published Jan 01 2011 10:46PM
Updated Mar 22, 2011 11:00PM

Monument Valley, Utah • The sickness in Elsa Mae Begay’s family troubled her for a long time. So she turned to a Navajo medicine man.
Continue Educating and Advocating

• Book screenings & speakers

• E-newsletter and join online community

• Advocate to fund 5-year plan

• Keep uranium in the news

**Navajo Nation Shows Award-Winning Film to Congress**

An official selection of the Sundance Film Festival and PBS, The Return of Navajo Boy introduces audiences to Native American culture, environmental racism, and one Navajo grandmother’s incredible struggle for justice.

The Return of Navajo Boy with Epilogue is an internationally acclaimed film that reunites a Navajo family and triggers an unfolding federal investigation into uranium contamination in the Navajo Nation. See the groundswell rising in the news and on campuses at [www.navajoboy.com/news](http://www.navajoboy.com/news).

In 2008 the Navajo Nation entered into an unprecedented partnership with Congress to clean up the Cold War contamination. Is it possible to clean up more than 1,000 abandoned uranium mines on Navajo lands? What are the environmental health impacts? Who decides where to put millions of tons of radioactive waste? Who is responsible?

**Order the DVD online.** Book a screening & discussion for your campus. Get involved.

To see the movie trailer and learn more, please visit at [www.navajoboy.com](http://www.navajoboy.com). Contact Groundswell Educational Films at 773-771-7697.

"Like a finely made rug, The Return of Navajo Boy contains multiple layers of color, construction, and meaning... A must see."

-Native Peoples Magazine
Local Issues, Universal Stories

- Cross cultural communication
- Story-telling through film
- Empowering local voices

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