



## Nuclear Reactions

*Nuclear dreams and nightmares are still re-emerging more than sixty years after the birth of the atomic age: countries such as Iran and Pakistan are now joining in the worldwide power game with their own nuclear weapons, whilst in the United States the deployment of nuclear weapons is once again the subject of discussion. Nuclear Reactions asks what this means for the state of the world, our future and ourselves. In this corollary to the opera Doctor Atomic, writers, film makers, thinkers and political commentators will meet on four evenings to discuss fear and hope in this new nuclear age.*

*This programme series has been developed by Michiel Schwarz.*

## Doctor Atomic Revisited

A conversation with composer John Adams and librettist/director Peter Sellars about the (making of) the opera Doctor Atomic and the artists' commitment. Elmer Schönberger will moderate the meeting. The Doelen Quartett will play work by John Adams.

Mon 11.6, 20.30 hrs / in English  
Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ

## Wonders Are Many

The film documentary *Wonders Are Many* by Jon Else links the creation of the opera *Doctor Atomic* with the creation of the atomic bomb some 60 years earlier. Else has assembled a fascinating film from newly-released archival images of nuclear tests, conversations with scientists, John Adams' music and backstage recordings of an opera company of 250 people under Sellars' direction.

Duration 95 minutes.

After the showing there will be a talk moderated by Raymond van den Boogaard (diplomatic editor of the NRC Handelsblad) and director Jon Else.

Thu 14.6, 20.30 hrs / in English  
Westergasfabriek Bioscoop Het Ketelhuis

## Hoop in bange dagen

A conversation moderated by Andrée van Es, about our collective fears and our hope for the future, inspired by the book *Hope in the Dark* by the American writer and activist Rebecca Solnit. (Published in Dutch as *Optimisme: Protesten die de wereld veranderen*, Uitgeverij Cossee, 2006).

Our worldview is dominated by fear, especially after 9/11. Fear, not for nuclear annihilation, as it was

during the Cold War, but fear closer to home, on the streets, in our neighbourhoods, fear for terrorist attacks, for fundamentalism. Can we shift our perspective on the world, to enable hope and the power of culture to come back into our field of vision? Andrée van Es in conversation with Naema Tahir, writer, human rights lawyer and worldconnector, and with Ralf Bodelier, author of *Tegen de angst: Optimisme als opdracht voor de 21e eeuw*. Introductory column read by Pieter Hilhorst.

Fri 15.6, 20.30 hrs / in Dutch  
Westergasfabriek Openbare Verlichting (festival cafe)

## Nuclear Renaissance – The New Atomic Politics

A debate about the emergence of a new era of nuclear proliferation. About the recent renewed enthusiasm for nuclear weapons and nuclear power, from Iran to Korea, from the United States and Europe to India and Pakistan. What are the nuclear dangers at the beginning of the 21st century? And what about the state of the political and public debate about the nuclear threats? Who controls the future? Rebecca Johnson of the London-based Acronym Institute speaks about the prospects for nuclear disarmament. Raymond van den Boogaard leads the conversation with her and with Indian journalist and nuclear arms expert Praful Bidwai, as well as with Sico van der Meer, fellow of 'Clingendael', the Netherlands Institute for International Relations.

Mon 18.6, 20.30 hrs / in English  
Westergasfabriek Openbare Verlichting (festival cafe)

## ABOUT THE MODERATORS

**Raymond van den Boogaard** is diplomatic editor with NRC Handelsblad. He is a former correspondent in Moscow and Berlin, during which period he wrote the book *Moskou aan Zee* (1988). Between 1991 and 1994 he was stationed in the former republic of Yugoslavia. In 2005 he published *Zilverstad: De Haagse verduistering van het drama-Srebrenica*.

**Andrée van Es** is a former member of parliament, was director of 'De Balie' centre for culture and politics, Amsterdam, and worked for several years in Dutch broadcasting. She is a member of the Advisory Council on International Affairs (AIV) of the Netherlands, an independent body advising the Dutch government. Currently she is chair of the Dutch Association for Mental Health Care GGZ Nederland.

**Elmer Schönberger** studied musicology at Utrecht State University, piano at the Royal Conservatory in The Hague and composition with Rudolf Escher. He contributed to Holland's foremost weekly *Vrij Nederland* with the column 'Het Gebroken Oor'. Since 1988 he is artistic director of the Schönberg Ensemble. In 1999 he made his debut as a playwright with *Kwartet*, a piece for four actors and string quartet for the theatre company Toneelgroep Amsterdam. Four years later he published his first novel *Vic, met name*. In 1990 he was awarded the Pierre Bayle Prize for musical criticism.

## PARTNERS IN CONVERSATION

**John Adams** began his career as a clarinetist in wind bands and local orchestras and began to compose at the age of ten. Adams has received many awards and distinctions for his music since his graduation from Harvard University in 1971. He received the Royal Philharmonic Society Award for his *Chamber Symphony* in 1994 and the Pulitzer Prize for Music for his *On the transmigration of souls* in 2003. This particular piece was composed for the memorial service for those killed in the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center Towers. In the same year Adams succeeded Pierre Boulez as composer-in-residence in Carnegie Hall, as part of which he is active as composer, concert programmer and conductor. He is also currently busy with a book about American musical life.

**Peter Sellars** is principally known for his modern productions of classical operas and plays. He attracted attention as a student with his production of Wagner's *Ring* for puppet theatre; after his studies at Harvard University he then continued his studies in Japan, China and India. He became director of the American National Theatre in Washington at the age of 26, having won a prize from the MacArthur Foundation for his work with the Boston Shakespeare Company one year earlier. His work in Europe was awarded with the Erasmus Prize in 1998. Sellars has directed a number of 20th century operas: his production of the *Biblical Pieces* was presented in 1999 and he made his debut as director of spoken theatre for the Holland Festival in 2004 with his *The Children of Heracles* that opened the Festival that year. He has also directed the world premieres of John Adams' *Nixon in China* and *The Death of Klinghoffer*; for *Doctor Atomic* Sellars has not only directed the production but has also written the libretto.

**Jon Else** is an American documentary film maker who currently heads the documentary program at Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism. He was series producer and cinematographer for *Eyes On The Prize: America's Civil Rights Years* (1987), and has photographed hundreds of documentaries for PBS, the BBC, ABC, MTV and HBO, as well as dozens of music videos and concert films. He has just returned from doing camera work in Afghanistan on a PBS documentary about that country's new constitution.

**Pieter Hilhorst** is a journalist and publishes on a regular basis in the *Volkskrant* daily. He graduated in political science from the University of Amsterdam. Hilhorst is also a playwright and recently translated *Stuff Happens* by David Hare.

**Naema Tahir** is an author, human rights lawyer as well as activist in human rights. She published *Kostbaar Bezit* (2006) and *Een moslima ontsluit* (2005). She is an active debater when the subject is integration and Muslims, and regularly writes columns for *NRC Handelsblad*. Tahir is *Worldconnector*, a new Round Table initiative of people who strive for a sustainable, just and peaceful world.

**Ralf Bodelier** studied theology and now works as a writer and journalist. Among other things, he published *Tegen de angst: Optimisme als opdracht voor de 21ste eeuw* (Against Fear, 2005). In his book *Bomen hebben wortels. Mensen hebben benen* (2004) he wrote about globalisation. As a journalist he is a regular contributor of the Dutch weekly *Vrij Nederland*, *de Volkskrant* daily and *Filosofie Magazine*.

**Praful Bidwai** is one of the leading independent experts on nuclear issues in the Indian subcontinent and beyond. He is a freelance journalist based in New Delhi, a fellow of the Transnational Institute, and former senior editor of *The Times of India*. He is a co-recipient, with Achin Vanaik, of the International Peace Bureau's Sean McBride International Peace Prize for 2000. His latest book, co-authored with Achin Vanaik, is *New Nukes: India, Pakistan and Global Nuclear Disarmament*.

**Rebecca Johnson** is founder and director of the Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy, London. From 2004 to 2006 she was senior advisor to the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission (WMDC), chaired by Dr Hans Blix. She holds a PhD from the London School of Economics and is a leading expert in the field of nuclear arms and nuclear disarmament. She is a member of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), London and the international peace network Women in Black. She is editor of *Disarmament Diplomacy*, a monthly journal on disarmament and arms control negotiations, and has contributed articles to various publications including the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, *Nature*, *Le Monde Diplomatique* and *Arms Control Today*.

**Sico van der Meer** graduated in History at the University of Nijmegen in 1999. Before joining Clingendael in 2006, he worked as a journalist and as fellow of a research institute on civil military relations. His expertise is Netherlands defence policy, Asymmetric warfare, Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), Rogue states, International security and conflict.

Programme development Nuclear Reactions series:

**Michiel Schwarz** is an independent cultural researcher, advisor and curator, based in Amsterdam. He has developed projects in the field of culture, media, design, urbanism and cultural politics. He was a member of the Dutch advisory Council for Culture. Among his publications, are *Speed: Visions of an Accelerated Age* (ed. with Jeremy Millar) and *De Technologische Cultuur* (ed. With Rein Jansma).

## TICKETS FOR ALL EVENTS

Holland Festival box office  
at the Stadsschouwburg  
Leidseplein 26  
Amsterdam  
tel 020 523 88787

Online tickets sales via [www.hollandfestival.nl](http://www.hollandfestival.nl)

Tickets sales on location an hour before the starts.