

Synopsis

(Nuclear Hallucinations, Fathima Nizaruddin, 2016, 54min.)

Nuclear Hallucinations is a film, which claims to be a documentary, and it is centered around the anti-nuclear struggle against the Kudankulam Atomic Power Project in South India. In a context where cases of sedition and waging of war against the state are filed against anti-nuclear protesters, the film attempts to question the totalitarian nature of pro-nuclear assertions through comic modes. Satirical impersonations, performance and ironic renderings of jingoistic rhetoric work together to form a narrative that explores the tragic absurdity of constructing nuclear power plants on a tsunami affected coast. This narrative tries to ascertain the relation between the production of “scientific facts” about the “safe” nature of the Indian nuclear project and violence against anti-nuclear protesters including police firing. Anti-nuclear activists, villagers and performers who appear in the film engage with the farcical dimension of these “facts” and this raises larger questions about how authoritarian knowledge claims are asserted through the documentary form.

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Statutory Warning: The video document ‘Nuclear Hallucinations’ does not comply with the complete guidelines regarding the reportage of permissible statements about nuclear energy and weapons (Ref: File no 420, Section 203/IPC). To protect viewers from being affected by the harmful opinions emanating from the above-mentioned video document, the screenings of the same will be preceded by a mandatory lecture conducted by Scientific Rational Security Intelligence Officials.



Artist Statement

Nuclear Hallucinations which emerged out of my practice based PhD at University of Westminster uses video, performance art and elements from street theatre to extend an invitation to approach the epistemological violence around the Indian nuclear project through comic modes and irony. By combining live performances with video at filming as well as screening stages, the project treats video work as an open process that transcends the limits of the screen. Nuclear Hallucinations places itself within the terrain of activist documentary films and links such documentary practices with the traditions of political theatre in India.

Performance Documentation



