

FOOD BEWARE

ORGANIC
THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

A film by Jean-Paul Jaud

(Original Title: Nos enfants nous accuseront)

Digibeta, 112 min, Color, 2008, 1: 1.85 / DTS
English & French with English subtitles



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SHORT SYNOPSIS

For the first time ever, our children are growing up less healthy than we are. As the rate of cancer, infertility and other illnesses linked to environmental factors climbs ever upward each year, we must ask ourselves: why is this happening?

Food Beware begins with a visit to a small village in France, where the town's mayor has decided to make the school lunch menu organic and locally grown. It then talks to a wide variety of people with differing perspectives to find common ground - children, parents, teachers, health care workers, farmers, elected officials, scientists, researchers and the victims of illnesses themselves. Revealed in these moving and often surprising conversations are the abuses of the food industry, the competing interests of agrobusiness and public health, the challenges and rewards of safe food production, and the practical solutions that we can all take part in. Food Beware is food for thought - and a blueprint for a growing revolution.

LONG SYNOPSIS

In a little French village at the foot of the Cevennes Mountains, a revolution is underway. Here as everywhere, the current generation of children will be the first in memory to be unhealthier than their parents. Standing in opposition to powerful economic interests, the town's mayor has declared that the school lunchroom will serve organic food only, with the extra cost to be financed from the municipal budget. It is the start of a movement that is gaining momentum by the day, and it starts with recognizing the scale of the problem.

Director Jean-Paul Jaud aims his camera at an environmental tragedy: the poisoning of our countryside by chemical agriculture, and the damage it has caused to public health, especially that of our children. *Food Beware* documents the courageous initiative of one municipality, that of Barjac in the Gard, which has instigated a policy of using only organic produce for all school meals, financing the extra cost from the municipality budget.

Aware of the health risks which threaten a young population exposed to the 76,000 tons of pesticides used each year in France, one mayor decided to set an unprecedented political example, alerting public opinion and elected officials to the scandalous abuses of an economic system which values profits above the population's health.

Those interviewed in the film - children, parents, teachers, health care workers, journalists, farmers, elected officials, scientists and researchers – share their feelings, fears, anger, and the fruits of their labor with the camera. They recount their experiences, denounce the abuses, list the problems, but also suggest possible solutions, requiring simply that those in charge of decision-making take their responsibilities in hand. The result is an informative and moving testament surrounding this urgent situation. How many illnesses, tumors, disabilities and human tragedies are occurring without anyone taking effective action?

The film starts at UNESCO at a symposium of leading medical experts who have all signed the “Appel de Paris” petition. The goal: Not to simply record the devastation, but to find immediate ways to act, so that tomorrow our children won’t accuse us of abandoning them. This is a film dedicated to the painful truth.

- * In Europe every year, 100,000 children die of diseases caused by the environment.
- * In Europe 70% of cancers are linked to the environment: 30% to pollution and 40% to food.
- * In Europe cases of cancer in children have been increasing by 1.1% yearly for 30 years.
- * In France the number of cancers in males has increased by 93% in 25 years.

DIRECTOR INFO

Producer and director Jean-Paul Jaud studied at the French Ecole Nationale Louis Lumière.

Filmography:

2008 Nos enfants nous accuseront
2001 Les quatre saisons d'Yquem
1999 Quatre saisons pour un festin
1998 Football : du reve a la realite -Espagne,-Angleterre, -Italie, -Bresil, -Cameroun, -
Norvege
1997 Quatre saison entre Marennes et Oleron
1992 Les quatre saisons du berger
1992 Le Noel des bergers

Short documentaries:

Le conteur Simounet
Alphonse Ousteau, 12 ans apres
Le Gruyere selon Guy Savoy
Les saisons de Fargues
Yquem et le Stradivarius
Festivals:
Montréal Festival du Nouveau Cinéma,
Canada 2008
Abu Dhabi Middle East International Film
Festival, UAE 2008
Göteborg Film Festival 2009

Prizes:

LES QUATRE SAISONS DU BERGER
-Grand Prix du festival de Montagne et d’aventure de Graz. (Autriche)
-Prix spécial du jury au festival de Banff. (Canada)

- Award de la meilleure réalisation au Festival du film de montagne de Telluride.
- Prix spécial du jury de la Mostra Internationale du film de montagne. (Andorre)
- Prix spécial du jury et prix vie sociale et ethnologique au Festival d'Autrans.

QUATRE SAISONS ENTRE MARENNES ET OLÉRON

- Grand prix de l'Académie de Saintonge.
- Deux reportages animaliers primés avec A2 au Festival de l'environnement et de la nature de Royan

TECHNICAL DETAILS

ORIGINAL TITLE Nos enfants nous accuseront

ORIGINAL LANGUAGES French, English

DIRECTOR Jean-Paul Jaud

MUSIC Gabriel Yared - Editions Yad Music

EDITOR Isabelle Szummy

PRODUCER J + B SEQUENCES (Jean-Paul Jaud & Béatrice Jaud)

DURATION 112 minutes

SHOOTING FORMAT: HD CAM

The New York Times

Food Beware



October 16, 2009

Hungry for Health

By MIKE HALE

Published: October 16, 2009

No matter how you feel about pesticides and corporate agriculture, it's hard not to be charmed (and envious) at the sight of a school group sitting on a riverbank near a Roman aqueduct eating artisanal bread, hard-boiled organic eggs and locally produced sausage, grapes and pears.

This cheerfully one-sided film is mostly set in the town of Barjac, where the mayor decreed that the kitchen serving the local schools would go organic, with what the film portrays as entirely positive results. New Yorkers whose children attend schools with enrollments larger than Barjac's population (1,400) might wonder how well it would work here. It's easier to devote three hours to preparing fresh bone marrow when you're serving only 200 meals a day (and when the students will actually eat bone marrow).

"Food Beware" takes a pragmatic, health-based approach, buttressed by frightening statistics about cancer rates among children, that's a refreshing change from the moral and high-cultural preening that sometimes enter this debate in America. In France, environmentalism has its own pop anthem — "Aux Arbres Citoyens," Yannick Noah's ecological "Marseillaise" — and the children of Barjac will sing it at the drop of a baguette.



'Food Beware': Vive La (Local Food) Revolution!

by [Bob Mondello](#)



Children Of The (Organic) Corn: The children of the French town of Barjac become the ultimate judges of the local organic movement after their school starts serving 100 percent locally grown, organic food. (The kids love it.)

October 15, 2009

For the past few years, it's taken a strong stomach to walk into a food documentary. Watch *Food, Inc.*, for instance, and you'll probably conclude that purchasing anything on the supermarket shelf will either destroy the planet or enrich someone vile. *Super Size Me?* The dramatized screen version of *Fast Food Nation*? Those two had to leave even burger fanatics feeling queasy.

In which context, the new French docu *Food Beware* sounds like more of the same. But rather than just putting you off your feed, it's aimed at pointing up a success story — a small French town called Barjac that went organic and thrived.

The original French title — *Nos Enfants Nous Accuseront (Our Children Will Accuse Us)* — isn't much better than the American title, but at least it's descriptive of filmmaker Jean-Paul Jaud's rhetorical technique. He concentrates on the town's kids — the first ones affected when the mayor and city council decide the school cafeteria should serve locally grown organic cuisine.

The decision also affects Barjac's meals-on-wheels program for elderly shut-ins, and sure, they're appreciative. But what could be more photogenic than a clamoring crowd of second- and third-graders growing their own produce in the school's gardens, digging into Cobb salads with enthusiasm, and talking about drinking-water purity at the foot of an ancient Roman aqueduct?

From the first burst of statistics about pesticides (superimposed over shots of kids playing hopscotch in the schoolyard), you might expect *Food Beware* to be a conventionally

hectoring activist documentary. And it certainly lays out its pro-organic arguments forcefully: When someone argues at a town meeting that the council's concern about chemicals in food seems alarmist — aren't life spans longer than ever? — the speaker notes that life-expectancy studies are based on people born in the 1920s and '30s, and that those folks spent their first two decades eating additive-free foods.

After a bit, the townsfolk seem to adopt the notion that it might not be terrible for their own kids to get that kind of start. Jaud's not always subtle; he shoots parents chatting about pregnancies on country roads as tractors spray clouds of pesticides in the fields behind them. Still, by and large, the tone is gentle, the music French, and the food shot so delectably that you can all but smell the freshly baked bread.

About.com:

Jennifer's Documentaries Blog

By [Jennifer Merin](#), About.com Guide to Documentaries

Preview: *Food Beware* Opens Theatrically on October 16

Wednesday October 14, 2009

Taking us further down the [Food Inc.](#) path of awareness about food production and nutrition, Jean-Paul Jaud's documentary, *Food Beware: The French Organic Revolution* shows us how the mayor of Barjac, a farming community in rural Provence, introduces a program of healthy, responsible and sustainable eating for his town's 1,400 residents. The mayor's innovative initiative entails transformation of the town's central cafeteria, where school lunches are prepared, into an organic kitchen which uses locally grown produce. Jaud follows the mayor as he solves the inevitable patch of problems that crop up as he plants and grows his organic food revolution, and we see how the school kids, the first to fully benefit from the plan, participate more fully in it by planting vegetables. In fact, the mayor and this film create a kind of blueprint that others might follow to bring organic, healthy and socially responsible food production and preparation to their communities.

Additionally, Jaud provides ample evidence about why the 'organic food revolution' is important, citing statistics showing, for example, the causal relationship between the use of pesticides and cancer. He also presents the human up-close-and-personal side of the statistics when he interviews, for example, a woman who confides that her neighbor can't pee for a week after spraying his fields with chemicals.

The film, which factors fact and characters into its story, is both informative and entertaining. And, it may inspire anyone who's on the verge of an organic food revolution to take up the hoe and go for it.