

Quite a feat: getting the science right, humanizing the physicists, and - above all - making us care.

Kathryn Lo, *PBS*

Incredible access.

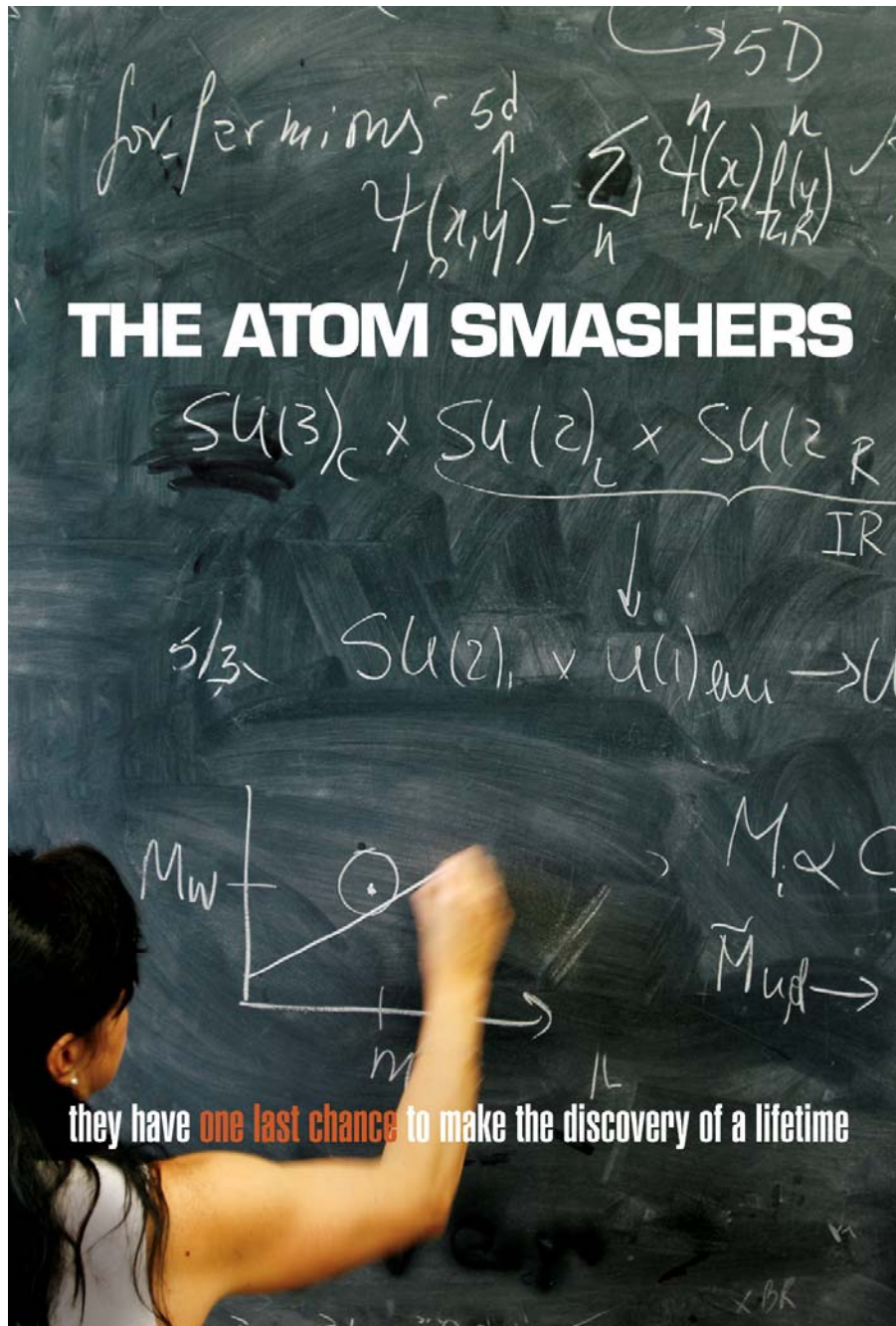
James Lilly, *Cinetic Media*

This is possibly the best glimpse into the world of modern particle physics that I have ever seen.

Mark Oreglia, *The University of Chicago*

***The Atom Smashers* forges its own path in science filmmaking and, in doing so, establishes a new paradigm for the field.**

Chris Kustus, *A New Paradigm for the Science Documentary*



they have **one last chance** to make the discovery of a lifetime



Take a deep breath as you walk into the laboratory, and you can smell discovery in the air.

Leon Lederman
Nobel Laureate and Director Emeritus – Fermilab

The Atom Smashers chronicles two gripping races: a forty-year international scientific competition to find the universe's most important subatomic particle and the effort of a massive machine built to find it.

Top American physicists search for the tiny “god particle” using the Tevatron, a four-mile tunnel buried beneath the Illinois prairie. It stumbles, breaks, is repaired, and surges ahead in attempts to find the particle, beat the competition, and claim a Nobel Prize.

A bigger, stronger, and faster European machine is poised to come online in 2008. The tension is palpable.

When budgets are slashed, Fermilab scientists – stunned – learn that the Tevatron will close just as Europe's machine is scheduled to activate. Scientists protest the government's handling of science in all fields, warning that “we're entering into a fantastic era of learning, full of windows of opportunity for understanding the universe. This is not the time to be getting out of the game.”

An exploration of the beautiful truths and frustrating difficulties of particle physics, *The Atom Smashers* watches its characters work and live in and out of the laboratory, examining the intersection between science, politics, and culture on an international scale.

Two continents, two accelerators, one particle. Who will find it?

LEAD CHARACTERS



Marcela Carena is a senior scientist at Fermilab and a Professor in the Physics Department and Enrico Fermi Institute at the University of Chicago. Her research explores the possible connections between Higgs physics, supersymmetry, unification, flavor physics, and dark matter. She has developed a promising model to explain the matter-antimatter asymmetry observed in the universe, which will be tested at the CERN Large Hadron Collider.



John Conway is a professor of physics at the University of California, Davis. Prior to UC Davis, he taught eleven years on the faculty at Rutgers University. John is an experimental particle physicist, a member of the CMS experiment at the CERN, and the CDF experiment at Fermilab.

John's research focuses on the search for new particles in high energy particle collisions, including the Higgs boson, and particles predicted by supersymmetric theory and other new theories of particle physics.



Robin Erbacher is an Assistant Professor at University of California, Davis, and an experimental physicist working with the CDF Experiment at Fermilab. Her work with CDF includes calorimeter electronics, including installing, debugging, commissioning, and maintaining the calorimeter detector readout and front-end trigger interface.

Robin's special interest is in exotic physics, including searches for the Higgs boson and supersymmetric particles.



Ben Kilminster is a postdoctoral researcher for Ohio State University working with the CDF Experiment at Fermilab. His work involves improving the sensitivity of CDF and the Tevatron experiments for the Standard Model Higgs in the area of detector hardware and physics analysis.

Ben was recently awarded the Universities Research Association 2008 Tollestrup Award for his fundamental contributions to the improvement of the sensitivity in the search for the Standard Model Higgs boson at the Tevatron.



Leon Lederman is a 1988 Nobel Prize winner in Physics and Director Emeritus of Fermilab, where he was Director from 1978 to 1989.

A creative force behind the original founding of Fermilab, Leon has also received the National Medal of Science, the Wolf Prize, and the Ernest O. Lawrence Medal. He has been called a "modern day Leonardo Da Vinci" by the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry.

THE EXPERTS



Natalie Angier is a science writer for *The New York Times*. She won a Pulitzer Prize for Beat Reporting in 1991.



John H. Marburger, III is Science Adviser to the President of the United States and Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.



Gregorio Bernardi works with the DCF and D0 collaborations at Fermilab. He is a Professor at University of Paris, France, and author of *Searches and Prospects for the Standard Model Higgs at the Tevatron*.



Chris Quigg is a scientist in the Theoretical Physics Department at Fermilab and a visiting scientist at CERN. He is internationally known for his studies of heavy quarks.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

With unparalleled access to the top U.S. physics laboratory, *The Atom Smashers* is the first documentary by 137 Films, a Chicago-based production company that tells stories from the world of science.

FILM STATUS

Principal production 2004 – 2007 **Fine cuts: 53/73 min. (broadcast/theat.)** September 2008

Festivals and Selected Screenings

Milan Window on Science Festival	(Official Selection)	March 2008
Science Chicago	(Opening Weekend Keystone Film)	September 2008
Vancouver International Film Festival	(Official Selection, Documentary Competition)	October 2008
Pariscience	(Official Selection)	October 2008
Bergen International Film Festival	(Official Selection, Documentary Competition)	October 2008
Austin Film Festival	(Official Selection, Documentary Competition)	October 2008
Chicago Underground Film Festival	(Official Selection)	October 2008

Distribution

PBS – Independent Lens (Broadcast, Home Video - U.S. + territories) 2008-2010

All rights (excepting Broadcast and Home Video (U.S. + territories)) and Online are owned by 137 Films.

RELATED PRESS

Visit <http://137films.org/films/theatomsmashers/relatedinfo.php> for an up-to-date news archive on Fermilab, CERN, and the search for the Higgs.

PRODUCTION TEAM



Clayton Brown (Director) is a filmmaker and musician whose work has been screened internationally.

Clayton was born in Kansas City, Missouri, and received an MFA in film from Northwestern University, where he was awarded a presidential fellowship and the Garry Marshall Filmmaker's Award. He is now on the faculty teaching film production and post-production.

2008	<i>Galileo's Grave</i>	IFP Chicago Production Fund (\$100K grant)	<u>Winner</u>
2003	<i>Relax</i>	Microsoft commission	
2001	<i>I Will if You Will</i>	IFP Market Los Angeles Intl. Short Film Festival	<u>Finalist</u>



Monica Long Ross (Director) is a filmmaker and playwright whose work has been screened internationally.

Monica was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, received an MFA in film from Northwestern University, is an associate director of The Arizona Women's Theatre Company in Scottsdale, Arizona, and teaches at Columbia College Chicago.

2006	<i>The Story of My Life</i>	National Museum of Women in the Arts	
2005	<i>Complications</i>	Arizona Women's Theater	
1997	<i>Dinner</i>	Fire Art Festival Rose d'Or Montreux	<u>Audience Award</u> <u>Finalist</u>



Andrew Suprenant (Producer) has created commercial projects in Chicago for six years. His work has been recognized by INTERCOM, the industrial arm of the Chicago International Film Festival. Andrew's clients include New Balance, The Museum of Science and Industry, PepsiCo, and Lollapalooza.

Andrew was born in Kankakee, Illinois, and has a degree in Radio/TV/Film from Northwestern University.

2010	<i>Chicago Hot Dog Stands</i>	in production	
2008	<i>Galileo's Grave</i>	IFP Chicago Production Fund (\$100K grant)	<u>Winner</u>



Kate Simko (Composer) has received worldwide acclaim performing besides artists such as Richie Hawtin, Four Tet, Ellen Allien, John Tejada, and Ulrich Schnauss.

Kate was recently named one of the Top 10 DJ's in Chicago by XLR8R magazine. Her work has been remixed by Thomas Brinkmann and Atom Heart, and she has remixed pieces by Philip Glass, Aeroc, and others.

2006	<i>Strumm</i>	Kupei Musika	
2001	<i>Detalles</i>	One of URB's "Next 100" Artists	