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Title: Attend debut of new film on the Lab's first director

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LA-UR#:

Attend debut of new film on the Lab's first director

The new documentary film on Oppenheimer will officially release at the NSSB

By [National Security Research Center](#) staff



Caption: The documentary film's title scene, *Oppenheimer: Science, Mission, Legacy*

(LANLToday link to image:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jUl15ub4TBNwqqFbaDVy6EAfZluqgh-F/view?usp=drive_link)

The NSRC's much-anticipated documentary, *Oppenheimer: Science, Mission, Legacy*, will premiere for Lab staff later this summer at the NSSB auditorium, and then be made available online.

Speakers at the premiere will include film creator and primary producer **Dave Tietmeyer** (Multimedia Services, CEA-MP), Senior Historian **Alan Carr (WRS-NSCMS)**, and NSRC Director **Brye Steeves (WRS-DO)**.

The film was entirely produced by the NSRC and Laboratory staff and will commemorate former director J. Robert Oppenheimer and his endeavors. Much of the material and several scenes featured in the film are based on collections from the Manhattan Project era and interviews with today's Lab staff and Oppenheimer experts.

According to Tietmeyer, this isn't another run-of-the-mill history film. "We didn't want to produce another linear historical documentary, which has been done many times already. We wanted to give viewers a new perspective that connects Oppenheimer's Manhattan Project mission to our mission today," he said.

The film has been a labor of pride and acclaim for the filmmakers. **Chase Wheeler** (Multimedia Services, CEA-MP), the film's production assistant and camera operator, has seen the film as an experience of a lifetime. "This project has opened my eyes to so many stories and fascinating people that have helped shape the history of not only the Lab, but the world," he said. "This documentary has allowed me to speak with such a diverse range of people from directors to theoretical physicists. I can hardly wait for everyone to see the final product!"

Tietmeyer shared that the film includes several names Lab employees will recognize, including Lab Director Thom Mason; Associate Lab Director, Science Technology, Engineering John Sarrao; Associate Lab Director Charlie Nakhleh (Weapons Physics) and Deputy Lab Director Bob Webster (Weapons).

The film is exceptional among the NSRC's many projects, and highlights the impetus for the Manhattan Project's creation and Lab's continuing mission. "We want viewers of the film to understand that Oppenheimer was called on by his country to develop a war-ending weapon. His vision and leadership led to his reaching this goal," Tietmeyer said.

All badge holders are welcome to attend this unclassified event at the National Security Sciences Building (NSSB, 03-1400). For this special event, security personnel will check badges at the lobby entrance to the Pete V. Domenici Auditorium. [No Lab-issued or personal electronics](#) are allowed.

Audience members will be allowed to ask questions to conclude the event.

Looking for more?

- Visit the NSRC's [website devoted to Oppenheimer](#).
- Can't wait for the film's release? Check out the trailer for the documentary on J. Robert Oppenheimer, created by the Lab's National Security Research Center: <https://youtu.be/xVkiqTyk7UQ>
- Download and print the official movie poster for the documentary, created by NSRC graphic designer Paul Ziomek (CEA-MP).
- The Summer 2023 issue of LANL's [National Security Science](#) showcases Oppenheimer's life and work, emphasizing Manhattan Project-era science and technology that are still relevant to today's national security work.

- The NSRC's [Weapons Knowledge Management Program](#) quarterly classified video series, **Unlocking the Vault**, will feature classified and newly discovered unclassified Manhattan Project-era video footage and Q&A with experts **Alan Carr** and **Glen McDuff** [on Thursday, July 27](#). Open to Q-cleared personnel with U.S. citizenship.

Questions, comments or feedback? Contact the News team (lanltoday@lanl.gov).



The film features **Jim Kunetka** (author of *The General and the Genius* (2015)); **Alan Carr** (LANL Senior Historian); **Charlie McMillian** (former LANL Director); **John Sarrao** (Associate Lab Director, Science Technology, Engineering); **Bob Webster** (Deputy Lab Director, Weapons) among many others.

(LANLToday link to image:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1f5BXu6MW_yJhGAOQIBau2sehJNj49eVY/view?usp=drive_link)