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## 1986

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## 1986

### Abstract

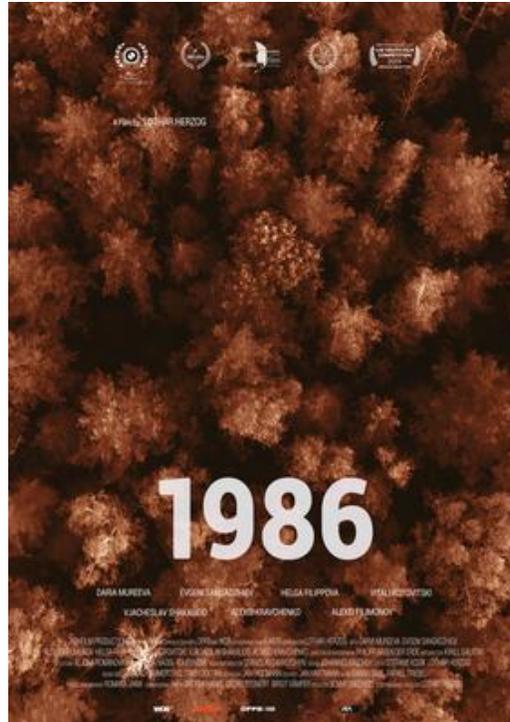
This is a film review of *1986* (2019) directed by Lothar Herzog.

### Keywords

Chernobyl Nuclear Disaster

### Author Notes

William Blizek is the Founding Editor of the Journal of Religion and Film, and is Professor of Philosophy and Religion at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He is also the editor of the Continuum Companion to Religion and Film (2009).



**1986 (2019), dir. Lothar Herzog**

The Chernobyl nuclear disaster occurred on the 26th of April, 1986. It was probably the closest thing to the Apocalypse that human beings have experienced. Chernobyl is the first nuclear disaster to be rated a 7, the highest rating that can be given to nuclear disasters. Over the years many people have died from the radiation that was expelled by the Chernobyl nuclear facility. The Chernobyl nuclear disaster was so bad that the completion of its clean-up is not scheduled until 2065. *1986* is a movie that asks how human beings have responded to the near destruction of the planet.

Lena and her boyfriend, Viktor, are living a rather ordinary life. The relationship has its ups and downs. They do many of the things we would expect of teenagers. Lena and Viktor represent those who are mostly oblivious to the Chernobyl disaster. Life goes on. Let's move on. Nothing changes. But the one thing that keeps Lena tied to the Chernobyl disaster is her father's business, that she is trying to keep going. Her father would go into the exclusion zone and

find metal that he could sell outside the zone. An illegal, but profitable business. Now Lena drives her father's truck into the exclusion zone, buys contaminated metal, and sells it to people outside the zone, people willing to take the risk of contamination for cheap metal.

How easily we forget the dangers surrounding us--think global warming--as we seek our present comfort. But the dangers do not go away just because we ignore them.