

MANH(A)TTAN

HOW MUCH EVIL DOES IT TAKE TO DO GOOD?

SEASON 2 PREMIERES ON WGN AMERICA TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 9PM/8C

Inspired by The Manhattan Project, a secret program that produced the world's first atomic bomb, *Manhattan* is an original series on WGN America that reimagines history to provide a look behind the scenes at the brilliant but flawed scientists who achieved this breakthrough while caught up in a world where deception and danger permeated every aspect of their lives.

This viewer's guide offers some topics for discussion or reflection to enrich your viewing of this acclaimed television series. In addition, the guide lists books, DVDs, and websites that can provide a broader perspective on the once-secret world brought to life in *Manhattan*.



FOR DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

1. Fictional *Manhattan* lead scientist Frank Winter (John Benjamin Hickey) says, "Whoever builds it first, that's the end game. So it has to be us, whatever the cost." How do you think the scientists involved in The Manhattan Project justified creating a bomb which was intended to kill tens of thousands of people?
2. Hundreds of women played a part in The Manhattan Project, including several who worked on development of the bomb at Los Alamos. Consider how women were treated at Los Alamos. Was this on par with how they were treated by American society as a whole during World War II?
3. In Season 2, Episode 1, the commanding officer at Los Alamos, Col. Emmett Darrow (William Petersen) says, "God buried an atom in a million tons of rock so America could split it in two and redraw the maps of the world." After the bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, how do you think the scientists who worked to develop this deadly technology felt?
4. What sort of moral conflicts do you think those working to preserve national security in today's world experience? How are these conflicts the same as or different from those experienced by the scientists working on The Manhattan Project?

LEARN MORE

Books

- *The Making of the Atomic Bomb* by Richard Rhodes
- *Manhattan Project: The Birth of the Atomic Bomb in the Words of its Creators, Eyewitnesses, and Historians* by Cynthia C. Kelly and Richard Rhodes
- *Now It Can Be Told: The Story of The Manhattan Project* by Leslie R. Groves
- *109 East Palace: Robert Oppenheimer and the Secret City of Los Alamos* by Jennet Conant
- *The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II* by Denise Kiernan

Films

- *Fat Man and Little Boy*, 1998
- *Doctor Atomic*, 2011

Websites

- *Atomic Heritage Foundation*, www.atomicheritage.org.
- *Los Alamos Historical Society*, www.losalamoshistory.org
- *Voices of The Manhattan Project*, <http://manhattanprojectvoices.org>