

# CAPE SPIN



## AN AMERICAN **POWER** STRUGGLE

THE ELECTRON PROJECT PRESENTS A FILM BY REBIRTH PRODUCTIONS AND THE PRESS & THE PUBLIC PROJECT  
WITH GALLANT FILMS AND NAKED EDGE FILMS CAPE SPIN: AN AMERICAN POWER STRUGGLE  
CONSULTING PRODUCER DANIEL J. CHALFEN ASSOCIATE EDITOR BRADLEE HICKS MUSIC BY VICKIE YANG BOB KLEIN  
EDITED BY JOHN KIRBY DANIEL COFFIN PRODUCED BY ROBBIE GEMMEL DANIEL COFFIN LIBBY HANDROS JOSH LEVIN  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS LIBBY HANDROS JIM BUTTERWORTH DIRECTED BY ROBBIE GEMMEL JOHN KIRBY





# CAPE SPIN

## AN AMERICAN POWER STRUGGLE

### ABOUT THE FILM

*Cape Spin! An American Power Struggle* is the surreal, fascinating, tragicomic tale of the battle over America's largest clean energy project. When energy entrepreneur Jim Gordon first proposed putting 130 wind turbines in fabled Nantucket Sound, he had no idea that a firestorm would erupt. *Cape Spin!* tells the incredible tale of how America's first proposed offshore wind farm triggered a schism in this idyllic coastal region, pitting neighbor against neighbor and environmentalist against environmentalist. Revealing the root causes of their furor, the filmmakers enjoyed unprecedented behind-the-scenes access to the key players on both sides of the controversy. The tale frames the battle over Nantucket Sound as a microcosm of America's struggle towards energy sustainability. After 10 years, \$70 million and 8,000 pages of analysis the Federal Government approved the wind farm project on April 28, 2010. But the controversy continues...

Five years in the making, *Cape Spin!* "proves that environmental films can be seriously funny crowd pleasers and about much more than just the environment."

### FILM DISTRIBUTION

*Cape Spin!* will have its theatrical premiere in Boston at the Coolidge Corner on June 15<sup>th</sup>, National Wind Day. From there the film will screen in Washington, Provincetown, Newport, Stamford and New York City. By the end of the summer, we will have played in Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard and other Eastern seaboard communities where offshore wind is either a big issue or is becoming one. We have interest as well from theaters around the country, including Chicago, Cleveland and San Francisco.

Prior to hitting the theatrical circuit, *Cape Spin!* made its international premiere at the prestigious Documentary Film Festival (IDFA) in Amsterdam in November 2011, and the film has since screened at major festivals from Woodstock to Washington, DC. *Cape Spin!* has been a huge hit, and according to *The Associated Press*: "The finished *Cape Spin!* alternates between the sober, lighthearted and even wacky as it breaks down its complex subject and follows the debate and protest around the Cape."

### OUTREACH

The *Electron Project* is the multi-platform outreach program designed to accompany *Cape Spin!* It is the interactive story of power teaching the user the real costs of their energy use: in dollars, in health effects, in environmental degradation. And then it provides powerful tools and incentives to change. Business by business, school-by-school, individual by individual, the *Electron Project* seeks to spread the ideal of democratic, distributed, renewable power. Partnering with NGOs, educational institutions, corporations, and even municipalities, the *Electron Project's* goal is to transform the passive process of watching a film or idly researching on the web into active engagement.

### THE PRODUCERS

The film is a production of The Press & the Public Project and Rebirth Productions. The combined companies have over thirty years of experience producing award-winning films for every major broadcaster. Their films have shown on HBO, Showtime, ESPN, NOVA, Discovery, and Fox, as well as theatrically. Private investors, along with a consortium of foundations led by the Fledgling Fund and the Rockefeller Family Fund, have financed the film.

### CREDITS

Directors: John Kirby, Robbie Gemmel

Directors of Photography: Daniel Coffin, Robbie Gemmel, John Kirby

Editors: Daniel Coffin, John Kirby

Music: Bob Klein, Vickie Yang

Producers: Daniel Coffin, Robbie Gemmel, Libby Handros, Josh Levin

Executive Producers: Libby Handros, Jim Butterworth

A Production of The Press & the Public Project, Inc. and Rebirth Productions with Gallant Films and Naked Edge Films

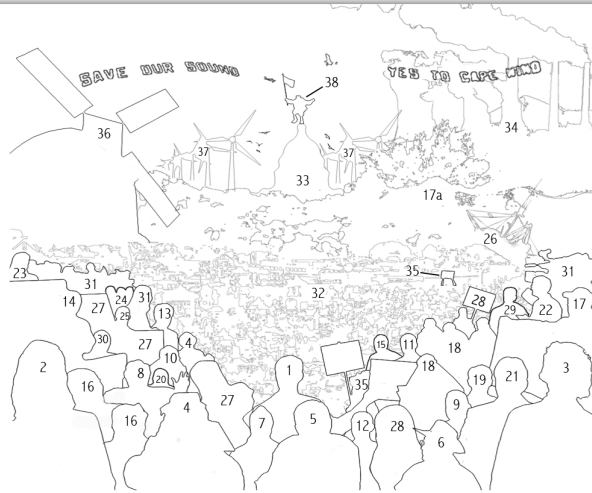
Contact: Libby Handros (917) 941-1193 at [lhandros@aol.com](mailto:lhandros@aol.com).

[www.CapeSpin.com](http://www.CapeSpin.com)



Front of Postcard





**CONTACT: JOSH LEVIN JOSH@GALLANTFILMS.COM 212-300-6086**

1. JIM GORDON proposed America's first offshore windfarm, Cape Wind
2. AUDRA PARKER was hired to stop it
3. BARBARA HILL was hired to stop Audra
4. THESE GUYS were hired to make fun of Jim
5. ROBERT WHITCOMB makes fun of it all
6. US INTERIOR SECRETARY Ken Salazar says he has the final word
7. BILL KOCH puts wind in the opposition's sails with petroleum dollars
8. TED KENNEDY, sailor, fights against the windfarm in the Senate
9. MARK RODGERS fights for the windfarm in the media
10. GLENN WATTLEY is determined to see the project fail
11. MASSACHUSETTS GOVERNOR DEVAL PATRICK is determined to see it succeed
12. PRESIDENT OBAMA sounds great when he says "wind is the future"
13. FMR. GOVERNOR MITT ROMNEY looks great when he says "windfarms aren't pretty"
14. CLIFF CARROLL will beat the windfarm to death
15. STEVEN PECKHAM likes to deface anti-wind signs with spray paint
16. CHERYL ANDREWS-MALTAIS and her tribe say the site is a sacred burial ground
17. WV COAL MINERS say their state has become a dumping ground (cf. 17a)
18. "SHEIK OMAR HADDAD" leads his fellow Sheiks Against Wind for Greenpeace
19. DENNIS DUFFY was once propositioned by a Kennedy
20. PETER KENNEY is "The Great Gadfly" in the media ointment
21. NEAL COSTELLO is the wind lobbyist who's "thinkin' about women and glasses of beer"
22. SEAN CORCORAN tells it like it is on the radio
23. BETH DALEY sticks to the facts in the paper
24. THE CAPE COD TIMES toes the line between news and opinion
25. ROB BUSSIERE says wind won't end coal
26. THE FISHERMEN say the windfarm will end fishing
27. REGULAR FOLKS are for and against
28. RICH FOLKS are against and for
29. MARTY AIKENS is looking for a few good green (union) jobs
30. ROBERT F. KENNEDY JR. is... a surprise!



*Hello from Cape Cod, USA, where the surreal, fascinating, tragicomic story of the battle over America's largest clean energy project rages on! Cape Wind would be the U.S.'s first offshore windfarm... But strange alliances formed for and against: Kennedys, Kochs, and everyday folks do battle with the developer and green groups over the future of American power. It's a political epic!*

**DANIEL CHALFEN DANIEL@NAKEDEDGEFILMS.COM 310-435-2322**

31. THE MEDIA is either spinning or getting spun, depending on who you talk to.
32. CAPE COD, MARTHA'S VINEYARD and NANTUCKET are major centers of tourism
33. THE CLOAKROOM in the US Capitol building is the real center of the action
34. COAL BURNING PLANTS contribute to the worst air quality in Massachusetts
35. GREENPEACE PROPS remind the low lying Cape of rising sea levels
36. THE OLD MILL is from the windpower past, which everyone loves
37. THE NEW MILLS are from the wind-power future, which everyone loves (just not in Nantucket Sound).
38. THE ORANGE BIRD OF ABSURDITY presides over all

## Back of Postcard



## Starring (in order of appearance):



Robert Whitcomb, Editor, Providence Journal



Jim Gordon, President, Cape Wind



Barbara Hill, Clean Power Now



Audra Parker, Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound



Bill Koch, CEO, Oxbow Carbon



Sean Corcoran, Reporter, NPR



Liam Thompson, Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound



Stephen Peckham, Clean Power Now



Beth Daley, Reporter, Boston Globe



Peter Kenney, "The Great Gadlfy"



Peter Meyer, Publisher, Cape Cod Times



Bill Mills, Editorial Page Editor, Cape Cod Times



Jason Jones, Reporter, The Daily Show



Rep. Ed Markey, (D) Massachusetts





Marty Aikens, Electrical Workers Union, Local 103



Neal Costello, State Lobbyist, Cape Wind



Sen. Ted Stevens, (R) Alaska



Mark Rodgers, Communications, Cape Wind



Rep. Don Young, (R) Alaska



Paul Pronovost, Editor, Cape Cod Times



Sen. Edward Kennedy, (D) Massachusetts



Mitt Romney, (R) Former Governor of Massachusetts



Peter Howe, Anchor, New England Cable News



Sen. Lamar Alexander, (R) Tennessee



Sen. Jeff Bingaman, (D) New Mexico



Sen. Larry Craig, (R) Idaho



Glen Wattley, CEO, Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound



Rodney Cluck, Minerals Management Service



“Pirate Jim”, Clown, Hired by the Alliance



Cliff Carroll, Co-founder, Windstop.org



Ed Barrett, President, Mass Fishermen’s Partnership









“Sheik Omar Haddad”, Sheiks Against Wind



Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., President, Waterkeeper Alliance



John Passacantando, Former President, Greenpeace USA

-  Dennis Duffy, Vice President, Cape Wind
-  Joseph Kennedy II, Founder, Citizens Energy
-  Barack Obama, President of the United States
-  Cheryl Andrews-Maltais, Chairwoman, Wampanoag Tribe
-  George "Chuckie" Green, Wampanoag Tribal Historic Officer
-  Dave Moriarty, Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound
-  Secretary Ken Salazar, US Interior Department
-  Bettina Washington, Wampanoag Tribal Historic Officer
-  Jeffrey Madison, Attorney, Wynn & Wynn, P.C
-  Philip E. Lemnios, Town Manager, Hull Massachusetts
-  Pat Cannon, Hull Municipal Light Plant
-  Richard Miller, Hull Municipal Light Plant
-  Rear Admiral G. Gurnon, President, Massachusetts Maritime
-  Diana Duffley, Owner, Country Garden
-  Ronald Smolowitz, Owner and Operator, Coonamesset Farm
-  Richard Andre, Vineyard Power
-  Paul Pimentel, Vineyard Power
-  Governor Deval Patrick, (D) Massachusetts
-  Reverend William Eddy, Clean Power Now
-  Barbara Birdsey, Founder, Pegaus Foundation



## Cape Spin! Production Stills



Audra Parker, CEO of the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound, speaking to reporters at the Massachusetts State House after Cape Wind's federal approval is announced in April, 2010.



Barbara Hill, Director of Clean Power Now, speaking to a constituent after a meeting with Interior Secretary Salazar in Washington, DC, January, 2010.



Cliff Carroll, Founder of Windstop.org, protesting at the Minerals Management Service hearing in Yarmouth, MA, March 2008.



Producer/Editor Daniel Coffin filming a meeting at the US Interior Department, January 2010.





Director Robbie Gemmel shooting aerial photography of fishermen in Nantucket Sound.



Jim Gordon, President of Cape Wind Associates, taking questions from press at the Cape Wind's press conference announcing the release of the Final Environmental Impact Statement from MMS, January, 2009.





Jim Gordon, President of Cape Wind Associates, flanked by protestors for and against Cape Wind at the Minerals Management Service public hearings in Yarmouth, MA, March 2008.



Director/Editor John Kirby and Producer/Editor Daniel Coffin shooting from a beach in Provincetown, MA.





Opponents of Cape Wind protesting America's first offshore windfarm outside of the Minerals Management Service public hearing in Yarmouth, MA, March 2008.



Proponents of Cape Wind protesting for America's first offshore windfarm outside of the Minerals Management Service public hearing in Yarmouth, MA, March 2008.



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"[*Cape Spin*] was one of the most notable films to emerge from IDFA."

- Hollywood Reporter

"*Cape Spin*... does a great job showing the comical side of this fight... "

- The Huffington Post

"A thought provoking, almost surreal new feature documentary, *Cape Spin! An American Power Struggle* cleverly captures the monumental ten-year battle over Cape Wind..."

- The New York Green Advocate

"The finished "*Cape Spin!*" alternates between the sober, lighthearted and even wacky as it breaks down its complex subject and follows debate and protest around the Cape."

- The Boston Herald/The Associated Press

"In the end the movie was engaging, and... it did a good job of documenting the arguments of the parties involved."

- The Martha's Vineyard Gazette

"A case study of American politics in action, the film gives each side of the debate equal coverage, revealing the difficulty of reaching consensus on environmental and energy issues..."

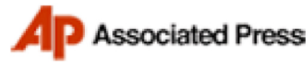
- Earth Share

"*Cape Spin* reveals the absurdity of political issue-campaigns when personal profit and self-interest swamp truth and fairness."

-Filmmaker Magazine



## Filmmakers Take on Cape Wind Saga in 'Cape Spin'



By JAY LINDSAY Associated Press  
BOSTON July 31, 2011 (AP)

The Cape Wind project is New England's never-ending story, tangled in debate and litigation ever since it was proposed in 2001. But a group of filmmakers say they've told the tale in about 84 minutes.

"Cape Spin" is a new feature-length documentary on the battle over Cape Wind, a 130-turbine offshore wind farm planned for Nantucket Sound.

The documentary will premiere at film festivals in late summer or early fall. A sneak preview for the project's developers and various critics and advocates is set for Tuesday on Martha's Vineyard.

Cape Wind supporters say the first-in-the-nation project will launch a new American clean energy industry, while opponents say it will only enrich a private developer and ruin a natural treasure. And that's not nearly all they've said in the last 10 years.

Fishermen, pilots, bird lovers, Indians, the poor and the rich have come down firmly on both sides, defying stereotypes about who is for or against wind energy. That's seen in "Cape Spin" when Greenpeace activists pursue a yacht carrying environmental stalwart and Cape Wind foe Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to inform he's "on the wrong boat" on the project.

Amid the noise, "Cape Spin" aims to separate facts from distortion and let viewers decide about Cape Wind for themselves.



AP

This March 2008 still image from the... [View Full Caption](#)

"We don't hit people over the head," said executive producer Libby Handros. "We don't make advocacy films."

With positions so hardened among the players, that vow of objectivity was met with skepticism from the start.

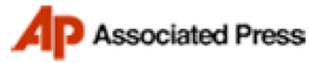
"It never ends, with people looking deep into your eyes and soul, and being like, 'What, really, is your position?'" said producer/director Robbie Gemmel.

The \$500,000 film project started in 2007 with a goal to finish in 18





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By JAY LINDSAY Associated Press  
BOSTON July 31, 2011 (AP)

months. But like Cape Wind, "Cape Spin" took longer than expected. Even though Cape Wind has won federal approval, the \$2.6 billion project is still looking for financing, facing numerous court challenges and hoping to produce power by 2013.

Some of the principals on both sides have already seen an early, shorter preview of "Cape Spin," which Gemmel said they showed last year to assure the various parties the documentary was objective.

The pressure from advocates to include this, or take out that, has been steady, and Gemmel said the filmmakers have been open to suggestion.

He added, "I know both sides will object to certain aspects of it, because there are bits and pieces and segments here and there that show things that they would certainly prefer not being shown."

"Cape Spin" was ultimately born in long talks between Gemmel and friend Dan Coffin, who were both fascinated with the project. Gemmel, who had worked in documentary filmmaking, thought Cape Wind had all the elements: a great story with colorful characters, a scenic setting and status as a vanguard project in a critical American industry.

Gemmel decided to make a film and said he wanted Coffin aboard for his work ethic, technical savvy and general smarts. Coffin said yes, convinced the film would draw a crowd if Cape Wind's narrative could be uncovered under the endless process and racket.

Early efforts to win funding for "Cape Spin" fizzled, which Gemmel blames on Cape Wind's thorny politics. Money was available for a film that came down hard on either side, but that wasn't an option, Coffin said.

# THE Hollywood REPORTER

## 'Planet of Snail' Wins Amsterdam's International Documentary Film Festival

AMSTERDAM – Seung-Jun Yi's *Planet of Snail*, the story of a South Korean man blind and deaf since birth, has sped away with the best feature length documentary prize at the 24th International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA). The film, which traces the man's interactions with the world and his loving wife, had been an early favorite of audiences and industry-attendees alike.

A special jury award and the audience award went to **Emad Burnat** and **Guy Davidi** for *5 Broken Cameras*, about a Palestinian village's resistance of encroaching Jewish settlements. Mid-length Argentinian documentary *Montenegro* by **Jorge Gaggero** and Chinese-Canadian co-production *The Vanishing Spring Light* by first-timer **Xun Yu** picked up other international honors, while the top Dutch award went to **Jessica Gorter** for *900 Days*.

IDFA-officials confirm that 2011 had been a banner-year for the festival, widely regarded as one of the most important and influential showcases for documentaries, which hosted more than 2600 guests and saw a healthy increase in ticket-sales – especially important at a time when many public broadcasters have either tightened their budgets or gone off to join the ratings-race.

Spirits were equally up at the Docs for Sale market, which bristled with activity, and the Forum, where filmmakers presented their projects to a panel of broadcasters, leading to some regular love-fests at the audience attended Central Pitches – even though one has to assume that follow-up negotiations with individual filmmakers were apt to reflect market-conditions more clearly.

Apart from the winning titles, **other notable documentaries were** the satirical *The Ambassador*, in which director **Mads Brügger** goes undercover as a faux Liberian consul; **Robert H. Lieberman's** secretly filmed and often heartbreaking *They Call it Myanmar - Lifting the Curtain*; **and John Kirby and Robbie Gemmel's** *Cape Spin*, which examines the NIMBY-mentality of affluent citizens in the Nantucket Sound-area, resisting a proposed wind-farm despite their public commitment to green energy.

Guests at IDFA 2011 included **Steve James, Morgan Spurlock, Joe Berlinger, Frederick Wiseman, Victor Kossakovsky, Eduardo Coutinho, Jonathan Stack, Maziar Bahari** and **Marina Goldovskaya**.

## Cape Spin: An American Power Struggle

One of my favorite events of the year is right around the corner -- the [Cleveland International Film Festival](#) (CIFF) from March 22 to April 1. There are many aspects of the festival that I enjoy, but perhaps what I find most valuable is the opportunity to engage in conversation on the plethora of topics addressed in the documentaries shown during the 11-day event.

Though I attend the festival to watch a variety of films, the environmental documentaries are always a favorite of mine. This year, [EcoWatch](#) is sponsoring [Dirty Energy](#), which documents the personal stories of those directly affected by the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and their struggles to rebuild their lives amidst the economic devastation and long-term health risks afflicting the area. Stay tuned to [my column](#) during the next two weeks for more details on this documentary and the other [It's Easy Being Green films](#) that are playing at this year's CIFF, one of the nation's finest and most attended festivals.

In preparation for my participation in the FilmForum on March 30, I previewed the acclaimed documentary [Cape Spin](#). This film portrays the two sides in the fight over the approved plan for this country's first offshore wind farm, which will place 130 wind turbines as tall as 440 feet about 10 miles offshore of Nantucket Sound's cherished Horseshoe Shoal which is surrounded by the islands of Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket and Cape Cod.

*Cape Spin* provides an in-depth look into the well-funded political tug-of-war that has transpired since the original 2001 proposal for Cape Wind's energy project. As of August 2011, the two sides combined have spent more than \$70 million in the struggle over this project. And with numerous lawsuits pending, challenging rulings on fishing, navigation, endangered species and tribal rights, the costs of this monumental battle are sure to increase.

I've been following the Cape Wind project for years, but this film provided an inside glimpse of what this community has been going through for more than a decade. It's clear to me that proponents of this project, outside of the developer and the people being paid to promote the project, desperately want to see the U.S. transition to a sustainable and secure energy supply, and are willing, for the most part, to support any project regardless of its location and financial beneficiaries. Many of the opponents of this project support a renewable energy future but refuse to sacrifice the public resource of Nantucket Sound to a privately owned industrial wind farm that will generate electricity at more than double the average wholesale price at today's rates.

The film illustrates how the unlikely alliances that have formed on both sides further complicate the issue and cloud the debate. *Cape Spin* is entertaining and does a great job showing the comical side of this fight. However, our energy future is nothing to laugh about. Controversies like the Cape Wind project are being played out across the country where privately owned industrial-sized renewable energy projects are being proposed or installed on our public lands. There are 17 utility-scale renewable energy projects -- nine solar, six wind and two geothermal -- representing about 7,000 megawatts that have been given [priority status by the Bureau of Land Management](#).

I don't know if the Cape Wind project will ever be built, but I encourage you to see this thought-provoking film and decide for yourself which side you're on.

Posted: 03/14/2012 1:26 pm

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## Documentary Looks to Air Both Sides of Cape Wind

By MIKE SECCOMBE

Let's face it, there are few pursuits more quixotic than that of journalistic objectivity. The preview screening of the documentary movie *Cape Spin: An American Power Struggle in Oak Bluffs* on Tuesday night provided a perfect illustration of the point.

For 84 minutes, the film explored the issues involved in the controversial Cape Wind development. Then for another hour or so its makers were subjected by audience members to a torrent of claims and counterclaims about their objectivity.

And that highlights the central problem in assessing objectivity. The people who make the strongest pronouncements, the harshest judgments, are invariably themselves highly subjective.

Still, there are those who hew to the belief that objectivity can be objectively assessed, and they always begin with the apparently concrete measure of factuality. This might be described as the Dagnet measure. "Just the facts, ma'am," as they used to say in that old show.

But the problem with that measure is, of course, that certain facts may be included in a work of journalism, and they can also be omitted.



*Cape Spin* director Robbie Gemmel.



*Cape Spin* filmmaker John Kirby.

In the case of *Cape Spin*, the included facts were mostly accurate. The movie set out the detailed history of Cape Wind, presented the details on the number and location of the turbines, the points of controversy relating to wildlife, fisheries, Indian spiritual belief, the cost of the power to be produced, et cetera.

There was at least one minor error: The film had the number of legal actions

# VINEYARD GAZETTE

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currently in train against the development wrong. But while that was noted by the audience, that was not the focus of the criticism.

The critics from the anti-Cape Wind side complained about factual material that was included — a short segment which looked at the environmental and social costs of alternative methods of power generation, specifically mountain top removal in Appalachia by coal companies.

To the filmmakers, this was relevant because people protesting this destructive practice had been involved in actions in support of Cape Wind. But to those on the anti-wind power side, it was propaganda.

Several of the anti-Cape Wind audience members also thought there were issues that were insufficiently explored, including the potential health effects of turbines.

On the other side, those who supported Cape Wind felt there should have been more emphasis on the need for alternative energy. They complained that the film did not delve deeply enough into the broader issue of climate change due to the use of fossil fuels.

Another yardstick of objectivity is balance. Were all sides of the issue given an equal chance to present their views? Particularly at election time, people focus closely on this measure. Many countries actually require the media to give both sides an equal go.



Paul Pimental and WCAI journalist Sean Corcoran.

But this also is a crude measure because it is hard to control for quality. Was the representative of one side more personable/articulate/quotable than the other? Was that representative subjected to tougher questions? Did he or she appear in more favorable circumstances?

Here again, Cape Spin seemed to pass. Without counting the number of talking heads or putting a stopwatch on the minutes of screen time, there appeared to be an even number of speakers for and against Cape Wind. The two main characters in the documentary film are the head of the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound, Audra Parker, and the head of Clean Power Now, Barbara Hill.

# VINEYARD GAZETTE

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The star of the movie, though, was Robert Whitcombe of the Providence Journal. His critiques of the opponents of the project were pithy and articulate. He probably tipped the balance in favor of Cape Wind, not because he received a lot of screen time, but because he was so brilliantly concise. And it is also true that some of the anti-Cape Wind people were presented almost as caricatures of elite privilege.

The next measure of objectivity is tone. Were the concerns of one side or the other undermined by the way they were presented?



Richard Paradise introduces the panel after the screening.

Cape Wind supporters thought their side had been portrayed in an unflattering manner. One audience member claimed even the choice of music in the movie evidenced bias. Audra Parker said she thought the movie made a “mockery” of the seriousness of the issue.

She did not get a lot of support in that view. But there was one aspect of the movie that people from both sides agreed on — that a section in which a radio debate between Ms. Parker and Ms. Hill was intercut with old footage of a comic boxing match, was tacky and a cheap shot.

So is Cape Spin an objective work of reportage?

The assessment of the one independent working journalist on the discussion panel — WCAI reporter Sean Corcoran, who has long covered the story — was that it was. A slight majority of the members of the audience who spoke thought the movie favored Cape Wind. But that may have been because more opponents attended the screening.



# VINEYARD GAZETTE

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Full house at Union Chapel for panel discussion following Cape Spin documentary.

In the end the movie was engaging, and whether it came down slightly on one side or the other is in any case less important than the fact that it did a good job of documenting the arguments of the parties involved.

People will believe what they want to believe, a reality illustrated when a show of hands was called at the end of the movie. Who had changed their opinion because of it?

One hand went up.

# THE NEW YORK GREEN ADVOCATE

GREEN ADVOCATE PAUL MCGINNISS BRINGS YOU THE LATEST NEWS ABOUT  
THE WORLD ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABLE LIVING, RENEWABLE ENERGY,  
GREEN HOMES, BUILDING AND RENOVATION.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2011

## Woodstock Film Festival Premier of "Cape Spin: An American Power Struggle"

EPIC BATTLE OVER "CLEAN ENERGY" BECOMES  
ENTERTAINING FILM PLATFORM EXPLORING UPS  
AND DOWNS OF AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE

By Paul E. McGinniss

A thought provoking, almost surreal new feature documentary film called **Cape Spin: An American Power Struggle** cleverly captures the monumental ten year battle over Cape Wind, America's first proposed off shore wind farm planned for a 25 square mile area in the cherished blue waters of Nantucket Sound in Massachusetts.

This epic, often bizarre battle over the Cape Wind project is a red white and blue microcosm of America's struggle toward a green energy future. Cape Spin has a great soundtrack containing rock, pop, cabaret and Broadway style music. The film has engaging editing and colorfully depicts the rich, transcendent natural beauty of Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Sound, all the

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while showing the down to earth, comical, even ugly side of human nature, as the people depicted in the documentary take sides on a dramatic battle raging within their own "idyllic" community.

Cape Spin has a real ying yang pull, taking the audience from one side of the controversy to the other, showing how complex and layered the developing green energy revolution is, with unlikely alliances forming for and against the proposal to build one hundred and thirty, 440-foot wind turbines five plus miles off the coast of Massachusetts.

An article in Cape Cod Times called [Strange Boatfellows Clash in Nantucket Sound](#) gives one an idea of what strange bedfellows this battle has made. Indeed, some of the eye opening revelations and ironies captured in the film is that Jim Gordon, the seemingly good intentioned developer behind Cape Wind, made a fortune in not so green and friendly gas fired power plants, some of which he still owns. Meanwhile, legendary environmental



*Pic Robert Kennedy Jr. on Nantucket Sound as he holds a demonstration against the wind farm. Following Kennedy's boat is a Greenpeace led boat demonstrating for the wind project and against Kennedy. Pic Courtesy Cape Cod Times.*



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activist Robert Kennedy Jr is strongly against the clean energy project while the notorious activist group Greenpeace has taken the side of big energy developer Jim Gordon against the Kennedy eco icon.

What's wonderful about Cape Spin is that it manages to leave the viewer agreeing with and then questioning the logic and motives of both the anti wind farm camp and the pro wind camp. At times, the citizen activists in the film, both privileged and not - upper, lower and middle class - actually seem like characters trapped in a fictional drama; one gets the feeling "what a long strange trip it's been" for the subjects who jump out at you from the screen with an intensity and passion captured eloquently by the filmmakers who seem to be invisible and almost like all-seeing flies on the wall.



*Anti Cape Wind Demonstrators. Pic Courtesy Stage  
Coach Improv*

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I had the pleasure of seeing the film festival premier of Cape Spin at the Woodstock film festival and attend a lively Q & A with the film's directors and producers. After the Q & A I had the opportunity to interview one of the directors, Robbie Gemmel, the passionate young filmmaker who was the genesis of the film. Robbie was inspired to tackle the subject by a professor while an undergraduate at Emerson College in Massachusetts. Gemmel even went so far as to get a job on a fishing boat in Nantucket Sound to study the subject of Cape Wind. For him the making of the film was a battle all to its own because of all the barriers that come with creating an independent film with more passion than deep pockets.



*From left to right: Producers of Cape Spin Josh Levin, Libby Handros, Director and Producer, Robbie Gemmel and Director and Editor John Kirby. Pic Courtesy Woodstock Film Festival*

# THE NEW YORK GREEN ADVOCATE

GREEN ADVOCATE PAUL MCGINNISS BRINGS YOU THE LATEST NEWS ABOUT  
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Before seeing the film I was hell bent on getting Robbie to tell me what side he took in the Cape Wind skirmish, since the previous press for the film proclaimed it was the filmmakers' objective to be objective and not take sides in the controversy. Despite the successful efforts of the filmmakers not to take a stand, I imagined, surely Robbie had formed an opinion by now.

Robbie said when I spoke with him: "I can honestly convince myself either way - to be for or against the Cape Wind farm. I think both sides have a lot of valid points and there are reasons to build it and not to build it. But in the end I ultimately think the controversy is really good for the course of conversation around renewable energy development and for the awareness it's brought to where our current energy is coming from and the challenges we face to build large scale renewable energy sources."



*Pro Cape Wind Demonstrators. Pic Courtesy Enterprise News*



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I also met the film's other director and editor of Cape Spin, John Kirby, who became part of a creative team that produced the film. By meeting and speaking with John along with Robbie, I saw how they, even amongst themselves, debated the merits and downfalls of Cape Wind and still to this day continue the debate by questioning the up-sides and down-sides of the Cape Wind project.

John Kirby elaborated: "This Cape Wind controversy is happening all over the country. There are solar projects that are in contention, there are other wind projects in contention right here in New York. So if there is a lesson to take from this controversy it is - don't wait for a developer or the federal government to come in and say - this is where we are going to put this new energy facility - go ahead and build your own. It belongs to you - the wind, the sun, this belongs to you. That to me is the message to Cape Spin- power to the people."



*The Colony Cafe in Woodstock, New York, hub for the Woodstock Film Festival. Pic Courtesy the Woodstock Film Festival.*

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So what does this writer think about Cape Wind and whether or not it is an appropriate project in that location at this specific time? After seeing the film I was not so sure what I thought. It became clear to me that maybe in eco cinema one not need take a firm position to still get a clear pro environmental message across.

As I told the one of the producers of Cape Spin, Josh Levin, when we spoke at the Colony Cafe in Woodstock, part of me is RFK Jr who has come out swinging against the project. And part of me is Greenpeace which has come out vociferously promoting the project, ironically taking the side of the project's developer Jim Gordon, who as I mentioned the film points out, made a fortune on gas fueled power plants and stands to make another fortune on the Cape Wind project if it ever gets completed.

Offshore wind farms are fairly common in other parts of the world, such as Denmark, where large portions of their electricity are generated from wind and other renewables. But as Cape Spin masterfully depicts, here in the USA, a whopping \$70 million dollars has been spent by the opposing sides fighting for and against our

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country's first offshore renewable energy project. One could imagine what good \$70 million dollars would do toward making the the Nantucket Sound region more "renewable" with energy efficiency and small scale renewable power than thrown out the window in a surreal fight that seems as absurd as it does endless. But like the team behind Cape Spin points out, despite the enormous amount of money spent, with no clean, renewable energy generation to show for it, the controversy has created awareness about the issues and that helps.

In the end, no matter what you think about Cape Wind, and the film about it, what Cape Spin really becomes is a sly educational tool showing the do's and don'ts about how to move forward to a clean energy future. Cape Spin asks more questions than it answers, raises both red and white flags and shows all the gray within the green.



Pro Cape Wind Image via Greenpeace



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To further educational goals, the producers and directors of the film are collaborating on a multimedia educational platform called the [Electron Project](#) which was inspired by the Cape Wind controversy and the decade long journey of the film and its subjects. The Electron Project will show citizens across the country, exactly what amount and type of energy they are using and where it comes from. And it will offer resources to show people regionally how to become more energy self-sufficient.

As Robbie Gemmel explains: "The idea is that the Electron Project will accompany the film and as we roll out the film we are going to educate people about where their energy comes from and get them involved in it. We want to make an interactive process and connect audiences to local resources so they can live more sustainably and help develop a cleaner energy future for our country"

The Woodstock Film Festival stated appropriately "Cape Spin was "Fueled by a satiric 'revolutionary' soundtrack, and is a gripping and entertaining study of eco-capitalism and grassroots democracy." One puzzled looking woman in the film says simply yet profoundly at one of the many heated, over-the-top demonstrations about the wind farm: "It's interesting to see the public process unfold at these events - this is what America is all about."

Anyone who gives a damn about giving a damn should check Cape Spin out.



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## Cape Wind Spin

Air Date: Week of July 29, 2011



What started as a project to build America's first offshore windfarm has turned into a ten-year battle, with powerful interests on both sides. A new documentary chronicles the extreme opinions on both sides. Bruce Gellerman talks with the film's director Robbie Gemmel about why the Cape Cod community is so passionate about this issue.



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## Cape Wind Spin

GELLERMAN: It's Living on Earth. I'm Bruce Gellerman.

[MUSIC: If you're fond of sand dunes and salty air...: Patti Page "Old Cape Cod"]

GELLERMAN: Lobster stew...and an ocean view? Winding roads and strong winds off the water beckon you? We've got just the place...

[MUSIC: You're sure to fall in love with old Cape Cod...that Old Cape Cod...]

GELLERMAN: Cape Cod juts out like an arm and a prize fighter's fist into the Atlantic. Five miles off the southern shore in Nantucket Sound beyond the sun, sand and surf, the wind blows steady and strong. For 10 years this vacation haven has been the scene of a knock down drag out fight over siting the nation's first off shore wind farm. The Cape Wind Project – as it's called – has come out the winner, having received all of the necessary state and federal approvals. And the decade long battle is now chronicled in the new documentary: "Cape Spin: An American Power Struggle." Robbie Gemmel is producer and director of "Cape Spin."

**GEMMEL: I actually started following this story in 2001 when I was in college. I was absolutely mesmerized that it has carried on this long and it is still thriving more than ever.**



Choppy seas from the abundant wind in Nantucket Harbor.  
(Photo: Ethan Oringel, Flickr Creative Commons)

GELLERMAN: Why? What is it about this project that so divides people?

GEMMEL: I would say, the scale of it and asking a community that has many generations on the Cape and Islands to embrace such a large-scale industrial project, when, for the most part, despite all the development that has happened on the Cape, these communities have really gone out of their way to really preserve the natural beauty and also the history of the Cape and Islands.

GELLERMAN: When they were originally proposing this way back when, it was something like 170 towers and turbines, right?

GEMMEL: Correct. It was 170 and then shortly thereafter they downsized it to 130 turbines.

GELLERMAN: It still takes up a lot of water!

GEMMEL: Yeah, that's correct, it is a fairly large footprint. The turbines themselves I think are 16 feet wide, but the entire wind farm is spread across 25 miles.

GELLERMAN: On the pro side, you've got the developer, Jim Gordon, who wants to build the windfarm...





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## Cape Wind Spin

[MUSIC/FROM THE MOVIE: The Cape and Islands, according the American Lung Association has the worst air quality in Massachusetts, so we thought that by developing a major [WIND SOUNDS] wind-powered project we could supply 75 percent of the Cape and Island's electricity, with zero pollutant emissions, zero water consumption and zero waste discharge [MUSIC BEGINS AGAIN]...]

GELLERMAN: On the other side, you've got the Alliance to Preserve Nantucket Sound which was first financed by Bill Koch, who's the fossil fuel energy billionaire. I don't think you had any access, at least, you didn't do any interviews, with Bill Koch.

GEMMEL: Yeah, that's correct. It's a rather interesting scenario to have a fossil fuel billionaire as the chairman of an environmental group fighting to protect a natural resource. Bill Koch has been completely unresponsive to doing an interview or talking to us in any capacity. I must say the proponents of the wind farm really welcomed us with open arms and were eager to jump in front of our cameras. The opposition was much more challenging to navigate, but eventually, they definitely let us in and trusted that we were doing an objective documentary.

GELLERMAN: This project has really created some very strange bedfellows. You've got Senator Ted Kennedy, from Massachusetts, who opposes it...

KENNEDY: The interests of our state have been basically submerged for a special interest developer. We're going to find out that tax payers are going to pay 800 million dollars to this developer. They'll get money that they won't be able to count!

GELLERMAN: And Senator Ted Stevens, from Alaska, he opposes it...

GEMMEL: Senator Kennedy was clearly the preeminent Senator fighting Alaskan oil drilling, which Ted Stevens had been wanting to push through for a decade. So, for them to become buddies in this fight was quite bizarre, but it was obvious why and how they were doing it - because the Alaskan Senators were working on Coast Guard legislation which was very convenient to try to slip riders into to kill the wind farm.

GELLERMAN: There's a part of the film where you've got one of the lobbyists who's working to support the project, and he talks about, well, NIMBY - Not in My Back Yard.

SENATOR: Not here, and not there, and certainly not in my backyard

LOBBYIST: First of all it's five and half miles out in the Atlantic Ocean, and these people who say "Not in my Backyard," it begs the question - how big is their f---ing backyard?

GEMMEL: (Laughs). So, that's obviously a very popular environmental term and slogan that's been the crux of many



Boats in harbor at Nantucket. (Photo: Maria Gilbert, Flickr Creative Commons)



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## Cape Wind Spin

environmental battles. Interestingly enough, most of them have been fighting fossil fueled power plants and what people refer to as 'dirty energy,' so to have that applied to a renewable energy project may be a first.

GELLERMAN: Probably the most powerful scene for me in the movie is the mountaintop removal, the coalmine, where they're blowing up the tops of these mountains in Virginia and West Virginia. Why did you include them?

GEMMEL: Well, for one, I mean, I think it's really important for people to keep in mind where our energy comes from when we turn on the light switch, but it wasn't even a stretch to include that because those people were coming to the hearings on the Cape, begging people to understand what they were going through and they were obviously supporting the wind farm.

[WOMAN IN MOVIE CLIP: Now, October of 2001, a giant slurry impoundment, 72-acres of toxic coal sludge failed. Everything in it died [helicopter blades chopping]. Three hundred and nine million gallons of toxic sludge and I bet nobody here heard about it because the folk in Appalachia are expendable. And we're tired of bearing the burden of everybody's energy use [crying].]

GEMMEL: They were holding up pictures and telling stories of rocks rolling through their homes and killing three-year-olds, and the mudslides that were filling their rivers of coal sludge, and so it's a pretty gut-wrenching picture to understand what's going on down there to supply our country with energy.

[WOMAN IN MOVIE CLIP: I'm sorry, I do have some sympathy for those who are concerned about their view, but come and see the viewsheds and how they have been despoiled in Appalachia... MUSIC...]

GELLERMAN: You know for something so serious, your film has a lot of funny scenes in it.

GEMMEL: This controversy has divided families in the community, and we felt that the community really needed to feel some levity out of this controversy, and both sides are incredibly brilliant, passionate, and very funny characters. And what they've done to fight both for and against it is just absolutely mesmerizing, hilarious at times, gut-wrenching, sad. So we kind of went out of our way to have as much fun with it as we could.

GELLERMAN: You must have had fun choosing the music - there's a lot of music in this.

GEMMEL: Yeah, we've been trying to go with kind of an Americana theme. Because we do want to use this story to kind of broaden out into the bigger picture and push off of this controversy and use the lessons learned to help people navigate future energy crises.

GELLERMAN: The piece of music that I particularly like, and I don't like this song, but I like the way you used it... is the old, I think Blood Sweat and Tears song, "Spinning Wheel."

GEMMEL: Right, yeah, it's obviously such a great fit for us - we used the title "Cape Spin" for the double entendre, obviously because the spin of the turbines, but also because of the political spin, the media spin, there's so much spin. So when we came up with that song, we were pretty excited to integrate it into the film.



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[MUSIC: What goes up, must come down... (This version appeared in the film Blood Sweat And Tears): "Spinning Wheel" from Blood Sweat And Tears (Columbia Records 1969).]/MIXED WITH MOVIE CLIPS.]

GELLERMAN: Did you ever count how many edits you made in this, how many fast-cuts?

GEMMEL: (Laughs.) Uh, we have over 550 hours of footage that we have been whittling down to 90 minutes for the past two and a half years, so it's been quite a beast.



Relaxed Nantucket. (Photo: Maria Gilbert, Flickr Creative Commons)

GELLERMAN: And you use it to basically, kind of put the politics in juxtaposition, it keeps on going back and forth, back and forth, back and forth.

GEMMEL: Yeah, there are just so many bizarre approaches and angles to pushing this project forward and also to killing it, and the way people have collaborated from so many different camps has been

really, really fascinating to witness and understand; and enlightening, actually, in terms of understanding how politics works and how large-scale energy projects get built and get squashed.

GELLERMAN: When you were making this film, did you find yourself at one point saying, "hey yeah, I really support the project," and then again turning around and saying, "ah, yeah, I really am against the project?"

GEMMEL: Oh, constantly. My main arc was I first learned about the project when I was a sophomore in college and then I followed it for several years and I was pitching it to many different companies, and throughout that phase I really thought that should happen. And then, I ended up being a mate on a fishing boat in Nantucket to really immerse myself in the community, and then I did start to understand why people cared so much about protecting Nantucket Sound. And in the end, I guess it's just going to be really interesting to see what happens.

GELLERMAN: So, is it over?

GEMMEL: I definitely would not say it's over. The proponents are not backing down. There are still a few lawsuits pending. Cape Wind and the proponents claim that none of them would be able to stop them from moving forward. I'm sure if it is built, the proponents will be going out of their way to find and highlight every single thing that's wrong with it. So I don't think this is going away anytime soon.

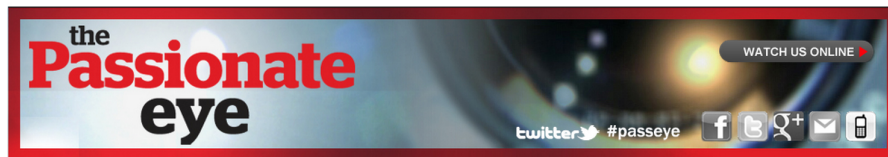
GELLERMAN: Well, the problem is are you going to go away? Are you going to continue to follow the project, or are you going to stop filming, or what?

GEMMEL: I more or less told myself a year ago that this was probably a life-long endeavor that I'm going to be involved with in some capacity.

GELLERMAN: Well, Robbie, thank you so very much.

GEMMEL: My pleasure, thank you very much!





## Cape Spin: An American Power Struggle

SUNDAY JANUARY 22, 2012 AT 10:00 PM ET/PT ON CBC NEWS NETWORK

*Cape Spin! An American Power Struggle* is the surreal, fascinating, tragicomic tale of the battle over what would be the largest clean energy project in the United States. The money flies as the spin doctors set to work, maneuvering to win over the media, state and federal politicians and public opinion.

**Read an update on this story.**

Proposed in 2001, Cape Wind would be North America's first offshore wind farm – built in the famed waters around wealthy Cape Cod.



Opponents protesting at MMS hearing  
[Read more on the official website.](#)

Along the way, strange alliances form for and against. Long-time green warriors fight for a massive ocean-based industrial facility; fossil fuel interests ally with fisherman; local conservationists war with global environmentalists; Republicans and Democrats waltz across the party lines. And the local Native American tribes... offer a series of surprises. Kennedys, Kochs, and everyday folks continue – to this day – to battle the developer, Jim Gordon, and local and international green groups over the future of American power.

Featuring Senator Ted Kennedy, environmentalist Robert Kennedy, Jr., Presidential Candidate Mitt Romney, fossil-

fuel magnate Bill Koch, former Greenpeace USA president, John Passacantando, US Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, *Providence Journal* Editor Robert Whitcomb, the long-time Cape Wind beat reporters from the *Boston Globe*, *Cape Cod Times* and *NPR*, community leaders, everyday citizens and the major players from both sides, *Cape Spin* is the definitive account of the tumultuous decade-long-and-counting struggle over America's most controversial energy project. It is essential viewing for anyone fascinated by Power, in all senses of the word.

And while the action centers in one of America's wealthiest communities – Cape Cod and the islands off the coast of Massachusetts – the lessons in green *realpolitik* can be applied all over the U.S. and the world as the *Cape Spin!* saga is repeated again and again in the years to come.

Five years in the making, *Cape Spin!* was shot in the trenches with cameras embedded deep inside the battle lines. Because of its commitment to impartial storytelling, full access to all sides, satiric soundtrack, and "electric" storytelling technique, *Cape Spin* "proves that environmental films can be seriously funny crowd pleasers and about much more than just the environment."

# Power Intelligence

Posted Apr 13, 2012

## Cape Wind: A Project Fit For Hollywood —And Lenders

Written By: - **Brian Eckhouse**

**Read More:** [Cape Spin](#) · [Cape Wind Associates](#) · [Jim Gordon](#) · [Barclays Capital](#) · [Nantucket](#)

Dozens of bankers and investors jammed a theater in the basement of the Crosby Street Hotel in New York's SoHo district on Wednesday for a screening of "Cape Spin," the documentary that chronicles the plight of the proposed 468 MW Cape Wind project in Nantucket Sound. Bankers from **Barclays Capital**, **ING**, **LBBW** and **Natixis** were in the audience.

The documentary drills into the political and media maelstrom that has engulfed the Cape Wind project for roughly a decade: liberal environmentalists are pit against liberal environmentalists, year-round residents versus the city folk who summer there. Democrats challenge the **Kennedys**, whose family compound sits on the shores of Nantucket Sound. Longtime friends on the Cape are divided. Leaders of the strongest lobbies for, and against, the project frequent the same grocery store.

All the while, lenders and investors bided their time, waiting to see if the project would ever reach the financing phase. According to **Jim Gordon**, the president of Boston-based **Cape Wind Associates**, that time is now (see story, page 1). When screening was over, Gordon strode to the boutique hotel's stage to announce that the company would finally begin project financing—more than a decade after the developer had begun the permitting process for the U.S.' first offshore wind project.

We guessed that this didn't quite resemble a typical deal launch (or pre-launch, for that matter) in a ballroom at a dull Times Square hotel. The attendees we spoke to couldn't recall a more posh pre-launch—or a documentary as prelude to project financing.

Perhaps the financing negotiations will lead to a sequel?



## Cape Spin sneak preview called 'wild'

My colleague Sean Corcoran attended last week's sneak preview of the new Cape Wind film, ***Cape Spin***, at Martha's Vineyard Film Festival. The film viewing was followed by a panel discussion (Sean was part of the panel), and then some socializing at a local establishment. Sean says if he had to pick one word to describe the entire evening it would be "wild." Here's more from his **Cape Wind Blog**:

*I wish you were there. I'll give you my take on the movie in a moment because the most interesting part of the entire night came after the final credits. As we started the panel discussion, Audra Parker of the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound, stood to give her impressions.*

*Now Parker is heavily featured in the movie, along with Barbara Hill of Clean Power Now. Hill is the Cape Wind advocate and Parker is the opponent. Both gave the film's producers a great amount of access to their lives and work. Parker, for example, traveled to Washington, DC, with the producers, and she even allowed cameras into her home to interview three of her children about the project.*

*But apparently, if Parker could, she would take that access right back and not have a thing to do with Cape Spin. Because after the film aired, Parker sounded off.*

*"I think it made a mockery of how important this issue is," Parker said, saying she was "disappointed" with the producers choices of, among other things, music and stock film footage, and that the film was "misleading."*

*"I spent four years letting you document this ... You've done your best to sell a movie," Parker said, arguing that the film was more about entertainment than information.*

*"It's a full-out sellout," she said.*

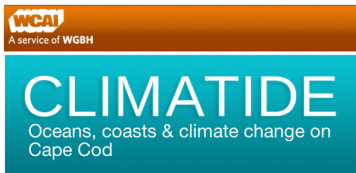
Parker walked out after having her say, not hanging around for the rest of the panel discussion.

[UPDATED 8/19/11: Daniel Coffin, one of the producers of Cape Spin, emailed to say that Parker, in fact, stuck around for the entire discussion.]

*From what I could gather, Parker was primarily upset with discussion in the film about mountaintop removal in the South that is used as part of the coal mining process. The film included a montage of mountains being blown up, all set to renditions of "America the Beautiful".*

*Gemmel said producers certainly were not trying to make a mockery of the project's opposition, though he acknowledged that films must be entertaining.*





After hearing Parker's complaints, Sean asked Cape Wind's spokesperson, Mark Rodgers, to add his two cents.

*"I thought it portrayed both sides," Rodgers said. "I could give you a laundry list of things that could be in there but are not — but you have 80 minutes, and you have to take it to a national audience."*

The fact that Cape Wind was far happier (producer Daniel Coffin suggests "less upset" would be more accurate) with the film than the project's opponents is one reflection of what Sean says seemed to be the general consensus — that the film was less than objective, favoring the controversial project.

*I thought the film raised most all of the opponents' issues, although sometimes they were not in great depth. But if you were in Middle America and not too aware of the fight surrounding Cape Wind, you would walk away from this film thinking the issue is much more complicated than NIMBY — Not In My Back Yard.*

*NIMBY has been the theme of choice for almost all national journalists visiting the Cape Wind issue. But opponents have legitimate concerns about the price of Cape Wind's electricity, its impact on fishing and how the project is viewed by local Native American tribes. I think those concerns come across in the film, and viewers are left to weigh them against the virtues of the offshore wind turbine project.*



Feb  
03  
2012

## And now, a word from Cape Spin

Written by Patriot Staff

Last week's item on *Cape Spin*, the documentary about the Cape Wind project, showing up on Canadian television drew a response from producer Daniel Coffin. The item had suggested that the filmmakers were "soft-pedaling" the debut of the movie because its Jan. 22 appearance on CBC's *The Passionate Eye* had not been announced on their website [www.capespin.com](http://www.capespin.com)

"Rest assured, we are not soft-pedaling *Cape Spin*'s release," Coffin wrote in a posting to the *Patriot*'s website. "*Cape Spin* will be premiering theatrically in the US sometime in the early summer in several east coast cities followed by a summertime release in dozens of coastal communities. We certainly will be promoting that far and wide."

Coffin wrote that, "at this time, there is simply no way to stream or watch *Cape Spin* outside of Canada. All our press activities took place in Canada alone. I hope you can all enjoy the film once the weather warms."

The filmmaker provided a contact for bookings: [info@rebirthproductions.net](mailto:info@rebirthproductions.net).

On the CBC website, you can find five postings from viewers that followed the Jan. 22 showing. In keeping with the controversial nature of the project, they cover the spectrum of opinions. Some excerpts:

- "The film does an amazing job telling the story of our current energy struggles... [I] really appreciated that it did not cram one view down my throat, but rather told the story of both sides and allowed me to wrestle with

it myself."

- "So much hollering, all over 420 paltry megawatts of unreliable supply."

- "...you lifted the veil on an ugly battle that has a huge future impact for offshore wind farms... a deeply disturbing tale of class warfare turned into a political debate."

"...I don't leave the movie with a clear understanding of what is right and wrong. That's not really a fault of the film, it's more of a compliment... a great documentary. If it was funded by either side to sway folks in their favor, they should get their money back."

By the way, if you can't wait for summer, hitch a ride to the Boulder [CO] International Film Fest, which will show *Cape Spin* at Boulder High School Feb. 19 at 12:30 p.m. The brochure lists the film at 86 minutes and provides a comment from the Center for Social Media:

"It is lively and entertaining. But viewers could be forgiven for coming away even more cynical than before about the democratic process."

Senate president on change in the wind

State Senate President Therese Murray interview with Mindy Todd of WCAI's The Point can be accessed at [www.wgbh.org/wcai/progrmDetail.cfm?programid=298](http://www.wgbh.org/wcai/progrmDetail.cfm?programid=298).

During the show, Murray discusses her position on the Falmouth wind turbine controversy and also details her view of the now on-hold wind facilities siting act.

# Bethesda Green

## Environmental Film Festival Kicks Off

### **CAPE SPIN: AN AMERICAN POWER STRUGGLE**

Posted by dvheffernan under [Bethesda Green publicity](#), [Environmental Film Festival](#), [green events](#), [Wind Energy](#) | Tags: [Bethesda Green events](#), [DC Environmental Film Festival](#), [renewable energy](#), [wind energy](#) |

[Leave a Comment](#)



This year, the **Environmental Film Festival** celebrates its 20th Anniversary in the Nation's Capital. The festival runs March 13-25, 2012, and features 180 documentary, narrative, animated, archival, experimental and children's films. Most screenings include discussion and are free.

Bethesda Green is participating in the discussion after the Thursday, March 15, 7 pm showing of Cape Spin: An American Power Struggle at St. Columba's Episcopal Church, 4201

Albemarle St. NW, Washington, DC, near the Tenleytown/ AU Metro station. Cape Spin examines the unusual political alliances lined up for and against a major wind farm proposed for the middle of Nantucket Sound.



**FESTIVALS**



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# DOCUMENTARIES

WORLD PREMIERE  
COMPETITION FINALIST



## CAPE SPIN: AN AMERICAN POWER STRUGGLE

Give wind  
a chance,

Directed by  
Robbie Gemmel and John Kirby  
USA / 2011 / 88 minutes

### MAIN CREDITS:

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Featuring        | John Kirby<br>Daniel Coffin                                   |
| Exec Producers   | Libby Handros<br>Jim Butterworth                              |
| Producers        | Daniel Coffin<br>Robbie Gemmel<br>Libby Handros<br>Josh Levin |
| Cinematographers | Robbie Gemmel<br>Daniel Coffin<br>John Kirby                  |
| Editors          | John Kirby<br>Daniel Coffin                                   |
| Composers/Music  | Vickie Yang<br>Bob Klein                                      |

### SHOWING AT:

BEARSVILLE Theater

Fri Sept 23 • 2:30PM

Upstate Films I RHINEBECK

Sun Sept 25 • 11:15am

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**versus not in my backyard is the central conflict in this darkly humorous and profoundly serious tale of a community divided by green politics.** In 2001, entrepreneur Jim Gordon proposed building a major wind farm in the middle of Nantucket Sound, fabled playground for America's rich and famous. Gordon billed the project as a clean, green power plant that should be welcomed by all. To his chagrin, *Cape Wind* became one of the decade's most confounding political battles. Green energy champions like the Kennedys allied with fossil fuel magnates, congressmen, everyday Joes, and a well-funded Alliance to oppose the project. Meanwhile, Greenpeace, labor unions and environmental groups led a counter attack, endorsing the wind farm. The surprising twists of this story will have the viewer switching sides as often as the players, as environmentalists become hypocrites, reporters choose sides, and Republicans and Democrats alike take on unlikely bedfellows. Fueled by a satiric revolutionary soundtrack, *Cape Spin* is a gripping and entertaining study of eco-capitalism and grassroots democracy.

**BIO Robbie Gemmel** began his career at NOVA where he helped produce several award winning documentaries, including numerous segments for NOVA *ScienceNow*, and a feature documentary titled "Saved by the Sun" about solar energy. He also produced *The Future Will Create: Inside the World of TED*, for Magnolia Pictures. Currently, Gemmel and the *Cape Spin* team are developing an energy investigation project, *The Electron Project*.

**John Kirby** is an award-winning director/editor who has made films for most major broadcasters. His credits include the HBO cult classic *Gladiator Days: Anatomy of a Prison Murder* and *The American Ruling Class*, a dramatic-documentary-musical for the BBC starring former Harper's Magazine editor Lewis Lapham. The film screened at Woodstock in 2005.

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- CAPE SPIN, directed by Robbie Gemmel & John Kirby

A 2008 plan to install 130 wind turbines in Cape Cod's Nantucket Sound raised NIMBY protests from the seer-sucker set that summers nearby, and resulted in some dubious alliances between environmental boosters and Big Energy. This film briskly and vividly documents the protests, the hearings, the propaganda, and the science behind the controversy, pointing out the downsides of each contingent's solution. The saga is laid out with an upbeat irreverence, which helps somewhat in easing the pain of viewing this depressingly honest tale of a matter still unresolved.





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GUIDE**



IDFA Competition for Green Screen Documentary



**Credits**

**Director**

John Kirby  
Robbie Gemmel

**Cinematography**

Daniel Coffin  
Robbie Gemmel

**Editing**

Daniel Coffin  
John Kirby

**Music**

Bob Klein  
Vickie Yang

**Production**

Daniel Coffin for Rebirth Productions, Inc.  
Josh Levin for Gallant Films  
Libby Handros for The Press and the Public Project, Inc.

**Executive producer**

Jim Butterworth

**Robbie Gemmel:**

directing debut

**John Kirby:**

The American Rulling Class (2005)

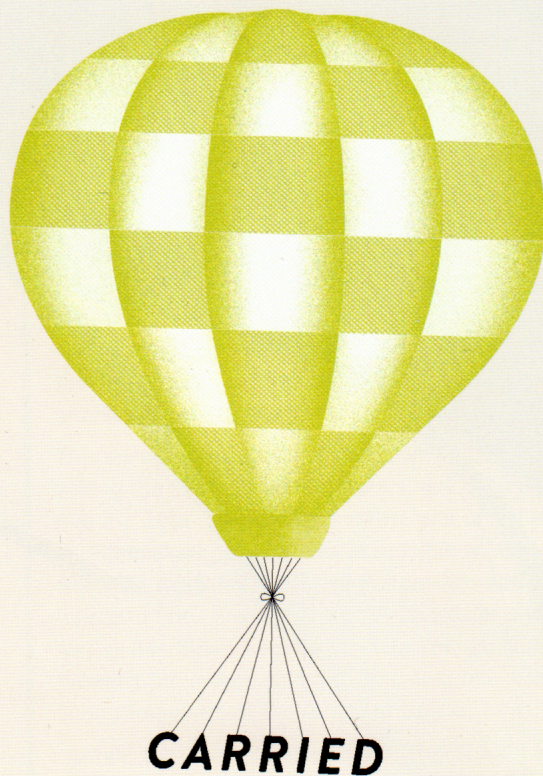
## Cape Spin: An American Power Struggle

Robbie Gemmel, John Kirby

**INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE**

In 2001, the proposal was made for the Cape Wind Project, America's first large-scale offshore wind farm, in the state of Massachusetts. The intended location is Nantucket Sound, an area where the rich and famous spend their vacations. This green project meets massive resistance and is transformed into a huge case that lobbyists are so heavily involved in that it becomes unclear what the real issues are. John Kirby and Robbie Gemmel show the many supporters and opponents who have involved themselves in the project over the last decade. Using fast-paced cuts, they present a large amount of information. Increasingly, it's less about the project than the power struggles themselves – although it ultimately proves impossible to get a handle on them. Even interested journalists seem unable to figure out what they're dealing with. "It's about dinner parties, not political parties," explains one of them. As an aid to the viewer, Kirby and Gemmel use icons to indicate who is for and who is against. Their use of old-fashioned music and black-and-white film give a twist of irony to this serious state of affairs. And although they are careful not to choose sides, they do hint at an interesting alternative.





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**GREG GUND MEMORIAL  
STANDING UP FILM COMPETITION**  
IT'S EASY BEING GREEN



**Cape Spin: An American  
Power Struggle**

Directed by John Kirby, Robbie Gemmel

USA 2011

87 minutes



filmforums

**Thursday, March 29**

11:45 AM | Code CAPE29

**Saturday, March 31**

6:00 PM | Code CAPE31

**Friday, March 30**

4:30 PM | Code CAPE30

(w/FilmForum)

Nantucket Sound is a vacation home to America's richest families who have residences in the surrounding islands of Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, and Cape Cod. Long a tourist destination, The Sound is now home to an approved plan to place 130 wind turbines as tall as 440 feet about ten miles from shore. CAPE SPIN is an inside look into the ensuing public outcry from local residents who don't want to see their million-dollar-views ruined, and the ambitious support from environmental groups eager to see The Sound serve as home to the country's first off-shore wind farm. Getting an in-depth look into the political tug-of-war that has continued since the original 2001 proposal for Cape Wind's green energy project, it becomes clear that regardless of the motivations on both sides of the issue, this is going to be a well-financed fight to the finish. Even the environment-loving Kennedy family is pitted against the Cape Wind project. CAPE SPIN provides further proof that in the fight for a greener planet, there's nothing greener than cash. —T.W.

**Producers**~Libby Handros, Daniel Coffin, Robbie Gemmel, Josh Levin

**Cinematography**~Daniel Coffin, John Kirby, Robbie Gemmel **Editing**~John Kirby

**Print Source**~The Press & The Public Project / lhandros@aol.com /

www.capespin.com

**Other Screenings**~Int'l Documentary Festival Amsterdam, Woodstock Film Festival

**About the Directors**~John Kirby has worked as a film researcher, editor, and producer for Discovery Channel and HBO. A graduate of Boston's Emerson College, Robbie Gemmel has worked on environmental-focused documentaries and outreach campaigns. **Collaborative Filmography**~CAPE SPIN: AN AMERICAN POWER STRUGGLE (2011)

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## Thursday, March 15

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7:00 p.m.

### St. Columba's Episcopal Church

**CAPE SPIN: AN AMERICAN POWER STRUGGLE** (USA, 2011, 84 min.) *Washington, D.C.*

*Premiere* In 2001 a major wind farm was proposed for the middle of Nantucket Sound, fabled playground for America's rich and famous. Dubbed "Cape Wind," with 130 turbines standing 440 feet tall, the project was billed as a clean, green power plant that should be welcomed by all. Instead, Cape Wind became one of the decade's most confounding political battles, cutting across party lines and creating strange alliances for and against. Imbedded behind the battle lines with full access to both sides and a commitment to impartial story telling, the filmmakers document a 21st century power struggle. *Directed by Robbie Gemmel and John Kirby. Produced by Dan Coffin, Robbie Gemmel, Libby Handros, John Kirby and Josh Levin. Nominated for Best Doc and Best Editing, Woodstock Film Festival.*

Introduced by The Reverend Martin Smith, Senior Associate Rector, St. Columba's Episcopal Church, with Mike Tidwell, Director, Chesapeake Climate Action Network and Dave Feldman, Executive Director, Bethesda Green. Discussion with filmmakers Libby Handros and John Kirby follows screening.

Moderator: Tonya Johnson-Fitzpatrick, Executive Producer/Co-Host, World Footprints Radio.

Admission: \$5.00. No reservations required. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

St. Columba's Episcopal Church, 4201 Albemarle St., NW (Metro: Tenleytown/AU)

CAPE SPIN: AN AMERICAN POWER STRUGGLE



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