

Niels Bohr – the master of science

To mark the 2021-22 Year of Science, COWIfonden supports an international documentary about one of the greatest scientists in the world, the Dane Niels Bohr, and about the Niels Bohr Institute, which has been a global hub for scientists. Science has created the world as we know it. Niels Bohr was a fascinating man and a team player who wanted to share his knowledge about the atom with the rest of the world. But the English and Americans put a stop to that.

The documentary series shows an extraordinarily gifted person who develops an atomic model that revolutionises our understanding of how the atom and all elements are structured. Niels Bohr fights for knowledge-sharing, knowing that it is the road to a safer world. He is a thinker. He thinks long and hard about things, he does not take the easy way out, and he gets excited when he stumps one of the most prominent scientists, namely Albert Einstein, in a joint thought experiment. Scientists across the world admire Niels Bohr and many support his attempts to convince the superpowers to work together, but to no avail. Because what do scientists know about politics? Then came the Cold War, and to this day, we still have a strained relationship to countries that develop nuclear programmes.

Niels Bohr is married to Margrethe and they reside in Carlsberg's honorary residence at Valby Bakke together with their children. When heads of state and other international characters visit the Danish royal family, they also want to visit Bohr. But the idyll is not perfect. One son dies at a very young age, and another son, 17-year-old Christian, drowns in front of his father when sailing the family's new boat at Tisvilde, Denmark.

The story about Niels Bohr is partly told by his grandchildren, by scientists at the Niels Bohr Institute and a few descendants of scientists across the world with whom Bohr worked. The project is carried out in cooperation with Professor Anja C. Andersen and Producer Marie Breyen, who also masterminded the concept for the TV2 TV children's Christmas calendar in 2021, which revolves around science and natural science in an attempt to get more young Danes to take an interest in science.

The documentary will be available, free of charge, for public school lessons and to any educational institution that may find it useful.

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