



SICK SCHOOL

Director and Producer
Keif Roberts

Executive Producer
Donald Pruden, Jr.

Cinematography
Alex Fischetti

TRT 46 minutes / COLOR / HD 16:9 / Stereo Mix
Production: LEFT TURN PRODUCTIONS, INC.
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Short synopsis: A community fears that mysterious illnesses and deaths at an elementary school may be caused by a nearby landfill.

Long synopsis: The students at Frank P. Long Elementary School in Long Island have been getting sick. And the staff has been dying. Out of 105, thirty-five have gotten cancer since 1998 and fifteen have passed away.

The school, which sits in the shadow of a massive 270-foot landfill, is the focus of director Keif Roberts' newest documentary film. With emotional interviews of students, teachers and parents and gripping video footage, the film chronicles their search for answers and the battle to close the school.



Director's note: I grew up in Bellport, New York and went to Frank P. Long Elementary School as a ten year old. Although, back then it wasn't called Frank P. Long, but Hampton Avenue School. And the towering thirty-story landfill that looms over it was probably half the size it is now.

So when an old classmate gave me a call and told me that her son had become ill while attending the school, I agreed to film a few interviews with some of those impacted.

What started as a favor for a friend quickly became a passion project. As I spoke to students, parents and teachers I realized how widespread and grave the problems were. There were dozens of cancers at the school, when statistically there should have been a handful. And the kids were getting sick - mysterious rashes, migraines, dizziness, and other problems.

Along the way, connections are made, potential causes are investigated and possible culprits are named.

It was an emotional journey interviewing my old classmates and friends. Their children are now facing obstacles that we never had to face. Being ten is difficult enough. Being able to do something, however modest, for the teachers who dedicate themselves to helping us learn has by far been the most rewarding aspect of this project.



Director Bio: Keif Roberts is an award winning filmmaker. He has directed or co-directed several documentaries, including *Anxious*, *South Bronx United*, *Under the Bus*, *Peter Pan Bakery*, *Working Horses*, *The Breach*, and *Analog Dreams*. He has worked with ABC-TV, WPIX, NYRA, The ASPCA, DIY Network and New York Road Runners.