

PRESS RELEASE

TRIBUTE THIS!

Tribute This! – crazy idea, fantastic movie!

A tribute album to an unknown songwriter? Sounds crazy, but who says it can't be done?

At least that's the sentiment behind One by One Films latest project *Tribute This!*

A feature length documentary that chronicles the quest to get that tribute album made. Director Mick McCleery, and producers Gary Joseph and Mike Nicholson all travelled the world for one wild summer in an attempt to unconventionally approach 10 renowned songwriters to pose this unlikely question:

'Would you be willing to record the song of an unknown songwriter as part of a tribute album to someone you never heard of if the proceeds of the album went to a music charity for kids from deprived backgrounds?'

That question is at the core of the 90-minute documentary. And whether it was tracking down Aaron Neville to his hotel, catching Steve Earle as he entered the side door of an arena, stealing some time with Bruce Springsteen before a concert or even sitting down with Bryan Adams in his living room, the task was certainly not a simple one.

"It wasn't easy finding those famous songwriters to ask them about the album. In a whirlwind we visited England, Scotland, Spain, Canada, and countless cities in the US.

Sometimes we were in a foreign country for less than 24 hours," said Philadelphia resident and producer Nicholson. "Those songwriters were as well guarded as you can imagine. But we knew that our songwriter and friend was worth it."

Their songwriter, Billy Franks, was also along for the ride during the 2-month, non stop journey. According to McCleery, Franks' lifetime dedication to his craft says it all. "Billy has devoted his entire life to song writing. He has given so much to others through his music. Dedicating ourselves to a project that would honor him was a no brainer on our part," said McCleery.

McCleery, Joseph, Nicholson and Franks have been friends for nearly 20 years. Franks, a lifetime resident of London, was performing in a bar in 1989 when the three were studying abroad in the UK. They struck up a conversation about creating music videos and have been friends ever since.

The three Americans have been friends since high school and now the four have been inseparable, except for the Atlantic Ocean, ever since.

"It's really something special. Whenever the four of us are together, it's always a riot. It's like a vehicle with four wheels. You need all of us to hit the ground running," said Joseph.

And that's the feeling that *Tribute This!* captures. Not only is it a quest to pay tribute to their friend's lifetime of dedication, it is a story of friendship. One that inspires. One that is heartfelt. And most of all, it's one that survives a rollercoaster ride.

"There were times when that ride was both funny and scary. When our tireless efforts finally brought us face to face with these artists, our incompetence made it funny and our nervousness made it scary."

"That's what I love about those guys. They couldn't mess things up more if they tried. But they do so with big hearts," said Franks.

"Yeah, big hearts and slow wits," added Nicholson.

Ultimately, *Tribute This!* portrays this heart through a multi-layered journey of music, inspiration, and friendship. A journey that showcases the perseverance of a talented yet unknown deserving artist. A journey that makes evident a friendship that literally spans the globe and holds no bounds.

A journey that doesn't sound so crazy anymore.

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Notes to editor:

Overview of the film

Tribute This! is a 90-minute documentary which follows four friends who travelled the world during the summer of 2005 in search of 10 famous singers and songwriters. The ultimate goal is to pose this question to each artist:

Would you be willing to record the song of an unknown songwriter as part of a tribute album to someone you never heard of?

This talented, yet unknown, British songwriter is Billy Franks, who has dedicated his life to this craft. These songs would be compiled on a tribute album to Billy Franks

and the proceeds would benefit Youth Music, a UK-based music charity.

The ten artists in question are:

Byran Adams, Jon Bon Jovi, Elvis Costello, Steve Earle, Huey Lewis, Paul McCartney, Aaron Neville, Tom Petty, Bruce Springsteen and Rod Stewart.

The film is based around the following four people:

(1) Mick McCleery, director

(2) Gary Joseph, producer

(3) Mike Nicholson, producer

*all from New Jersey, USA and lifetime friends

(4) Billy Franks, songwriter

*from London, England. Friends with the three Americans since 1989.

These 4 travel the world and are the focal point of the film