

“WE JAM ECONO – THE STORY OF THE MINUTEMEN”

a feature length documentary

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SYNOPSIS

Like an angel from heaven D. Boon fell from a tree in San Pedro's Peck Park landing him squarely on Mike Watt. The two thirteen year olds lives would never be the same. Sharing an obsession with history, their adopted home town of San Pedro and 60's and 70's arena rock bands like Creedence Clearwater Revival and Blue Oyster Cult, the two friends grew up to form both a deep personal and musical bond. This bond formed the foundation of one of the most revered, intriguing, and groundbreaking bands of the early '80's.

Steeped in the mentality that creating music was for unreachable rock stars performing in arenas, Boon and Watt were completely taken aback by the late 70's punk rock scene in Hollywood. Energized by punk's do-it-yourself attitude the two friends started and stopped the Bright Orange Band and the Reactionaries searching for their creative voice.

Taking inspiration from English bands Wire and the Pop Group, Watt and Boon formed the Minutemen in 1979. After original drummer Frank Tonche quit the band after one gig, the duo enlisted original Reactionaries drummer and fellow San Pedro High School graduate George Hurley to take over playing drums. The trio was cemented and the Minutemen never looked back.

In a whirlwind of 5 years the Minutemen released eleven records ranging from 7" singles to the epic double album *Double Nickels On The Dime*, an output totaling over 150 songs! They crisscrossed the country opening for bands ranging from Black Flag to REM as well as on their own headlining tours.

Tragically, at the very peak of their creative force the Minutemen were brought to a halt when D. Boon was killed in a van accident just three days before Christmas 1985.

The Minutemen may have ended that day twenty years ago, but their convictions and ethos still remain strong and can be heard and felt in the spirit and sound of new bands just starting out in their garages to mega selling artists playing arenas.

INTERVIEWS (alphabetical order)

Milo Aukerman
Joe Baiza
Kevin Barrett
Scott Becker
Jello Biafra
Richard Bonney
Jack Brewer
Dez Cadena
Joe Carducci
Nels Cline
Byron Coley
Ed Crawford
Brother Dale
Richard Derrick
John Doe
Chuck Dukowski
Ray Farrell
Flea
Michel C Ford
Carlos Guitarios
Grant Hart
Richard Hell
Pat Hoed
Robert Holzman
Randall Jahnson
Kjehl Johansen
Curt Kirkwood
Martin Lyon
Ian MacKaye
Dave Markey
Mike Martt
J Mascis
Brother Matt
Stephen McClellan
Vince Meghrouni
Richard Meltzer
Thurston Moore
W.T. Morgan
Chris Morris
Keith Morris
Brendan Mullen
Colin Newman
Greg Norton
Raymond Pettibon

Tony Platon
Lee Ranaldo
David Rees
Lisa Roeland
Nanette Roeland
Kira Roessler
Henry Rollins
Kurt Schellenbach
Spot
John Talley-Jones
Tom Watson
Jean Watt

BAND

D. Boon – guitar, vocals
George Hurley – drums
Mike Watt – bass, vocals

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

1980 Paranoid Time
1981 Joy
1981 The Punch Line
1982 Bean Spill
1983 What Makes A Man Start Fires?
1983 Buzz Or Howl Under The Influence Of Heat
1984 The Politics Of Time
1984 Double Nickels On The Dime
1984 Tour-Spiel EP
1985 Project Mersh
1985 3-Way Tie For Last (For Last)
1986 Ballot Result

BIOGRAPHIES

Tim Irwin

Director

Irwin's professional film career began in 1997 as a Unit B Cameraman for the BMX film "Dig". In 1998, he was the cameraman for "le afi u amu" a film about Samoan gangs in L.A.

In 1999, Irwin moved into the editing chair for "Miracle Boy and Nyquist" a film about BMX bikers Dave Mirra and Ryan Nyquist. This film won the audience choice award at both the ESPN Tube Film Festival, and the Gravity Games Film Festival and has gone on to sell over 25,000 copies worldwide, making it the largest selling BMX film ever made.

Irwin spent part of 2000 making "Project Watson", a wakeboard film about young wakeboard champion Shawn Watson which was released in Winter 2000.

In 2001, Tim started on "Nasty's World" a feature length documentary about BMX biker Cory Nastazio that was released in the Summer of 2002.

"Nasty's World" won "Best Film" at the X-Dance Film Festival in 2002.

In 2003 Irwin also Co-directed and edited "A Film about TJ Lavin" which screened at the X-Dance Film Festival and the Las Vegas Film Festival.

In 2004 Irwin was the editor on "The Day", a documentary about big wave surfer Laird Hamilton and his crew. In 2004 Irwin also was an onsite editor for OLN in France for the 2004 Tour de France. Later in 2004 Irwin was the editor of two PBS shows from the series "Beyond the Border". One was "Arms Bazaar" about the commercialization of the arms industry, the other was "Pipelines and Fault Lines" about the BTC oil pipeline and the controversy around it.

In 2005 We Jam Econo: The Story of the Minutemen premiered to more than 1500 people in San Pedro, CA. The Film went on to screen at more than 60 venues around the world. Also in 2005 Irwin spent a great deal of time working on "Freedom of Space: Skateboard Culture and the Public Space" a feature length documentary funded by cable channel Fuel.

Irwin has also edited nationally broadcast commercials for clients such as GT Bicycles, Mongoose Bicycles, Schwinn Bicycles, and Plugg Clothing, as well as shooting footage and editing pieces for ESPN, NBC, Fox Sports Net, OLN, and Fuel.

A graduate from BYU, Irwin was asked by the BYU Film Department to design and teach a portion of BYU's documentary curriculum, which he still teaches today.

Keith Schieron

Producer

Schieron, a Bay Area native, for years worked in radio starting in High School through College, then professionally and finally on the Internet where he programmed the online radio station for both SPIN and VIBE magazines.

Along the way Schieron worked for UK indie tastemakers Domino Records, digital audio pioneer Liquid Audio, and a couple of e-commerce companies as Vice President of Business Development and Senior Account Executive.

In 2002 Schieron co-founded Rocket Fuel Films with, his friend since high school, Tim Irwin and began production on We Jam Econo – The Story of the Minutemen. Econo has received rave reviews from critics and fans alike including an incredible endorsement in a New York Times Op-Ed piece written by Sarah Vowell.

CONTACTS

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Director

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CREDITS

WE JAM ECONO – THE STORY OF THE MINUTEMEN

A Rocket Fuel Films Release

DIRECTED BY

Tim Irwin

PRODUCED BY

Keith Schieron

FEATURING

D. Boon

George Hurley

Mike Watt

The filmmakers would like to thank the following for their footage. Without them this film would not be possible:

Bard College Interview Fall 1985 courtesy of Mike Ryan

Starwood November 18, 1980 courtesy of Spot

Cathay de Grande October 25, 1984 courtesy of "Video" Louis Elovitz

Music Machine November 15, 1984 courtesy of "Video" Louis Elovitz

Black & White 16MM footage courtesy of Randall Jahnsen

Super 8 footage at Bard College courtesy of Rick Crescini

ADDITIONAL CAMERA

Matt Boyd

Gregory D'Elia

Mike Muscarella

Mara Pelicas

Jason Tobias

Jason Tublewicz

Guy Wagner

STILL PHOTOGRAPHS

glen E. friedman

Martin Lyon

Naomi Petersen

Ann Summa

BOARD OF ADVISORS

Michael Halloran

Randall Jahnsen

W.T. Morgan

THEATRICAL SOUND MIX

Wade Chamberlain

SPECIAL THANKS

Greg Ginn / SST Records
Richard Derrick / Box-O-Plenty
glen E. friedman
Martin Lyon
Kristian Goddard
Ray Farrell
Joe Carducci
Brother Awest
Al Flipside
Brendon Mullen
Ann Summa
Concepcion Tadeo
Victor Sedillo
Katsuhiko Seki
ernst. (weber, jr.)
Mike Mills
Devin Sarno
DJ Tommy B.
Brennan Cavanaugh
Murray Bowles
Nils Bernstein
Srini
Andrew Dansby
Craig Ibarra
Nathan Wilson
Marshall Astor
Michele Hubacek
Adam Wolf

THANKS

Josh Adams
Roger Ahlforth
Brian Blake
James Burns
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Rick Crescini

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J Desalvo
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Giovanna Melchiorre
Dennis Montgomery
Ian and Melissa Puente
Al Quint
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Kathy Rivkin
Ed Roach
Caryn Rose
Howard Rosenberg
Scott Rutherford
Ed Seaman
Bruce W. Siart
Matt Smith
Danielle Soto
Chris Stein
Eric Stracener
Todd Taylor

Marc Theodore
Dave Travis
Brian Walsby
Donna Westmoreland
David Wright

Thanks to Allen Draher and Mark Wittow of Preston Gates & Ellis for legal advice

All Songs Performed by the Minutemen

"Joe McCarthy's Ghost"
Written by Mike Watt
Published by tHUNDERsPIELS (BMI)
administered by Bug

"Swing To The Right"
Written by Mike Watt
Published by New Alliance Music (BMI)
administered by Bug

"Ack Ack Ack Ack"
Written by Kathy Talley / John Talley-Jones / Kjehl Johansen
Published by Inane Artists Music (BMI)

"Contained"
Written by George Hurley / Mike Watt
Published by New Alliance Music (BMI)
administered by Bug

"Fake Contest"
Written by Mike Watt
Published by New Alliance Music (BMI)
administered by Bug

"The Maze"
Written by Dennes Boon
Published by Cesstone Music (BMI)

"Definitions"
Written by Mike Watt
Published by Cesstone Music (BMI)

"Beacon Sighted Through Fog"
Written by Mike Watt
Published by New Alliance Music (BMI)
administered by Bug

"Search"

Written by George Hurley / Mike Watt
Published by New Alliance Music (BMI)
administered by Bug

"Fascist"

Written by Dennes Boon
Published by Cesstone Music (BMI)
Courtesy of SST Records

"Paranoid Chant"

Written by Mike Watt
Published Cesstone Music (BMI)

"Sickles & Hammers"

Written by Dennes Boon / Mike Watt
Published Cesstone Music (BMI)

"Hollering"

Written by Mike Watt
Published by New Alliance Music (BMI)
administered by Bug

"I Felt Like A Gringo"

Written by Mike Watt
Published by New Alliance Music (BMI)
administered by Bug

"One Reporter's Opinion"

Written by Mike Watt
Published by New Alliance Music (BMI)
administered by Bug

"Issued"

Written by George Hurley / Mike Watt
Published by New Alliance Music (BMI)
administered by Bug

"Black Sheep"

Written by George Hurley / Mike Watt
Published by New Alliance Music (BMI)
administered by Bug

"The Anchor"

Written by George Hurley / Mike Watt
Published by New Alliance Music (BMI)
administered by Bug

"Bob Dylan Wrote Propaganda Songs"

Written by Mike Watt
Published by New Alliance Music (BMI)
administered by Bug

"Corona"

Written by Dennes Boon
Published by D. Boon's Tunes (BMI)
administered by Bug

"D.'s Car Jam / Anxious Mo-fo"

Written by Dennes Boon / Mike Watt
Published by New Alliance Music (BMI)
administered by Bug
Courtesy of SST Records

"Political Song For Michael Jackson To Sing"

Written by Mike Watt
Published by New Alliance Music (BMI)
administered by Bug

"This Ain't No Picnic"

Written by Dennes Boon
Published by New Alliance Music (BMI)
administered by Bug

"Little Man With A Gun In His Hand"

Written by Dennes Boon / Chuck Dukowski
Published by D. Boon's Tunes / Cesstone Music (BMI)
administered by Bug

"Plight"

Written by Dennes Boon / Mike Watt
Published by New Alliance Music (BMI)
administered by Bug
Courtesy of Box-O-Plenty Records

"History Lesson - Part II"

Written by Mike Watt
Published by New Alliance Music (BMI)
administered by Bug

Unnamed Jam

Written by Dennes Boon / George Hurley / Mike Watt

TIM THANKS

Steve Olpin

Justin Stephens

Dirk and Barbara

Leah and Giff

Barbara, Jade, Haley, Madelyn

Keith and Ellen

KEITH THANKS

Sarah Schieron

Mark, Sara, Brittany Schieron

Barbara Schieron

Walter Schieron

Keith Krate

www.theminutemen.com

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