



PRAIRIE COAST FILMS PRESENTS


COVER YOUR EARS

RELIGION, SEX & POLITICS... HOW CENSORSHIP SHAPED THE MUSIC INDUSTRY



FEATURING

**CHUCK D DEE SNIDER IAN MACKAYE RHIANNON GIDDENS JELLO BIAFRA BOB GUCCIONE JR.
IAN HILL COUNTRY JOE MCDONALD SAKIS TOLIS ERIC NUZUM WES BEECH SAWBORG DESTRUCTO**



From poignant protest songs to fluffy Top 40 hits, music has always defined our culture. With such a powerful influence on all aspects of society, the messages and themes portrayed by musicians have long been considered dangerous to some. This film looks at how the censorship of music has shaped not only how we view art and how it's made but who we are as consumers and free-thinkers.



OVERVIEW

GENRE _____ **DOCUMENTARY**
RUNNING TIME _____ **105 MINUTES**
LANGUAGES _____ **ENGLISH**
FOREIGN VERSIONS _____ **SUBTITLES AVAILABLE**

DIRECTOR, CO-PRODUCER & EDITOR _____ **SEAN PATRICK SHAUL**
PRODUCER _____ **KAYVON SAREMI**
NARRATOR _____ **KAT MOSS**
ORIGINAL SCORES BY _____ **NEAL KENNEDY**
RYAN PODLUBNY
BRADEN KWASNICIA
RIO PRYSTAY
PRODUCTION COMPANY _____ **PRAIRIE COAST FILMS**

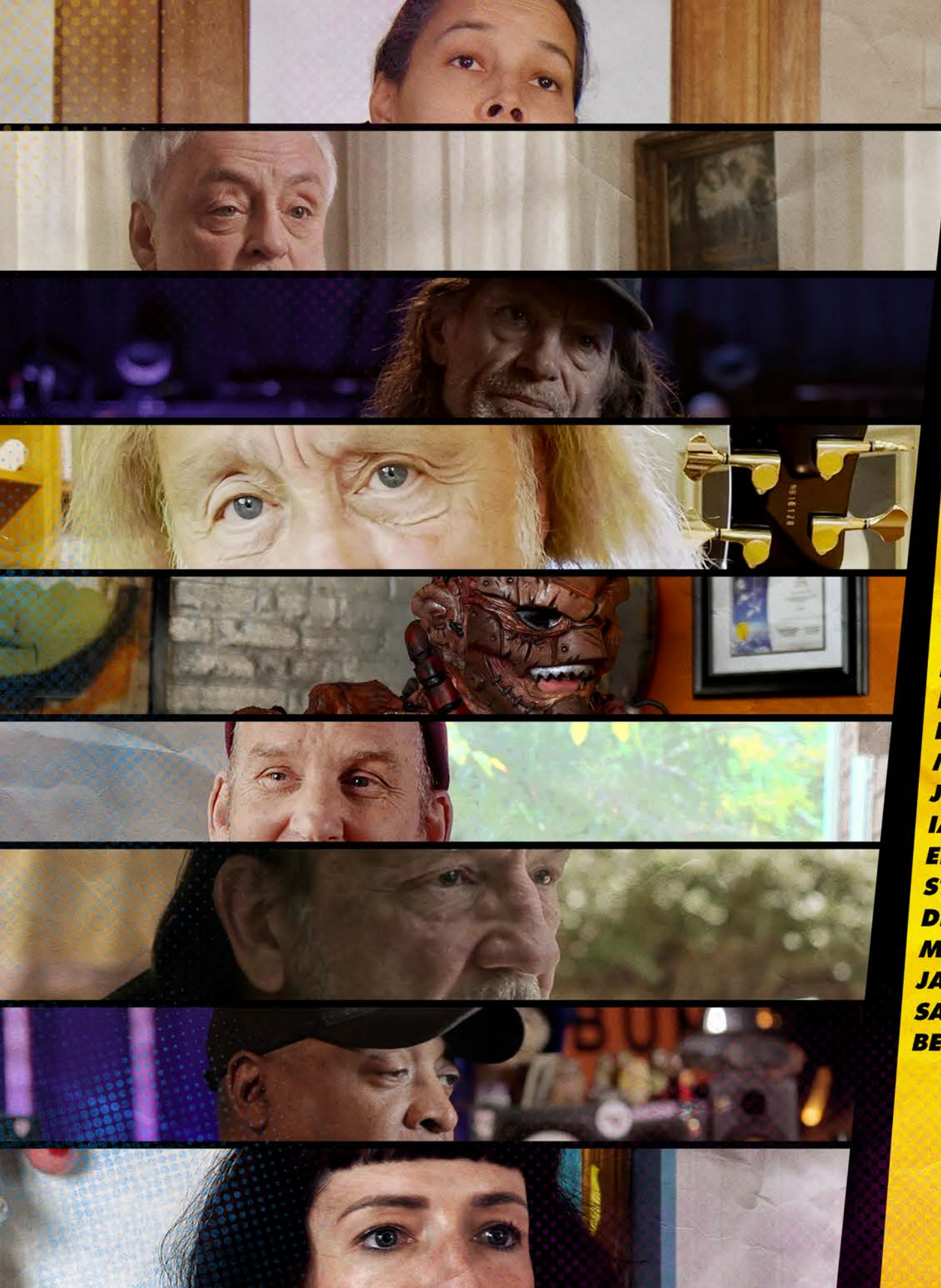
SYNOPSIS

Music is possibly the most ubiquitous art form in existence and is the borderless language of the world. Even before recorded music, the powers that be have always sought to control this language. How we talk, how we dress, even how we think is all influenced by music and the people who create it, making it a powerful and concerning art form. Whenever there is a clear movement bubbling up in the music industry, whether it be the rise of jazz in the 1920s, the Satanic Panic of the 1980s or explicit hip-hop of today, we can always see a public outcry questioning the influence these musicians have. Since the inception of recorded music, artists who were deemed raunchy or taboo have faced suppression from censors while label profits continued to grow. Now with new streaming platforms and direct to consumer outlets dominating the sales, the discussion of what is appropriate for the public consumption is as relevant as ever.

COVER YOUR EARS examines the cause and effect of regulation and suppression in the music industry and how that correlates to society in general. More often than not, three main issues are at the core of what is considered problematic: Religion, Sex and politics. While on its surface this film is an engaging study of music history and an introspective look at how we view art and artists, **COVER YOUR EARS** is as much about judgement vs. acceptance and moral boundaries as it is about the music industry.

Told through the words of authors, journalists, professors and people on both sides of the arguments, Cover Your Ears blends a wealth of archival and never-before-seen footage with intimate interviews with some of the biggest names in music who were pivotal figures in the history of music censorship. Legends like Woodstock alum Country Joe MacDonald, hip-hop pioneer Chuck D of Public Enemy and the ever-outspoken Murray Acton of Canada's punk icons Dayglo Abortions and many more give thoughtful and in-depth perspective to this important issue. Punk stalwarts Ian MacKaye and Jello Biafra are joined by rock mainstay Dee Snider and underground hip-hop star Tiny Doo to give first hand viewpoints of how censorship has affected their lives. In total a diverse cast of over 20 interviewees from all sides of the discussion elevate this first ever feature length documentary on music censorship to more than a linear recounting of facts and raises as many questions as it does answers.





CAST LIST

MURRAY "CRETIN" ACTON _____ **DAYGLO ABORTIONS**
STEVE APPLEFORD _____ **LA TIMES**
WES BEECH _____ **THE PLASMATICS**
JELLO BIAFRA _____ **DEAD KENNEDYS**
BILL BRIOUX _____ **HISTORIAN**
ALAN CROSS _____ **THE ONGOING HISTORY OF NEW MUSIC**
CHUCK D _____ **PUBLIC ENEMY**
DR. STEPHANIE DOKTOR _____ **UNIVERSITY OF UTAH**
BRANDON DUNCAN _____ **TINY DOO**
RICHARD EVANS _____ **HIPGNOSIS STUDIOS**
RHIANNON GIDDENS _____ **CAROLINA CHOCOLATE DROPS**
BOB GUCCIONE JR. _____ **SPIN MAGAZINE**
IAN HILL _____ **JUDAS PREIST**
MATT MAGUIRE - SAWBORG DESTRUCTO _____ **GWAR**
JOE MCDONALD _____ **COUNTRY JOE AND THE FISH**
IAN MCKAYE _____ **MINOR THREAT/FUGAZI**
ERIC NUZUM _____ **AUTHOR**
STUART ROSS _____ **COMEBACK KID/MISERY SIGNALS**
DEE SNIDER _____ **TWISTER SISTER**
MELINDA TANKARD-REIST _____ **COLLECTIVE SHOUT**
JACK THOMPSON _____ **2 LIVE CREW TRIALS**
SAKIS TOLIS _____ **ROTTING CHRIST**
BETTY WINFIELD _____ **UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI**

DIRECTORS STATEMENT

Covering 100 years of material in 105 minutes with a palatable pace was a great undertaking and helped inform the story we told. Rather than trying to list in order each occurrence of censorship and its cause and effect, we chose to tell a broader story using specific cases to paint a larger picture. From the concept stage it was important to us to make a balanced film that looks at the issues from all angles and tries to understand why some art can be considered dangerous. For me this started in my own record collection, as I looked at some of my favourite artists under a new light and asked myself where my own moral line was.

Aesthetically we draw our audience into the film with an eye pleasing pop-art meets the evening news visuals and our graphics team crafted subtle but specific looks for each era, while not oversaturating the film with nostalgia. The accessibility of this film on two levels was very important to us, We wanted it to be viewable as a fun and captivating music doc without over using statistics and charts, but also as an in depth definitive film that looks at the political and moral stakes, hopefully sparking some critical debates on this important issue.

CREW BIOS

SEAN PATRICK SHAUL - DIRECTOR/PRODUCER

Sean Patrick Shaul is an award-winning filmmaker who for over a decade has dealt with stories from the entertainment industry that lie beneath the radar of the common observer. From drug-addicted punk rockers to high ranking government officials, Shaul has shown an ability to adapt to his subjects and present a variety of film styles. With over a hundred documentary interviews under his belt, a clear vision and proven team behind him, Shaul is capable of making what could be a niche subject into a documentary that is palatable to a wide audience.

Sean Patrick Shaul has produced and directed four feature length documentaries: OPEN YOUR MOUTH AND SAY... MR. CHI PIG (2009), ALONE UP THERE (2012), FK YOU ALL: THE UWE BOLL STORY (2018), THE DECLINE (2020), the TV documentaries: CATCH THE WESTBOUND TRAIN (2013) and SILENT LEGEND: THE MACK SENNETT STORY (2016), as well as the music documentary web series COASTAL FREQUENCIES (2014-2015). Sean has an established track record of independently securing financing, distribution and broadcast for his projects, with all of his previous films being financially successful.**

KAYVON SAREMI - PRODUCER

Kayvon Saremi is an Iranian-Canadian filmmaker with considerable experience in many aspects of the industry. With both an artistic and business-oriented eye, he is able to navigate the inner workings of film production. His talents mainly revolve in the areas of directing, producing, cinematography and composing.

Kayvon's recent film credits include the feature length documentaries THE DECLINE (2019 - Co-Director/Producer) and FK YOU ALL: THE UWE BOLL STORY (2018 - Producer/Composer) and the short films KOGARASHI (2020 - Producer), DEPRESSION SUCKS (2018 - Producer) and ETHER (2017 - Director). Not only understanding the balance of art and business but being able to walk on both sides of the line, Kayvon brings talent and value to any project.**



CONTACT

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