



PRESENTS

## SCOTT WALKER: 30 CENTURY MAN



OPENS AT LANDMARK NUART CINEMA FEBRUARY 27TH

**Running Time:** 95 minutes

**Rating:** Not Rated by the MPAA for language

**World Premiere:** BFI Film Festival, 2006

**DISTRIBUTOR CONTACT:**

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## - SYNOPSIS

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Scott Walker achieved a fame rivaling the Beatles and the Rolling Stones in the mid-60's and had the looks and the voice to be one of the biggest singing stars of all time, on par some believed, with Tony Bennet and Frank Sinatra. But instead of turning to Las Vegas for fame and fortune, Scott turned for inspiration to the films of Ingmar Bergman, the existentialist novels of Sartre and the tortured *chanson* of Jaques Brel and became a different creature altogether. A musician at once out of step with current trends and light years ahead of them, he morphed into one of the most influential and enigmatic figures in rock history.

The first-ever documentary film about Scott Walker's career and music, tracing his evolution from jobbing bass player on LA's Sunset Strip to his meteoric rise to fame during London's Swinging 60's as lead singer of The Walker Brothers and as a brooding, crooning solo artist, through to his current status as one of the most astonishing and important sound-makers of the last 30 years. The film subverts the typical rock-doc narrative to deliver not just the journey of a songwriter but a meditation on the creative process itself.

At the age of 63 Scott Walker unleashed his first album in over a decade; the audacious, brilliant, shocking record "The Drift" (4 AD Records), and the filmmakers were granted the rare privilege of observing him in the studio – the first time such access has ever been granted a film crew. And this was no ordinary recording session; giant wooden cubes, a percussive side of pork, a braying donkey, and an entire orchestra directed to sound like WWII bombers. All this from the former heart-throb who lobbed doomy Phil Spector-esque ballads like 'The Sun Ain't Gonna Shine Anymore' into the upper reaches of the pop charts.

Colleagues and collaborators from the 60's to the present weigh in on the evolution of Scott's songwriting and often unorthodox working methods and an impressive roster of fans (including David Bowie, Sting, Brian Eno, Radiohead, Jarvis Cocker) line up to speak about the enormous impact he has had on their lives and music.

Four years in the making, "Scott Walker: 30 Century Man" is a visually stunning, and in-depth look at a man who turned his back on fame to follow a very singular and uncompromising artistic path – something all too rare in today's accelerated pop culture. He hasn't performed live since 1978 so this will be the only chance for people to get up-close and personal with this reclusive legend.

## - DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

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How does one make a film about a man described as “an enigma, a recluse, a genius “; a man who is still alive and spends more time out of the public eye than any working musician today? And what do you do when the subject is so much more human, humorous and humble than the towering myth suggests?

Discovery and inspiration. I love the moment of discovery, when you hear something you never knew existed, could hardly even imagine existing – a voice, a sound, a song. When something inside you vibrates sympathetically, when you know you are hooked. First times. Always memorable.

Scott Walker's “The Old Man's Back Again (dedicated to the Neo-Stalinist Regime)” was recorded in 1969. That song flicked a switch in my brain one late-afternoon in San Francisco, 1991. The bass. The VOICE. But the real charge, the real jolt, aside from The Greatest Male Voice on Record, is the lyric. Are the lyrics. Archangels, aging transvestites, revolutionaries, desperate spinsters, rain on train windows, ragged soldiers and plastic palace people; the well is very deep and I fell right in.

Inspiration. Yes, I first fell for Walker's surreal and epically-orchestrated 60's pop, feeling an affinity with this ‘American with a European imagination’, being a bit of a Brit-centric music snob myself, but what is most fascinating, what is most inspiring is the journey he went on and the place he arrived at.

Don't look back. Dylan might have said it but Scott Walker lived it. There isn't a better role model out there for following your own voice, vision, artistic instincts, dreams, nightmares...

Art is not easy. Scott Walker's decade-long hauls between albums now demonstrate that, but the life-lessons for any creative person contained between the grooves on his finely crafted (analogue) albums, is well worth the wait, is worth the time it takes to come to grips with the sounds this man is now making at age 63.

So. Create a dense and abstract meditation on his current opus, “The Drift”? Could have done. Had it in mind to really riff on the music, get very loose, minimal, elliptical. However. There is a story there. The story of a journey; of a man and a songwriter. The plan then became to try and shine a black-light on the enigma – not to penetrate it, but to respect it, and to let the music tell its own story.

And then there's Scott. Sitting on a sofa at his manager's office kindly offering a few anecdotes and meditations, a few clues and confessions. A great storyteller. A more than great songwriter. A consummate artist and the reason I've kept at this film for the last four or five years. Inspiring.

- Stephen Kijak

## - INTERVIEW SUBJECTS

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David Bowie  
Radiohead  
Johnny Marr (The Smiths)  
Allison Goldfrapp  
Marc Almond  
Simon Raymonde (Cocteau Twins)  
Jarvis Cocker (Pulp)  
Sting  
Rob Ellis (PJ Harvey band)  
Dot Allison  
Richard Hawley (Pulp)  
Brian Eno  
Gavin Friday  
Hector Zazou  
Ute Lemper  
Cathal Coughland  
Damon Albarn (Blur, Gorillaz)  
Lulu  
JD Beauvallet

## - COLLABORATORS AND COLLEAGUES

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**Evan Parker** : renowned innovative saxaphonist, performed at Scott's Meltdown & on 1984's 'Climate of Hunter'

**Ed Bicknell** : famous for managing Dire Straits and Bryan Ferry, managed Scott during his Virgin days

**Cally Callomon** : friend, archivist, and compiler of Scott best-of album 'Boy Child' and box set 'Scott Walker in Five Easy Pieces'

**Peter Olliff**: Famed engineer of Scott Walker's classic 60's solo albums

**Angela Morley**: Once known to the world as Wally Stott, the great arranger and conductor of Scott's classic 60's recordings.

**Brian Gascoigne**: arranger & keyboard player on Scott's last two albums, 'Climate of Hunter' & 'Tilt.'

**Peter Walsh** : has produced Scott's albums since 1984

**David Bates** : former A&R man at Fontana, championed Walker's work through the 90's

**Michael Morris**: director of ARTANGEL, recently commissioned Scott to compose a piece of music for multi-media spectacle "The Margate Exodus"

### □□ Visual Elements – Graham Wood/TOMATO

The filmmakers have collaborated with Graham Wood founding member of the British design collective Tomato -renowned for his dynamic motion graphics (the "Trainspotting" title sequence put them on the map) Graham's image/text treatments of some of Scott's songs will give the film a unique and modern visual punch.

### □□Dance performed by Martin Lawrence.

Principle dancer with the Richard Alston Dance Company and a choreographer in his own right, Martin Lawrence performed during Scott's Meltdown Festival and here creates some improvised movement to what Scott considers "his best song ever"; "Scope J", written for Ute Lemper in 1999.

## - FILMMAKER BIOS

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### **STEPHEN KIJAK**

#### *DIRECTOR/PRODUCER*

Stephen Kijak enjoyed critical success throughout 2002-03 with the feature documentary *CINEMANIA*. An instant hit on the festival circuit, *CINEMANIA* was invited to some of the top film festivals in the world won the Golden Starfish Jury Award for Best Documentary at the 2002 Hamptons International Film Festival. It has been released theatrically in the US, UK and Germany and on DVD via Wellspring. It has been broadcast in over 20 countries.

His first feature film, *NEVER MET PICASSO*, premiered in 1996. Starring Margot Kidder, Alexis Arquette, and Don McKellar, the film enjoyed a specialized theatrical run after playing over 15 international film festivals, winning awards for both Best Screenplay and Best Actor (for Alexis Arquette) at OutFest '97 in Los Angeles. The film was released on video and DVD by Waterbearer Films.

Kijak received a degree in Broadcasting & Film from Boston University's College of Communication where he studied with renowned film scholar Ray Carney as well as the late Mel Howard. He is based in Los Angeles. In television, Kijak has directed episodes of the hit Bravo series "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" and is currently a producer on the third season of the Sundance Channel's award-winning series "Big Ideas for a Small Planet."

### **MIA BAYS**

#### *PRODUCER*

Mia Bays is an Oscar winning and BAFTA nominated film producer and marketing/distribution consultant with over 16 years experience in the UK and international markets.

Her first film as producer, *SIX SHOOTER* by Martin McDonagh, won Best Live Action Short Academy Award 2006 and the British Indie Film Award for Best Short, was nominated for best short BAFTA 2005 and won 8 other international awards. Her first theatrical feature as producer is *SCOTT WALKER: 30 CENTURY MAN* by Stephen Kijak.

As a producer to date, Mia has produced a feature documentary, 2 high budget film shorts, and executive produced one feature and a further three in 2008 as Production Exec for the Microwave microbudget feature film scheme for Film London and the BBC. As a distributor, marketer or sales agent, she has worked on over 40 feature films, including several internationally acclaimed and Oscar nominees and winners. She has worked on 2 high profile documentaries, an Imax film and many features.

Before becoming an independent, Mia was Head of Marketing and Distribution for UK Lottery Film Franchise The Film Consortium 1998-2003 where she oversaw the UK releases of films such as *24 HOUR PARTY PEOPLE* and *HIDEOUS KINKY*.

Mia is also an independent Distribution, Sales & Marketing Consultant for films such as *TSOTSI* (Best Foreign Language Oscar 2006), *BLINDSIGHT* (Oscar shortlisted doc feature and winner of the Audience Award at Berlinale 2007) and recently for *ANO UNA* by Jonas Cuarón for Alfonso Cuarón and producer Frida Torresblanco (*PAN'S LABYRINTH*) and Focus International. The film won Best Artistic Achievement at Thessaloniki Film Festival 2007.

**DAVID BOWIE***EXECUTIVE PRODUCER*

The multi-talented, multi-faceted David Bowie was born David Robert Jones in Brixton on January 8th 1947. Changing his name to David Bowie was his first move in a series of theatrical reincarnations which he employed as an artistic tool throughout his career. We've seen the flamboyant rock star, the androgynous Ziggy Stardust and Thin White Duke. Later came Bowie the film director, the visual artist, the internet entrepreneur and the actor, most notably as The Man Who Fell to Earth. But, it's as a singer that we know and love him best. He's sold an estimated 136 million albums and is one of the best selling acts in UK pop history. With his deliberately shocking onstage performances, risqué alter egos and flamboyant costume, Bowie brought camp glamour to the mainstream.

His music defined eras from glam rock to plastic soul to Berlin-esque new wave. He is one of the most referenced and sampled artists in contemporary culture.

**GRANT GEE***DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY/EDITOR*

Grant Gee is a filmmaker and cameraman living in Brighton. In 1998 he shot and directed the Grammy nominated feature "Meeting People is Easy" about the band Radiohead and in 2003 the documentary 'JC-03' about John Cale. In 2000 he filmed the entirety of the Scott Walker-curated Meltdown Festival on London's South Bank. His latest feature documentary, "Joy Division", enjoyed its world premiere at the 2007 Toronto International Film Festival.

He has directed music videos for amongst others Blur, Radiohead, Stephen Malkmus, Sparklehorse, and Coldplay. His experimental work including most recently 400 Anarchists, Cobra Bag and City Symphony have been shown internationally by onedotzero, The British Council and others. He most recently directed the acclaimed concert film "Gorillaz: Demon Days Live at the Manchester Opera House."

**MAT WHITECROSS***EDITOR*

Mat Whitecross shared the Silver Bear for Directing at the Berlin Film Festival in 2006 for co-directing and co-editing the film "Road to Guantanamo" with Michael Winterbottom. He has worked with Michael Winterbottom on his films "9 Songs" (as editor) and "Code 46" (as 2nd Unit Director). He has directed music videos for Asher D, Sway, The Magic Numbers and Coldplay. He is a part of the London-based production company Between The Eyes.

# - CREDITS

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**Directed by** Stephen Kijak

**Produced by** Mia Bays & Stephen Kijak

**Produced by** Elizabeth Rose, Aim High Productions

**Executive Producer** David Bowie

**Co-Executive Producers**

Mark Vennis and Gary Phillips

Colin Burch and Julia Short

**Featuring**

Damon Albarn

Dot Allison

Marc Almond

David Bates

JD Beauvallet

Ed Bicknell

David Bowie

Hugh Burns on guitar

Cally Callomon

Al Clark

Jarvis Cocker

Cathal Coughlan

Rob Ellis

Brian Eno

Gavin Friday

Brian Gascoigne

Alison Goldfrapp

Colin Greenwood

Jonny Greenwood

Neil Hannon

Richard Hawley

Martin Lawrance

Ute Lemper

Lulu

Alasdair MacLellan

Johnny Marr

Angela Morley

Michael Morris

Ed O'Brien

Peter Olliff

Tim Painter – Big Box Construction

Evan Parker

Arnie Potts

Simon Raymonde

Philip Sheppard

David Sefton

Sting

Peter Walsh

Mark Warman

Hector Zazou

And

Scott Walker

**Narrated by**

Sara Kestelman

**Associate Producers**

Gale Harold

David Sefton

Avi Zev Weider

**Director of Photography**

Grant Gee

**Editing**

Grant Gee

Mat Whitecross

**Additional editing**

Jerry Chater

**Special Motion Graphics**

Directed and Designed by Graham Wood

For Tomato Films