

# BATHTUB SONGS

A FEATURE FILM

BY

WILD  
AMERICAN  
DOGS



A MAN  
IN A TOWN

STARRING  
BEVERLY FRESH JIM CONLEY JULIE POTESTA

FEATURING  
OLD GEORGE YOUNG GEORGE PORKCHOP BOYS

DIRECTED BY  
GREG SCOTT SAWBUCK PRODUCTIONS

BATHTUBSONGS.COM

# BATHTUB SONGS

## FILM INFO

**BATHTUB SONGS: and Other Extracurricular Activities**  
**Experimental Film**

*Run-time: 149 min*

*Released by: Sawbuck Productions, Inc. & Wild American Dogs*

### ONE LINE DESCRIPTION

“BATHTUB SONGS: and Other Extracurricular Activities” is a film about a man in a town.

### SHORT DESCRIPTION

“BATHTUB SONGS: and Other Extracurricular Activities” is an experimental documentary fiction adventure film about a song-and-dance man who travels to Montgomery, Indiana (pop. 343) to help the Pork Chop Boys save their hometown from certain ruin. The film meticulously chronicles the awakening of Solid Gold Turkey.

### LONG DESCRIPTION

“BATHTUB SONGS: and Other Extracurricular Activities” follows song-and-dance man Beverly Fresh to the annual Turkey Trot festival in the southern Indiana town of Montgomery. The film examines the rural cultural rituals and events of small Midwestern towns and investigates the sense of restlessness that hangs in the region. Beverly meets with Dar-L and the Pork Chop Boys and sets out to ease their desperation. He comes across a demolition derby driver, traveling salesman, banjo player and other kindred spirits wandering nervous and lookin’ for something else.

BATHTUB SONGS blurs the lines that demarcate three genres/traditions of filmmaking: observational documentary, cinema verite, and narrative nonfiction. In a traditional documentary manner, Bathtub Songs chronicles actual events of the festival and highlights local history and attractions. This factual presentation mingles with a fictional narrative arc. The unfolding of the film’s narrative arc hinges on the film questioning the actuality of its own material and narrative structure. Bathtub Songs presents a stylized portrait of the town by combining traditional documentation, local folklore, participatory performances, and fabricated narrative, resulting in both a recognizable impression and an entirely new understanding of the rural American Midwest.

### OFFICIAL WEBSITE

[www.bathtubsongs.com](http://www.bathtubsongs.com)

# DOWNLOAD OFFICIAL POSTER AND PRESS IMAGES

[www.bathtubsongs.com/press\\_images.zip](http://www.bathtubsongs.com/press_images.zip)

## FILMMAKER FAQs

### **What was your inspiration for the film?**

Zack's MR. MDWST performances really drew me in. The first time I saw one of his shows, I was hooked. I knew then that I had been waiting a very long time for something like this to come along. Beverly Fresh reawakened my dormant but longstanding love for rural America and pierced my growing malaise with life in Illinois. Then I met the first member of the fabled Pork Chop Boys and ended up being his father. But mostly I was excited by the prospect of making a feature length experimental film loosely organized around a wildly exaggerated mythical story archetype whose plot, such as it is, unfolds in the rural Midwest, the same setting in which I was born and raised. This film is many things, not the least among them is a meditation on filmmaking.

### **How was the production funded? What was the process of getting the film made?**

We funded this film ourselves. All of the money came out of our own pockets. My production company, Sawbuck, produced it. We would like to get some of our money back, so we're really hoping for some good activity at the door.

### **How long was the shoot? Where did you shoot?**

We shot for a total of 10 days, entirely on location in Montgomery, Indiana, which not coincidentally is the median population center of the United States according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

### **What is your favorite scene in the film?**

It's hard to pick a favorite. To me, they're all solid gold. But if I had to pick just one scene as a favorite, I'd go with "Corn Cook-off at the Car Wash." A close second would be the "Tar and Feather" scene.

### **What was the most difficult scene to shoot?**

"Drive-By Jokes" was pretty difficult to realize as a video piece. It's a 360-degree "tracking shot" for whose realization I drew general inspiration from some of the stunning long, continuous takes in the films of Kubrick, Scorsese, and Tarantino. A more specific reference point was the robbery scene in Harmony Korine's Spring Breakers. While "Drive-By Jokes" adopts the basic tenets of a tracking shot, we also wanted to achieve rotational POV. To accomplish this, we shot the scene twice on four different cameras, including a GoPro mounted to the dashboard of the 1939 Buick that Beverly Fresh drives in a circle, delivering bifurcated jokes (premise then punch line) to the Pork Chop Boys.

### **How is the film structured?**

A loose and archetypal story line guides the film. Beverly Fresh, an artist of unknown origin and uncertain talent, is beckoned to a small Indiana farming town to help the local crew of misfits (Pork Chop Boys) to help save their hometown from certain ruin. Each scene is designed to stand on its own as a piece of what one might call "video art," operating capably on its own internal logic while at the same time advancing the overarching narrative of the film as a whole.

### **What are some of the film's most distinctive aesthetic elements?**

Bathtub Songs constitutes its own unique aesthetic universe. It's meant to be an experience that envelops the viewer, sort of a filmic analog to a warm liquid suspending agent in which one might place a dead (or live) gnawing mammal.

### **Describe the casting process and why location played such an important role in the film?**

The film's principal cast consists of Zack Ostrowski (Beverly Fresh), Jim Conley (DARE-L), and Julie Potesta (GL'ASS). Jim and Julie are classically trained theater actors who graduated from the Theatre School at DePaul University. Julie and Greg's wife Erin have been best friends since childhood. Zack is a multimedia visual performance artist with whom I began a friendship and collaborative working relationship a few years ago. Shortly after Zack and I had finished the first draft of the screenplay for Bathtub Songs, we began doing our location scouting in Montgomery, Indiana. On the trip back to Chicago, we stopped over in the city of Indianapolis, where we had plans to mount a guerrilla performance (MR. MDWST by Beverly Fresh) at the base of Monument Circle, the first monument in the U.S. to be dedicated to the common soldier and the largest outdoor monument in the State of Indiana. En route to Indianapolis, Greg called Jim to request assistance in producing the outdoor show at "The Circle." Jim readily agreed and ended up producing the entire thing on 24-hour notice. From that point forward, Greg and Zack worked intensively with Jim and Julie on Bathtub Songs and two additional film projects, "The Great Spectacular" and "Ode to Montgomery."

### **What format did you shoot the film on?**

The cinematography of Bathtub Songs is richly textured. Every scene was shot on at least three cameras, each of which contributed a distinct aesthetic. Our primary camera was the Sony PMW500, a high-end HD camera designed for documentary filmmaking and news reporting. The Sony was a deliberate choice resulting from our desire to give the film a documentary feel. But other cameras delivered footage that allowed us to achieve other objectives, such as establishing a discontinuous narrative, altering the perception of time, and fostering a rotational point of view. We shot a good portion of the "general views" of Montgomery on the Panasonic HVX200. The "dream" sequences were shot on the digital Harinezumi. We also utilized a Panasonic VHS Camcorder for certain scenes in which transcending time was an important feature. Finally, we used the GoPro (Hero 2 and Hero 3) to capture unorthodox POV shots.

## **What is the essence of the film? What are the characters essentially about?**

Bathtub Songs is a film about the nature of human communication.

## **ABBREVIATED CREDITS**

Directed, Edited and Filmed by Greg Scott

Produced by Jessica Mosley and Erin Scott

Starring Beverly Fresh (Zack Ostrowski)

Jim Conley as DARE-L

Julie Potesta as GLASS

## **CONTACT**

Greg Scott – [greg\\_scott@me.com](mailto:greg_scott@me.com), 773.251.6594

Zack Ostrowski – [zostrows@depaul.edu](mailto:zostrows@depaul.edu), 810.824.7270

## **PHOTOS**











## BIOS

### **Greg Scott | Director, Cinematographer, Editor**

Greg Scott is a sociologist and filmmaker based in Chicago, IL and New Orleans, LA. Although his film career arguably began at the age of 10, when he formed his own “detective agency” and used a Super 8 movie camera to produce surveillance footage of his neighbors’ daily lives, Greg began making ethnographic documentary films in 1988 as an undergraduate at the University of Southern California. Throughout the 1990s Greg made experimental home videos, all of which were distributed exclusively on Betamax tapes. In 2000 Greg began making ethnographic films about Chicago’s street drug markets. In 2005 Greg established Sawbuck Productions, a non-profit organization that produces documentary film and audio projects as well as experimental narrative films. Greg’s award-winning documentaries have been screened at film festivals around the world and his work has appeared on television, including the National Geographic Channel, BET Network, TLC, and MSNBC. At DePaul University in Chicago, Greg teaches courses on film production, visual sociology, and the art of hustling. Greg is a co-founder of WILD AMERICAN DOGS, a visual and performance art collective.

### **Beverly Fresh | Director of Performance, Lead Performer**

BEVERLY FRESH is a contemporary artist and musician based in Chicago and Detroit. He has broken several Guinness Book World Records, including breaking the most amount of eggs on his head. He’s an Assistant Professor and Graphic Art Area Head at DePaul University in Chicago. His work was recently featured in Emergency Index 2012, published by Ugly Duckling Press (NY). He was the recipient of the 2009 Daimler Emerging Artist Award. Recent exhibitions include, A Study in Midwestern Appropriation curated by Michelle Grabner at the Hyde Park Art Center in Chicago and the solo exhibition MR. MDWST - A REAL GOOD TIME at the Cranbrook Museum of Art. He is co-founder of sUPERIORbelly, an art collective and record label and cofounder of WILD AMERICAN DOGS. Fresh has exhibited within the U.S. and abroad including shows and performances in China, Japan, Peru, Ukraine, Czech Republic, Poland and Germany.

### **Jess Mosley | Producer**

Based in Los Angeles, Jess just wrapped as a producer on the 8 part HBO music documentary series Foo Fighters: Sonic Highways. Previously, she was in the department of physical production for Walden Media. Jess has spent a great deal of time on sets and in the offices of other major motion pictures and television including The Dark Knight Rises, Foxcatcher, Unstoppable, The Next Three Days, and House, MD. I have earned additional screen credits as a producer in the field for documentaries on gun violence and drug use for National Geographic and SkyTV. My work in film began with a year teaching documentary film at a university level in Phnom Penh, Cambodia; as part of a program I initiated and sought funding in order to support the resurgence of art since the Khmer Rouge era. My work is figuring out how to manifest creative concepts in film, from inception to completion. Pulling together a puzzle of inventive people; finding compelling places and faces (for in front of and behind the camera) to tell a brand new story.

### **Erin Scott | Producer**

An interest in the visual arts and a strong desire to tell stories led Erin to become the Director of Operations at Sawbuck Productions. Erin began working as a production assistant for Sawbuck and eventually moved up to produce short films for Sawbuck, such as "Reach for Me" and "We Are the People." Erin has also worked as a studio assistant to production for Chicago Studio City and as production crewmember for a number of television documentary series.

### **James Conley | Leading Male Actor ("DARE-L")**

James Lawrence Conley is thrilled to be making his feature film debut. Regional tours: Amahl and the Night Visitors (The Page-Baritone/Bass), Amphitryon 38 (Sosie), The Learned Ladies (Trissotin)...to name a few. James is a graduate of DePaul University-The Theatre School. He is an accomplished vocalist and has toured extensively throughout the United States as a soloist and lead singer of various rock projects. While offstage James enjoys playing with his 2 dogs (Farley & Murphy) and cat (Kai). He is involved in many local animal rescue organizations. All my love to the cast and crew of Bathtub Songs!! Love and thanks to all of my family and friends! This performance is dedicated to my father who passed away way too soon. I love ya "Pops"!

### **Julie Potesta | Leading Female Actor (“GL’ASS”)**

Julie Potesta was born and raised in Libertyville, IL. She is a graduate of The Theatre School at DePaul University in Chicago. She was a founding member of Oracle Productions, Chicago, IL before she went on to continue her training at The New School for Drama in New York City, NY. She is ecstatic to be making her film debut as “GL’ASS” in Bathtub Songs. Julie would like to thank her Mom and Dad for their unconditional support in pursuing her dreams and sends a special shout out to her AZ fan club Aunt Vickie and Uncle Leo. She would also like to give a special thanks to her Grandpa Chip and Grandma Beryl for their support and belief in her talent. This performance is dedicated to her mother, Teri, her number 1 fan! Look for Julie in upcoming lead role as “Pepper Lambert,” in The Great Spectacular, another film by WILD AMERICAN DOGS.

### **Thom Fredericks | Camera, Second Unit Director**

Thom is a professional new media communications specialist and consultant who is determined to understand each aspect of a project. Often acting as a one-man band he has produced, directed, photographed, edited and recorded audio for short form documentary, corporate and experimental videos. Through the practice of visual sociology Thom has rediscovered his love for the art of audio/visual communication, filmmaking and multimedia production. Always welcoming the opportunity for new creative endeavors, Thom is continually augmenting his practical knowledge and skill set in an effort to understand the world around him.

### **Jessica Speer | Field Sound Recordist**

Jessica Speer is a librarian, artist and Relaxing Lady. Her work, including field recordings, puppet shows, collections of items, and zines, touches on questions of ecology, community, history, mortality and archival practices. Speer performs with her husband Peter under the name The Speers, primarily creating live improvisations with their collections of library LPs and modular synthesizers, utilizing live sampling and signal processing to find the hypnotic patterns hidden in ordinary sounds.

### **Cara Pagels | Unit Still Photographer, Additional Videography**

With a passion for culture and documentary storytelling, Cara Pagels produced and directed her first short ethnographic film “El Luchador” after studying with Dr. Greg Scott. Inspired by the observational documentaries of Sawbuck Productions, “El Luchador” captures Chicago’s lucha libre community and explores the multi-faceted identities of performers and athletes. Since joining the Sawbuck team in 2013, her work has included website construction, production assistance, still photography, and behind-the-scenes videography. She currently lives in South Korea working as a Language Teacher, Freelance Photographer, and Professional Burrito Connoisseur.