

Press Kit: American Folk



A Film By: David Heinz

**Starring: Folk singers Joe Purdy & Amber Rubarth,
featuring Krisha Fairchild**

RT: 99min | PG

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Instagram: @AmericanFolkMovie

Twitter: @American_Folk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AmericanFolkMovie/>

#BringBackTheFolk

<https://www.americanfolkmovie.com/>

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SYNOPSIS

Logline

Two strangers, both folk musicians stranded in California, take a road trip to New York in the days after 9/11. A story about the kindness of strangers and the power of music.

Short

When their plane from Los Angeles to New York is grounded on the morning of September 11, 2001, strangers Elliott (Joe Purdy) and Joni (Amber Rubarth) are unexpectedly thrust together amidst the chaos of that historic day. With little in common but both needing to get to NYC urgently, they accept help from Joni's family friend Scottie (Krisha Fairchild) who lends the duo a rusty old 1972 Chevy Van. The shock and stress of 9/11 quickly threatens to derail their cross-country journey until the pair discover what they do have in common: a love for old folk songs.

Full Length

When their plane from Los Angeles to New York is grounded on the morning of September 11, 2001, strangers Elliott (Joe Purdy) and Joni (Amber Rubarth) are unexpectedly thrust together amidst the chaos of that historic day. With little in common but both needing to get to NYC urgently, they accept help from Joni's family friend Scottie (Krisha Fairchild) who lends the duo a rusty old 1972 Chevy Van. The shock and stress of 9/11 quickly threatens to derail their cross country journey until the pair discover what they do have in common: a love for old folk songs. Armed with a pile of guitars left in the van from Scottie's touring days, Elliott and Joni raise their voices together (and with those they meet on the road), re-discovering the healing nature of music and bearing witness to a nation of people who, even while mourning, manage to lift each other up in the wake of tragedy.

With a refreshing gentleness and beauty, **AMERICAN FOLK** lovingly chronicles the spaces between the suffering and fear, where music has the power to connect. Musicians Joe Purdy and Amber Rubarth give nuanced and thoughtful performances, with voices that are uplifting and achingly gorgeous. Filmed over 3,500 miles in 14 states, **AMERICAN FOLK** serves as a love letter to the natural beauty of America, to the style of music that has shepherded us through historically tough times and to the kindness of all of the "folk" that make America what it is.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

When the FAA grounded flights on September 11th, 2001 thousands of people all across the country were left stranded at a moment's notice. And from that time emerged countless stories of strangers jumping into rental cars with one another, road tripping across the country in a moment when we all felt so completely vulnerable and susceptible. In researching the script and interviewing many people who made those trips, a common theme emerged: This overwhelming feeling of unity, of openness, and of kindness from people all across the country.

Tragedies, it would seem, have a way of bringing people together and 9/11 definitely did just that. Father James Hayes, whose church was half a mile from the Trade Center, said "I think what this attack brought out is the real pinnacle of the human spirit, the highest point of a human being, a stranger, reaching out and helping another human being." And he was right. Strangers helped one another out of burning buildings, risking their lives in the process. The Red Cross received so many blood donations they had to turn people away. And as planes were grounded, thousands of travelers all across the country relied on the kindness of strangers to help them get home.

And our film lives there. In those fleeting moments when we all looked out for one another and acknowledged just how connected we really are. Our differences as human beings are irrefutably outweighed by our similarities but for some reason we too often seem to forget that. So we tried to make a film that serves as a reminder of a moment in time when we were all connected. And in this particularly divided time in our country's history, that seems like a worthwhile endeavor.

I sincerely thank you for your time and hope you enjoy the film.

With love & respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Heinz', with a large, stylized initial 'D' and a trailing flourish.

David Heinz

ABOUT THE CAST

JOE PURDY

Elliott



Joe Purdy is an internationally acclaimed singer-songwriter who has released fourteen albums over the last fifteen years. Despite his popularity, Joe has repeatedly turned down offers to sign with major labels in favor of recording and releasing albums himself. His songs have turned up on numerous TV shows and film soundtracks. Joe released his eleventh album on June 28th, 2010 just after 4am because, as he simply said, that's when he finished it.

AMERICAN FOLK marks Joe's first foray into acting.

AMBER RUBARTH

Joni



Amber Rubarth became a fixture in New York's indie scene, named Best NYC Songwriter by Deli Magazine and grand prize winner of NPR's Mountain Stage New Song Contest. Over the past 7 years Amber has toured Europe, Japan and the US, including recent appearances at Carnegie Hall and the Lincoln Center Atrium. She also composed the score for the documentary *Desert*. Her songs have attracted enthusiastic praise from NPR All Songs Considered, The Huffington Post, BBC Radio, Acoustic Guitar Magazine, and a Sun Studio Session airing nation-wide on PBS.

She has shared the stage with many artists including Loudon Wainwright III, Jason Mraz, Roger McGuinn (The Byrds), Colin Hay, Martin Sexton and Lisa Loeb. Rubarth now composes for films as well, most recently writing music with Paul Brill for the highly acclaimed Sundance Film Festival winner *Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work*.

ABOUT THE CREW

DAVID HEINZ

Director/Writer



For the last decade, David Heinz has been working in cutting rooms on both independent and studio pictures alike. Recently he edited *Adult World* with John Cusack which was released theatrically by IFC. In 2011 he served as the additional editor of *This Means War* for FOX as well as several other recent independent features. David recently contributed as the visual effects editor to *The Jungle Book*, *Dawn Of The Planet Of The Apes*, and *Live Free Or Die Hard*, to name a few.

AMERICAN FOLK marks his feature directorial debut.

FIONA WALSH

Producer



Fiona Walsh has over a dozen years experience in feature films, documentary programs and episodic television. Originally from the Bay Area she now calls Los Angeles home. Recent credits include: Line Producing Bill Monahan & Atlas Independent's *MOJAVE* (2015) which premiered at TRIBECA and was released by A24, Co-Producing Lorene Scafaria & Anonymous Content's *THE MEDDLER* (2016) which debuted at TIFF and was released by Sony Pictures Classics, and Miguel Arteta/Killer Films' *BEATRIZ AT DINNER* (2017), an official selection of SUNDANCE 2017 with Roadside Attractions distributing.

MATT MILLER

Producer



Matt Miller has worked on over 100 film and television productions on both the studio and independent levels in addition to over 50 commercials and music videos. He worked for over seven years in production, giving him the chance to learn first-hand from some of his favorite filmmakers such as Sean Penn, Gus Van Sant, Christopher Nolan, Gore Verbinski, Mark Ruffalo and Clint Eastwood. In 2010 Matt co-founded the independent film and commercial production company, Vanishing Angle. Recent company credits include: Distribution of *Too Late*, starring Academy Award nominee John Hawkes. *The Grief of Others*, which world premiered in competition at SXSW, premiered internationally at the Cannes Film Festival; *Amira & Sam*, released theatrically by Drafthouse Films; and *The Dramatics* (a comedy), released by The Orchard; VA has also produced countless award winning series, short films, commercials, and music videos.

SAMANTHA SANDERS

Co-Producer



Samantha began her career in film by working for some of her favorite filmmakers: Jim Jarmusch, Woody Allen, and Barbara Kopple. She received her MFA in Film and Video June 2001 from Columbia College Chicago. Her films have shown in festivals throughout the world and have won awards internationally including a Cine Eagle award and three Chicago/Midwest regional Emmys. She produced the feature film *Chicago Boricua* that had its premiere at the Tribeca Film festival and after a successful festival run is now distributed by Screen Media. She has written/produced/directed documentary programs that have been broadcast on television networks including National Geographic, A&E, MSNBC, Discovery Channel and PBS. In 2012 She developed, directed and produced the well-received *G.I. Homecoming* for the National

Geographic Channel for which she selected a group of military families and created portraits of their lives away from home during their service and portraits of the families' struggle while their loved one served. Each of the portraits ended with a surprise homecoming video – a YouTube genre then just in its infancy.

In 2008, she journeyed into the Midwest to create a one-hour television documentary about the flooding Mississippi that had affected and was threatening to affect so many communities up and down its shores. She wrote/directed and produced this compelling piece which aired on The Weather Channel as part of their When Weather Changed History series. Prior to that, among other projects, she wrote/directed and produced multiple episodes of the award-winning series "American Justice" which aired on the A&E network. In 2000 she founded Green River Films Inc. a Chicago-based multimedia Emmy award-winning production company producing documentary-based programming for theatrical release, television and the web. Additionally, she teaches courses in the film department at Columbia College Chicago.

Good Deed Entertainment

Distributor

Good Deed Entertainment is a Los Angeles based development, production, and distribution company founded with the goal of creating character driven content for underserved audiences. GDE has produced several feature films including *Tomorrow You're Gone* and its distribution slate includes current release, *Loving Vincent*, along with the upcoming *American Folk*, *Permission Journey's End* and *Always at the Carlyle*. The company is run by CEO & Founder Scott Donley with Kristin Harris overseeing Acquisitions and Distribution and Nikki Stier heading up Production

DEVIN WHETSTONE

Director of Photography



Devin Whetstone is a cinematographer whose work includes everything from feature films, documentaries, natural history / wildlife cinematography, commercials and music videos. He's worked with some of the largest brands from Apple and Nike with leading advertising agencies. Devin won best cinematography and best documentary for his film *Given* (previously known as "The Goodwin Project") which took him around the world for 15 months following a family of surfers who live to teach their children about cultures, surf and living off the land.

Devin is more than just a cinematographer, he is also a film maker and story teller. His approach to film making is unique as he brings a cinematic shooting style to all his work and is able to breathe life into the subjects and environments that he frames. Generally, his style is moody and dark except when directors and advertising agencies crank the saturation up to 11. Above and beyond the standard commercial and wildlife photography Devin excels in, he is also a very technical film maker. He has experience in robotic camera motion, visual effects cinematography and underwater cinematography. He had the opportunity to work with film makers Alfonso Cuarón and Emmanuel Lubeski on their 2013 film *Gravity* and assisted in developing the robotic camera controlled systems created by Bot and Dolly for the film.

BEN LOVETT

Composer



Ben Lovett is a multi-hyphenate composer, songwriter, producer and performer who fell into a music career in Athens, Georgia while cutting class and spending his college tuition on recording equipment. Lovett burst onto the scene at Sundance in 2007 with his score for *The Signal* (Magnolia Pictures)— an Independent Spirit Award nominee and enduring cult favorite, following up his debut on *Last Goodbye*, an indie drama starring Faye Dunaway and David Carradine.

Ben has since composed and performed original scores for a diverse range of feature films including the Duplass brothers-produced thriller *Black Rock* (Lion's Gate) starring Kate Bosworth and Lake Bell; critic favorite and Gotham-Award nominee *Sun Don't Shine* (Factory 25) from acclaimed director Amy Seimetz; and the retro sci-fi noir, *Synchronicity* (Magnolia Pictures) which earned a nomination for "Discovery Of The Year" at the 2016 World Soundtrack Awards. Lovett has been the recipient of multiple awards and worldwide recognition for numerous collaborative musical and visual projects, including visual adaptations of his own original songs "Eye Of The Storm" and "The Fear", and original music for the films *The Reconstruction Of William Zero*, *The Last Lullaby* and *Ghost Of Old Highways*.

From songwriting to scoring, his work seems to cross every genre while remaining distinctly modern and untraditional. The renowned producer Danger Mouse might have

characterized Lovett's music best, describing Ben's work as, "a beautifully haunting and complete aural experience... it sounds at times like a Jean-Pierre Jeunet movie looks."

Lovett is represented for composing by Randy Gerston at Fortress Management in Los Angeles, and for production and songwriting by Barry Taylor and Jessica Weitz at MCT Management in New York.

CREDITS

A Vanishing Angle Production

Starring

JOE PURDY

AMBER RUBARTH

DAVID FINE

KRISHA FAIRCHILD

MIRANDA HILL

EMMA THATCHER

BRUCE BEATTY

ELIZABETH DENNEHY

BRADFORD BARNES

Director of Photography

DEVIN WHETSTONE

Original Score By

BEN LOVETT

Original Songs By

JOE PURDY

AMBER RUBARTH

Music Supervisor

ANDREA VON FOERSTER

Executive Producers

STEVE CHO

MICHAEL HEINZ

Executive Producers

AARON DOWNING

DEREK SIVERS
DAVE PAPPAS

Co-Producer
SAMANTHA SANDERS

Produced By
MATT MILLER
FIONA WALSH

Written
Directed
Edited By
DAVID HEINZ

Elliott
Joni
Dale
Bianca
Emily
Scottie
Mike
Ann
Jimmy
Carlos
Alejandro
Fargo
Kathryn
Kelly
Dylan
Himself
Himself
Herself
Herself
Himself
Himself
Herself
Herself
Doug
Saxophonist
Weary Traveler 1
Weary Traveler 2
Weary Traveler 3

JOE PURDY
AMBER RUBARTH
DAVID FINE
MIRANDA HILL
EMMA THATCHER
KRISHA FAIRCHILD
BRUCE BEATTY
ELIZABETH DENNEHY
BRADFORD BARNES
JULIAN GOPAL
HOLGER MONCADA, JR.
PAUL WHITE
MARYANN STROSSNER
SHELLY WEST
LAWRENCE MANDLEY
PAUL KUCZKO
JIM WEBB
BEVERLY CARDARELLE
DIXIE JO CROCKETT
ROBERT "CRAZY BOB" MAYO
SAM LUERAS
AMARIAH LUERAS
MALINA LEACH
DAN LEVITT
DALE FIELDER
STEVE CHO
JAMES PERRY
LAWRENCESMITH

News Reports Voiced by

MARY BRDAR

HEATHER BUTTERFIELD
ANDREW HANSEN
KIMBERLY HOWARD
SHANTEL MIDDLETON
SCOTT MEIER
TREY PAUL
LINDSAY PERRAULT
EVAN PERRAULT
KATIE PFINGSTEN
PATRICK PFINGSTEN
ANDREW WALTON

Field Producer
UPM
Production Coordinator
Field Coordinator
APOC
Production Assistants

KALEB KEENE
RYAN JAEGER
SKYLER PREDERGAST
BEN WEISSNER
KELLY THEWLIS
JOE ADAMS
CAMERON PRICE

1st Assistant Camera

DEAN SNODGRASS
NACIA SCHREINER

2nd AC/Data Manager
BTS

DANIEL RAMPULLA
BESS JOHNSON

Makeup Department Heads

JENNIFER "JQ" QUINTEROS
STACEY HUMMELL

Additional Makeup
Wardrobe Consultant

ASHLEY HOOKER
LAUREN OPPELT

Gaffers

TEJ VIRDI
COLLIN BRAZIE

Key Grips

STEVE FORBES
RAPHE WOLFGANG
ALEX EVANS

Swing

CHARLIE GIBSON

Production Sound Mixers

JORDAN BOOTH
JOE BARTONE
DAN POWELL

Production Designer

MARIE JACH

| | |
|--|--|
| Art Swing | ERIN JOHNSON BRYAN STANIS |
| Additional Music Supervisor | SAM BELKIN |
| Creative Consultant | SCOTT RODGERS |
| Transportation Coordinator Transportation Captain Driver | LOUIS DARGENZIO PAUL WHITE ANDREW TOFSRUD |
| Aerial cinematography Pilot Camera | PROPELLER AERONAUTICS KIEL WHETSTONE DEVIN WHETSTONE |
| Background Casting (LA) Background Casting (OKC) | BURBANK CASTING CHRIS FREIHOFER, CSA TIFFANY FEESE |
| Assistant Editor Music Editor | CHARLIE MANCLARK PAUL APELGREN |
| Visual Effects Artist | JUSTIN JOHNSON |
| Supervising Sound Editors / Re-recording Mixers | WILL FILES MATT YOCUM |
| Dialogue Editor Sound Effects Editor | JIM BROOKSHIRE NICK SCARCELLA |
| Foley services provided by Foley Mixer Foley Artists | ALCHEMY POST SOUND RYAN COLLISON JOANNA FANG LESLIE BLOOME |
| Score Recorded at Engineer Trumpet Trombone | ECHO MOUNTAIN STUDIOS, Asheville, NC CLAY MILLER BEN HOVEY JUSTIN MANN DERRICK JOHNSON |
| Sax Cello String Bass Violin | JONATHAN COLE FRANKLIN KEEL CHARLES HUMPHREY LYNDSAY PRUIETT |

Viola JULIAN PINELLI
Accordion, Piano KARA POORBAUGH
Guitar, Piano, Percussion AARON PRICE
BEN LOVETT

Digital Intermediate by TECHNIColor
Digital Intermediate Colorist NICHOLAS HASSON
Digital Intermediate Producer JULIAN MCDUGALD
Digital Intermediate Theatrical Sales SHERYL GOODHEAD

Legal Services provided by RAMO LAW PC
Production Attorneys ELSA RAMO
TARA SATTLER

Distribution Legal Services provided by ELSA RAMO
Packaging and Sales Executive TIFFANY BOYLE

SOLUTIONS mural appears courtesy of artist Stephon Lew
STATES UNITED mural appears courtesy of artist Gregory Beauchamp
Timelapse Footage courtesy of Sashwa Burrous

George W. Bush audio Courtesy of the George W. Bush Presidential Library &
Museum/NARA

NYC Archival Footage courtesy of
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SHUTTERSTOCK

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