



**A COMEDIC PEEK INTO THE SEAMY UNDERBELLY
OF AN ICON OF AMERICAN FOLKLORE - JOHNNY APPLESEED.**

Press Information

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Synopsis

A comedic short that takes a peek into the seamy underbelly of an icon of American folklore.

In "*We've Got Johnny*," fledgling New York City TV news reporter Leslie Danner returns to her hometown to cover the controversial sale of its final apple orchard.

Normally, such a story wouldn't merit mention on a network news broadcast, but Leslie's hometown is Leominster, Mass., the birthplace of John Chapman, also known to the world as Johnny Appleseed. While uncovering the real story behind a lot of rumors, Leslie meets a series of eclectic characters who lead her to question the values she's adopted back in the Big Apple.

Technical Info:

Length: 20 minutes
Format: Digital Video
Aspect Ratio: 1:33:1

Cast

Alyson Ridlon	---	Leslie Danner
Sue Gardner	---	Sarah
Chuck Smith	---	Jack
Bryan Whitmore	---	Motel Clerk
Brian Grundei	---	Professor McIntosh
Mike Paratore	---	Dante Piermarini
Jill Shapiro	---	Anna Maria Dinnocenzo
Matt Proietti	---	Mayor Dominic Refrigeri III

Crew

Producers	---	AF Grant & Matt Proietti
Associate Producer	---	Brian DelGiudice
Director	---	AF Grant
Screenplay	---	Matt Proietti
Camera	---	AF Grant
Audio	---	Brian DelGiudice
Editor	---	AF Grant
Art Department	---	Brian DelGiudice
Production Assistants	---	Jeff Aubochon, Steve Fluet, Michael Proietti
Still Photographer	---	Brian DelGiudice
Music	---	Angry Johnny & The Killbillies
Creative Consultant	---	John Chapman

Production Notes

Producers AF Grant and Matt Proietti both grew up in Leominster and always knew their hometown was ripe for mocking. Matt's first draft was written in February of 2001 and was titled "*Appletown Blues*." It centered on the real life sale of the city's last apple orchard. After a scouting trip to Leominster in April, the story really started taking shape. Many of the places and situations encountered during that trip made their way into the final script over the next few months. Principal photography was done in and around Leominster, Massachusetts over four days in September, culminating at the Johnny Appleseed Festival on Saturday, September 22, 2001.

The project was shot on MiniDV using a Sony VX2000 camera. AF Grant served as his own Director of Photography, used only natural light and ignored the use of tripods, primarily because he is lazy.

Editing took a few months of spare time on a Canopus DV Storm Edit System with Adobe Premiere. The rough cut was completed in late November. Early 2002 featured minor tweaks based on test screenings for cast and crew. The first public screening was at the F4 Festival in Fitchburg MA on March 8, 2002 where "*We've Got Johnny*" won the Audience Award.

Bios

AF Grant:

Co-Producer, Director, Director of Photography, Editor

Producers AF Grant and Matt Proietti met at Leominster High School in Leominster, Massachusetts. AF went on to graduate from the University of Massachusetts with a BA in Mass Communication and has been involved in film and video production for over 12 years. He has served as producer, director, camera operator, editor and more on a wide range of television productions, from commercials and news to sports and award winning comedies. He has also worked as a Production Assistant and Assistant Director on independent and student films. Past awards include:

1993 CableACE Award, Comedy/Variety Series; "*Cool Stuff*"

1992 Outstanding Achievement Award, Cable Television Producer's Assoc.

1992 Massachusetts Community Television Contest; Best Series

In the mid 90's AF turned his back on scrambling for freelance work and rode the high-tech boom as a web designer. Only the lure of Johnny Appleseed could bring him back to the world of entertainment production. "*We've Got Johnny*" is his first DV short and more money was spent on the wrap party than on the production. AF is currently planning his next project which will certainly include an even bigger wrap party.

Matt Proietti:

Co-Producer, Screenwriter

After graduating Leominster High School, Matt joined the United States Air Force and was a staff writer and, later, editor of weekly civilian newspapers (Mountain News in Lake Arrowhead, CA and the Courier-News in Crestline, CA) for nine years. During that time, he was editor of a monthly Air Force Reserve paper, too. Matt has won the Thomas Jefferson Award, the top "prize" in U.S. military journalism four times. He is also a frequent speaker at military journalism conferences. Currently, Matt also writes a humor/general interest column for a bimonthly magazine, "On the Mountain." His longtime goal is to finish a book he's writing set in a fictional city that is, basically, Leominster.

Keep Spreadin' The Seed!

For more information visit www.GotJohnny.com