

"THE FUNNIEST THING TO COME OUT OF TEXAS YOUTH CULTURE SINCE SLACKER!"

Dennis Harvey, *Variety* (1/22/01)

"AN UNABASHED 82 MINUTES OF FUN!"
Ain't It Cool News

"RAW AND SPECTACULAR"
Film Threat

"THE BEST UNDERGROUND FILM OF 2000!"
B-Independent Magazine

"SF INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL BREAKAWAY HIT"
SF Bay Guardian

LARS VON BIERS PRESENTS



(Digital Video, 82 min, 2000)

Best described as *Mad Max* meets *Smokey and the Bandit*, *Radio Free Steve* is a post-apocalyptic comedy about a radio pirate racing across the American Southwest in search of a music video career in "New Los Angeles."

Originally shot in 1984 by the film's star, Steve Glenn, *RFS* sat unfinished until 1999 when acclaimed filmmaker Lars von Biers discovered Glenn's video epic and raised finishing funds.

FESTIVAL APPEARANCES

USA Film Festival 2001 - Dallas
UT El Paso Int'l Film and Video Festival
Park City's Lost Film Festival
San Francisco Indie Film Festival 2001
MicroCineFest 2000 - Baltimore
Austin Film Festival 2000

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UGH FILMS PRESENTS A LARS VON BIERS PRODUCTION STARRING STEVE GLENN JESSY SCHWARTZ CHRIS SYKES AMY RAYMOND DEAN HAGLUND DAVE KENDALL
MUSIC BY FRIENDS OF DEAN MARTINEZ EDITED BY JASON TUCKER PRODUCTION DESIGNER ANDY BLACKWOOD DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY LEVY CASTLEBERRY SOUND DESIGNER DAVE NELSON
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS HAMP BEESLEY & WADE BEESLEY ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS RYAN JUNELL PARKE GREGG PRODUCED BY AMY RAYMOND JULES BEESLEY WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY JULES BEESLEY

WWW.RADIOFREESTEVE.COM

PRODUCTION NOTES

Radio Free Steve is the debut feature of writer and director Jules Beesley. He and his high school friend, Ryan Junell, developed the story in the Spring 1999 while living as Texas expatriates in California. They then formed *Ugh Films* with another hometown friend and fellow expatriate, Amy Raymond, to produce the film. Beesley headed back to Texas to helm the project out of Austin, and in just a few months, he had finished the screenplay. In the summer of 1999, the cast and crew of *Radio Free Steve*, all in their early 20's at the time, shot this 82 minute Digital Video feature in just 3 weeks and in 5 different states while on the road from Austin to Los Angeles. Afterwards, Beesley and Junell spent several months in post production adding cheesy, retro-80s video effects to make it look like a "lost" 1984 indie film. The funding for the film was raised out of the filmmakers' hometown of San Angelo, Texas by Beesley's father and brother.

The filmmakers recruited a wealth of talent, including veteran Austin Production Designer, Andy Blackwood (*Love and .45*, *Texas Chainsaw Massacre 5*, *The Journeyman*) and Austin Director of Photography Levy Castleberry (*Sweet Thing*, *Sed*). For the music, the filmmakers called upon the steel-pedal guitar driven sounds of *Friends of Dean Martinez* to score the film. Several other bands recorded original songs for the movie. *Luna* covered Jerry Reed's theme song from *Smokey and the Bandit*. Out of Austin, *Brown Whörnet*, *Viper Horse*, *DJs Trey Lopez* and *Resinhol* contributed new songs. *Marc De Gli Antoni*, formerly of *Soul Coughing*, became inspired to record two new songs after watching the film during a post-production sound session in San Francisco.

Filming began in Austin and San Antonio, then left the Hill Country to shoot on the back roads of West Texas. The next stop was Marfa, TX and the Chinati Foundation. The Chinati contains dozens of symmetrically aligned aluminum sculptures designed by the father of minimalist sculpture, the late Donald Judd. The crew had unprecedented access to Judd's striking art spaces and grabbed some amazing shots. The production then headed to the stark dunes of White Sands, New Mexico for a quick day of shooting (without a permit). After being escorted off the grounds by Linda the friendly National Park Ranger, the production traveled to the Grand Canyon for a quick shot, then went on to the annual *Burning Man* event in Nevada. This temporary city of over 25,000 people camped in the middle of a dry lake bed provided a stunning, post-apocalyptic backdrop for the film. After a few days of shooting and wandering around the desert in a blissful stupor, the crew left *Burning Man* and headed to their final destination: Los Angeles. The production culminated in Hollywood with a climactic scene featuring Dean Haglund, the blonde haired nerd from the Fox series *X-Files* and *The Lone Gunmen*, and the former host of MTV's *120 Minutes*, Dave Kendall.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

JULES BEESLEY makes his debut as feature film writer and director with *RADIO FREE STEVE*. Beesley grew up in a small West Texas town where he started making movies in Junior High with his friend, RYAN JUNELL, the star of the film.

He attended Northwestern University and graduated in 1997 with a Bachelors degree in Radio/TV/Film. He spent his summers in Austin, Texas working in feature films and music video production and development. After graduation, Beesley moved to Los Angeles where for two years he worked in feature film development and production. During this period he also co-wrote and co-directed with Junell on a digital short entitled *//Slasher* and has produced and directed commercials in Istanbul, Turkey and San Francisco.

Feeling constrained by mainstream Hollywood, Beesley decided to make his own film and moved back to Texas in June of 1999. Inspired by the flexibility and low-cost of digital video technology, he wrote the script, raised funds from his hometown, and called in favors from friends to complete production within just 6 months of the story's conception. He currently lives in San Francisco and is working on a new screenplay.

Producer AMY RAYMOND grew up with Jules Beesley and Ryan Junell in the same small West Texas town. She is a first-time producer and an actress living in Los Angeles. Her films include the lead in 'Division of Assets' with Kellie Martin which will be out next year; *The Curve*, starring Keri Russell and Matthew Lillard, which premiered at Sundance; as well as many other independent films. She also collaborated with Beesley and Junell before, starring in the digital short *//Slasher*. She is currently producing short films for an internet distribution company.

Associate Producer RYAN JUNELL, who incidentally plays the character Steve in the film, co-wrote and directed *//Slasher* with the director in Spring of 1999. Ryan has been involved with video and computers since the mid-80s and has spent time in various medias as a commercial radio dj, videographer, graphic artist, journalist, web designer, actor, and creative director. He is currently producing the San Francisco event WEBZINE 2000, an exhibition, forum and party for independent publishing on the internet.

Executive Producer WADE BEESLEY curates guerrilla art galleries, books DJs, and owns and operates Mojo's Daily Grind, an anti-corporate coffee shop in Austin, Texas. Over the past seven years he has established himself as one of the young movers and shakers in Austin. Through his connections and knowledge of the scene he was able to play the "face man" in the negotiations, hooking Jules up with the right people and getting lots of favors done.

In 1999, Jules Beesley, Amy Raymond, and Ryan Junell formed UGH FILMS to explore new filmmaking possibilities utilizing digital technologies. *Radio Free Steve* is Ugh Film's first feature. The company's next project will use the 3D computer gaming Quake™ Engine to develop a short film for Internet distribution.

Director of Photography LEVY CASTLEBERRY is one of the youngest and most talented cinematographers in Texas. His feature films include *Sweet Thing*, *Sed* and several other short films, digital videos and music videos produced in Austin, TX.

Production Designer ANDY BLACKWOOD has worked in film art department's for the last twenty years. His film and television credits include *Love and a .45*, MTV's *Austin Stories* and *Texas Chainsaw Massacre 5*. He recently production designed the upcoming independent western, *The Journeyman*.

Editor JASON TUCKER has worked as an editor in Los Angeles for over ten years. He edited trailers and TV spots for Universal from '94--'97, and served as assistant editor for television shows such as *Wasteland*, *Buddy Faro*, and *Party of Five*. Jason is currently in Canada assistant editing the Warner Brothers feature film, *Cats and Dogs*.

Supervising Sound Designer and Re-Recording Mixer DAVE NELSON has worked on feature films and for the last 15 years. His credits include the Academy Award Nominated *When Abortion was Legal* and *Forever Activists*, *Fun*, *The Bed You Sleep In*, *Frame Up*, *Little Odessa* and *Safe*. His most recent credits include the 1999 Oscar nominee for best documentary, *Regret to Inform*, Werner Herzog's *Escape From Laos* and *Wings of Hope*, *Dream With The Fishes*, *Conceiving Ada*, and *The Distraction*.

ABOUT THE CAST

RYAN JUNELL (Steve)

probably didn't read the script for his role in this film, but did we mention he grew a mullet?! Now that's method acting! Aside from a few bit roles in average high school plays and acting weird at parties, Ryan fully embraced his role as the main character Steve. And though he hasn't quit his day job at the world wide web factory using Zapf Dingbats to compose company memos, he's looking forward to a long career in web-based soap operas. Or porn.

JESSY SCHWARTZ (Sheena)

is a member of an award-winning improv troupe in Austin and well known on the Austin comedy circuit. She writes and stars in many of her own sketches.

CHRIS SYKES (Dirk)

is a Texas based actor who has starred in several films and television series. He has also starred in several plays, and toured with them nationally. He is currently acting in Austin.

DEAN HAGLUND (himself)

Best known for his recurring role on the *X-Files* where he plays, Langly, one of Mulder's trio of nerdy consultants. Haglund received his training from the Prairie Theater Exchange in Winnipeg. He performs stand-up comedy and has appeared in shows like *Sliders*, *The Commish* and *Robocop*. He now stars as Langly in the upcoming X-Files spinoff, *The Lone Gunmen*.

JOY GOHRING & JOHANNA STEIN (Crystal & Laguna)

These ladies come together to form the comedy team Gohring & Stein based in Los Angeles. Their comedy show, *Without Pants* premiered at the Aspen Comedy Festival and has been developed as a new comedy series for Oprah Winfrey's Oxygen network. It premieres in 2000.

DAVE KENDALL (himself)

Mr. Kendall was one of the early evangelists of the alternative rock movement. As the original host of MTV's *120 Minutes* in the late 80s and early 90s, Kendall brought the depressed sounds of musicians like The Smiths, The Cure, Love and Rockets, and The Replacements to the mainstream. He is now director of New Media for Raygun magazine.

KRIS MCGAHA (Ragina)

Kris was formerly the host of MTV's *Loveline*. She also had a supporting role in *The Curve*, starring Keri Russell and Matthew Lillard. She currently performs stand-up comedy in Los Angeles.

NATHAN ZELLNER (Ricky)

Nathan has appeared in several films including *The Curve*, and the Austin cult classic, *Plastic Utopia*, which he co-wrote and directed. He currently designs websites and Flash animations for the hilarious webzine <http://www.poi.cc>.

BRUCE BEESLEY (Bruce Porter)

In addition to being the director's uncle, Bruce has been a stage actor for over twenty years in San Angelo, Texas. When not on stage, Bruce is one of West Texas' finest hair stylists and owns his own studio, The Rage.

CHRISTIAN MOORE (Christian)

He wrote and directed the film festival favorite, *Shady Grove*. He now slacks and writes in Austin, Texas. Christian is currently producing a video for the indie rock band Luna.

SCOTT MEADOWS (Moonshine)

Scott makes his acting debut as this lovable, but misunderstood redneck. He just graduated from the Texas A&M computer graphics graduate program where he won a coveted scholarship from George Lucas' Industrial Light and Magic.

LISBETH KENNELLY (Queen of the F***ed Up Elders)

Lisbeth starred in the Australian short film *I Want You* which was nominated for Best Short Film at the Cannes Film Festival in 1998. She is currently producing television segments for Discovery's Travel Channel.

THE MUSIC


Music plays a vital role in *Radio Free Steve*. After all, how can you have a movie about a radio pirate without good music? Music also helps create the 80s feel of the film without being too kitschy. Says Beesley, "Rather than using songs from the eighties which people immediately associate with specific memories from their past, we used *new* songs that are evocative of the era, but keep the story immediate."

An original score by:
Friends of Dean Martinez

Songs by:
Cibo Matto
Boards of Canada
Trans Am
The C4am95
The Prima Donnas
Knodel
DJ Faust

And songs written for *Radio Free Steve* by:
Viper Horse
Jon Nikki
DJs Trey Lopez and Resinthol
Brown Whörnet
Mark De Gli Antoni (Soul Coughing)
and Luna (covering "Westbound and Down" from *Smokey and the Bandit*)

The soundtrack will be released on 8-track, cassette and LP.



<http://www.radiofreesteve.com>

TARGET AUDIENCE: 13 - 35

Radio Free Steve targets a wide range of people within alternative culture who are hungry for a movie that transcends mainstream mediocrity.

TEENAGERS

Teens connect to the film's theme of rebellion and raw, amateur-video style. In the film, Steve rebels against mainstream society and the status quo, the perfect hero for teens struggling to find a unique identity in an increasingly homogenized culture.

The cast and crew, all 25 and younger when they filmed *RFS*, eschewed traditional filmmaking conventions in favor of an improvised guerilla-filmmaking style geared toward younger audiences. This style appeals to a generation of kids who have grown up making home movies with their friends and watching homemade movies on the internet. Teens crave the unpredictability of pared-down shows such as MTV's *Jackass* and appreciate the home video style of *Radio Free Steve*. The film's style appeals to a generation reared on MTV and reality television. That appeal along with an action-packed plot, potty-mouthed humor, and a rebellious hero make *Radio Free Steve* a movie teenagers are sure to watch over and over, telling their friends that they must see this great, underground "lost" 1980s movie.

CHILDREN OF THE 80s

The '80s are back and *Radio Free Steve* taps into that. The film targets twenty and thirty-year-olds who grew up in the '80s and love the film's campy nostalgia. The retro-video look and intentionally cheesy effects mimic many of this generation's favorite childhood shows. The soundtrack takes audiences back to a time when Duran Duran and Madonna reigned supreme. The '80s costumes from the film have suddenly become trendy. Fashion magazines flaunt clean-cut preppies and Flashdance new wavers as the latest style.

The *RFS* website, radiofreesteve.com, adds to the film's story while providing visitors with a dose of '80s pop culture. Over the past year the site has developed a sizeable cult following. Under 35 audiences gravitate toward anything that will take them back to their media-saturated youth.

"It's natural midnight fare for under-30s with extensive pop-trash knowledge."

"different audiences will get different mileage from jokes at the expense of '70s CB faddism, cheesy '80s TV shows ("Knight Rider," "A-Team," etc.), myriad bigscreen exploitation pics..."

- Dennis Harvey, *Variety*

"*Radio Free Steve* is a raw and spectacular train wreck of a video that's far more entertaining than the bland, homogenized broadcasting emanating from our airwaves today."

- Merle Bertrand, *Film Threat*

"This mock resurrection of a lost sci-fi road movie is an hysterically funny, deeply chintzy time-trip back to all those 70's and 80's fads that we're all so fond of..."

- *San Francisco Independent Film Festival*

<http://www.radiofreesteve.com>