

Always have a perfect bed
and a comfortable pair of shoes
because when you're not in one
you're in the other.



SNEAKERS & SOUL

EMERGENCY PONCHO PRODUCTIONS IN ASSOCIATION WITH NO PANTS PICTURES AND YELLOWSAND PICTURES PRESENTS "SNEAKERS & SOUL"
STARRING BILLY FENDERSON, SJ HANNAH AND MARIE-CECILE ANDERSON. ORIGINAL MUSIC BY MATHIAS HATLESKOG TJØNN
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MICHAEL LAVOIE. BASED ON A STORY BY JONATHAN ZELENAK. WRITTEN BY JONATHAN ZELENAK AND MARTY BUCCAFUSCO
PRODUCED BY MARTY BUCCAFUSCO, NIKI JANDOWSKI, PATRICK LAMORTE, JONATHAN ZELENAK. DIRECTED BY JONATHAN ZELENAK



synopsis

"You should always have a perfect bed and a comfortable pair of shoes, because when you're not in one, you're in the other."

This is the credo of Johnny-boy Bailey's late father, Murray, a man whose passion for life and love for adventure was an inspiration to all. It is also the credo that has haunted Johnny-boy, an overworked and under-enthused lawyer from South Jersey who finds himself trapped in a routine as dull as the black loafers he spends every day in.

When Johnny-boy inherits a pair of blue sneakers and a key to a mysterious New York City apartment from his father, he is given a chance to find a new direction for himself and live up to his father's legacy. With his best friend, Ace, by his side Johnny-boy slips on the sneakers and the two embark on foot for a journey spanning the state of New Jersey to the Big Apple.

It's a trip that will not only bring them to the brink of friendship, but also give them a chance to rediscover the connections that matter most in this world.





the soul

Sneakers & Soul is the epitome of independent filmmaking. Working under a meager budget, this film came to life through an enormous outpouring of support during all levels of production. With a blossoming cast, a diverse array of locations, and a soundtrack featuring fully-cleared music, it stands as a testament to the timeless spirit of creation through collaboration.

Although Murray Bailey's character preached the need for a perfect bed and comfortable shoes, the real-life cast and crew of *Sneakers & Soul* were in no position to heed this advice.

Quite the contrary actually, and for 28 straight days in the summer of 2008, a determined group of storytellers crammed themselves into a four-bedroom home in Cape May, New Jersey to bring the dream of *Sneakers & Soul* to life.

Two years before the camera starting rolling, Jonathan Zelenak began writing a story that he wanted to develop into his first feature film. With an early draft of the screenplay in-hand, Zelenak approached long-time friend, Patrick LaMorte, whose enthusiasm for the story quickly grew into a Carpe diem-inspired zeal to turn it into a film.

Within months, Marty Buccafusco joined as Co-Writer and shared Producer duties with

Zelenak, LaMorte and new addition, Niki Janowski. One way or another, the gang was determined to produce *Sneakers & Soul*. Almost immediately the decision was made to make sacrifices but not compromises. They decided to strip the budget down to its bare bones, which became known as "Murray-Style" in honor of the character's life-affirming perseverance. During the pre-production phase, the team was able to develop an effortless collaborative process that brought even more heart and soul to the story – not only improving the screenplay, but also building a stronger friendship that would prove invaluable for the tough road ahead.

The backbone of *Sneakers & Soul* was solidified, but it wasn't until casting that the film began to take its true shape. Billy Fenderson (Johnny-boy), SJ Hannah (Ace), and Marie Cecile Anderson (Vicki) were cast as the leads. They each brought a unique charisma that fit perfectly into the world of

Sneakers & Soul. Eager to be a part of such an ambitious adventure, the actors quickly adapted to the "Murray-style" approach of making the film.

Weeks before production, Zelenak met with the actors anywhere they could find available space. "We didn't have the funds for rehearsal space but this ended up being a huge benefit," the Director said. "I wanted to immerse the actors in environments that would give them an immediate connection to their characters." Anderson remembers, "Vicki has one particular moment in the film where shyness isn't an option. We rehearsed and choreographed the scene at a department store parking lot in Brooklyn. Shoppers were constantly peering over at us with curious eyes. It was perfect. It provided the ideal inspiration for me to connect with this character."

When time came to construct the crew, the producers filled their team with close friends and colleagues whom they could trust. "We knew the budget was going to be tight, so we needed people that we could rely on to fight through the no-frills environment with a smile on their face," notes Janowski. As the cast and crew gathered at the four-bedroom home of Zelenak's parents in Cape May, it was quickly apparent that this wasn't going to be a beach vacation. Half the crew slept



the soul

on air mattresses in the basement while the other half was scattered throughout the living room and hallways.

It wasn't just the crew who had to rough it – producers and cast members weren't given any special treatment either. Fenderson and Hannah shared a bunk bed and Anderson had to jockey for position in the shower line just like everyone else. Fenderson remembers it actually helping his performance: "Bonding with SJ through Jonathan's little 'social experiment' helped me find something sincere in my relationship with SJ. I don't think I would have been able to find that any other way."

Self-financing the film was made even riskier when Zelenak, LaMorte, and Buccafusco left their respective jobs to commit their full attention to the production. "The paychecks stopped coming, my bank account came to a halt, and I no longer had medical insurance — I couldn't have been happier," Zelenak remarks.

Although the cash was limited throughout the production process, favors and goodwill poured in from all around. Inspired by the filmmakers' risk and passion, family members, friends, acquaintances and even strangers stepped in to provide the resources necessary to get the production

off the ground. Buccafusco remembers, "All the pieces were falling into place – props, locations, costumes and most importantly, meals. We could sense that something was very right about this adventure because there were too many mini-miracles occurring for it not to succeed."

The most valuable of these miracles proved to be of the culinary variety. Without an official caterer, the producers turned to good ol' home cooking to line the bellies of the cast and crew. "We had relatives, neighbors and local businesses stepping forward to provide the catering," says LaMorte. "There may have only been 20 of us making the movie, but dozens more kept us going each and every day."

After two weeks in close quarters, the production moved northward and although the scenery changed, the lifestyle did not. More living rooms and foyers were converted into sleeping areas and the Script Supervisor by day remained the Dish Washer by night. Despite these conditions, goodwill and strong bonds remained. Through the humid, mosquito-filled woods of the Pine Barrens, to the suburbs of North Jersey and eventually into the old brownstones of Brooklyn, the plucky cast and crew kept the magic alive.

"Our goal was to create a film with the heart and soul of an indie, but the production value of a Hollywood feature," says Zelenak. Buccafusco adds, "The cast and crew had to live like paupers but perform like professionals. When your back is against the wall like that, trust becomes vital and somehow we had this from day one."

The intimate environment obviously made for some emotionally taxing moments, but LaMorte looks back on the production fondly: "It was an amazing experience all around and I remember almost constant smiles and laughs. When we needed to be serious, the discipline was there, but you just couldn't escape the good humor and camaraderie that this group kept alive day and night."

"I come from a small family where I was the only child," Zelenak remarks, "but while making *Sneakers & Soul*, I realized that a family isn't only defined by bloodline. Now, we've not only made a movie, but we've made a family as well, and close friends have evolved into brothers and sisters. Most film sets aren't blessed with this magic but *Sneakers & Soul* was one of a kind. What we lacked in budget we made up for in love, and this sentiment is woven throughout the film. The family, the energy, and the love simply beam from every image, in every scene, of *Sneakers & Soul*."



BILLY FENDERSON
(Johnny-boy Bailey)

Billy Fenderson is a graduate of Columbia University's MFA Acting Program. He has also studied as an apprentice at Vassar College's Powerhouse Theatre. He is grateful to have received a number of opportunities and roles while working in New York City. *Sneakers & Soul* is one of his first film projects, and he is very thankful for the experience and time on the film.



SJ HANNAH
(Ace Cooper)

SJ Hannah can be seen in two feature films in 2009 including *Sneakers & Soul* and *The Three Chris's*. He has spent a great deal of time in the theatre, performing in regional productions of *Smokey Joe's Cafe*, *Blues For An Alabama Sky*, *Sophisticated Ladies*, and was last seen onstage as Simba in the national tour of Disney's *The Lion King*.



MARIE CECILE ANDERSON
(Vicki Lions)

Marie Cecile Anderson hails from Nashville, Tennessee, but now calls Brooklyn home. Her first acting role was a piece of seaweed in the Nashville Children's Theatre production of *The Little Mermaid*. Since then Marie has gone on to act in over a dozen independent films, a national Food Network commercial, and is currently working on her improv skills at The Upright Citizens Brigade. Marie has also appeared

in numerous NY and regional stage productions. She is also a proud teaching artist for Opening Act, which brings high quality after-school programs to 8 NYC public schools in need. *Sneakers & Soul* marks her feature film debut.

JONATHAN ZELENAK
(Director, Producer, Co-Writer, Editor)

Born and raised in the boondocks of New Jersey, Jonathan moved to the Big Apple to study filmmaking. Graduating with a BFA from the School of Visual Arts, he has worked as a Producer/Editor for MTV Networks, WeightWatchers.com, and NBC/Universal. Several of his films have been Official Selections at various film festivals. His previous film, *Happy Birthday*, brought home the Best Short Film award at the NJ State Film Festival. Aside from filmmaking, Jonathan loves Ninja Turtles, the shore, quesadillas, and his Mom.

MARTY BUCCAFUSCO
(Producer, Co-Writer, Editor)

Hailing from Evans, Georgia, Marty has enjoyed the magic of storytelling for as long as he can remember. Nurturing a passion in film and video, he attended the University of Georgia and graduated Magna Cum Laude. Marty has supported himself as a freelance editor in New York City for 5 adventurous years, doing award-winning work for clients including MTV, Logo, and mtvU. In his spare time, Marty works tirelessly on numerous side projects from music videos to creative writing to the planning of elaborate theme parties. Although tremendously happy with the events of his real life, Marty finds endless pleasure in the invention and development of events in fictional lives.



bios

PATRICK LaMORTE (Producer)

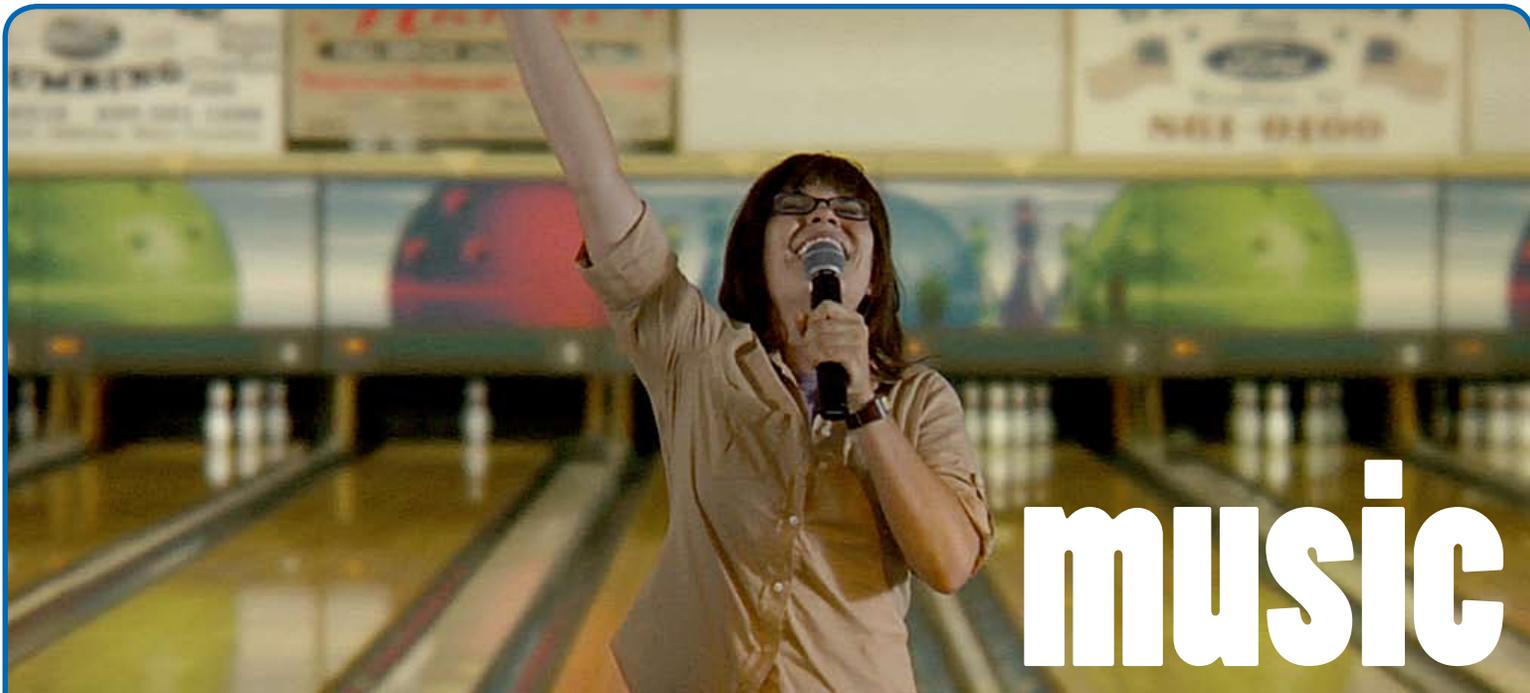
When he convinced his father to let him use the family camcorder at age six, Patrick immediately knew what he wanted to do when he grew up. He has always loved being able to create his own universe through stories and sharing those tales with the world. Growing up in a small town in South Jersey, but longing to be around the craft he loved, Patrick got a job at a local movie theater as a manager and projectionist - it was the closest he could get to Hollywood at the time. Since then, he has written several screenplays as well as filming and editing music videos for New Jersey-based bands.

MICHAEL LaVOIE (Director of Photography)

Michael LaVoie is a NY-based director of photography. After graduating from the film program at SUNY Purchase he immediately began working as a cinematographer and has shot 10 features. When he's not watching or shooting movies, you can find him at your local skatepark or pool hall.

NIKI JANOWSKI (Producer)

Niki Janowski graduated with honors from the School of Visual Arts in 2006. During and after school, she worked with Nina Rosenblum, an Oscar nominated documentarian, for three years. She produced, wrote, and directed her own short documentary along with producing the award-winning short film, *Paper Girl*, with Michael Distelkamp. She was the production manager for feature length music documentary, *Black N Blue Bowl 2008*, which covered the annual hardcore music festival by the same name in Brooklyn, New York. As the Executive of Development and Production for YellowSand Pictures, she is part of a team developing several reality television shows and is currently in pre-production for a horror film with Malek Akkad (of Halloween fame) entitled *Hurt*.



music



MATHIAS HATLESKOG TJØNN (Original Music)

www.mathiastjonn.com

Originally from Oslo Norway, Mathias is a musician/composer trying to make it in New York City. With both a BA in History and Archaeology from the University of Rome, Italy and a BM in Performance and Contemporary Composition & Production from Berklee College of Music, Mathias has seen enough classrooms and study halls to know that it's time to get out there and make some music. He performs regularly around the city as a solo artist, works as a freelance composer for film & television and DJs under the moniker of DJ Emoticon.



BROOKE WAGGONER

www.brookewaggoner.com

Brooke's beautiful and complex melodies come from a wide range of influences - from Chopin to Simon & Garfunkel. She graduated from LSU with a degree in music composition & orchestration and now resides in Nashville, Tennessee. Brooke writes and composes all of her own string arrangements and has just completed an orchestral-driven album to follow up her first EP, "Fresh Pair of Eyes." Her music can envelope the listener in rich, organic tones and touching lyrics - nurturing an atmosphere that is both familiar and uniquely perceptive.



PALMYRA

www.myspace.com/palmyramusic

Palmyra is delightfully difficult to pin down: 3/5 Jersey, 2/5 Brooklyn, a rhythm section of jazz nuts, a lead guitarist with rock and roll pulsating loudly through his veins, a trumpet-player/vocalist who creates killer lines with his eyes closed and a singer/songwriter, focused on composition, arrangement and moving vocals.



LINDSAY KATT

www.myspace.com/lindsaykatt

Lindsay Katt's ethereal voice and introspective nature have found a place in the music business. She is a new name in the landscape that welcomes forward thinking female singer-songwriters, from Fiona Apple to the wonderful Joni Mitchell. Self-taught in the mountains of Montana, she developed her own unique style, taking chances with her sound and lyrics. The resulting melodies are haunting, uplifting, poignant and quirky. Continually pushing herself, and challenging her listeners, Katt hopes that they can embrace the personal music she's creating and find some truth of their own invention.



NOBLE THREE

www.myspace.com/noblethree

Acting as more or less a front for the Nashville-based singer-songwriter Patrick Rickelton and Atlanta-based Tres Crow, Noble Three was born slowly but surely out of Rickelton and Crow's mutual adoration of 60's pop and mid-90's alternative. As two of the principal songwriters for Nashville favorites Greenland, their bouncy number, "The Way It Is" garnered the Best Song award in the YouTube Underground video contest and has helped solidify Rickelton and Crow as up-and-coming songwriters.



THE DEFENDING CHAMPIONS

www.myspace.com/thedefendingchampions

The Defending Champions are a fun-lovin, ball-sockin, hard-rockin 6-piece band from Verona, New Jersey. They play a mix of rock/reggae/ska/soul and have been known to blow peoples' hair right off their heads due to their extreme rocking and legendary status. They love playing music and all they care about is you having fun while listening. Their music will inspire you to dance, drink, rock out, smile, and laugh.



COEUR DE PIRATE

www.myspace.com/coeurdepirate

Cœur de pirate is Béatrice Martin, a young woman who has played the piano since she was 3. After five years of conservatoire, she feels the urge to write her own songs to express her feelings, emotions and experiences and is quickly recruited by band Bonjour Brumaire as keyboard player. In spring 2008, she decides to concentrate on her solo project, Cœur de pirate, inspired by the music she grew up to (French and folk music). Almost immediately, she signs with Grosse Boîte (Dare To Care) and spends the summer recording her first album with David Brunet (Tricot machine, Daniel Boucher, etc...) and playing festivals such as Les Francofolies de Montreal and Osheaga.



PALE YOUNG GENTLEMEN

www.paleyounggentlemen.com

Pale Young Gentlemen formed in a large unused bedroom in Madison, Wisconsin in August of 2004. Brothers Michael & Matt Reisenauer and friend Brett Randall started out as a three-piece (piano, drums, guitar) but soon added Milwaukee-based musician Andrew Brawner (bass) and cellist Elizabeth Weamer. Drawing upon the folk-classical movements of Brahms, the evocative storytelling of Randy Newman, and the pop orchestration and sensibilities of Brian Wilson and Paul McCartney, Pale Young Gentlemen fashion a unique and compelling sound in the chilly atmosphere of Wisconsin's capitol.



STESO SONGS

www.myspace.com/stesosongs

Steso Songs is what Karolina Stenström calls herself when she makes her piano songs with dark lyrics and beautiful, pretty childlike melodies. In the Spring of 2009, she visited the U.S. and played the SXSW Festival and in San Francisco. Her debut album will be released through her own label Lyckan. "Steso Songs has a chance of breakin' big. She only has an EP under her belt but is young, attractive (don't downplay the importance of that), and talented" wrote U.S. blog Swedesplease.



THE BOTTICELLIS

www.thebotticellis.com

The Botticellis play shimmering power pop steeped in a classic analog sound, orchestral melodies and the California Sunshine. Their breakthrough album, "Old Home Movies" updates the sound of such legends as Big Star and George Harrison with a dose of the Shins and Grizzly Bear. Gracing too many "Best of" lists to count, including those of Paste, All Music Guide and Future Sounds, "Old Home Movies" has emerged as a critic's favorite and a strong debut album.



PROUD SIMON

www.proudsimon.com

Proud Simon is a collection of sounds and stories as told by Brian Keenan, a singer/songwriter living in Brooklyn, New York. The stories are well worn, a suitcase full of postcards, seashells and anima statues. Each item invokes the path the listener has traveled, a document of shared experiences. Their album, "Night of Criminals," is a two-act record capturing the revelry of workday hope and a descent into temptation at nightfall.



THE MEASURE [SA]

www.myspace.com/themeasuresa

Over the last few years, The Measure [SA] have crept around just beneath the radar of mainstream punk rock, taking their folk-influenced West Coast pop-punk from basement to basement and releasing a steady stream of 7"s on just about every small-scale label around. Critical self-analysis runs hand-in-hand with late-twenties cynicism, yet bouncy melodies and a touch of Springsteen-esque feel-good rock and roll keep The Measure from drowning the listener in a sea of despair. Their music has a peculiar tendency to bring a smile to one's face with the knowledge that life's not all bad and there's still good people playing their hearts out just for the fun of it.



PETER BRODERICK

www.myspace.com/peterbroderick

Peter Broderick is a musician/composer from Portland, Oregon. As a child he studied classical violin, but over time he has mastered many different instruments. In mid 2007, Peter was invited by some of his heroes, the Danish ensemble Efterklang, to move to Copenhagen and join their live band. His album, "Home," reveals him to be a songwriter and musician of astonishing maturity and depth. Those who spend time with this gorgeous album will come to view it like an old friend...reassuring, consoling, dependable.



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