



bad bird

1911 Forest Hill Drive, Austin, Texas 78745 • RoundersFilm@yahoo.com

The Holy Modal Rounders... Bound To Lose

Starring THE HOLY MODAL ROUNDERS, SAM SHEPARD and DENNIS HOPPER

production notes:

Bound to Lose began soon after "we" (Jesse, Paul, Sam, and Tim) graduated from NYU in the spring of 1999. Around that time, Peter Stampfel of the Holy Modal Rounders was still a fixture of the New York City music scene. Directors Paul Lovelace and Sam Douglas recall a wild encore where Stampfel joined Yo La Tengo on stage to perform a raucous version of the Rounders' classic "Griselda." Producers Jesse Fisher and Tim Hatch remember seeing him through a cloud of smoke (which kind they don't recall) jamming with nomadic hippie jam specialists Leftover Salmon. Long before all the recent CD reissues, finding a classic Rounders' record was a rare and joyous discovery. The band's lore is legendary —playwright/actor Sam Shepard was once their drummer, they played with the colorful Lower East Side group The Fugs, appeared on the Easy Rider soundtrack, fell off the stage a lot and the two primary members, Peter Stampfel and Steve Weber, were still living! A film had to be made.

The filming got underway as the band was going through a resurgence. Co-founder Steve Weber had kicked a nasty drug habit, left Oregon and rejoined Stampfel on the East Coast. We approached Peter at a gig with a bribe (banjo strings) and a letter asking if we could do some filming with the band. He called Tim Hatch the next day and said sure. We were on. A few weeks later at Weber's house the journey began. The filming has led us to many places, from New York City to California and many points in between: Portland, St. Paul, Boston, Philadelphia and Trenton to name a few. We flew to Las Vegas for a twenty-minute interview with Dennis Hopper. Upon arrival we found out our borrowed camera was out of service. At the end of a tense afternoon we finally tracked down a ringer for Captain Lou Albano who rented us a camera. Cash only. That hurt. The interview was great though.

We have met too many unusual characters to mention. If pressed for our favorite it may be Lonesome Wayne, a friend of the band from Carson City, Nevada. At a Rounders performance in Davis, California he pulled the film crew aside and asked us point blank, "You wanna know who's fuckin' goofy?" Wayne then pulled up his jeans to reveal a tattoo on his calf. And there it was. "Donald Duck! That's who's fuckin' Goofy!" Then there was Jack the Fluke (immortalized by Tom Wolfe in The Electric Kook Aid Acid Test), Tattoo Bill (covered with 'em, he looks scary ... and then he starts drinking!) and especially the band itself.

Peter lives in New York, like us, so we see him the most. Steve lives a few hours away in



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Bucks County, Pennsylvania, which is where the band Ween lives (who we've seen at Rounders shows) and where they filmed the movie *Signs*. Strange place. We have grown to know Peter and Steve quite well. The shoots were sporadic but frequent enough over the last five years. We all work minion jobs in the entertainment industry. A lot of reality television, industrial videos, cooking and children shows, gossip—alas nothing memorable. The big perk has been borrowing cameras, tape stock, gear, fax usage and all that kind of stuff. The jobs were also freelance so we could take time off to edit and shoot and edit and shoot. Then when money would run out there were always more medical shows looking for hired hands.

Bound to Lose has been a labor of love, and it has been hand to mouth the whole time. Ideally we would not want to keep making films like this. It can be tough on loved ones, family and friends. But, hell, you can't write fiction this good.