

# REVIVAL69: The Concert That Rocked the World

**Genre:** Documentary, Music

**Runtime:** 97 minutes

**Country:** Canada, France (Canada + France Co-Pro)

**Technical:** Digital, 4K, Colour, 16:9

**Network:** CRAVE

## LOGLINE:

When a young concert promoter launches a festival in 1969 to revive the Kings of Rock 'n' Roll, a chain of unimaginable events manifests the 11<sup>th</sup> hour arrival of John Lennon and The Plastic Ono Band, triggering Lennon's decision to leave the Beatles forever.

## SYNOPSIS (SHORT):

**REVIVAL69: *The Concert That Rocked the World***, is the remarkable, behind-the-scenes story of how a little known, but life-altering music festival came together — against all odds. Young, scrappy concert promoter John Brower puts his life on the line (literally) to turn his failing Toronto Rock n Roll Revival into a one-day event, later coined in rock mythology as “the second most important event in rock n 'roll history.” And it almost didn't happen.

The festival united rock legends and the almost famous, but it was the 11th hour arrival of John Lennon and the Plastic Ono Band that ignited a truly seminal moment for the 20,000 fans at Toronto's Varsity Stadium, triggering Lennon's final decision to leave the Beatles forever.

## SYNOPSIS (LONG):

**REVIVAL69: *The Concert That Rocked the World***, is the remarkable, behind-the-scenes story of how a little known, but life-altering music festival came together — against all odds. Young, scrappy concert promoter John Brower puts his life on the line (literally) to turn his failing Toronto Rock n Roll Revival into a one-day event, later coined in rock mythology as “the second most important event in rock & roll history.” And it almost didn't happen.

The festival united rock legends like Chuck Berry, Little Richard, Jerry Lee Lewis, Bo Diddley, and Gene Vincent, with The Doors, who were the biggest band in the world. But it was the 11th hour arrival of John Lennon and the Plastic Ono Band that ignited a truly seminal moment for the 20,000 fans at Toronto's Varsity Stadium.

Through exclusive conversations with iconic musicians like Alice Cooper, Robbie Kreiger (The Doors), Alan White (Yes), Geddy Lee (Rush), Danny Seraphine (Chicago) and Klaus Voorman (Manfred Mann, The Beatles), and over 60 minutes of remarkable archival footage and audio tapes, the documentary immerses us in the whirlwind chaos leading up to the festival — the

biker gang, threat of cancellation, a mid-flight band rehearsal, and inexplicable luck that culminated in Lennon shedding the mantle of the Beatles and nervously taking the stage with Yoko Ono, Eric Clapton, Klaus Voormann, and Alan White — an unforgettable happening that triggered Lennon's decision to leave the Beatles forever.

Forged with rare behind-the-scenes, Super 8 vérité, including unreleased concert footage from D.A. Pennebaker's original 16mm film, *REVIVAL69: The Concert That Rocked the World*, is an exhilarating VIP ride into a pivotal moment in music history, told through the eyes of those who were there: the musicians, the mavericks behind the scenes, and all who witnessed history in the making.

## **CREATIVE TEAM:**

### **Ron Chapman, Director & Producer**

Ron Chapman is an internationally award-winning documentary filmmaker based in Toronto. His feature documentaries have garnered acclaim worldwide and have aired on major networks and platforms.

They include: *WHO THE F\*\*K IS ARTHUR FOGEL*, featuring Lady Gaga, U2, The Police, Madonna, Rush and key music industry insiders; *THE POET OF HAVANA*, with Carlos Varela, Benicio del Toro and Jackson Browne; *THE FORBIDDEN SHORE*, an in-depth exploration of Cuba's top musical artists. His concert film, *CARLOS VARELA LIVE IN HAVANA*, was released internationally in '21 along with a limited edition boxed set including *THE POET OF HAVANA*, and a double album of the live concert. Ron released two significant films in 2021, *SHELTER*, an immigrant story that helped shape a city, (filmed in Canada and Poland) and *FROM EARTH TO SKY*, the story of seven Indigenous architects from Turtle Island, (filmed across Canada, USA, New Zealand and in Venice Italy), both broadcast on Canadian national television networks and currently playing on the international film festival circuit. Scheduled for release in 2022 is a short documentary film, *The Gift of The Artist, Inside the Al Green Sculpture Studio*, and the feature documentary, *REVIVAL69: The Concert that Rocked the World*.

Ron's career represents a lifetime of creative entrepreneurship. He started out as a musician and became an artist manager, record producer, club owner, and concert promoter. He went on to develop his own film production company and advertising agency, where he produced and directed commercials for international brands. A lifelong musician, his album of original songs, "As Worlds Collide", is on Current Records, with recent single and video "Turn Away".

### **Phyllis Ellis, Writer, Associate Producer**

Independent filmmaker, Phyllis Ellis has worked in Europe, Asia, Africa, India and the U.S. for the past thirty-five years as a filmmaker, writer, actor and producer. Her work address's themes of justice, inclusion and human rights.

Nominated for the 2021 International Emmy's and winner of Best Direction and Best Writing at the Canadian Screen Awards (CSA), her feature documentary *TOXIC BEAUTY*, has been viewed by a worldwide audience of 44 million. Her film, *ABOUT HER* won the prestigious Donald Brittain award (CSA's) for Best Social Political Documentary Film. Named one of Chatelaine's women of the year in 2020, Phyllis is a multi-CSA winner and nominee in categories of direction, writing and performance.

Her critically acclaimed feature documentary *CATEGORY: WOMAN* had its world premiere at hotDocs International film festival 2022. Most recently Phyllis was the writer and Associate Producer on *REVIVAL69: The Concert that Rocked the World*, scheduled for release in 2022 and is in development with her feature documentary, *BEAUTIFUL* with docChannel, for the CBC.

### **Trish Dolman, Producer**

Trish Dolman, founded Screen Siren Pictures in 1997 and is a leading Western Canadian feature film, documentary, television, and digital media producer and director. With more than 30 feature film, television and documentary credits over her career, her projects have won acclaim, awards and have screened at various marquee international festivals.

Trish's recent credits include: the upcoming 5-part limited series/feature film hybrid *BONES OF CROWS* from award-winning filmmaker and playwright Marie Clements, for the CBC, Radio-Canada, APTN, and Elevation Pictures (TIFF 2022); the multi-award-winning *BRITISH COLUMBIA: AN UNTOLD HISTORY*, a landmark documentary series told from diverse and pluralistic perspectives which premiered to great acclaim on Knowledge Network in 2021; *FRENCH EXIT*, a feature film adaptation of the novel by Canadian author Patrick DeWitt, starring Michelle Pfeiffer and Lucas Hedges for Sony Classics and Sony Worldwide that earned Pfeiffer a Golden Globe nomination in 2021 along with a Canadian Screen Awards win for Best Actress; the feature documentary *THE NEW CORPORATION: THE UNFORTUNATELY NECESSARY SEQUEL* (premiere at TIFF 2020, winner of Vancouver Critics Circle Award for Best BC Documentary); *CITIZEN BIO*, a feature-length documentary she directed about the subculture of biohacking (Showtime Networks); *INDIAN HORSE*, an adaptation of Richard Wagamese's award-winning novel, which was the most successful English-Canadian theatrical release of 2018; and *Canada In A Day*, for which Trish won the Canadian Screen Award for Best Director, Documentary, executive produced by Ridley Scott and inspired by Kevin Macdonald's *Life in a Day*.

In 2003, Trish was the youngest recipient of Women in Film & Video Vancouver's Woman of the Year Award and received Veuve Clicquot Ponsardin's La Grande Dame Woman of Distinction. In 2010 she was named one of the 100 Most Influential Women in British Columbia by the Vancouver Sun. In 2019, she received the Douglas Dales Industry Builder award from Sim Video and was nominated for the 2021 Indiescreen CMPA Established Producer award and for the YWCA Women of Distinction Awards.

### **Andrew Williamson, Supervising Producer**

Andrew's latest feature documentary, *THE MAGNITUDE OF ALL THINGS* (NFB, TELUS & TELEFILM) by Jennifer Abbott (*The Corporation*) opened at VIFF 2020, won the Best Canadian Feature Award at Planet in Focus and Audience Choice Award at DocLands in California. Programmer Tammy Bannister called the film "Perhaps the most visceral call to action for humanity since *An Inconvenient Truth*" and Doc Weekly praised it as "One of the Top 10 documentaries coming out in 2021".

Andrew produced the Canadian/German feature doc co-production *THE WHALE AND THE RAVEN* (NFB & ZDF/ARTE) which opened DOK.fest Munich 2019. The "majestic and introspective" film (*POV Magazine*) had a large theatrical release in Germany, won a number of awards and is available on Amazon Prime.

Previously, Andrew executive produced the award-winning doc series *EMERGENCY ROOM: LIFE & DEATH AT VGH* for The Knowledge Network/ Discovery Fit and *THE SEARCH* for CBC.

Andrew is co-president of Cedar Island Films. He's in production on the one hour hybrid doc, *NORTHLORE*, with directing team Melaina Sheldon and David Hamelin for NFB/CBC and working with Seth Klein to adapt his best seller, *A GOOD WAR*, as a doc series. Outside work, Andrew volunteers with various environment organizations to tackle climate change.

### **Sally Blake, Producer**

Sally Blake is a Canadian producer/director living in France, and founding partner of the award winning documentary company Films à Cinq.

Sally cut her filmmaking teeth in the bizarre world of professional wrestling, co-producing the feature film *HITMAN HART: WRESTLING WITH SHADOWS* for A&E, TVO, BBC and ARTE (premier Hot Docs, winner CSA). From pink tights to cat ladies, French hip-hop and spam, Sally has always been drawn to stories on the cultural edge. Recent films include *Cinema Through the Eye of Magnum* in co-production with Magnum Photos that premiered at the Telluride Film Festival (ARTE, BBC, TMC, Canal+); *Beauty and Ruin* about the Detroit Institute of Arts during Detroit's near collapse (ARTE, AVRO, Superchannel, premier FIFA, official selection Austin Film Festival) and *The Real History of H.I.P.H.O.P.* about the world's first hip-hop television show and the first time a person of colour appeared as a presenter on French TV (ARTE Creative).

At the same time, and in the face of the alarming environmental problems the world is now confronting, Sally has dedicated more and more films to the theme of science and the natural world. Recent productions in this vein include *The Messenger* about the vertiginous decline of songbirds, which premiered at Hot Docs and was released cinematically throughout Canada and the US (Netflix, ARTE, CBC, Canal D, winner Best Conservation Film at Jackson Wild), *The Shadow of Gold*, an investigation into the catastrophic environmental and human rights impacts of this precious metal, (ARTE, TVO, SVT, Canadian cinema release), *Reef Rescue* that follows

the urgent quest of scientists to buy time for the world's coral reefs, (ARTE, CBC, Vulcan, NOVA) and *King of the North*, a winter in the company of the polar bears of Hudson Bay (France Television, Nat Geo Wild, CBC).

In addition to producing and directing, Sally is an award-winning writer and editor.

### **D A Pennebaker, Executive Producer**

D A (Donn Alan) Pennebaker is widely regarded as one of the pioneers of cinema verite filmmaking. In 2013 The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences recognized D A Pennebaker's body of work with an Oscar for Lifetime Achievement. In the early sixties, Pennebaker and his colleague Richard Leacock developed one of the first fully portable 16mm synchronized camera and sound recording systems which revolutionized filmmaking and helped to create the immediate style of shooting so popular today. Pennebaker is the recipient of numerous filmmaking awards including the IFP's Gotham Award. Pennebaker made his first film, the short *DAYBREAK EXPRESS*, in 1953. In 1959, he joined Drew Associates, which produced for Time-Life the highly acclaimed *Living Camera* series in the early 1960s. The filmmakers' subjects ranged from the Broadway debut of Jane Fonda (Jane), to President Kennedy's presidential primary run against Hubert Humphrey (Primary), to the desegregation of the University of Alabama (Crisis). In 1967, Pennebaker released the seminal film *DONT LOOK BACK*, which followed Bob Dylan's last acoustic concert tour in England. The film broke box office records and is considered a classic of both documentary and rock filmmaking.

D A Pennebaker passed away in 2019 before the completion of *REVIVAL69: The Concert that Rocked the World*.

### **Chris Hegedus, Executive Producer**

Chris Hegedus has been making films as a director, cinematographer, and editor for nearly 40 years. In 2001, she was awarded the prestigious Directors Guild of America Award for *STARTUP.COM*, an intimate buddy story filmed during the first Internet boom/bust. Together with her partner D A Pennebaker, Hegedus was nominated for an Academy Award for *THE WAR ROOM*, a behind-the-scenes look at Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign. The film also won the National Board of Review's D.W. Griffith Award for Best Documentary. Hegedus is the recipient of the Golden Eagle CINE award and of lifetime achievement awards from several organizations including the International Documentary Association. Hegedus' first collaboration with Pennebaker was as editor of *TOWN BLOODY HALL*, the legendary 1971 "battle of the sexes" between Norman Mailer and feminists Germaine Greer, Jill Johnston and Diana Trilling that took place at New York City's Town Hall theater. In 1977, Hegedus, Pennebaker and Pat Powell co-directed *THE ENERGY WAR*, an acclaimed five-hour, three-part special for PBS that followed the historic legislative battle over President Jimmy Carter's energy policy. Harvard's Kennedy School of Government cited *THE ENERGY WAR* as "one of the best political films ever made."

**Frazer Pennebaker, Executive Producer**

Since 1980 Frazer has produced all of Hegedus and Pennebaker's films including their most recent productions the Emmy award-winning *ELAINE STRITCH AT LIBERTY* and the current release *AL FRANKEN: GOD SPOKE*, which premiered at the 2006 SXSW Film Festival in Austin, TX.

**Kirk D'Amico, Executive Producer**

Kirk D'Amico is the President of Myriad Pictures, an international production and global licensing company that develops feature films and television content such as *KINSEY*, *THE GOOD GIRL*, *MARGIN CALL*, and *THE DISAPPEARANCE OF ELEANOR RIGBY*.

In addition to producing and executive producing over 60 films, D'Amico is one of the industry's leading experts on international film distribution and is the co-founder of Photon Films. Photon is a thriving independent film distributor in Canada, who recently released the Academy Award-nominated *SOUND OF METAL*, starring Riz Ahmed.

Kirk D'Amico also directed *HOLIDAY JOY* (2016), written by Holly Goldberg Sloan and starring Bailee Madison, French Stewart, and Jennifer Robertson, for Freeform in the U.S.

D'Amico's additional experience includes positions such as Executive Vice President, Village Roadshow Pictures (1996-1998), and Vice President International, The Samuel Goldwyn Company (1994-1996).

He received a B.A in Political Science and Philosophy from College of the Holy Cross, and a J.D. from the University of the District of Columbia.

Kirk D'Amico is an active BAFTA member. He was also previously Vice Chairman of the Board for the International Film and Television Alliance (IFTA) and is a Lifetime Member of the Sierra Club.

**Mark Slone (Photon), Executive Producer**

Based in Toronto, Executive Producer Mark Slone is President of Photon Films and Media, a leading Canadian feature film distributor and content producer. Previously, he served as Executive Vice President, Theatrical Distribution at Entertainment One, and has had leadership roles in acquisitions, distribution, production and government relations for Alliance Films, Odeon Films and Alliance Atlantis. A graduate of McGill University, Slone started his career promoting Hollywood movies on campus for Warner Bros. He is a past president of the Canadian Association of Film Distributors and Exporters and has a long record of volunteerism and advocacy on behalf of the motion picture industry in Canada. Slone has served as a member of the Board of Directors for several non-profit film organizations, including The Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television.

**Henry Less, Executive Producer & DOP**

To say Henry is experienced is an understatement. He has sailed across the Atlantic ocean, done time in a Colombian jail, mined for gold, raced motorcycles and circled the globe twice.

Henry Less, Founder and Partner, and the driving force behind HLP is universally respected in the industry for his incredible talent and innovative approach to storytelling and high impact content. Henry has created a unique and deep body of work, as a Director of Photography, Director and Producer of films, television programs and commercials over a stellar 30-plus year career. This body of work is so visually stunning that it became the seed of what is known in the industry as the Henry Less brand. Henry is currently an Executive Producer.

### **Wes Legge, Director of Photography**

Based in Canada, Wesley is a Cinematographer who has photographed and has been involved in a wide variety of projects, both of the documentary world and the scripted format. Learning from and through these diverse ways of storytelling, Wes looks to develop a cinematic language and a lensing that most honours and supports the story being told.

He has been very fortunate to connect and collaborate with exceptionally talented people from all paths of life, allowing him to witness and to share in inclusive filmmaking and storytelling. His photography has brought him to six continents and to over thirty countries, immersed him in diverse cultures and habitats, and allowed him to film in and adapt to environmental conditions that span all ends of the global spectrum. These factors contribute to an ever evolving cinematic visual style.

### **Eugene Weis, Editor**

Eugene Weis is an award-winning documentary film editor. His keen sense of storytelling has allowed him to craft films tackling important social issues *CATEGORY: WOMAN*, hotDocs 2022 as well as covering some of the most prolific pop icons in history *DAVID FOSTER: OFF THE RECORD*, TIFF 2019. Eugene's work has gone on to receive numerous awards and accolades including a nomination for a Canadian Screen Award *WHO THE F\*\*K IS ARTHUR FOGEL*, aired on HBO, Epix and Netflix) and two nominations from the Canadian Cinema Editors *HOWIE MANDEL: BUT ENOUGH ABOUT ME*, Best Editing 2021; *Metamorphosis*, Best Editing 2018.

Tackling such a diverse range of films *OUR DANCE OF REVOLUTION*, Nominee, Audience Choice Award, Hot Docs 2020; Winner, Best Documentary, Edmonton Film Festival 2020, Eugene strives for excellence on each project he works on *DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME: THE JEFF WITTEK STORY*, Winner, Best Documentary, YouTube Streamy Awards 2021 and is committed to bringing an unbiased approach to his storytelling *PAIN WARRIORS*, Honorable Mention, Best Documentary, Critics 'Choice Film Awards 2022.

Eugene was thrilled to work on the upcoming film *REVIVAL69: The Concert That Rocked the World*, and is currently working on a music-related documentary for Crave/Bell Media.

### **Pierre-Adrien Théo, Music**

Pierre-Adrien THEO began music at the age of 6. In 2001, he joined the Nantes CNR where he won a percussion prize and a writing prize in 2010. In 2011, he was admitted to the orchestra conducting class at the Ecole Normale de Musique in Paris, where he obtained his higher diploma in 2013.

Outside of his studies, he participates in and directs more and more projects. Hip hop, street performance, traditional music, music and dance show, music and video, current music, symphonic music, ...

After obtaining the SACEM scholarship for Laureates of the Classes de Composition 2010, his work also turned to composition. Ranging from the solo flute, to the string ensemble, via chamber or electro-acoustic music, his catalogue already includes some fifteen works. It was with an idea of diversity that he decided to launch the Synopsis Collective in 2011 to work towards bringing the arts and cultures closer together.

### **Rich Pell, Music**

Founder of Vertigosound Music, Rich began his professional career at 14, writing and playing with several eclectic Toronto bands such as Oliver Schroer and the Stewed Tomatoes, Paul Humphreys Broken Arrow, Chunk o` Funk and the Simon Wilcox Band. Eager to expand his horizons, Rich rounded out his education at the Royal Conservatory, where he learned a variety of musical disciplines ranging from Baroque to 20th Century Avant-Garde to Jazz to Electronica and Pop.

After studying with eminent orchestrator Scott Smalley in New York City, he returned to Toronto to start up Vertigosound Music, where he has scored over 40 television series, Documentaries, Feature, Indie, Short Films and Musicals. Highlights include the HBO comedy series *CALL ME FITZ* and *Raising Expectations* starring Jason Priestly, *LESS THAN KIND* starring Maury Chaykin, *WILDTHINGS* starring Dominic Monaghan, animated series *MOTHERS UP!* starring Eva Longoria and additional music for the Sci-Fi Thriller *Splice*, starring Adrien Brody and Sarah Polley. More recently, 4 Seasons of the drama *MALORY TOWERS*, based on the eponymous book series by Enid Blyton for the BBC. The smash retro-musical *BANG BANG BABY*, won the award for Best First Feature Film at the 2014 Toronto International Film Festival and *CALL ME FITZ* won for two Best Comedy Series at the CSA Awards.

### **INTERVIEW SUBJECT BIOS:**

#### **John Brower**

John Brower is a writer and concert promoter, known for his iconic rock festivals Pop 69 and The Toronto Rock n Roll Revival.

John Brower became a seminal figure in the Toronto music scene in 1963 when his high school rock band The Diplomats were amongst a small number of bands that reigned supreme on the Toronto circuit. His early concerts paved the way for rock promotion to become one of the



country's biggest exports as Live Nation and its progenitors benefited from Brower's early milestone events. He was first to bring major rock artists to Canada on a weekly basis in Toronto. His club The Rockpile, a late 60's venue following in the tradition of Bill Graham's Fillmore held sway to everyone from The Who to Led Zeppelin and brought international stars to Toronto every week during the formative rock years. His first pop festival in June 1969 preceded Woodstock by several months. For his Rock n Roll Revival in September of 69 he invited John Lennon who appeared unannounced with the Plastic Ono Band featuring Eric Clapton. Lennon's appearance there is considered to be the impetus for his leaving The Beatles and striking out on his own. Wikipedia's listing of the top 30 legendary music festivals lists five produced by Brower including; The Toronto Rock and Roll Revival 1969, The Strawberry Fields Festival, considered Canada's Woodstock, and The Heatwave Festival, the landmark turning point in New Wave music that ushered in the 80's. His life's work has included poetry, creative writing, social activism and generosity of the human spirit. He is currently producing film and television properties based on his personal experiences in the music business.

### **Alice Cooper**

Alice Cooper pioneered a grandly theatrical brand of hard rock that was designed to shock. Drawing equally from horror movies, vaudeville, and garage rock, the group created a stage show that featured electric chairs, guillotines, fake blood and boa constrictors. He continues to tour regularly, performing shows worldwide with the dark and horror-themed theatrics that he's best known for.

With a schedule that includes six months each year on the road, Alice Cooper brings his own brand of rock psycho-drama to fans both old and new, enjoying it as much as the audience does. Known as the architect of shock-rock, Cooper (in both the original Alice Cooper band and as a solo artist) has rattled the cages and undermined the authority of generations of guardians of the status quo, continuing to surprise fans and exude danger at every turn, like a great horror movie, even in an era where CNN can present real life shocking images.

The Alice Cooper band formed while they were all in high school in Phoenix, and was discovered in 1969 by Frank Zappa in Los Angeles, where he signed them to his record label. Their collaboration with young record producer Bob Ezrin led to the break-through third album "Love It to Death" which hit the charts in 1971, followed by "Killer," "School's Out," "Billion Dollar Babies," and "Muscle of Love."

Alice Cooper was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2011.

### **Robby Krieger**

Robert Alan Krieger, born January 8, 1946, in Los Angeles, is a musical performer and The Doors guitarist. Krieger was a co-writer on the famous Doors tunes, "Love Me Two Times", "Light My Fire", "Love Her Madly" and "Touch Me". He is listed by Rolling Stone as one of the greatest 100 guitarists of all time.

Krieger became a member of the Doors in 1965, joining keyboard player Ray Manzarek, drummer John Densmore and vocalist Jim Morrison, after Manzarek's brothers left the group. Krieger's fingerstyle approach to the electric guitar, broad musical tastes, and songwriting helped establish the Doors as a successful rock band in the 1960s.

After Morrison's death in 1971, Krieger, Manzarek and Densmore carried on as a trio. They released two more albums as the Doors before disbanding in 1973, though they did reconvene a few years later to create music for poetry that Morrison had recorded shortly before his death, released as the 1978 album.

He was inducted to the Rock and Roll Hall of fame with the Doors in 1993.

### **Klaus Voormann**

Klaus Voormann, born in Berlin, April 29 1938. Graphic designer, illustrator, musician and producer. Voormann received many international awards and two grammys for the Beatles album cover 'Revolver' (1966) and participation in George Harrison's 'Concert for Bangladesh' (1971). Third Grammy Nomination for his Super Deluxe Boxset packaging of his own album "Voormann & Friends – A Sideman's Journey" (2011), Art Directors Award British Vogue session with TWIGGY (1969)

Voormann played with amongst others Manfred Mann and was a member of John Lennon's 'Plastic Ono Band'. Worked for many years as a musician in the U.S.A. and England with John Lennon, George Harrison, Ringo Starr, Carly Simon, Harry Nilsson, B.B. King, Eric Clapton, Dr. John, Jerry Lee Lewis and many other rock giants. From 1981 he produced in Germany many artists like the group TRIO.

He designed more than 100 record, book, magazine covers and concert posters for The Beatles, Bee Gees, Turbonegro, Wet Wet Wet, Terry Southern, Woody Allen, Der Spiegel, Rolling Stone Germany.

### **Alan White**

Alan White is an English drummer and songwriter best known for his tenure in the progressive rock band Yes, which he joined in 1972. In 1969, he joined the Plastic Ono Band after John Lennon invited him to play at the Toronto Rock and Roll Revival festival. White went on to play on other recordings from artists such as George Harrison, Ginger Baker's Air Force, and Terry Reid, and Lennon's "Imagine".

White joined the band Yes in July 1972 as a replacement for original drummer, Bill Bruford. Following the death of bassist Chris Squire in 2015, White became the longest-remaining member in the band, having never left the group since joining.

Alan White was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, with the band Yes in 2017.

### **Danny Seraphine**

The band Chicago, initially gained fame opening for music legends such as Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Led Zeppelin, Bruce Springsteen and the Beach Boys, hitting its stride almost immediately after their debut effort, Chicago Transit Authority, a double album, came out in 1969. Danny was a founding member of the band.

The iconic group that captured the hearts of millions of fans has earned 23 gold, 18 platinum, and 8 multi-platinum albums to date. They have had five number-one albums and 21 top-ten singles. On April 8, 2016 they were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame at Barclays Center in New York.

Critically acclaimed as an instrumentalist and a composer, Rolling Stone magazine has ranked Danny, “the father of jazz rock” as one of the top 100 drummers of all time.

### **Geddy Lee**

Geddy Lee is a Canadian musician and songwriter, best known as the lead vocalist, bassist, and keyboardist for the Canadian rock group Rush. Lee joined Rush in September 1968, at the request of his childhood friend and guitarist Alex Lifeson.

An award-winning musician, Lee’s style, technique, and skill on the bass guitar have inspired many rock musicians. In addition to his composing, arranging, and performing duties for Rush, Lee released a solo record, My Favourite Headache, in 2000.

Along with his Rush bandmates — guitarist Alex Lifeson and drummer Neil Peart — Lee was made an Officer of the Order of Canada on May 9, 1996. The band also received the highest artistic honor in Canada by the Governor General in 2012, and was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2013. He was also given an honorary doctorate of Music in 2014 by Nipissing University.

### **Claudja Barry**

In the high turnover world of the music industry, Claudja Barry has displayed the staying power of a true star. “I Will Stand“ reached number one on the Billboard Dance Charts in 2006 and with her latest hit “Good Time Girl” (Indaba Records) adding to the latest chapter in her long and illustrious international career. Her first single was “Sweet Dynamite”(Salsoul) and she has had hits like the 1979 multimillion selling Gold/Platinum disco anthem “Boogie Woogie Dancin Shoes” (Chrysalis), “Trippin on the Moon” (Personal),”Work me over”/”I will follow him”(TSR), “Down and Counting” (Epic), and “Good Time” (Radikal) that have maintained Claudja’s presence on the international pop charts and club music scene and in Canada alone she has been nominated for nine Juno Awards (the Canadian Grammy) and won, Best Female Artist.

Claudja became the first inductee to THE BLACK MUSIC HALL OF FAME, together with Oscar Peterson. In the United States she was nominated for an American Music Award for Best Female Artist and appeared on NBC’s Seventh Annual Rhythm & Blues Awards.

## **Shep Gordon**

Shep Gordon is known in the entertainment industry as having an eye for talent and an innate understanding of what people find entertaining. In 1969 he created one of the first independent film production companies in the U.S., Alive Films. Over the years, Gordon has been responsible for managing the careers of Alice Cooper, Groucho Marx, Raquel Welch, Luther Vandross, Kenny Loggins, and countless others. He's also credited as creating the celebrity chef, which revolutionized the food industry and turned the culinary arts into the multi-billion dollar industry it is today. His clients include culinary legend Wolfgang Puck, Emeril Lagasse, Nobu, Daniel Boulud and many more. In addition to the impact he's had on the music, film and food industries, he's also highly regarded for his philanthropic endeavours. Shep was named one of the 100 most influential people in Rolling Stone magazine. He was the subject of Mike Myers 2013 documentary, *Supermensch The Legend of Shep Gordon*. Gordon has also worked on numerous film productions, typically as a producer. These include "Koyaanisqatsi" and "Kiss of the Spider Woman."

He has managed Alice Cooper for over 50 years on a handshake.

## **Robert Christgau**

Known as "The Dean of Rock Critics", Robert Christgau began writing rock criticism for Esquire in 1967, was a columnist for The Village Voice from 1969 to 1972, and returned to the Voice in 1974 after two years as pop music critic at Newsday. Until 1985 he was music editor of the Voice, where he is now a senior editor and chief music critic. He has been alphabetizing my letter-graded Consumer Guide column since 1969 and has overseen the Pazz & Jop Critics' Poll, which in 2002 canvassed nearly 700 working critics, since 1974 or 1971. He contributes regularly to *Rolling Stone*, various book reviews, and whoever else makes a reasonable offer. He has taught popular culture, writing, and journalism at numerous institutions of higher learning, most prominently NYU for most of the '90s, and has published five books--the now reprinted 1973 anthology *Any Old Way You Choose It* (Penguin, then Cooper Square Press), the 1998 essay collection *Grown Up All Wrong* (Harvard), and Consumer Guide-based anthologies for '70s, '80s, and '90s: *Rock Albums of the '70s* and *Christgau's Record Guide: The '80s* (both Da Capo) and *Christgau's Consumer Guide: Albums of the '90s* (St. Martin's). In 1987 he won a Guggenheim Fellowship to study the world history of popular music and in the fall of 2002 pursued the same project as a senior fellow in the National Arts Journalism Program at Columbia University.

Robert admired and wrote many articles about his favourite artist, Chuck Berry and forged a professional relationship with John Lennon and Yoko Ono, who he greatly admired in the early 70's.

## **Anthony Fawcett**

Anthony Paul Fawcett is a British writer, art critic, and a former personal assistant to John Lennon and Yoko Ono from 1968 until 1970. Anthony was an art critic at Vogue at eighteen, brought Man Ray to London, 1969 and worked with John Lennon and Yoko Ono curating the

“Acorn Event ” and persuaded Lennon to create “Bag One - The Erotic Lithographs”. He also worked with Andy Warhol and Charles Saatchi.

His company, Anthony Fawcett Consultants, represented clients for award-winning art sponsorship programmes: Montblanc Arts & Business Award from Prince Charles as "Best First Time Sponsor", Haagen-Dazs sponsored Damien Hirst's "Some Went Mad, Some Ran Away" Show, Texaco, B.P., Hugo Boss.

### **Ed “Edjo” Leslie**

Edward "Edjo" Leslie is the founder and legendary President of the Vagabonds Motorcycle Club that he formed in Toronto in 1962. He was a huge supporter of Canadian music and musicians, helping many to realise their dreams in the industry. Ed was a founder and influencer in music festivals including the long running Havelock Country Jamboree.

### **Rodney Bingenheimer**

Rodney Bingenheimer is a legendary Hollywood radio DJ famous for hosting the long-running Rodney on the ROQ show on the Los Angeles rock station KROQ. He is known as The Mayor of the Sunset Strip, a nickname given to him by actor Sal Mineo, and was featured in a documentary of the same name that explored his life and his formidable contributions to popular music.

He formed close friendships with the cream of the LA social scene including many top pop stars of the day such as The Byrds and Sonny & Cher, for whom he was a live-in publicist. Bingenheimer was given his own show on Pasadena FM and AM radio station KROQ, called Rodney on the ROQ, which began in August 1976 and continues to the present day.

### **Dan Richter**

Dan Richter is best known as Moonwatcher the man-ape in the opening sequence of Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey* which he also choreographed. Dan has had a long career as a mime, choreographer, actor, director, producer, memoirist, and for two decades a Hollywood executive. His book *Moonwatcher's Memoir* is about working on *2001: A Space Odyssey*. His recent memoir *The Dream is Over* follows the years he lived and worked with John Lennon and Yoko Ono from 1969 to 1973.

He forged a lifelong friendship with Yoko Ono starting in Japan in the early 60's and they remain friends today.

## DIRECTORS STATEMENT:

My previous work as a documentary filmmaker has been centered around the world of music, which has always been a great love and passion of mine.

It took me over 6 years to get this film made.

The film and story focus on a truly pivotal event in music history. I actually knew of John Brower, the film's protagonist, back in 1969 and although I was barely a teenager, I attended his concerts and festivals, got introduced to some of the great bands of all time at his events, and that exposure inspired me as I pursued my career as a musician, promoter, artist manager and finally a filmmaker.

The narrative of *REVIVAL69: The Concert that Rocked the World*, is driven by three main characters, each with their own arcs that unfold over the course of the film:

**John Lennon:** The film charts his transition from Beatle to his first solo performance without them and The Plastic Ono Band at the Toronto Rock & Roll Revival, and his ultimate decision to leave the Fab Four. The spine of Lennon's story is built on archival audio and footage with John and Yoko Ono. In his own words, Lennon spins an intimate narrative, which has never been heard before. We follow his deeply personal feelings about life as a musician, his musical inspirations, songwriter, activist, friend, lover, touching on his most famous identity, a Beatle. But he is clearly restless and is searching for new meaning in music – and life. Lennon must overcome a severe bout of nerves and anxiety before getting on stage. But when he does, the performance is magical. Later, Lennon admits the *Toronto Rock and Roll Revival* gave him the confidence to make the ultimate decision to leave the Beatles – the biggest rock act in the world and the only band he'd ever known.

**John Brower:** The young concert promoter with something to prove. He puts his life on the line (literally) and, despite nearly blowing it more than once, manages to show Toronto a legendary 12 hours of music.

**D.A. Pennebaker:** The renowned New York documentary filmmaker who, like Brower, frantically hustles and schemes to put together a crew to shoot the concert in Toronto.

Their arcs are braided across the film, with each individual's perspective illuminating their own struggles and the momentous significance of this event. Voice over conversations from significant characters are blended with our three main stories establishing both an audio and visual narrative experience.

Together, these combined memories piece together the "in the moment" anxieties, threats, and euphoria. We explore how the experience of the concert altered the personal and professional paths of many artists: reviving the Kings of Rock n' Roll, jump-starting 'new' bands like Alice Cooper and motivating John Lennon to take a hard left and breaking-out toward his solo career.

The visual approach can be defined in one word: immersive. I wanted to place the audience directly into the story. Leveraging Pennebaker's sensational and never before seen Super8 behind the scenes verite, and newly, mined concert footage of the event, the film transports us back to 1969, allowing us to not only hear and see the story but also to *feel* the electricity of this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

In addition to the over 60 hours of Pennebaker's footage, every piece of archival material – articles, stills, promotional materials and other footage – is integrated with a view to maximising the visceral, “I can't believe this is really happening” thrill of the moment.

The remainder of the storytelling is written and lensed with elements of a feature dramatic film. Animator Mathew den Boer created beautifully conceived, period driven animated moments which are used to amplify key events and take the viewer back to the world of 1969.

The interviews were really conversations, and are designed to feel “organic” . It was a thrill and privilege to spend time with each of the music icons, as well as those who were there, both backstage and in the audience.

Editorially, the film is defined by its energetic cross-cutting among the three main perspectives and its seamless blending of archival, recreations and contemporary interviews. I'm pleased to be working again with my regular editor, the Canadian Screen Award-nominated Eugene Weis, and Canadian Screen Award Winner and Emmy nominated Phyllis Ellis, writer.

The film becomes a wild ride, a kind of rock and roll rollercoaster, fever pitch romp, with this iconic cast of characters that guide a legend, a maverick and the 'witnesses' to one of the most significant moments in rock and roll history that almost never happened

We express how the experience of this concert in Toronto altered the personal/professional paths of so many - not only Lennon but everyone attached to this burgeoning 'comedy of errors ' and seminal moments in rock history, that was marked indelible in all of their lives.

## **PRODUCTION COMPANIES:**

### **[Screen Siren Pictures](#)**

In 2022, Screen Siren Pictures celebrates 25 years in business as an active, independent production company based in Vancouver, Canada. President and founder Trish Dolman established herself as an award-winning producer and documentary director before joining forces with producer Christine Haebler in 2009. Collectively, our productions have screened at Cannes, Berlin, Sundance, TIFF and many other international festivals. Together, our motto is making media that “changes the conversation.” Since its inception, Screen Siren has produced numerous award-winning documentaries and feature films.

Screen Siren's last feature film, *FRENCH EXIT*, an Ireland-Canada co-production with Elevation Pictures and Blinder Films, is an adaptation of Canadian author Patrick DeWitt's award-winning novel and stars Michelle Pfeiffer and Lucas Hedges and was produced for Sony Pictures Classics and Sony Worldwide. The film closed NYFF 2020, and garnered Pfeiffer both a Golden Globe award nomination and a Canadian Screen Award win for best performance by an actress in a leading role. Previously, the company produced the feature film *INDIAN HORSE*, an adaptation of the award-winning novel by Ojibway author Richard Wagamese which was the highest-grossing English-Canadian theatrical release of 2018. After a world premiere at TIFF, *INDIAN HORSE* enjoyed a lengthy festival run where the film won 24 honours and awards.

At TIFF 2020, SSP launched the long-awaited follow up feature documentary *THE NEW CORPORATION: THE UNFORTUNATELY NECESSARY SEQUEL*. In 2021, the company launched the multi-narrative, award-winning 4-part documentary history series *BRITISH COLUMBIA: AN UNTOLD HISTORY* for Knowledge Network. Screen Siren continues to build its operation and strengthen its reputation as a leader in the production of high-calibre, Canadian film, television and digital media. Currently the company is launching Marie Clements' latest feature film *Bones of Crows* at TIFF 2022.

### [Chapman Productions](#)

Chapman Productions is a Toronto-based, internationally known production house, owned and operated by award-winning filmmaker Ron Chapman. Established in 1984, the company originally created rock videos and went on to produce award-winning television and film commercials for top international brands.

Since 2012, Chapman Productions has been producing and directing feature documentaries which have garnered acclaim worldwide and aired on major networks and platforms around the world. They include: *Who the F\*\*K is Arthur Fogel*, featuring Lady Gaga, U2, The Police, Madonna, Rush and key music industry insiders; *The Poet of Havana*, with Carlos Varela, Benicio del Toro and Jackson Browne; *The Forbidden Shore*, an in-depth exploration of Cuba's top musical artists. The concert film, *Carlos Varela Live in Havana*, was released internationally in '21 along with a limited edition boxed set including *The Poet of Havana*, and a double album of the live concert.

Chapman Productions released two significant films in 2021, *Shelter*, an immigrant story that helped shape a city, (filmed in Canada and Poland) and *From Earth to Sky*, the story of seven Indigenous architects from Turtle Island, (filmed across Canada, USA, New Zealand and in Venice Italy), both broadcast on Canadian national television networks and currently playing on the international film festival circuit. Scheduled for release in 2022 is a short documentary film, *The Gift of The Artist, Inside the AI Green Sculpture Studio*, and the feature documentary, *REVIVAL69: The Concert that Rocked the World*.

### [Films à Cinq/CAPA](#)



Films à Cinq is the combination of two producers, Sally Blake and Martin de la Fouchardière and the fusion of two cultures – Anglo and French. This linguistic combination has led to a long history of co-productions between French and English-speaking countries. Oudocumentary r films about science and the environment, cinema and art, continually push for experimentation and excellence. Our work has been nominated for Emmys, selected at Cannes, appeared on major television networks around the world and been released in cinemas across North America.

Recent films include: *The Secret History of Writing*, a globe spanning history of writing and how it shaped human civilizations (ARTE, BBC, PBS) *Reef Rescue*, following the urgent quest of scientists to buy time for the world's coral reefs (Vulcan Productions, ARTE and CBC – Winner, Jackson Wild Media Awards), and *Kingdom of the North* one man's odyssey to follow polar bears over the course of a year in Canada's Hudson Bay (France 3, National Geographic Wild, CBC).

Previous films include: *The Messenger* about the vertiginous decline of songbirds, which premiered at Hot Docs and was released cinematically throughout Canada and the US (Netflix, ARTE, CBC, Canal D, winner Best Conservation Film at Jackson Wild, Buffon prize at Parisciences); *Cinema Through the Eye of Magnum* in co-production with Magnum Photos that premiered at the Telluride Film Festival (ARTE, BBC, TMC, Canal+); *The Shadow of Gold*, an investigation into the catastrophic environmental and human rights impacts of this precious metal, (ARTE, TVO, SVT, Canadian cinema release); *Licence to Krill* a scientific adventure into Antarctica on the trail of the little known keystone species – krill, which premiered at Sheffield Doc/Fest and won Best Science Film at Jackson Wild (ARTE/PBS Nova); *Beauty and Ruin* about the Detroit Institute of Arts during Detroit's near collapse (ARTE, AVRO, Superchannel, premier FIFA, official selection Austin Film Festival) and *The Real History of H.I.P.H.O.P.* about the world's first hip-hop television show and the first time a person of colour appeared as a presenter on French TV (ARTE Creative).

#### **DISTRIBUTORS:**

**[Myriad Pictures](#)** (International): Based in Los Angeles, California, MYRIAD PICTURES is a leading independent entertainment company specializing in production, financing and worldwide distribution of feature films and television programming. Participating in top markets and festivals around the world, Myriad is known for its impressive and diverse slate of feature films including *RIDE THE EAGLE* starring Jake Johnson and Susan Sarandon, and more recently *INDIA SWEETS AND SPICES* starring Sophia Ali and Rish Shah. Walter Hill's *DEAD FOR A DOLLAR* starring Christoph Waltz, Willem Dafoe and Rachel Brosnahan is in post-production. Myriad also recently launched sales for *HELLO STRANGER*, starring Sam Worthington and Jordana Brewster, currently in production.

**[Photon Films](#)** (Canada): Photon Films is an independent, Toronto-based entertainment company specializing in the development, financing, production and distribution of feature films

for the domestic and international marketplace. Launched in 2010 as Pacific Northwest Pictures, Photon Films 'strategic objective is to find innovative projects from Canada and around the globe, and to work with filmmakers, distributors and sales agents locally and internationally to maximize commercial success while maintaining creative integrity. Heading Photon Films is CEO Zanne Devine and President Mark Slone. Rounding out the team is Sardé Hardie, Vice President Acquisitions & Sales, Steve St. Amant, Director of Marketing and Publicity, Marisa Friesen, Director of Theatrical and Digital Sales and Julian Ritchie, Marketing and Administrative Coordinator.

PHOTON FILMS TELEFILM SCREEN SIREN PICTURES CHAPMAN PRODUCTIONS AND PENNEBAKER HEGEDUS FILMS PRESENT

A CRAVE ORIGINAL DOCUMENTARY IN ASSOCIATION WITH MYRIAD PICTURES

A SCREEN SIREN PICTURES CHAPMAN PRODUCTIONS AND CAPA PRESSE/LES FILMS A CINQ PRODUCTION

WRITTEN BY PHYLLIS ELLIS A FILM BY RON CHAPMAN "REVIVAL69: The Concert that Rocked the World"

EDITOR EUGENE WEIS DIRECTORS OF PHOTOGRAPHY HENRY LESS WES LEGGE

MUSIC COMPOSED BY PIERRE-ADRIEN THÉO ADDITIONAL MUSIC COMPOSITION BY RICH PELL

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS HENRY LESS MARK SLONE KIRK D'AMICO

EXECUTIVE PRODUCED BY DONN ALAN PENNEBAKER CHRIS HEGEDUS FRAZER PENNEBAKER

PRODUCED BY TRISH DOLMAN RON CHAPMAN SALLY BLAKE DIRECTED BY RON CHAPMAN

WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF ROGERS CABLE NETWORK FUND ROGERS TELEFUND ROGERS DOCUMENTARY FUND

WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF HOT DOCS-SLAIGHT FAMILY FUND HOT DOCS TED ROGERS FUND

A CANADA/FRANCE Co-Production



© ROCK 'N' ROLL DOCUMENTARY PRODUCTIONS INC., TORONTO RNR REVIVAL PRODUCTIONS INC., CAPA PRESSE (LES FILMS A CINQ) 2022

When a young concert promoter launches a festival in 1969 to revive the Kings of Rock 'n' Roll, a chain of events manifests the 11th hour arrival of John Lennon and The Plastic Ono Band, triggering Lennon's decision to leave the Beatles forever.