



Strip the \$\$\$ out of rock 'n' roll, bring back the danger
and you're left with the raw force of 6ft Hick.
15 shows, 18 days, 6000 km, 1 European tour.

A One Hour Documentary (55 & 62 mins)

Produced by Karina Astrup & Directed by Marty Moynihan

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6ft Hick: notes from the underground...

SYNOPSIS – MULTIPLE VERSIONS VARIOUS LENGTHS

30 Words

Strip the \$\$\$ out of rock 'n' roll, bring back the danger and you're left with the raw force of *6ft Hick*. 15 shows, 18 days, 6000 km, 1 European tour.

50 Words

Armed only with strut and pure provocation, 6ft Hick level a rock 'n' roll sucker punch you would lean in for. Slog 6,000 kms across Europe with Australia's mangiest Rockabilly Punks, through 15 shows in 18 days, in a world where managers, roadies and riders give way to blood, sex, and pure adrenaline.

220 Words

'6ft Hick: Notes From The Underground' is a behind-the-scenes music documentary that reveals the messy, all-too human face of the low-budget music scene in stark contrast to the perceived glamour of an internationally touring rock band. Raised on a chicken farm in rural Nambour, on Australia's northeast coast, front men Geoff and Ben Corbett sought their artistic beginnings in the 80s, dabbling in punk and performance art. They milked their North Queensland roots relentlessly for its inbred, bigoted imagery, filtered through wicked wit and self-deprecation. Touring for 15 years, the band has become an underground institution. One reviewer described their show as "an indistinguishable pulverising barrage of screams, sweat, spit and blood flowing over a fierce, raw pulsing din." Their shows engender an atmosphere of trance and possession as the duo lurch around the stage, barrel into the crowd, hang upside-down from lighting rigs, drink beer from boots, eat the contents of ashtrays, and blood let. Their mild-mannered alter egos spend every waking moment maintaining day jobs and living normal lives, and amassing resources until they may re-awaken that beast. This documentary takes stock of the 6ft Hick machinery: what motivates and drives them in a world where music is about cashing in or bowing out? Offstage, these same figures are humble, considered and witty, offering candid insight into what they've created.

This film is a rock 'n' roll thrill ride that investigates what it means to care more about the journey than the destination, and what it truly means to sacrifice for your art. It lets you inside the minds and inner dynamics of the hardest-working band in Australia that no one's ever heard of. Trends arrive and pass, and with them the bands that represent them. Like the cane toads of their native Queensland, the Hicks keep it ugly, sticking around, advancing single-mindedly into an indeterminate future.

Also available upon request are: 400 word and 1000 word synopsis versions.

6ft Hick: notes from the underground...

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Eighteen months in the making, *6ft Hick: notes from the underground* was produced by Karina Astrup and directed by Marty Moynihan.

Throughout her decade long friendship with two of the band members, Karina Astrup had always felt the story of 6ft Hick deserved to be brought to film. This incredibly edgy, highly entertaining band she had regularly seen both shock and excite audiences over the years, had by their own choice, stuck to the path of brutal integrity and therefore relative obscurity. Their story was a rock 'n' roll cornucopia waiting to be disgorged. Choosing to team up with director Marty Moynihan and pitch the idea to JDocs was the first step towards making this happen. JDocs snapped up the concept and commissioned it through ABC in mid 2008, allowing the new team to accompany the band on their European tour at the end of that year.

6ft Hick: notes from the underground is Marty Moynihan's first documentary feature, following a string of successful short films and forays into the world of Music Video. Documentaries traditionally cover one or two main subjects – for this one Marty found himself with the daunting task of tracking six. As a result, this project presented a myriad of logistical challenges, in both production and post-production phases. The filming of this documentary took place across 3 European countries, 4 major Australian cities, sometimes utilising up to 3 cameras at a time. Puzzling out just the right methods by which to capture this enigmatic, fast-paced band using handheld cameras, in almost perpetual low-light conditions was the first nut to crack. Simultaneously attaining clean, dynamic audio on a project quintessentially centring (among many other things) on the power of sound and the struggle to achieve professional results in continually changing environments only added to the complexity.

Normally intensely private about their personal lives, adjusting to the constant presence of cameras following their every move both on and offstage was an immense challenge for the band. This necessitated rapid bonds of trust to be built between subjects and documenters. Diving into the trenches with the guys in Europe, doing the same long driving days, eating the same awful food, and sleeping on floors in the same dingy squats was vital in developing the kind of camaraderie that would allow the spontaneous, candid access so desperately sought in order to do the story justice.

The determined mission of the documentary team was to forge a behind-the-scenes music documentary with a difference, enshrining a sense of raw reality, revealing the decidedly messy, all-too human face of the low-budget music scene in stark contrast to the distant perceived glamour of an internationally touring rock band. We were equally determined to go beyond the story of the band itself, encapsulating something of the essence of underground music, the rock-solid human ties that form its foundations and how, ultimately, these prove far superior to any measure of fame or objective success.

The result is one compelling hour of television that will leave you with the smell of sweat and sulphur burning in your nostrils, the rush of adrenalin pounding in your veins, and perhaps something a little extra to ponder just when you thought you knew everything there was to know about rock 'n' roll.

For more info on the project and filmmakers, please contact:
karina@houseofgary.com

6ft Hick: notes from the underground...

DIRECTORS STATEMENT

This is a road trip film unlike one you have ever seen before. This band of five guys have been doing this for 15 years with no money, comforts and desire for the big time. So after 15 years they are not setting out on a journey of self-discovery, that boat sailed. This is the story of five road warrior rock 'n' rollers who have built an international fan base one gut punching performance at a time. It is a film where I wanted the audience to feel as though they had been invited along and what they learn on the journey is what they would have learned in conversations while in the van.

'6Ft Hick: notes from the underground' was a film I wanted to see and come out feeling as though I had played every show, slept in every squat. It is a visceral journey, with sound and vision colliding to create an all engulfing experience of what it has been like for these guys for 15 years. The audience will get insight into how close this group of guys live, the feeling of sweat on their body, the ringing in their ears, finishing the film believing they could smell every venue and experience every moment in the van. This is how the other side do a rock 'n' roll tour.

With Six characters it is hard to follow individual journeys and explore reason for this expressionism. That is also especially hard with a band so many have never heard of. For this reason the film focuses on what makes this band different, from their performance to the lack of frill, fan fair and the rough elements of rock 'n' roll they co-exist with.

I hope you enjoy watching this film.

Marty Moynihan - Director
February 2010



6ft Hick: notes from the underground...

6FT HICK BAND BIO

How do you fit 15 years of rock 'n' roll on the back of a beer coaster? (I'm going to need at least two and I apologise in advance if I start slurring my typing!) 6Ft Hick are from Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. 6ft Hick (stupid name) hatched in 1995 by five city-living farm boys who having not a clue, got together to do a little stage show called 'Country Style Livers', penned by Gentle Ben and Geoffro. In retrospect and the other members would agree, I reckon we were shit for the first 3 years but for the next 12 we were white heat fucking genius! A dual pronged rock 'n' roll hydra - sleazing forth from the swamps, cane drains and lantana of Shitsville, Queensland - population: You. With a sound pilfered and plundered from the bottom drawers of rock 'n' roll, backed with an 'if it aint broke - then lets fuck with it' attitude we unapologetically stumble, drunkenly, headlong into the night. Howling at dogs and humping the air while praying for your enlightenment. Yes, thats what we do.

Our first long-player 'Chicken' was recorded in Melbourne in the year 2000 by Tony Cohen (Birthday Party, Nick Cave and The Bad Seeds, Beasts of Bourbon). It sounded raw and tough and edgy, but we probably shoulda laid off the aspros. If you've never witnessed a 6Ft Hick show you've either been living under a rock or you're in jail for murder. All up 6ft Hick has played way over 700 shows, done 60+ East Coast Australian tours and toured Europe and Japan. We play rock 'n' roll - Geographical rock 'n' roll - we are a product of our collective Queensland backwater upbringings. Naivety, blind stupidity and luck is our credo.

A reputation as one of this country's finest live rock 'n' roll acts has seen 6Ft Hick gain support and tours for many and varied international acts. Some of the bands that we have enjoyed playing/touring with over the last decade include Rocket from the Crypt; The 5,6,7,8s ;Guitar Wolf; New York Dolls; Nashville Pussy; Link Wray(RIP); Mr Quintron; Fugazi; Boss Hog; The White Stripes (they actually played support for us and weren't too bad either); Unsane; Jesus Lizard; Hellcopters; The D4; Reverend Horton Heat; Supersuckers; Southern Culture On The Skids; Phantom Surfers; Immortal Lee County Killers; New Bomb Turks; Jon Spencer Blues Explosion; Andre Williams; Zoo Bombs; Royal Crown Revue and great Australian rock 'n' roll bands like Beasts of Bourbon, Cosmic Psychos , X, The Johnnys, The Powdermonkeys, The Onyas and Asteroid B612 to name just a few.

Band Members



Vox	Geoffro Corbett
Vox	Gentle Ben Corbett
Guitar	Dr Dan Baebler
Bass	Tony "the Jackyl" Giacca
Drums	Fred

6ft Hick: notes from the underground...

PRODUCTION TEAM & BIOGRAPHIES

Marty Moynihan – Director



Marty Moynihan graduated from film school in 2004 receiving the Queensland New Filmmakers Award for Excellence in Editing for his final year piece. Hungry for more experience he jumped into the deep end of the Australian film industry, immersing himself in as many productions as possible. Moving through the filmmaking ranks quickly, his enthusiasm for the craft was rewarded with roles on some of the country's biggest productions, such as Baz Lurhmann's 'Australia'.

With a thirst for knowledge and a vision for the future Marty pursued work in all departments, believing a great cinematic storyteller must first understand all the creative tools at his disposal. Applying what he had learnt, Marty has built an impressive body of work, bringing him success both locally and internationally. He has developed a reputation for strong character-driven films that are carefully crafted and uniquely insightful. These films have screened in numerous Academy accredited festivals receiving many awards along the way. A 'connoisseur' of music, Marty relished the opportunity to direct a documentary about legendary punk rockers 'Six Ft Hick'. Squashed in a tour van, sleeping in squats and running on empty, Marty hunkered down with 'the Hick' as they marched their blend of swamp punk, and rock 'n' roll across Europe. After achieving a national broadcast and feature length documentary Marty's focus now is on adding dramatic feature films to his ever-growing resume.

Previous Films

2008 Behind Blue Eyes | **Director**
2008 My Little King | **Director**
2007 9 Miles Beautiful | **Director**
2007 No Regrets No Remorse | **Director + Editor + Writer**
2006 Interview | **Director**
2005 Still in Contention | **Writer + Director + Editor**

Awards

2009 BIFF - Brisbane Film Festival | Behind Blue Eyes
Winner of People's Choice Award – Qld Short Films Competition
2009 Shepparton Film Festival | No Regrets No Remorse
Winner of Best Film Award
2008 Bondi Film Festival Brisbane | 9 Miles Beautiful
Winner of People's Choice Award
2008 BIFF - Brisbane Film Festival | 9 Miles Beautiful
Winner of People's Choice Award – Qld Short Films Competition
2008 Paso Robles Digital Film Festival | No Regrets No Remorse
Winner of Best Musical Comedy Section
2008 Queer Film Festival Brisbane | No Regrets No Remorse
Winner of Best Short Film - Short Films Section
2008 Mudge International Film Festival | 9 Miles Beautiful
Winner of People's Choice Award
2005 15/15 Film Festival | First Impressions
Winner of Best Film Award

Karina Astrup – Producer



Karina Astrup is an emerging independent producer and company director of House of Gary Pty Ltd. Upon completing her first year of a Fine Arts Degree majoring in Photography/Painting she left to pursue what was a stronger interest in media & communications. This promptly led her to secure a job with the highly acclaimed boutique, creative multi-media agency Bigfish (www.bigfish.tv). After working in the fields of business, video production, animation, marketing and advertising, she left to set up her own business House of Gary Pty Ltd (www.houseofgary.com), with an aim to start moving towards the documentary film industry.

Karina's lifelong passion for production, the arts and communication on all levels lead her to embrace the industry with great enthusiasm and energy. She then came into contact with award winning director Faramarz K-Rahber (*Donkey in Lahore*) and line producer/editor Axel Grigor (*My America*) of Faraway Productions, whom she worked extensively with on the SBS documentary project '*Fairdinkum Manjit*'. In 2007 she attended Mipcom, enabling her to further understand the business side of filmmaking and how to interact with international markets. During this European trip she embarked on development of 2 projects, resulting in 1 of them being financed in 2008 (**'6ft Hick: notes from the underground**), with an ABC broadcast deal attached through the highly competitive Jdocs strand. She completed the making of this film in January 2010 working with emerging Director Marty Moynihan and Commissioning Editors Debbie Lee from ABC and Karin Altmann from Screen Australia.

Charlotte Cutting – Editor



As an editor, Charlotte Cutting has had a widely varied career working with independent artists, arts organizations, corporate production companies, short films, documentaries, television commercials, installation / performance visuals and promotional video works. She has edited short films that have screened at both

national and international film festivals, as well as working as an in house editor at a number of production /arts companies in Brisbane. In 2008 her short film '*The Prams*' was a finalist at the Queensland Short Film Festival and was selected to tour as part of the Currumbin '*In the Bin*' short film program and WOW Film Festival, which toured throughout Australia. '**6ft Hick: notes from the underground**' was Charlottes first foray back into documentary after taking time out to working with drama, corporate and advertising. She has a passion for real life stories and thoroughly enjoys the challenges of problem solving at the post stage, showing the viewers the human face of the subjects she is working with.

Dan Schist – Cinematographer



Since completing a Diploma of Screen Production in 2004, Dan has worked in all areas of Film Production. Prior to that he studied a Diploma of Photography working briefly in the industry. The skills and techniques he learned and developed through photography have been able to be directly applied to the camera

department within the Film Industry. Currently Dan works as a freelance cameraman specialising in live music and documentary capture. Having first assisted for a few years in the industry, Dan also learned both editing and sound recording roles, which have helped him immensely in pursuing his passion in the area of Documentary film-making. Dan's previous broadcast roles have been as sound recordist in the award winning film *'Unlikely Travellers'* with two more due for television screening later this year (*'6ft Hick: notes from the underground'* and *'Constructive Mob'*). *'6ft Hick: notes from the underground'* was Dan's first completed project in the role of both cinematographer and sound recordist side by side. Dan has a passion for the visual moving image and thrives on real life character-based stories, enjoying all stages in the process of Documentary filmmaking.

Documentary Production Team:

Director	Marty Moynihan
Producer	Karina Astrup
Editor	Charlotte Cutting
Cinematographer	Dan Schist
Composer	Dan Baebler
Consultant Producer	Faramarz K-Rahber
Supervising Editor & Consultant Producer	Axel Grigor
Legals	Rebecca Oliver – MD Law
Assistant Editor	Andrew Quodling
Sound Design	LCR Film Sound
Sound Mixing	David White
Writer & Additional Cameraman	Conan Fitzpatrick
Production Assistant	Nils Astrup
Grading & Online	Paul Butler – 5050 Films
Motion Graphics	Davros
Maps/Poster/Web Design	Tony Giacca
Script Consultant	Stefan Moore
Post Production Script & Logger	Alex Choros
Logger	Kyle Palmer

Production Supporters

Produced in Association with:



Australian Government

SCREEN
AUSTRALIA

Creative Consultant – Karin Altmann



Screen Queensland

Project Manager – Jock Blair



Commissioning Editor – Debbie Lee

A House of Gary Film:



Official Film Website:

www.6fthicknotesfromtheunderground.com