



I TRUST YOU TO KILL ME

A First Independent Pictures Release

Reluctantly Starring
Kiefer Sutherland
Rocco DeLuca and the Burden

RT: 89 minutes



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Short Synopsis

I TRUST YOU TO KILL ME

A Feature length Rock Docudrama

Kiefer Sutherland, star of the hit TV show "24" takes his indie record label act, Rocco DeLuca & the Burden on their first international tour.

From Los Angeles, London, Dublin, Reykjavik and Berlin, this rockumentary film chronicles a highly personal journey of a rock band & their less than qualified road manager (Kiefer Sutherland) and shows the hopes, successes and disappointments of a band trying to get their music to their audience.

Manu Boyer's film takes us on a rock tour that becomes much more than the sum of its parts, it is honest and rich, with in-depth life sketches.

Synopsis and Production Notes:

“We thought to ourselves, we can sit around and do nothing over Christmas break or we can go out and see what happens. We opted for the latter.” – Kiefer Sutherland

In this 95 minute feature length film, Director Manu Boyer explores the ups and downs of an up and coming band in the making: Rocco DeLuca and The Burden. Traveling with only their instruments and living on a shoe-string budget, we discover the personal lives of artists on the road and reveal an unknown side of Kiefer Sutherland, record label owner and “roadie/tour manager,” nurturing his band. Knowing all too well the compromise an artist must make to attain their goals while staying true to themselves, Kiefer has a sense of compassion towards the band that most major label executives would not possess.

Rocco, an unknown musician, along with bandmates Ryan Carman (drums), Dave Beste (bass) and Greg Velasquez (percussion), sets out on tour searching for an audience and gaining inspiration as a musician on the streets of Los Angeles, Reykjavik, Dublin, London and Berlin. The performance sequences showcase DeLuca wailing poetic vocals “to sliding Dobro¹ guitar riffs-- as a soulfully intense talent who fuses jazz, rock, blues and folk elements to potent impact,” claims Daily Variety.

The film captures Kiefer and the bands’ personal antics as they spend the holidays on the road, performing wherever they can. We witness first hand the bands’ trials and tribulations, sometimes outrageous and sometimes touching simple lifestyles. Kiefer shares his opinions and gives the audience a personal look into his life and his love of great rock and roll music, showcased here by Rocco DeLuca and the Burden.

Shot guerilla style in High Definition color and black and white, the multi-camera crew captures the excitement and commotion of staged and un-staged performances, improvised interactions between the band, fans and locals as well as behind the scene back stage antics. Throughout the tour, Kiefer and the band are met with both disaster and success and “I Trust You To Kill Me” showcases the real-life reactions, emotions and hilarity of it all. Daily Variety comments, “At its frequent best, the artfully crafted doc earns respect as an insightful and arresting behind-the-scenes look at what any band must endure to make that first lunge at the brass ring.”

¹ Definition: A dobro is an acoustic guitar with a metal resonator built into its body. This resonator serves as an amplifier. In contrast to acoustic guitars, the placement of the resonator takes place of the sound hole. Dobros sound more like banjos than guitars, because of the effect created by the metal strings played over the metal plate.

About the Band

"You've gotta die a few times and be fierce enough to fall. I've fallen on my face many times. Whether it was on stage or with my family, but it's those times and battle scars that make my music what it is today,"

ROCCO DELUCA and THE BURDEN

"The blues died when they took the 'fuck' out of it," explains a seemingly shy and unassuming Rocco DeLuca. *"The music I was raised on had heat. Energy. That feeling of aggression. The music of today seems so washed out and generic. To get 'em back we need to stick the real soul, that punk element back into it. It's the only way I know how to play it."* It's with that ferocity and determination that DeLuca's debut album, I Trust You To Kill Me, challenges the listener to dive head first into the heart and soul of a musical revolution.

Music has been a part of DeLuca's makeup from the start. *"My dad was the touring guitar player for Bo Diddley and I remember he and my uncles would have these late night jam sessions and I would hang out with them and then end up crawling into Uncle Joe's bass drum and falling asleep to the drone,"* smiles DeLuca. As he got older, he discovered the DOBRO® steel guitar and it wasn't long before primitive folk music from both the south and the Appalachian Mountains made their way into his world. *"Most of my friends were into punk and my family's roots where in blues, so the two extremes were really all I listened to,"* he explains. After playing out at parties and penning songs, DeLuca spent the next decade honing his musical craft. He became the local opener for Taj Mahal, John Mayall and John Lee Hooker, played with Johnny Cash and after a series of eye-opening experiences in Europe; he returned to the States and landed a 2-year residency at the Gypsy Lounge just outside of Los Angeles.

As with many artists, the road from the past to the reality of today is rarely an even journey. DeLuca's was no exception. With a traveling musician for a father and having not met his mother until just 3 years ago, he'll be the first to tell you that he's spent a few cold nights on a park bench. It was through those years that DeLuca found the strength to keep his creative drive unyielding. *"You've gotta die a few times and be fierce enough to fall. I've fallen on my face many times. Whether it was on stage or with my family, but it's those times and battle scars that make my music what it is today,"* confesses DeLuca.

You can find those scars all over this riveting portrait of an old soul's quest for honesty, growth and inner awakening. From the haunting and alluring build of the first track "Gift," to the primitive and heartfelt honesty of songs like "Speak To Me" and "Favor," DeLuca locks you in with a tender vulnerability and inner strength that's unparalleled. The disc also suggests the influence of artists as singular as Jeff Buckley, Neil Young and Robert Johnson. The fact is, Rocco's music is as colorful and remarkable as the journey he's been on, with stops along the way at the junkie corners ("Dope"), the London pubs of the '60s ("Swing Low") and So Cal coffeehouses ("Bus Ride"). DeLuca's rich DOBRO® forms the sonic foundation of his music and his lyrics lie at the heart of it.

After years of performing and touring, the time came for DeLuca to take his experiences and lay them down in the form of a demo, but not without a certain amount of hesitation. *"I always thought of the 'music industry' as this drunk girl at a party who forgot who she came with. I loved making music, but being a cog wasn't for me. At the same time no one was putting out the kind of music I wanted to hear, so I cut my demo and tried to keep it as honest as possible."* In 2004, that demo was passed on to Jude Cole and Kiefer Sutherland's Ironworks label and it was clear to both of them that what they were seeing was something amazing. *"We thought of him as a real diamond-in-the-rough,"* says Cole, *"and that's exactly what we were looking for."*

Once in the studio together, Cole helped DeLuca flesh out arrangements and lay down tracks. It was through this process that they realized in order to deliver the intensity of the music live, it was going to require a full-on ensemble. And so The Burden was born, *"The band has taken this material to such a great place,"* he says. *"It's intense and aggressive live; we put a lot into simplicity, like those old masters did."* The band features drummer Ryan Carman, bass player Dave Beste and percussionist Greg Velasquez. *"These are some of my best friends, my family really, and we all share the same concept of what a live performance should be; a fusion of passion and clarity. As a fan, that's what I would want to see."*

I TRUST YOU TO KILL ME is just that. A complex journey of passion and clarity from a man, who's seen it, lived it and experienced a life not many people will ever know or comprehend. After one listen however, you just might have a shot.

The Filmmakers

Biography

KIEFER SUTHERLAND

Kiefer Sutherland currently stars in the critically acclaimed Fox drama, "24," for which he has won a Golden Globe Award and two SAG Awards as well as garnering four Emmy nominations and a Golden Globe nomination for *Best Actor in a Drama Series*. The show has also won a Golden Globe Award for "Best Drama". "24" returned for its fifth season in January 2006 and has earned the highest ratings since its premiere in 2001, up 16% from last year. The show has enjoyed tremendous success overseas, making it one of the top shows airing internationally. The premiere in the UK this past February was up 25% from last year. Additionally, Sony released a "24" video game in April 2006.

Sutherland most recently starred in "The Sentinel" with Michael Douglas and Kim Basinger. Sutherland portrayed Agent Breckenridge, a secret service agent who finds himself caught in the middle of a plot to assassinate the president. The film was directed by Clark Johnson and was released on April 21, 2006.

In 2004, Sutherland wrapped production on the independent film, "The River Queen" opposite Samantha Morton. The film was shot in New Zealand and was directed by Vincent Ward.

In 2003, Sutherland starred in the Warner Bros. film "Taking Lives," opposite Angelina Jolie and Ethan Hawke. Sutherland also provided the narration in another Warner Bros. film, "NASCAR: The IMAX Experience." The year before, Sutherland starred in the Fox film, "Phonebooth", directed by Joel Schumacher; Sutherland also starred in the limited release of the World War II drama "To End All Wars." The screenplay was based on the best-selling book, Through the Valley of the Kwai which is an account of life as a POW in a Southeast Asian prison camp. The film also starred Robert Carlyle, Ciaran McMenarrin and Mark Strong and successfully screened at both the Toronto and Telluride Film Festivals in 2002.

In 1998, Sutherland was seen starring in Showtime's critically-acclaimed original picture, "A Soldier's Sweetheart" with Skeet Ulrich and Georgina Cates. In 1997, Sutherland co-starred with William Hurt and Rufus Sewell in the Newline production, "Dark City." Directed by Alex Proyas, "Dark City" was a special presentation at the Cannes Film Festival. Sutherland also added his second directorial credit and starred in "Truth or Consequences" for Triumph Films alongside Kevin Pollak, Mykelti Williamson, Rod Steiger and Martin Sheen.

In the 1996 Paramount thriller, "Eye for an Eye," directed by John Schlesinger, Sutherland portrayed an unremorseful, brutal murderer opposite Sally Field and Ed Harris. Later that summer, he co-starred with Samuel L. Jackson, Sandra Bullock and Matthew McConaughey in the screen adaptation of John Grisham's novel, "A Time to Kill."

In 1993, Sutherland starred in Touchstone Pictures' "The Three Musketeers," based on the classic tale by Alexandre Dumas. The same year, he made his directorial debut in the critically acclaimed Showtime film "Last Light," in which he starred opposite Forest Whitaker.

Sutherland's first major role was in the Canadian drama, "The Bay Boy," which earned Sutherland and director Daniel Petrie, Genie award nominations for best actor and best director, respectively. Following his success in "The Bay Boy," Sutherland eventually moved to Los Angeles and landed television appearances in "The Mission," an episode of "Amazing Stories" and in the telefilm "Trapped in Silence" with Marsha Mason.

In 1992, Sutherland starred opposite Ray Liotta and Forest Whitaker in Orion Pictures' "Article 99," and in Castlerock's military drama "A Few Good Men," also starring Jack Nicholson and Tom Cruise. Later, in 1994, he starred with Jeff Bridges and Nancy Travis in the American version of "The Vanishing" for 20th Century Fox. Sutherland's other film credits include "Flatliners," "Chicago Joe and the Showgirl," "1969," "Flashback," "Young Guns," "Young Guns 2," "Bright Lights, Big City," "The Lost Boys," "Promised Land," "At Close Range," and "Stand By Me."

Sutherland resides in Los Angeles.

Biography

MANU BOYER
Director

Manu Boyer grew up in the south of France where he studied physics at the University of Paris, before attending the prestigious Marcel Pagnol film school.

Working as a cameraman and photographer, he moved to New York in 1998. There, he wrote and directed "Express" an award winning short film. Manu is trying his hand at writing and currently working on his first feature script.

I TRUST YOU TO KILL ME is his debut feature length film.

Biography

MATTHEW R. BRADY

Producer

Matthew Brady is President of MRB Productions, a leading production company focused on independent features, television shows, television specials, and commercials. Launched in 2001 by Brady, the company found instant success with ESPN and the ESPY Awards, producing *The Comeback* featuring ESPY host Samuel L. Jackson.

Creating top-notch productions on a shoe-string budget, Brady and company accelerated their success as they landed another contract with the Disney family and ABC's Monday Night Football. MRB garnered its first EMMY for Outstanding Opening/Tease with Monday Night Football's *The Pitch* featuring Dennis Hopper and received a slew of press in 2004 from the now infamous Nicolette Sheridan/Terrell Owens towel-dropping Teaser *Towelgate*.

Other notable work includes the *Super Bowl XXXVIII Open* with Arnold Schwarzenegger, the *2006 ESPY Shorts*, featuring Will Ferrell and Lance Armstrong, the *2006 BCS National Championship Open* for ABC Sports featuring Will Ferrell and Matthew McConaughey, the *Super Bowl XL Open* with Harrison Ford, the *2006 NBA Finals Open* on ABC, the *2006 NFL Draft Open* on ESPN, the *2006 National Spelling Bee Open* on ESPN, ABC's *Monday Night Football Finale Open*, and several for ESPN's *Sunday Night Football*.

Alongside their shorter length projects, MRB has teamed up with Kiefer Sutherland and his record label, Iron Works Records, to create a documentary called *I Trust You to Kill Me* based on their newest musician, Rocco DeLuca.

MRB Productions is based in Los Angeles.

PLINY PORTER Producer

Pliny Porter has been developing and producing independent and big budget studio films for over 18 years. Originally a New York native, he began his career working in film production on the MGM/Orion feature: "At Close Range" starring Sean Penn, and Christopher Walken; directed by James Foley. For the next two years he worked on a series of features and TV productions, beginning with "Trapped in Silence" a TV MOW, with Kiefer Sutherland. During this period, he also wrote and sold two feature length scripts, produced and directed over a dozen short films and music videos, garnering the necessary production and story experience to land a position at Sally Fields and Kevin McCormick's production company, Fogwood Films, where he served as Development Executive from 1992-93 at the Twentieth Century Fox Studios where he developed a working relationship with Julia Roberts on "Dying Young", a dramatic feature starring Campbell Scott and directed by Joel Schumacher.

This led to his founding Julia Roberts' new production company, Shoelace Productions in 1993 under a Caravan/Walt Disney Studios Talent Production deal. Mr. Porter served as President of Production and Development and ran their company for seven years. Some of the feature films developed and/or produced during this period with Ms. Roberts are: "Stepmom" starring Julia Roberts, Susan Sarandon and Ed Harris, directed by Chris Columbus; "Erin Brockovich" starring Julia Roberts, Albert Finney, directed by Steven Soderbergh; "Runaway Bride" starring Julia Roberts, Richard Gere, directed by Garry Marshall; "My Best Friends Wedding" starring Julia Roberts, Cameron Diaz, Dermot Mulroney, Rupert Everett, directed by, P.J. Hogan.

In 1999 Porter and Roberts moved their company from Caravan/Disney to Joe Roth's new Revolution Studios. In 2000, Porter set up a first look producing deal with Revolution Studios, where he worked on the Untitled Laurie Craig Project, The Accidental Husband, etc. During this period, Porter was offered the position of President of Production and Development for Fireworks Pictures, a wholly owned subsidiary of CanWest Entertainment, from 2000-2003. Films they either developed, co-financed, produced and/or distributed with Fireworks at this time include: "Rat Race" starring John Cleese, Rowan Atkinson, Whoopi Goldberg, Cuba Gooding Jr, Seth Green, Amy Smart Directed by Jerry Zucker; "Hard Ball" starring Keanu Reeves, Diane Lane Directed by Brian Robbins; "The Believer" starring Ryan Gosling, Billy Zane Directed by Henry Beane; "American Rhapsody" starring Scarlett Johansson, Nastassja Kinski, Tony Goldwyn Directed by Eva Gardos; "The Man From Elysian Fields" starring Andy Garcia, Mick Jagger, Julianna Margulies, Olivia Williams, Anjelica Huston Directed by George Hickenlooper and "Raising Victor Vargas".

Ironworks Music Label

Ironworks Music is an independent record label started by renowned singer-songwriter, producer and manager, Jude Cole and lauded actor and 20-year veteran of the entertainment business, Kiefer Sutherland. The long-time friends originally opened Ironworks in 2004 with the sole intention of creating an artist-driven recording space (housing Sutherland's massive museum-worthy collection of guitars). "We would invite musicians that we liked down to start recording and get creative and it's actually something that just organically turned into a label," recalls Cole. Today, Ironworks is many things—recording studio, production company, record label, community. "We're doing things that we love... trying to incorporate that lust for music to make inspired pieces of work, and just hope that over time Ironworks develops a name that represents that—inspired work."

Ironworks Music's first signing to the label is Rocco DeLuca and The Burden who released their debut album, "I Trust You To Kill Me" in 2006.

IRONWORKS - About the Company:

Many muse that the cold, cruel death of the music industry is imminent—that the business will crumble under its own devices after too many years of uninspired records, derivative marketing schemes, and the deconstruction of rock stardom itself.

But Jude Cole, a renowned singer-songwriter, producer and manager that has spent the last 25 years enjoying marked success in the aforementioned business, refuses to bear such a dismal outlook. He and partner Kiefer Sutherland (lauded actor and 20-year veteran of the entertainment business), feel so strongly in fact that it is simply the *approach* to the business that needs to change, they've gone ahead and built their own.

"I think there's a lot of opportunity there instead of demise," says Cole. "We plan to look at it optimistically—Music is never going to go away, so let's be a part of the new way."

In the early stages of "the new way," Cole and Sutherland opened Silverlake studio Ironworks as an artist-driven recording space (housing Sutherland's massive museum-worthy collection of guitars). "We would invite musicians that we liked down to start recording and get creative, and it's actually something that just organically turned into a label," recalls Cole. "It was more of a natural progression, not really one that we premeditated."

Today, Ironworks is many things—recording studio, production company, record label, hangout, community. Cole refers to it as a family—"Anything that we're a part of is part of the family. It doesn't matter if you're signed to us or not." Therefore, Rocco DeLuca, the label's first signed artist and Ron Sexsmith, its second, are part of the family; so is Lifehouse—not signed to Ironworks—the platinum-selling band that Cole manages.

But why would two of entertainment's most notably successful men (Cole chartered hits for two decades as both a solo artist and studio musician before segueing into management, production, composition, and television appearances; Sutherland has been nominated for multiple Emmy, Golden Globes, and SAG awards during his tenure in television and film) take a gamble on a budding music family? "I think we've both had multiple experiences where we had a project that we were so passionate about, and maybe didn't have the control to follow it through when someone else dropped the ball," says Cole. "We were both anxious to be in the position where we could find things to remain passionate about and let the inspiration lead the way. We really want to keep it on the level at which there is a reason that we release each record that we release."

And so with good reason they submit to the world DeLuca's debut Album, *I Trust You To Kill Me*, unleashing Ironworks Records as a viable force in the fragmented music world. In many ways, DeLuca is the poster child for Ironworks—a diamond in the rough, a slow-burning career artist not focused on breaking out with a one-hit record.

“There are a lot of credible artists that aren't even being thought about,” says Cole. “They aren't being discussed in A&R meetings because they're a year or two too old, or they don't have that Top 40 sound.” But for Ironworks, such elements aren't the driving force. “It's not about finding eclectic acts or pop hit acts, it's about finding acts that believe in themselves.”

Currently courting and developing new artists and projecting a one-record-per-quarter release schedule, Ironworks and its family is clearly in the game for the long haul.

“I often think about those stories of [*Rolling Stone* founder] Jann Wenner in his little apartment in San Francisco, working on his dream. *Rolling Stone* was a leaflet when it began. It was just somebody's dream,” says Cole. “I don't think the business model has changed that drastically.”

“We're doing things that we love... trying to incorporate that lust for music to make inspired pieces of work, and just hope that over time Ironworks develops a name that represents that—inspired work.”

In 2004, Gary Rubin formed First Independent Pictures (FIP), designed to release 4 to 8 films a year, most to the theatrical marketplace. In March of 2005, FIP released its first picture theatrically, "MAIL ORDER WIFE" (produced by Doug Liman), following it with the Sundance music documentary, "NEW YORK DOLL." In the summer of 2006, FIP released the '05 Tribeca Film Festival pickup, "THE GREAT NEW WONDERFUL" starring Maggie Gyllenhaal, Tony Shalhoub, Edie Falco among others, and followed it with the talked about Telluride entry, "EDMOND," written by David Mamet starring William H. Macy and another critically acclaimed cast. FIP distributes its DVDs through Vivendi Visual Entertainment, a division of Universal Music Group.

"I TRUST YOU TO KILL ME" marks FIP's 4th theatrical release this summer.

FILM CREDITS

First Independent Pictures Presents

In association with Ironworks Music

*

A Motion Picture Group / MRB Production

*

Kiefer Sutherland

Rocco DeLuca

*

Dave Beste

Ryan Carman

Greg Velasquez

*

And

Jude Cole

*

Edited By

Jennifer Tiexiera

*

and Erin Nordstrom

*

Music Recorded and Mixed By

Florian Ammon

*

Mixed By

Greg Dyveck*

Produced By

Pliny Porter

Matthew R. Brady

*

A Film By

Manu Boyer

Directed by

Manu Boyer

Also Featuring:

Charlie Finelli

Michelle Post

Jon Cassar

David Andreychuk

Lara Martin

Eyrun Magnusdottir

Dave Chumbley

Mark Somgynari

Jenn Johnson

Barry Everitt

Ruth Scott

Music Recorded

and Mixed by

Florian Ammon

Camera Operators

Francois Buren

Jerome Blois

Audio Engineers

Aaron Saddler

Benjamin Biles

Editors

Jennifer Tiexiera

Erin Nordstrom

Post Production Supervisor

Megan Welsh

Assistant Editor

Daniel Reitzenstein

2nd Assistant Editor

Malia Troughton

Sound Mixer

Greg Dyveck

Production Managers

Luke Watson

Leigh Norton

Production Coordinators

Ty Griffin

Michelle Post

Post Production Coordinator

Brenda Bank

Production Legal Services

Lichter, Grossman, Nichols & Adler, Inc.

Colorist

Crash Carlucci

LA Audio Engineers

Brett Brooke

Scott Stoltz

Tim Nichol

Office Production Assistants

Megan Estes

Eric Maloney

Post Production House

CUT & RUN

Audio Production Facility

Post Logic

Effects and Titles

Diesel Effects

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