

Ghost Ranch Films & Fair Retail Films
Present



FOR THE SAKE THE STORY OF ANDERSON FAIR OF THE SONG



SOME FAIRY TALES COME TRUE. SOME DON'T.



GUY CLARK Nanci Griffith ROBERT EARL KEEN Lyle Lovett LUCINDA WILLIAMS

Vince Bell ★ Bill Cade ★ Slaid Cleaves
Richard Dobson ★ Ramblin' Jack Elliott ★ Denice Franke
Steven Fromholz ★ James Gilmer ★ Clive Gregson ★ Matt Harlan
Carolyn Hester ★ Greg Klyma ★ Adrian Legg ★ Shake Russell
Don Sanders ★ Bill Staines ★ Eric Taylor ★ John Vandiver
Dave Van Ronk ★ Townes Van Zandt ★ Mickey White

www.andersonfairthemovie.com

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FOR THE SAKE OF THE SONG: THE STORY OF ANDERSON FAIR

Executive Producer: ELIZABETH PHILLIPS Produced by JIM BARHAM and BRUCE BRYANT

Editors BILL MOORE and JIM BARHAM Cinematography JIM BARHAM Original Score GURF MORLIX Directed by BRUCE BRYANT

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For The Sake Of The Song: The Story of Anderson Fair

Log Line

A devoted community of artists, volunteers, and patrons transforms a politically subversive little neighborhood coffee house and restaurant into a unique American music institution.

Synopsis (short)

For The Sake Of The Song: The Story of Anderson Fair is the story of one of Texas' and America's unsung cultural treasures and the significant role it has played in preserving an American musical tradition. For forty years, Houston's legendary folk and acoustic music venue, Anderson Fair Retail Restaurant, has fostered and nurtured some of the most important musical performers and songwriters in America, including Grammy Award-winning artists Nanci Griffith, Lyle Lovett, and Lucinda Williams. This film tells the compelling saga of how a devoted family of volunteers, patrons, and artists transformed a politically subversive little coffee house and restaurant into a unique music institution.

Synopsis (medium)

For forty years, Houston's legendary folk and acoustic music venue, Anderson Fair Retail Restaurant, has fostered and nurtured some of the most important performers and songwriters in America, including Grammy Award-winning artists Nanci Griffith, Lyle Lovett, and Lucinda Williams. Lyle Lovett says, "Without Anderson Fair, I wouldn't have been driven to try to write songs the way I was." About her early development as a songwriter, Nanci Griffith recalls, "I wasn't yet that confident with my songwriting, and Anderson Fair gave me that confidence."

For The Sake Of The Song: The Story of Anderson Fair is the compelling saga of one of Texas' and America's unsung cultural treasures. This film explores the significant role Anderson Fair has played in preserving an American musical tradition and how a devoted family of artists, volunteers, and patrons transformed a politically subversive little coffee house and restaurant into a unique American music institution.

Anderson Fair has stubbornly bucked the odds and survived to become one of the oldest folk and acoustic music venues in continuous operation in the United States. Its endurance can be attributed to the dedication of a community of people with a common vision: nothing gets in the way of the music. Anderson Fair has always been and is still run by volunteers; no one is paid. And its struggle to survive in many ways mirrors the struggle of the individual artists. *For The Sake Of The Song* tells the tale of this small place in Texas where the sound is true, the spotlight gentle, the applause encouraging, and big things happen.



For The Sake Of The Song: The Story of Anderson Fair

Synopsis

For forty years, Houston's legendary folk and acoustic music venue, Anderson Fair Retail Restaurant, has fostered and nurtured some of the most important performers and songwriters in America, including Grammy Award-winning artists Nanci Griffith, Lyle Lovett, and Lucinda Williams. Lyle Lovett says, "Without Anderson Fair, I wouldn't have been driven to try to write songs the way I was." About her early development as a songwriter, Nanci Griffith recalls, "I wasn't yet that confident with my songwriting, and Anderson Fair gave me that confidence."

For The Sake Of The Song: The Story of Anderson Fair is the compelling saga of one of Texas' and America's unsung cultural treasures. This film explores the significant role Anderson Fair has played in preserving an American musical tradition and how a devoted family of artists, volunteers, and patrons transformed a politically subversive little coffee house and restaurant into a unique American music institution.

Today, Anderson Fair is one of the oldest folk and acoustic music venues in continuous operation in the United States. What began as a little neighborhood restaurant where local musicians played for tips and free-thinkers gathered to "talk about things that might get them arrested somewhere else" quickly evolved into a songwriting sanctuary, cultivating a multitude of local and regional artists and attracting performers from all over the world. "It was a hotbed of creativity, a place to write, a place to perform, a place to get your act solid," acknowledges former owner Franci Files Jarrard. Lucinda Williams recalls, "It was a coveted gig if you could get an actual night there. It was a great place to showcase your original material."

Anderson Fair has stubbornly bucked the odds and survived for four decades because of the dedication of a community of people with a common vision: nothing gets in the way of the music. It has always been and is still run by volunteers; no one is paid. And its struggle to survive in many ways mirrors the struggle of the individual artists. *For The Sake Of The Song* tells the tale of this small place in Texas where the sound is true, the spotlight gentle, the applause encouraging, and big things happen.

Filmmakers Bruce Bryant and Jim Barham weave together a musical and visual tapestry of five generations of artists, volunteers, and patrons who have lived the story and graced the stage of this hallowed hall. In addition to intimate interviews with a who's who of Americana and Texas music, the film also features new and never before seen archival footage of performances by Vince Bell, Guy Clark, Slaid Cleaves, Ramblin' Jack Elliott, Steven Fromholz, Nanci Griffith, Carolyn Hester, Robert Earl Keen, Lyle Lovett, Eric Taylor, Dave Van Ronk, Townes Van Zandt, and Lucinda Williams.

Ultimately, *For The Sake Of The Song* celebrates the spirit of community and the global impact that a small family of music-lovers can make by working together to support something in which they truly believe. In this age of *American Idol* and fast food music, the tradition of the troubadour that has evolved into that of the modern singer-songwriter is safely harbored within the walls of Anderson Fair.



For The Sake Of The Song: The Story of Anderson Fair

Director's Statement

At some point in your career, you look for a “personal project” -- a film you want to make because you care deeply about the subject. For me, it was Anderson Fair. The place was over thirty years old when I started the project in 2001, and it occurred to me that if I didn't tell this story, it was possible that no one ever would. I mentioned the idea to my friend and colleague Jim Barham, who happened to be looking for a project as well. He loves the place as much as I do, so he embraced the idea -- but he made me promise that we would “do it right.” We worked hard at getting it right for the next eight years.

My landlady Pat Pritchett introduced me to the Fair in 1970. Marvin Anderson and Gray Fair were the partners and put up the money to open the place. Among other things, Pat was the cook and the clever one who gave the place its name: Anderson Fair Retail Restaurant... say it several times and you'll get it. I have to borrow from Pat Stout to give a little more background on the Fair and why we wanted to make this film. *“I never knew a single person at Anderson Fair who had a personal agenda. We came from a world of Vietnam, the draft, Nixon, assassination and mindless destruction where Lee Otis Johnson, the Black activist in Houston, got 33 years in Huntsville State Prison for passing a joint at a concert. At the door of Anderson Fair, one shed all that. The musicians gave, the cooks gave, the workers gave, the customers gave. We wanted a world based on generosity, not greed.”*

So what we have here is a funky little music place in Houston that seats about 80—or maybe 100, if you pack 'em in. Our cast of characters includes the volunteers who run the place (there are no employees), an owner who is a perfectionist when it comes to sound, and an endless stream of incredibly talented singer-songwriters with guitars on their hips and new songs waiting to be heard. We also have this savvy audience that makes playing the Fair somewhat of a trial by fire.

More than anything, I wanted the film to honor this crazy, tight-knit little family. Lucinda Williams once told me that we had too much “sugar” in the film, and I admit it is more of a “love letter” than an exposé. We included some of the warts but plead guilty to being a bit biased.

My memories of the place include Townes (Van Zandt) after a remarkable show one night deciding that he wanted some menudo and he knew where to get it. I had never had menudo before, or since, but that night it seemed like the thing to do. Or the time a young singer handed me a homemade cassette and asked me to please “take a listen.” One side was labeled FOLK, the other BLUES. He said his name was Lyle. I liked both sides a whole lot and still have that cassette.

Along the way, lots of people asked us what this film was about, and Jim or I would answer that we had to find out. We were making a documentary; we didn't have a script. We discovered that a big part of the story was simply in the struggle to keep this place alive for 40 years. There is also, of course, the not-so-small matter of these remarkable singer-songwriters attempting to make a go of it in an unforgiving world with nothing but their poetry and a guitar. And so, in a way, the lives of these performers mirror Anderson Fair's struggle to survive.

One question was never answered. Even with all the conditions being just right, why is it that so many outstanding artists and writers get their start at Anderson Fair? Why here? We had to let that one go after a while and just be content with the fact that it happens.

It might have been easier to do a film about just one singer, like Margaret Brown's wonderful film on Townes or Ayina Elliott's award-winning film about her father, Ramblin' Jack Elliott. We, on the other hand, found ourselves dealing with 30 artists, countless publishers, labels, agents, girlfriends, boyfriends, husbands and wives. But we did have something going for us. In addition to our wonderful wives, we had support from the musicians, the film community, equipment providers, fundraisers, and lots of other folks who just love the Fair. Nanci Griffith flew down to Houston and did two benefit concerts for us. Shake Russell and his band did a fundraiser, too.

The support of all these people has kept us going, and after eight years, 135 hours of music, interviews, and B-roll, we think we know what this film is about. It is about a little place where big things happen...where nothing gets in the way of the music. It's about Anderson Fair.

—Bruce Bryant



For The Sake Of The Song: The Story of Anderson Fair

About the Cast

VINCE BELL

Texas singer-songwriter Vince Bell's songs have been performed and recorded by such diverse talents as Little Feat, Lyle Lovett, and Nanci Griffith. During the mid 1970s at Anderson Fair, Bell met and became friends with Townes Van Zandt and Guy Clark, both of whom he later called his mentors. Nanci Griffith said of Bell, "From all of us who were beating the paths around Texas in the 70s, I always felt Vince was the best of us." Bell has released five critically acclaimed CDs and is the author of an autobiography, *One Man's Music: The Life and Times of Texas Songwriter Vince Bell*, chronicling his amazing comeback after a devastating car accident in 1982.

BILL CADE

Bill was one of the first performers to play "The Fair" and continues to perform there on a regular basis. He has a gift for storytelling, performing a blend of original blues and folk, supported by a strong, deep, classically trained voice. He has befriended and played with many notable Texas musicians including Townes van Zandt, Lyle Lovett, Guy Clark, Vince Bell, Richard Dobson, and Lightnin' Hopkins. The Houston Folklore and Folk Music Society once named Cade "The Dean of Texas Folk Music."

GUY CLARK

Songwriting legend Guy Clark doesn't merely compose songs; he projects images and characters with the kind of hands-on care and finesse of a literary master. He has released more than twenty albums, primarily on major labels. He achieved success as a songwriter with Jerry Jeff Walker's recordings of *L.A. Freeway* and *Desperados Waiting For A Train*. To Guy, Anderson Fair was "...just another joint to play" and a place in the neighborhood to meet for breakfast in the early days with his other artist friends. But it was Clark, along with his close friend Townes Van Zandt, who attracted so many of the young songwriters who "cut their teeth" at the Fair.

SLAID CLEAVES

After beginning his songwriting journey in Maine, Slaid moved to Texas in 1991 and soon won the prestigious New Folk competition at the Kerrville Folk Festival, an award previously given to such artists as Nanci Griffith, Robert Earl Keen, and Steve Earle. He gained national prominence on the Americana charts with his album and song *Broke Down* and continued to gain notice with his follow-up album, *Wishbones*. Slaid attributes some of his early success to Anderson Fair. "They had faith in me and didn't care if only five or six people showed up at first," he says. "They told me the audience will come." And they did.

RICHARD DOBSON

John Prine calls Richard one of the best songwriters in the United States. Born in Galveston, he now lives in Switzerland, but continues to play Anderson Fair when touring the States. His 1998 book, *The Gulf Coast Boys*, recalls his time in Galveston working on drilling rigs and shrimp boats as well as his adventures touring with Rex (Wrecks) Bell, Mickey White and Townes Van Zandt. "Occasionally people ask me if I've been able to make a living at this business, and I've always answered that while you couldn't call it a living, I wouldn't trade the life."

RAMBLIN' JACK ELLIOTT

An American treasure, some have referred to Ramblin' Jack as the son of Woody Guthrie and the father of Bob Dylan. Woody Guthrie had the greatest influence on Jack, and he in turn had a great influence on Bob Dylan. Woody's son Arlo said that because of his father's illness and early death, he never really got to know him, but he learned Woody's songs and performing style from Elliott. Jack was the subject of director Bruce Bryant's 1983 film *Ramblin Jack Elliott in Texas*, which includes one of the all-time memorable performances at Anderson Fair.

DENICE FRANKE

Franke has been honing her craft at Anderson Fair since the late '70s resulting in three critically acclaimed solo albums. She has contributed her vocals to the works of Nanci Griffith, Robert Earl Keen, Hal Ketchum, Eric Taylor and others. "Anderson Fair is one of "the" places to play in the U.S. For me, it's also a place to learn from some of the greatest writers and performers of our time and to play in front of one of the most appreciative and attentive audiences. It's always about the music and that interaction between a performer and an audience. It's magical."

STEVEN FROMHOLZ

Poet Laureate Emeritus of the State of Texas, Fromholz is known mostly as a singer-songwriter and great storyteller. Over the years, many respected musicians have recorded his songs. Most notable among these are Willie Nelson singing *I'd Have to be Crazy* and Lyle Lovett singing *Texas Trilogy* and *Bears*. Other artists who have recorded his songs include Hoyt Axton, John Denver, and Jerry Jeff Walker. *Texas Trilogy* is considered by many the best song ever written about Texas.

NANCI GRIFFITH

The internationally acclaimed queen of "folkabilly" has recorded 20 albums and performed concerts all over the world. She won a Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Folk Album for her recording *Other Voices, Other Rooms*. At the age of six she began to write songs, thinking of it as "part of the process of learning how to play guitar." At 14, when a campfire turn at the Kerrville Folk Festival caught the ear of singer-songwriter Tom Russell, she was on her way. Of Anderson Fair and her early development as a songwriter Nanci says, "I wasn't yet that confident with my songwriting, and Anderson Fair gave me that confidence." In 1986, Nanci returned to Anderson Fair to record her live album and concert video, *One Fair Summer Evening*, featuring her homage to Anderson Fair, *Spin On A Red Brick Floor*.

MATT HARLAN

A relative newcomer to the Texas music scene, Matt's first performance at Anderson Fair is captured in *FOR THE SAKE OF THE SONG*. Born and raised in Texas, Harlan soaked up the richness of the state and its song-smiths while bouncing between big cities and small towns. He draws from a range of influences interpreting a generation steeped in plastic and filtered through the Hill Country limestone. His earthy sound and socially conscious songwriting have received recent recognition with awards from Billboard and American Songwriter.

CAROLYN HESTER

Dubbed the "Texas Songbird," Carolyn was America's first "Queen of Folk Music." She was one of many young Greenwich Village singers who rode the crest of the '60s folk wave to international recognition. Bob Dylan made his recording debut on Carolyn's first Columbia album in 1961 and was soon signed to the label by legendary producer John Hammond. Throughout the '60s, she influenced and championed the work of songwriters such as Joan Baez, Tom Paxton, and Tim Hardin. In the '80s, she took a young, unknown Texas songwriter on tour with her and helped launch Nanci Griffith to stardom.

ROBERT EARL KEEN, JR.

Robert is popular with traditional country music fans, folk music fans, the college radio crowd and alt-country fans. While attending Texas A&M University, he rented a house where his neighbor was a then-unknown Lyle Lovett. The two became fast friends and performed together on the front porch many evenings. This eventually grew into the inspiration for a song entitled *The Front Porch Song*, which both would add to their repertoire. Robert played Anderson Fair regularly early in his career. About the first time he ever played there Robert says, "...it was one of those real exciting moments because I was playing Anderson Fair. I might as well be playing Carnegie Hall."

GREG KLYMA

Born in Buffalo on his father's bowling night, songwriter/musician/entertainer Greg Klyma grew up in a blue-collar town with a blue-collar work ethic and an appreciation of blue-collar fun. He has matured into a man of homespun, timeless elegance, often clad in a vintage wear, and telling stories with a delightful precision of language. The stories blend seamlessly into songs, evoking a flavor of Mark Twain, Woody Guthrie, and David Sedaris.

ADRIAN LEGG

The Philadelphia Enquirer called London born Adrian Legg, "... simply one of the best guitarists in the world. "There are guitarists, there are axe-wielding maniacs, and then there are wizards. Adrian Legg is one of the wizards. He has enough technique to do just about anything he wants, but also the sensitivity to honor the contours of a melody." He is a popular international touring attraction with an annual slate in the U.S. including regular performances at Anderson Fair. Legg's true home is onstage. "Playing live is the whole point," he says. "Everyone makes a journey, an effort; we all come together – me, the audience, the people who run the venue – to share this wonderful, universal, human emotional interaction. This is where music lives."

LYLE LOVETT

Four-time Grammy Award-winner Lyle Lovett is one of the all-time great American singer-songwriters. His voice is unique, but his antecedents are recognizable, following the trail blazed by great Texas storytellers like Townes Van Zandt and Guy Clark. After growing up on his family's horse ranch in Klein, Texas, a small Houston suburb named after his grandfather, he enrolled at Texas A&M University where he graduated with degrees in German and Journalism. While in college, he started writing his own music, playing in coffee houses and a local pizza parlor. He was introduced to Anderson Fair when he returned to Houston to write a story for the school newspaper about popular local singer-songwriter Don Sanders. Lyle was soon embraced by the community of songwriters who called Anderson Fair home. Artists like Sanders, Vince Bell, Eric Taylor, Nanci Griffith, and Lucinda Williams invited Lyle to open shows for them until he eventually became a headliner at the club. Lyle says, "Just getting to play there was a huge deal. Without Anderson Fair, I wouldn't have been driven to try to write songs the way I was."

GURF MORLIX (original score)

Multi-instrumentalist, vocalist, and record producer Gurf Morlix has worked with many of the best-known performers of Americana and alternative country music. His most notable work includes producing and playing on albums by Lucinda Williams, Robert Earl Keen, Mary Gauthier, Ray Wylie Hubbard, and Slaid Cleaves. The instruments he plays include guitar, bass, mandolin, mandocello, dobro, pedal steel, Weissenborn, banjo, harmonica, and drums. Gurf is a member of the Austin Music Awards Hall of Fame and was the Americana Music Association Instrumentalist of the Year for 2009.

SHAKE RUSSELL

Another core artist of Anderson Fair, Texas singer-songwriter Shake Russell has been entertaining audiences for more than three decades with his unique, Americana style of folk-rock. Through the years, Shake's songs and albums have frequented the Billboard charts, with many being recorded by such distinguished artists as Waylon Jennings, Jessi Colter, Ricky Skaggs, Clint Black, and Carolyn Dawn Johnson. Shake is a two-time recipient of the BMI "Million Air" award and a four-time recipient of the BMI Writer's Award. The Texas Music Association named Shake the "2004 Texas Music Awards Entertainer of the Year" and nominated his song, "Cowboy Coffee," for the "2007 Texas Music Awards Best New Song."

DON SANDERS

Don Sanders is a respected singer, songwriter, storyteller and novelist with artistically acclaimed LP's and CD's to his credit. Early in his career, Don played as opening act for stadium rock concerts. He began playing Anderson Fair around 1972. He loves the interaction with the audience and he still loves Anderson Fair. Sanders has known, influenced and been influenced by almost everyone in the Anderson Fair orbit. He introduced a young Lyle Lovett to the Fair and Lyle recently covered Don's composition *Bayou Song* on his latest album.

BILL STAINES

Staines started his professional career in the early 1960s in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and began touring nationwide a few years later. In 1975 he won the National Yodeling Championship at the Kerrville Folk Festival. His songs have been recorded by many other artists, including Peter, Paul, & Mary, Makem and Clancy, Nanci Griffith, Mason Williams, The Highwaymen, Glenn Yarborough, and Jerry Jeff Walker. Staines was the first nationally recognized artist to play Anderson Fair after it expanded to become a serious music venue in the early 70s.

ERIC TAYLOR

Eric Taylor is a sage musician, a lyrical genius, and a master of the guitar. He has created a multitude of fans and devotees who are legends themselves in the singer-songwriter realm. Many of the songwriters who developed their craft at Anderson Fair have long considered Taylor to be a teacher and a lantern bearer. "To say that Eric Taylor is one of the finest writers of our time would be an understatement," Nanci Griffith says. "If you miss an opportunity to hear Eric Taylor, you have missed a chance to hear a voice I consider the William Faulkner of songwriting..." Lyle Lovett compares Taylor's narrative voice to that of Bruce Springsteen. Some consider Eric's volatile intensity to be the key to his work. "I've met some of my best friends here and made some of my worst enemies here." Taylor says about Anderson Fair. "You're gonna get songs out of that... This is a special place."

JOHN VANDIVER

John Vandiver grew up in Dallas. He toured his unique style of traditional blues around Texas for twenty years as a popular solo act and with friends like David Bromberg, Jerry Jeff Walker and Michael Murphy. He played Anderson Fair often with Shake Russell and Michael Mashkes. John once opened a show for Bob Marley and the Wailers at the old Houston Music Hall. On February 22, 1985, John and girlfriend, Debbie Davis, were murdered in their four-room cabin outside of Houston.

DAVE VAN RONK

Nicknamed the "Mayor of MacDougal Street," Dave Van Ronk was best known as an important figure in New York City during the acoustic folk revival of the 1960s, but his work ranged from old English ballads to Bertolt Brecht, rock, New Orleans jazz, and swing. He is often associated with blues, but he pointed out at concerts that he actually

had only a limited number in his repertoire. Known for performing instrumental ragtime guitar music, he was an early friend and supporter of Bob Dylan, Tom Paxton, Patrick Sky, Phil Ochs, and Joni Mitchell, among many others. Dave rarely traveled far from New York City until later in life, when he visited some of the establishments around the country that “carried the flag.” Whenever Dave played in Houston, Anderson Fair was where he wanted to play. And it was always magic.

TOWNES VAN ZANDT

Many have called singer-songwriter, performer, and poet Townes Van Zandt one of the greatest artists of his generation. Steve Earle once declared, “Townes Van Zandt is the best songwriter in the whole world, and I’ll stand on Bob Dylan’s coffee table in my cowboy boots and say that.” Many of Townes’ songs, including *If I Needed You*, *To Live Is To Fly*, and *No Place to Fall*, are considered standards of their genre. Willie Nelson and Merle Haggard covered his song *Pancho and Lefty*, scoring a number one hit on the Billboard country music charts. His music has also been covered by Bob Dylan, Lyle Lovett, Norah Jones, Steve Earle, and The Meat Puppets. While living, Townes was labeled as a cult musician: though he had a small and devoted fan base, he never had a successful album or single, and even had difficulty keeping his recordings in print. He was notorious for his drug addictions and alcoholism. Along with Guy Clark, Townes is considered one of the “songwriting saints” of Anderson Fair, where he played often. About the community of songwriters who cultivated their craft at Anderson Fair, Nanci Griffith says, “I think everybody just migrated there because of Guy Clark and Townes Van Zant, we were such big fans.” Van Zandt died on New Years Day 1997.

MICKEY WHITE

Mickey is considered one of the great Texas guitarists. He has performed at Anderson Fair for several decades playing lead guitar for the likes of Lucinda Williams, Richard Dobswon and Townes Van Zandt. He and Rex Bell (bass) were, and occasionally still are, members of The Hemmer Ridge Mountain Boys –a fun, zany, unpredictable group known for their irreverence and biting social humor. Mickey’s travels with Van Zandt, Bell and Dobson are legendary.

LUCINDA WILLIAMS

Critics and fellow musicians universally hail Lucinda Williams as a major talent. Some have described her as “the Female Bob Dylan.” In 2002, *TIME* magazine called her “America’s best songwriter.” Her meticulous attention to detail and staunch adherence to her own vision have built her reputation. In 1988, she released her self-titled album *Lucinda Williams*. This release featured *Passionate Kisses*, a song later recorded by Mary Chapin Carpenter, which garnered Lucinda her first Grammy Award. Success came again in 1998 with *Car Wheels on a Gravel Road*, which went gold and earned another Grammy and universal acclaim. Since then, she has released a string of albums that have also been critically acclaimed. About her early days as a member of the Texas songwriting scene, Lucinda says, “I cut my teeth back then, and Anderson Fair was the preeminent place to play in Houston. It was a coveted gig if you could get an actual night there. It was a great place to showcase your original material.”



For The Sake Of The Song: The Story of Anderson Fair

About the Filmmakers

Bruce Bryant, Producer-Director

Bruce Bryant began his professional journey in 1963 working for KTBC TV in Austin where, in addition to janitorial duties, he received on-the-job training as a film projectionist, stage manager, camera operator, and technical director. In 1965, he was hired by KPRC TV in Houston. While working as technical director for the CBS/World Television pool in a makeshift control room in building 30 at NASA, he punched the button that showed the world the first pictures from the moon. In 1971, he directed a nationally syndicated, weekly music program, *The Larry Kane Show*. He created *The Little Ol' Show* in 1975 which featured local musicians like Townes Van Zandt and short films by producer Jim Barham. In addition to directing numerous specials for ESPN and Eurosport, Bryant has directed forty different opera productions for television and/or live simulcasts for The Houston Grand Opera, Philadelphia Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Washington National Opera, San Francisco Opera, and The Chicago Opera Theater. He has had the honor of working with Plácido Domingo at The Kennedy Center and of directing the television simulcast of Rene Fleming's first performance of *La Traviata*. Bryant directed the Texas footage used in *The Ballad of Ramblin' Jack* by Aiyana Elliott. His own documentary, *Ramblin' Jack Elliott in Texas*, is archived at the Center for American History at the University of Texas. He contributed archival footage to Margaret Brown's documentary on Townes Van Zandt. He has directed several other documentaries and television specials and segments with Jimmy Reed, Big Mama Thornton, Lyle Lovett, Taj Mahal, Nanci Griffith, Sonny Terry & Brownie McGee, Lucinda Williams, The Houston Symphony, Bob Hope, Guy Clark, Barbara Jordan, and Sir Elton John.

Jim Barham, Producer-Cinematographer-Editor

Jim Barham has been a prominent member of the Texas film and television production community for nearly three decades. After a brief stint in the mailroom, Barham cultivated his filmmaking skills at Houston's NBC affiliate, KPRC-TV, working variously as sound mixer, camera assistant, gaffer, cinematographer, and editor on documentaries, news, and public affairs programs for the station and network. His early work includes cinematography on television films featuring Texas blues legend Mance Lipscomb and Grammy Award-winner Ry Cooder. His other music-related efforts include directing and photographing videos for artists such as Waylon Jennings, Billy Joe Shaver, Chely Wright, and many others. He directed photography on Music Row Magazine's Video-of-the-Year, Doug Supernaw's *She Never Looks Back*. Barham also directed photography on two independent feature films: Mike Hovis' *The Man with the Perfect Swing* and the late and notorious independent director Eagle Pennell's last film, *Doc's Full Service*. Louis Parks of *The Houston Chronicle* described Barham's work on *Perfect Swing* as "...a near perfect example of how to make a low-budget movie not look like one. It has the slick style of a studio production." *Variety*'s Joe Leydon said of his work on *Doc's*, "Jim Barham's fluid cinematography is impressive." In 1994, *The Man with the Perfect Swing* won top prize at the Austin Film Festival, and was rated Pick of the Week in *L.A. Weekly*. Barham has also worked as contributing cinematographer on documentaries for public television, including the acclaimed *The Strange Demise of Jim Crow*, *Life Stories*, and the PBS series *Art 21*.



For The Sake Of The Song: The Story of Anderson Fair

Credits

Directed by
Bruce Bryant

Produced by
Jim Barham
Bruce Bryant

Cinematography
Jim Barham

Edited by
Bill Moore
Jim Barham

Executive Producer
Elizabeth Phillips

For The Sake Of The Song The Story of Anderson Fair

As told by

Vince Bell
Bill Cade
Guy Clark
Carlos Calbillo
Don E. Carleton
Slaid Cleaves
Frank Davis
Richard Dobson
Thorne Dreyer
Dan Earhart
Ramblin' Jack Elliott
Bob Felder
Denice Franke
Robbie Franklin
Steven Fromholz
Ken Gaines
James Gilmer
Nanci Griffith
Matt Harlan
Carolyn Hester
Franci Files Jarrard
Stephen Jarrard
Bob Johnston
Robert Earl Keen, Jr.
Greg Klyma
Tim Leatherwood
Adrian Legg
Joy Lewallen
Lyle Lovett

Lyse Moore
Bill Narum
Joe Nick Patoski
Danila Perrosa
Rock Romano
Roger Ruffcorn
Shake Russell
Don Sanders
Michael Scully
Walter Spinks
Bill Staines
Eric Taylor
John Vandiver
Dave Van Ronk
Townes Van Zandt
Ron Waters
Mickey White
Lucinda Williams
Larry Winters

Line Producer

Dee Brown

Camera Operators

Jim Barham
Carlos Calbillo
Jerry Hattan
William "Billy" Stewart
Jaroslav Vodehnal
Trent Wittenbach

Steadicam Operator

James B. Reid

Digital Imaging Engineer

Carlos Acosta

Digital Imaging Technicians

Michael Bell
Chris Clifton
Justin DeGuire
Radkey Jolink
Trent Wittenbach

Lighting Directors

Patrick Blackard
Carl Christensen
George Mays

Gaffers

Billy Daniel
Michael Turin

Electricians

Billy Daniel
Jeremy McLaughlin
Dan Mohr
Michael Turin

Key Grip
Dennis Clay

Grips
Josh Bass
Joe Scott Hamilton
Jeff "Howie" Howison
Rick Malahy

Location Music Recording
Tim Leatherwood

Location Sound Mixing
Chris Clifton
Linden O. Hudson
Dennis Meehan
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Archival Footage

Desperadoes Waiting For A Train

Performed by Guy Clark
from the film *Heartworn Highways*
Courtesy of Graham Leader
Graham Leader, Producer
James Szalapski, Director

Spin On A Red Brick Floor

Performed by Nanci Griffith
From the film *One Fair Summer Evening*
Courtesy of Geffen Records under license from
Universal Music Enterprises

Performances by Dave Van Ronk, Robert Earl Keen, Eric Taylor,
Steven Fromholz and Townes Van Zandt from the television show

Live At Anderson Fair

Produced and Directed by Dianne Warren Gano
Courtesy of Dianne Warren Gano

Performances of John Vandiver and Townes Van Zandt
Courtesy of Jojo Vandiver and Jeanene Van Zandt

Additional performances courtesy of
Steven Fromholz, Shake Russell, Don Sanders,
Eric Taylor and Lucinda Williams

Rambling Jack Elliott's performance of *Mule Skinner Blues*
from *Ramblin Jack Elliott in Texas*
Courtesy of Compadre Productions and Ramblin' Jack Elliott
Dee Brown, Producer

Block Party Footage
Richard Butcher
Charles Burwell

Lucinda Williams's interview arrangements
and performance of *West*
Courtesy of *Austin City Limits* and KLRU, Austin

Nanci Griffith's appearance with the Houston Symphony Orchestra
Courtesy of Nanci Griffith and the Houston Symphony Orchestra

Rodeo Footage and Robert Earl Keen's performance of
The Road Goes On Forever
Courtesy of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo

Roger Ruffcorn Radio Interview with Lyle Lovett
Courtesy of KPFT Houston, Pacifica Radio

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Bud Frazier

Original Score

Composed & performed by
Gurf Morlix

Recorded & mixed by Gurf Morlix at
Rootball Studio, Austin, TX

The Music

Where I Lead Me

Written by Townes Van Zandt
Arranged and performed by Eric Taylor
Published by Katie Belle Music (ASCAP) /
Will Van Zandt Publishing (ASCAP)
Administered by Bug; Wixen Music Publishing, Inc.
for JTVZ Music (ASCAP);
EMI Music Publishing, Inc.

Which Way Does That Old Pony Run

Written and performed by Lyle Lovett
Published by Michael H. Goldsen, Inc.

Walkin' Back Home

Written and performed by Eric Taylor
Published by Universal Songs of PolyGram for Blue Ruby Music

Heavy Word User and Southern Coast of France

Written and performed by Don Sanders
Published by Don Sanders

Simple Gifts

Traditional
Arranged and performed by Carolyn Hester

West

Written and performed by Lucinda Williams
Published by Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corporation
for Lucy Jones Music

Ramone

Written and performed by Lucinda Williams
Published by Lucinda Williams

Gypsy Song Man

Written by Jerry Jeff Walker
Performed by John Vandiver
Published by Warner-Chappell Music for
Cotillion Music, Inc.

Midwest Sunday

Composed and performed by Adrian Legg
Published Adrian Legg and Leggaphone Music

Coyote

Written and performed by Bill Staines
Administered by Bug Music, Inc. for
Mineral River Music

Twenty Six Miles to Mexico

Written and performed by Bill Cade
Published by Bill Cade / March thru May Publishing

Wishbones

Written by Slaid Cleaves and Ray Wylie Hubbard
Performed by Slaid Cleaves
Published by Mt. Kharma Music (ASCAP)
administered by Bug and
Happy Valley Music/Magic Rat Music

Spin On A Red Brick Floor

Written and performed by Nanci Griffith
Published by Universal Music Group for
Wing And Wheel Music

Deadwood (South Dakota)

Written and performed by Eric Taylor
Published by Universal Songs of PolyGram
for Blue Ruby Music

Mule Skinner Blues

Written by Jimmy Rogers and George Vaughn
Performed by Ramblin' Jack Elliott
Published by Peer Music
International Corporation (BMI)

Cold Dog Soup

Written by Guy Clark and Mark. D. Sanders
Performed by Guy Clark
Published by EMI April Music, Inc. and
Universal/MCA for Soda Creek Songs

Pancho and Lefty

Written and performed by Townes Van Zandt
Published by Katie Belle Music (ASCAP) /
Will Van Zandt Publishing (ASCAP)
Administered by Bug; Wixen Music Publishing, Inc.
for JTVZ Music (ASCAP);
EMI Music Publishing, Inc.

Don't Take It Too Bad

Written and performed by Townes Van Zandt
Published by Silver Dollar Music (ASCAP)
Administered by Bug

Texas Trilogy

Written and performed by Steven Fromholz
Published by Universal Music Group/MCA Music

Desperadoes Waiting for a Train

Written and performed by Guy Clark
Published by Warner/Chappell Music for
World Song Publishing

Troubles I & II

Written and performed by Shake Russell
Published by Shake Russell Music (BMI)
Administered by Bug

Pack Up Your Sorrows

Written by Richard Farina and Pauline Marden
Performed by Carolyn Hester
Published by Universal Songs of PolyGram

I Feel Like I'm Fixin' To Die Rag

Written by Joe McDonald
Performed by Country Joe and the Fish
Courtesy of Vanguard Records
Published by Alcatraz Corner Music

Salty Kisses

Written and performed by Richard Dobson
Published by Richard Dobson and Salty Songs

The Road Goes On Forever

Written and performed by Robert Earl Keen
Published by Songs of Universal

This Old Porch

Written by Lyle Lovett and Robert Earl Keen
Performed by Robert Earl Keen
Published by Michael H. Goldsen, Inc. and
Keen Edge Music (BMI) administered by Bug

Stakalee

Traditional
Performed by Dave Van Ronk
Courtesy of Folklore Music

He Was A Friend of Mine
Traditional
Performed by Dave Van Ronk
Courtesy of Folklore Music

Helen Rose
Written by Greg Klyma and Jonathan Byrd
Performed by Greg Klyma
Published by Klyma the Charts and Byrdsongs

Deep In The West
Written and performed by Shake Russell
Published by Bug Music, Inc. /
Black Coffee Music, Inc. (BMI) administered by Bug

Love At The Five and Dime
Written and performed by Nanci Griffith
Published by Wing And A Wheel Music (BMI)
Administered by Bug

If I Had A Boat
Written and performed by Lyle Lovett
Published by Michael H. Goldsen, Inc.

To The Light
Written and performed by Denice Franke
Published by DeNice Girl Music

Everybody Else
Written and performed by Matt Harlan
Published by Matt Harlan

I'd Have To Be Crazy
Written and performed by Steven Fromholz
Published by Bughouse (ASCAP) and
Prophesy Publishing (ASCAP)
Administered by Bug

Come On Down To Texas
Written and performed by Steven Fromholz
Published by Steven Fromholz and Esteban Music

Charlie Ray MacWhite
Written and performed by Eric Taylor
Published by Universal Songs of PolyGram for
Blue Ruby Music

Even Cowboys Get The Blues
Written and performed by Vince Bell
Published by Bug Music / Black Coffee Music, Inc.
Administered by Bug

Sun And Moon And Stars
Written and performed by Vince Bell
Published by Bug Music / Black Coffee Music, Inc.
Administered by Bug

Old Friends

Written by Guy Clark, Susanna Clark and Richard Dobson

Performed by Guy Clark

Published by EMI April Music, Inc.,
Salty Songs c/o Songwriter's Guild Nashville

You Don't Rock n Roll

Written and performed by Greg Klyma

Published by Klyma the Charts

Closing Time

Written and performed by Lyle Lovett

Published by Michael H. Goldsen, Inc.

Lyle Lovett appears courtesy of Curb/Lost Highway

Lucinda Williams appears courtesy of Lost Highway Records

Dedicated To

Marvin Anderson, Gray Fair, Pat Pritchett

In Memory

Dale Adamson, Richard (Ace Palidino) Brooks, Colleen Cade,
Bob Claypool, Randy Clements, Bruce McElheny, Blaze Foley,
Champ Hood, Rocky Hill, Walter Hyatt, Mickey Leland, Ann Lower,
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