

BREAD or BLOOD

Bread or Blood is a documentary project that follows the route of Kelly's Army across contemporary America.

Synopsis:

Bread or Blood carries the viewer on a journey along rails and rivers, following the route across the United States taken by Kelly's Army in 1894. Contemporary voices punctuate movement through the landscapes that surround America's old arteries. Steel wheels polished bright by thousands of miles of steel rail carry you over mountains, through deserts, high plains, and fields of corn to the meandering currents and eddies of the Des Moines, Mississippi, and Ohio Rivers.

Bread or Blood is a call to revisit the demand for a public works program by thousands of unemployed men who traveled across the United States with little more than the clothes upon their backs. Spurred on by Jacob Coxey's petition to congress to create jobs using non-interest treasury notes, an Industrial Army led by Charles T. Kelly left San Francisco for Washington, DC to deliver a living petition. Bread or Blood follows the route of this "petition in boots".

Bread or Blood reveals the country of the United States through long, wide landscapes and audio portraits of a diverse group of Americans. There are images of majestic mountains and valleys, arid deserts and water. River music is recorded along with the song of steel freight trains gaining momentum for the open road. Environmental sound design is instrumental to the creation of a poetic structure upon which disembodied voices are hung. This is a first person film that conveys a larger voice. In the overall narrative, a sense of we is created by the concerns and observations of others.

Run Time:

20 minutes

Characters:

Theo Guerin
Grey Wolf
Emily Huntley
Neil Decker
Irma Perry
Davide Hartford
AC
John Svatos
Nathan Lynn
Angela McPeters
Gus Katrouzas

Filmmaker's Statement:

The societal fringe and the rough edge of civilization
Hobos, travelers, vagabonds, and gypsies
Workers working
The ways and means of production
Steel, rock ballast, rust, fine orange-brown dust, and diesel exhaust
Things that have lost their usefulness, castaways, detritus, and debris
The skeletons of industry
Sour old socks and the oniony smell of body odor
Thirst
Hunger
Killing time
The taste of freedom
Fresh euphoric exhilaration
Panoramic vistas and majestic landscapes
Fertile fields and tender green growth
Water
Yelling joy to the stars on a clear night with whiskey on my breath as I hurtle through space
on a steel dragon

Crew:

Jack Chapman

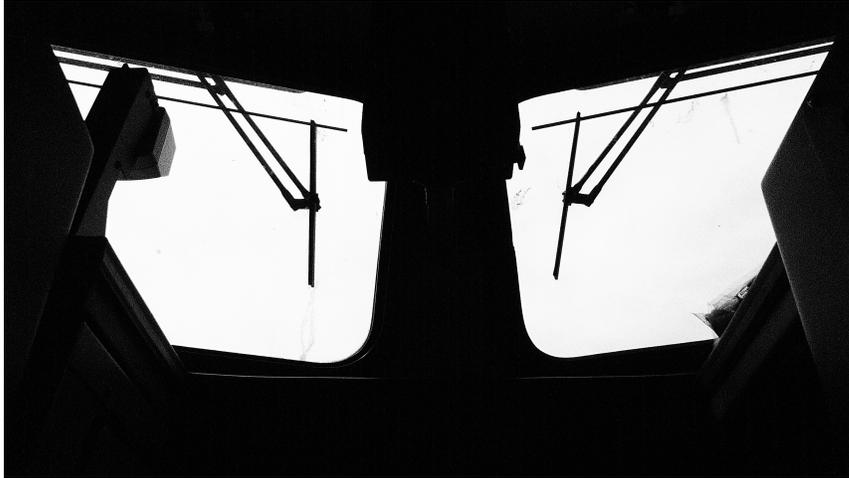
Credits:**Music:**

Coal- Blackbird Raum
Gold- Happy Talk Band
Original Score- Andrew Zook: guitars
- Cali Will: harp, harmonica
- Lorenzo Levinger: guitars, zotar
- Squid Guts: harmonica

Financial Support:

Santa Cruz Women's Club
Porter College
UCIRA Institute for Research in the Arts
Florence French Foundation
UCSC Graduate Student Association
UCSC Social Documentation





Bio:

Jack Chapman is a photographer and filmmaker living on the West Coast of the United States. He is an enigmatic figure who chooses to keep his personal life to himself.

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