

# "Long Hard Streak" Documentary Viewed Locally at Castle Cinemas

A special viewing of the Billy Dean Anderson documentary took place at Castle Cinemas Theater in Jamestown. The planning for this event began months ago in collaboration with Jimmy and Marsha Dickens, the owners of Castle Cinemas. In their continued effort to support and serve the community, they, along with Kimberly Davidson, 4th district commissioner, Clark Matthews, county historian, and producer Scott Rabideau of "A Long Hard Steak" began a quest of featuring this documentary featuring a Fentress Countian. The website <https://longhardstreak.com> may explain Billy Dean Anderson best. It reads as follows:

"Billy Dean Anderson was a prolific criminal and outsider artist who lived in a Tennessee cave for almost five years while on the run from the FBI. The cave became his home, spiritual



**Pictured prior to the view are (left to right) Clark Matthews, Author Kay Wood and Producer/director Scott Rabideau.**

refuge, and art studio. Billy's decades-spanning criminal career included multiple imprisonments, three shootouts with the law, three prison escapes, and culminated with an addition to the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list. Knowing his criminal past, why do so many

of the locals still support Billy to this day?

Despite Billy's time as an outlaw, he also had an unstoppable creative drive. He painted dozens of paintings during his life and found a way to pursue his passion while running from the FBI and living in his

cave deep in the mountains of Tennessee. For me, the film is about the power of art to pull you out of your darkest moments, and I think it did just that for Billy. Our goal is to not only tell a human story of raw survival in unimaginable

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circumstances but also use the film as a tool to show how art can be a healing force for people and their communities." Director/Producer Scott Rabideau wrote this.

The documentary played at 2:00 pm, but individuals who got tickets days before through Facebook announcements and online sign-ups began to fill the theater shortly after 12:00 noon. It was an exciting time of conversation. Individuals carried their copy of the Kay Wood book "Billy Dean Anderson - A Criminal Life." Others had photos. A local contributor, Mike Wood, had the actual 8 mm film footage, and he pointed out interesting notes from the late 1970s videos. There was lots of reminiscing and storytelling. It was neat to hear why some wanted to see the documentary badly due to life encounters. Remember that Billy Dean Anderson passed in July of 1979; some of these stories were first-hand encounters. It was interesting to listen. All the stories were by no means positive, but all were not negative either.

After the theaters had filled to a capacity of a hundred people per theater, Kim Davidson addressed each group and welcomed them and the producer/director. In the opening, she shared her excitement about being part of the premiere in Jamestown. She stated, "Everybody has heard the story, but when you look into it, there are so many layers. People like to say he is an outlaw, which he was, but there is so much more to the story." In closing, she introduced producer/director Scott Rabideau,



shared that this had been an eight-year project for Mr. Rabideau.

Scott Rabideau took the floor and talked about the film, crediting those involved, including his family. Talking about his encounters with author Kay Wood. Special thanks to the sponsors who included: The Fentress County Chamber of Commerce, Josh Crisp Electric, Stone Cliff Construction, Maynard's Property Management, Mid-Tenn Games & Amusements, LLC; River Grill, Quality Choice Construction, Backwood Adventures and Gina Mullinix, Circuit Court Clerk, and special thanks to Kim Davidson, and Clark Matthews. On a personal level, he thanked Kay Wood. He talked about what a special person and true historian she is, stating that he truly respected her work. He briefly mentioned those individuals who are featured in the documentary. He stated that he appreciated the community and that people were very willing to help. In closing, he said he wanted to speak of Billy individually. "I wanted to look at the whole person, his human story, and despite his criminal life, his wild life of crime...I think when he found his art he got back to him-

Anderson was raised by his grandparents on the Upper Cumberland Plateau in Pall Mall, Tennessee. As a boy he was involved with the church and on the path to becoming a preacher, but at a distinct point he took a drastic turn toward crime. He was obsessively creative and deeply connected to nature but had a violent, criminal streak. The film confronts these two extremes, both explosive and spiritually redemptive, and explores the insular society he called home. Through oral accounts from family, friends, ex-convicts who served time with Billy, local law enforcement, as well as the FBI agent who led the manhunt for Billy, we see how a young man's tumultuous relationship with the law expands into a broader story of community and loyalty.

I (Director/Producer Scott Rabideau) was shocked to discover Billy Dean Anderson was a family member, but was even more compelled by his artwork. Billy painted a multitude of canvases in the cave and also kept a journal. Along with his art, the journal entries allow us to look deeper, beyond his criminal past and into the core of who Billy really was. I couldn't imagine living in a cave for this long - surviving, writing, and painting while the FBI was conducting a nationwide manhunt. It was fascinating he chose to be creative at all, to use his artwork as a tool to communicate with friends and loved ones. Many of Billy's pieces are still displayed in local homes and churches throughout Tennessee, Indiana, Kentucky, and beyond."

The documentary was entirely filmed in Tennessee and Kentucky in collaboration with Kay Wood, the people of Pall Mall, Tennessee, and the Rotten Fork Church. All cave

utive Producers: Sean Penn, John Ira Palmer, and John Wildermuth, edited by Scott Rabideau; story editor Bryan Stamp, Field Producer Kay Wood. Also, the credits shared a listing of featured individuals, including Clark Micheal Matthews as Billy Dean Anderson, Kay Wood, Cecil Moses, Ruby Cook, Robert Rhoad, Dayton Wright, Bud Gibson, Haggard Wood, Zola Edward Crabtree, Abbie Lee Crabtree, James Matthews, Kenny Anderson, J.W. Bradley, Sharon Kreis, J. Michael Cross, Mary Rabideau, and William Lynwood Montell. Also, giving material credits to local Mike Wood and the "Billy Dean Anderson: A Criminal Life" book by Kay Wood, among a list of several others. There are many other credits, but in closing, the credits gave special memory mention of Ruby Cook, Zola Edward Crabtree, and William Lynwood Montell.

A Long Hard Streak will broadcast nationally on PBS. Billy's story of survival and the transformative power of art will be shared with over 3 million nationwide viewers. To see how you can participate and support the film, please email us at [scott.gfmedia@gmail.com](mailto:scott.gfmedia@gmail.com). The film will also be on Amazon Prime Video in the future. Follow the Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/longhardstreak](http://www.facebook.com/longhardstreak) for updates.

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