

THE BEST SUMMER

Tribeca - Spotlight Narrative - Acquisition



Tribeca Film Festival Screenings:

Press & Industry Screening - Thursday, June 11 at 10:15AM at AMC 19th St. East 6
Public 1 (Premiere) Screening - Tuesday, June 9 at 5:30PM at Spring Studios 5th floor
Public 2 Screening - Friday, June 12 at 8:30PM at AMC 19th St. East 6
Public 3 Screening - Saturday, June 13 at 5:00PM at VEC

Run Time: 83 mins

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Press Materials:

SYNOPSIS

The Best Summer plunges audiences into the heart of the 1995 Summersault tour with the Beastie Boys, Sonic Youth, Foo Fighters, Pavement, Rancid, The Amps, and Bikini Kill as they travel across Australia and Southeast Asia. Shot entirely from Tamra Davis's handheld POV camera, the film moves through backstage hallways, onto tour buses, into hotel rooms, and directly onto the stages themselves, creating an unusually intimate portrait of artists at a formative moment in their lives and careers.

Rediscovered nearly thirty years later, Davis's raw footage captures not only explosive live performances, but candid conversations, fleeting friendships, and the chaotic energy of life on the road. What began as a personal archive became a time capsule of a disappearing era in alternative music and independent filmmaking. Immersive, spontaneous, and deeply human, *The Best Summer* invites audiences to experience what it felt like to be there.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

When I shot this footage in 1995, I never imagined I was making a feature documentary. I was simply a filmmaker with a small handheld camera, traveling through Australia and Southeast Asia alongside a group of artists and friends during a brief moment in time that felt electric and alive. I filmed because that's what I've always done. I filmed performances, conversations, hotel rooms, backstage hallways, strange moments at three in the morning, the feeling of being young and curious and wanting to capture the world around me before it disappeared.

Thirty years later, I rediscovered the tapes while feeling frustrated with the state of Hollywood and questioning what kind of films still get to exist. Watching the footage again reminded me why I became a filmmaker in the first place. Before I had opportunities, before I had budgets, before anyone gave me permission, I had a camera and an instinct to follow what fascinated me. Finding this footage sparked something in me creatively because it reminded me that filmmaking at its core is simply perspective. One person looking at the world and inviting others to see it through their eyes.

What moved me most when revisiting the material was its authenticity. These were artists before everyone carried cameras in their pockets, before people constantly performed versions of themselves for social media. The footage feels immediate and unguarded. Long takes drift through entire performances the way your eyes naturally move when you're standing onstage. Conversations unfold awkwardly, intimately, sometimes with distractions happening in the background. You hear laughter, pauses, crew members interrupting, music bleeding through walls. It feels human to me. That became the guiding principle of the film: to preserve the footage as purely as possible so audiences could disappear into this world without feeling manipulated out of it.

I also became aware while editing how much my presence behind the camera shaped the material. In the early nineties, there were very few women directing in music and film spaces like these. What might have once felt like a disadvantage became my superpower. People let me in. There was trust, openness, vulnerability. I rarely appear in the film, but the audience occupies my physical space completely. They receive the glances, the jokes, the intimacy, the chaos, as if they themselves are holding the camera.

At the same time, the footage became something deeply personal. Watching it felt less like reviewing archival material and more like watching memory itself appear onscreen. Moments I had completely forgotten came rushing back. The same thing happened when I showed the film to the artists. Forgotten details resurfaced instantly. It made me realize that film has a unique power to preserve not only events, but emotional experience.

More than anything, I hope *The Best Summer* inspires people to create. Especially young filmmakers and young women. I hope it reminds them that you do not need permission to begin. You can pick up a camera, follow your instincts, and tell the story only you can tell.

ABOUT THE CAST

Kathleen Hanna

Kathleen Hanna is a musician, writer, and feminist cultural icon best known as the frontwoman of the pioneering punk bands Bikini Kill and Le Tigre. A central figure in the Riot Grrrl movement of the 1990s, Hanna helped redefine punk music through her politically charged performances, outspoken activism, and influential voice on feminism, art, and identity. Her work has inspired generations of musicians and artists across music, film, and culture.

In addition to her music career, Hanna has appeared in numerous documentaries and cultural projects exploring feminism, punk history, and independent art movements. Her life and work were the subject of the acclaimed documentary *The Punk Singer*, directed by Sini Anderson. In *The Best Summer*, Hanna appears both onstage and off, offering an intimate glimpse into a formative moment in alternative music culture during the 1995 Summersault tour.

Beastie Boys

Beastie Boys are one of the most influential and groundbreaking groups in modern music history. Formed in New York City in the early 1980s by Adam Yauch, Mike D, and Adam Horovitz, the trio helped redefine hip hop by blending rap, punk, sampling, humor, and experimental sound into a style entirely their own. From the explosive success of *Licensed to Ill* to critically acclaimed

albums like *Paul's Boutique* and *Check Your Head*, the Beastie Boys became one of the most innovative and beloved groups of their generation. In *The Best Summer*, the band is captured both onstage and behind the scenes during the 1995 Summersault tour, revealing the humor, friendship, and creative energy that defined the group at a pivotal moment in their career.

Sonic Youth

Sonic Youth are one of the most influential alternative rock bands of the late twentieth century, known for reshaping independent music through their experimental guitar tunings, noise-driven sound, and fearless artistic approach. Formed in New York City in 1981 by Kim Gordon, Thurston Moore, Lee Ranaldo, and Steve Shelley, the band became a defining force in underground music and helped pave the way for the explosion of alternative rock in the 1990s. Albums such as *Daydream Nation*, *Goo*, and *Dirty* established Sonic Youth as both cultural tastemakers and uncompromising innovators. In *The Best Summer*, the band is seen onstage and backstage during the 1995 Summersault tour, capturing the intelligence, humor, and creative spirit that made them icons of a generation.

Foo Fighters

Foo Fighters emerged in the mid-1990s as one of the defining rock bands of their generation. Founded by Dave Grohl following the end of Nirvana, the band quickly established its own identity through explosive live performances, melodic songwriting, and an unmistakable sense of energy and humor. Albums such as *The Colour and the Shape* and *There Is Nothing Left to Lose* helped cement Foo Fighters as a major force in modern rock. In *The Best Summer*, the band is captured during the early years of their rise, revealing both the raw excitement of their live shows and the candid camaraderie backstage during the 1995 Summersault tour.

ADDITIONAL PERFORMERS

BECK

PAVEMENT

RANCID

THE AMPS

BIKINI KILL

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

TAMRA DAVIS- Director, Producer, Cinematographer

Tamra Davis is a director of film, television, and music videos. She launched her career with over 100 music videos for artists ranging from NWA to Bette Midler, then moved into features with *Guncrazy*, which earned Drew Barrymore a Golden Globe nomination. Davis has directed nine feature films including *Billy Madison*, *CB4*, *Half Baked*, and *Crossroads*. Her acclaimed documentary *Jean-Michel Basquiat: The Radiant Child* premiered at Sundance, and she went on to direct Netflix's *13: The Musical* and Paramount+'s *Larger Than Life: The Boy Band Story*. In television, she has directed episodes of *Grey's Anatomy*, *Dead to Me*, *Empire*,

P-Valley, The Afterparty, and created the pilot for High School Musical: The Series. Her latest film, The Best Summer premiered at the Sundance Film Festival 2026.

Jessica Hernandez - Editor

Jessica Hernández is an Emmy and Peabody Award-winning editor whose work spans acclaimed television series, documentaries, narrative features, and commercial filmmaking. Her credits include A Black Lady Sketch Show, for which she won an Emmy Award, as well as Winning Time: The Rise of the Lakers Dynasty, Colin in Black & White, and Knox Goes Away. She also edited the acclaimed documentary The Punk Singer. On *The Best Summer*, Hernández helped shape hundreds of hours of raw Hi-8 footage into a deeply immersive and emotionally driven experience, preserving the spontaneity, intimacy, and dreamlike quality of memory that define the film.

VERY NICE PERSON - Composer

Very Nice Person are a Malibu-based musical duo known for blending experimental electronic textures, indie pop, and cinematic sound design into emotionally immersive compositions. Led by brothers Davis and Skyler Diamond, their music combines organic instrumentation with layered production inspired by artists ranging from Björk and Aphex Twin to Phoenix and Arthur Russell. Their breakout track “When the Sun Explodes” was featured on the Grammy Award-winning *For The Birds: The Birdsong Project, Vol. 2*. For *The Best Summer*, Very Nice Person created an original score that bridges memory, emotion, and atmosphere, helping transform the archival footage into a dreamlike and deeply personal cinematic experience.

CREDITS

A Bird In The Hand Production

A Film by Tamra Davis

Directed By
Tamra Davis

Produced By
Tamra Davis

Executive Producer
Linda Lichter

Co-Producer
Shelby Meade

Starring
Kathleen Hanna

Featuring

Beastie Boys

Sonic Youth

Foo Fighters

Pavement

Beck

Rancid

The Amps

Bikini Kill

Edited By
Jessica Hernandez ACE

Director of Photography
Tamra Davis

Musical Score By
Very Nice Person

Casting By
Stephen "Pav" Pavlovic

BEASTIE BOYS
Michael Diamond
Adam Horovitz
Adam Yauch
DJ Hurricane
Money Mark
Alfredo Ortiz
Amery "AWOL" Smith

SONIC YOUTH

Kim Gordon
Thurston Moore
Lee Ranaldo
Steve Shelley

FOO FIGHTERS

Dave Grohl
Pat Smear
Nate Mendel
William Goldsmith

PAVEMENT

Stephen Malkmus
Scott Kannberg
Mark Ibold
Steve West
Bob Nastanovich

BECK

Beck Hansen

RANCID

Tim Armstrong
Matt Freeman
Lars Frederiksen
Brett Reed

THE AMPS

Kim Deal
Jim Macpherson
Nate Farley
Luis Lerma

BIKINI KILL

Kathleen Hanna
Tobi Vail
Kathi Wilcox
Billy Karren

Head Security Earl Gabbidon
Baby Coco Gordon Moore
Coco's Nanny Maurice Menares
Dave's Best Friend Jimmy Swanson

“NEW RADIO”

Performed by Bikini Kill

Written by Kathleen Hanna, Kathi Wilcox, Tobi Vail, and William Karren

Published by Terrorbird Media

Courtesy of Bikini Kill Records

“REBEL GIRL”

Performed by Bikini Kill

Written by Kathleen Hanna, Kathi Wilcox, Tobi Vail, and William Karren

Published by Terrorbird Media

Courtesy of Bikini Kill Records

“BULL IN THE HEATHER”

Performed by Sonic Youth

Written by Kim Gordon, Thurston Moore, Lee Ranaldo and Steve Shelley

Published by Sonik Tooth Music (administered by Songs of Kobalt Music Publishing/BMI)

Courtesy of DGC Records

“POSSE IN EFFECT”

Performed by Beastie Boys

Written by Adam Horovitz, Rick Rubin, Michael Diamond & Adam Yauch

Published by American Def Tune & Brooklyn Dust Music under license from Universal PolyGram Int.
Publishing

Courtesy of Def Jam Recordings under license from Universal Music Enterprises

“WINNEBAGO”

Performed by Foo Fighters

Written by Dave Grohl and Geoff Turner

Published by M.J. Twelve Music Publishing (administered by Songs of Kobalt Music Publishing/BMI)
and Booteus Maximus Music (administered by Universal Songs of Polygram International/BMI)

Courtesy of Roswell Records

“RADIO”

Performed by Rancid

Written by Tim Armstrong, Matt Freeman, Billie Joe Armstrong

Published by Rancid Music (ASCAP), WBM Music (SESAC)

Courtesy of Hellcat / Epitaph Records

“GIRL DREAMS”

Performed by Beck

Written by Beck Hansen

Published by Youthless (administered by Songs of Kobalt Music Publishing/BMI)

Courtesy of Iliad Records

“HEARTLAND FEELING”

Performed by Beck

Written by Beck Hansen

Published by Youthless (administered by Songs of Kobalt Music Publishing/BMI)

Courtesy of Iliad Records

“WASHING MACHINE”

Performed by Sonic Youth

Written by Kim Gordon, Thurston Moore, Lee Ranaldo and Steve Shelley

Published by Sonik Tooth Music (administered by Songs of Kobalt Music Publishing/BMI)

Courtesy of DGC Records

“BLACK OUT”

Performed by Pavement

Written by Stephen Malkmus

Published by Sony Publishing

Courtesy of Matador Records

“PACER”

Performed by The Amps

Written by Kim Deal

Published by EMI Publishing LTD (PRS)

Courtesy of 4AD Limited / By arrangement with Beggars Group Media Limited

“FOR ONLY”

Performed by Bikini Kill

Written by Kathleen Hanna, Kathi Wilcox, Tobi Vail, and William Karren

Published by Terrorbird Media

Courtesy of Bikini Kill Records

“ROOTS RADICAL”

Performed by Rancid

Written by Tim Armstrong, Matt Freeman and Lars Frederiksen

Published by I Want To Go Where The Action Is Music (ASCAP)

Courtesy of Hellcat / Epitaph Records

“BALLAD OF JIMMY AND JOHNNY”

Performed by Rancid

Written by Tim Armstrong and Matt Freeman

Published by Rancid Music (ASCAP)

Courtesy of Hellcat / Epitaph Records

“THE NEW STYLE”

Performed by Beastie Boys

Written by Adam Horovitz, Rick Rubin, Michael Diamond & Adam Yauch

Published by American Def Tune & Brooklyn Dust Music under license from Universal PolyGram Int.
Publishing

Courtesy of Def Jam Recordings under license from Universal Music Enterprises

“POSSE IN EFFECT (REPRISE)”

Performed by Beastie Boys

Written by Adam Horovitz, Rick Rubin, Michael Diamond & Adam Yauch

Published by American Def Tune & Brooklyn Dust Music under license from Universal PolyGram Int.
Publishing

Courtesy of Def Jam Recordings under license from Universal Music Enterprises

“FINALE”

Performed by Bikini Kill

Written by Kathleen Hanna, Kathi Wilcox, Tobi Vail, and William Karren

Published by Terrorbird Media

Courtesy of Bikini Kill Records

“SURE SHOT”

Performed by Beastie Boys

Written by Michael Diamond, Adam Horovitz, Adam Yauch, Mario Caldato Jr. Wendell Fite & Jeremy
Steig

Published by Brooklyn Dust Music & Deshon Music Inc, under license from Universal PolyGram Int.
Publishing and EMI Blackwood Music, Inc.

Courtesy of Def Jam Recordings under license from Universal Music Enterprises

“WATTERSHED”

Performed by Foo Fighters

Written by Dave Grohl

Published by M.J. Twelve Music (administered by Songs of Kobalt Music Publishing/BMI)

Courtesy of Roswell Records

“100%”

Performed by Sonic Youth

Written by Kim Gordon, Thurston Moore, Lee Ranaldo and Steve Shelley

Published by Sonik Tooth Music (administered by Songs of Kobalt Music Publishing/BMI)

Courtesy of DGC Records

“EXHAUSTED”

Performed by Foo Fighters

Written by Dave Grohl

Published by M.J. Twelve Music (administered by Songs of Kobalt Music Publishing/BMI)

Courtesy of Roswell Records

“EGG RAID ON MOJO”

Performed by Beastie Boys

Written by Michael Diamond, Adam Yauch, John Berry & Kate Schellenbach
Published by Brooklyn Dust Music & EMI April Music Inc, under license from Universal PolyGram Int.
Publishing
Courtesy of Capitol Records under license from Universal Music Enterprises

“SABOTAGE”
Performed by Beastie Boys
Written by Michael Diamond, Adam Horovitz & Adam Yauch
Published by Brooklyn Dust Music under license from Universal PolyGram Int. Publishing
Courtesy of Capitol Records under license from Universal Music Enterprises

“DON’T WORRY”
Performed by Very Nice Person
Written by Davis Diamond, Skyler Diamond
Published by Sound Nutrition
Courtesy of Sound Nutrition

Tamra Davis

Banana Post

Banana Post

India Korey

Tamra Davis

Stephen "Pav" Pavlovic

T.A.Z.

Coco Gordon Moore

Skyler Diamond

Davis Diamond

Losel Yauch

Julius Horovitz

John Silva

Shana Weiss

Pete Smith

Michael Meisel

Bob Lawton

Marlene Tsuchii

Jim Greer

Evan Bernard

Mike Mills

Mario Caldato

Robert Bennet
Felicia Villarreal
Aaron Rose
Patrick Hursley
Colin Moran
Vanessa Flores
Benjamin Pacheco
Sarah Powell
Kevin Wolff
Seth Rudman

Clare Vivier
Marfa Stance
Yeti
Rivian
X-Large
X-Girl

Malibu, California
Melbourne, Australia
Sydney, Australia
Gold Coast, Australia
Perth, Australia
Lombok, Indonesia
Manila, Philippines
Bangkok, Thailand
Jakarta, Indonesia

Lichter Grossman Nichols Feldman Rogal Shikora & Clark
Clearance Counsel Jonathan Segal, Davis Wright Tremaine

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