

FILM AGOGO LTD
Presents



A Film by Abi Lewis

FILM AGOGO LTD | 52' | HD | UK | 2017

1 TAGLINE.

Geordie Jazz Man: A Man Happily Out of Time Who Keeps the Blue Note Beat Alive

2 SHORT SYNOPSIS.

Eric Burdon, Wynton Marsalis, Mike Figgis and the Royal Shakespeare Company's Greg Hicks feature in an atmospheric celebration of an eccentric man, the jazz movement but mainly of a never say die contrary spirit which 'Geordie Jazz Man' Keith Crombie personified.

3 SYNOPSIS.

Well known internationally as Geordie Jazz Man, Keith Crombie was a mystery to many of his Jazz Cafe patrons in Newcastle upon Tyne, England and, like King Canute, refused to bow to the changing musical tides or even the ageing process.

A man who would refuse you entry on a whim, a hard man feared from his past though a lover of women - he was the epicentre of a band of similar brothers, musicians, thespians, and alcoholics – the pride of Newcastle Jazz from the 1950's to now.

Aside from running an eccentric battered Jazz club, Keith's past included going to school with two of the Shadows, a brief career as a getaway driver, dealings with the Krays and choosing to book the Rolling Stones over the Beatles. Eric Burdon, Wynton Marsalis, Harry Connick Junior and Prince Charles all feature.

For decades he refused to be filmed, granting me access because I'm his goddaughter. This film celebrates the man, the Jazz movement but mainly a never say die contrary spirit that Keith Crombie took to his grave.

4 MUSIC FEATURED.

We feature a good mix of commercial and non-commercial music in the film. It was important that we strive for authenticity, so we utilised local talent as much as possible and recorded live in the surroundings of the Jazz Café. Local musicians showed their support by kindly contributing their music to the production.

5 DIRECTORS STATEMENT.

I was driven to make the documentary THE GEORDIE JAZZ MAN as, like Keith himself, the jazz cafe was becoming old and worn and my gut feeling told me it was time someone documented Keith and the history of the venue before it was too late.

Keith had always been part of my life; on the day, I was born he captured the first ever pictures taken of my family, and me. Years later I would film his final interview weeks prior to his death.

What I didn't quite expect was to unearth so much more about Keith's character and lively past, which placed him right at the epicentre of one of the most exciting periods in musical history in the North-East of England.

Since his sudden passing the story has become ever so more poignant and is real tribute to Keith and all he stood for.

Characters like Keith's are an anomaly, an endangered species that need to be remembered and documented. With my personal connection to Keith and a current revival in the popularity of jazz related programming, there couldn't be a better person to tell this story at a more suitable time.



6 DIRECTORS BIO.

After graduating in live action & animated film, Abi has acquired more than a decade of experience in TV drama, commercials and online short form documentary content.

In 2014 she pitched her way on to the Sheffield Doc Fest 'Fast Track to Features' training programme, aimed at documentary talent wanting to make the move towards making their first feature film.

GEORDIE JAZZ MAN will be her directing debut.

7 DIRECTORS Q&A.

Who is the audience for this film?

This film has the potential of reaching a huge audience inside and outside of the international jazz community. It's a music film that goes beyond the genre to engage with an audience that will be intrigued, entertained and genuinely moved.

Keith was an uncompromising man; a curmudgeon who would refuse you entry on a whim, a hard man feared from his past, yet a strangely vulnerable romantic with women. He was misunderstood by most, but beneath the gruff exterior he was an acutely intelligent, witty, lovable man who lived and died with his art form.

By following his obsession, we are telling the tale of one of the last great eccentrics and through him the story of jazz. This film is both a celebration of the man and his music.

What have been some of the biggest challenges?

The biggest challenge was to produce the film on a micro budget. Luckily, I had the support and backing from talented regional crew and was able to run a successful crowdfunding campaign. This film has been a labour of love to all involved especially my close-knit team.

8 CONTRIBUTORS.

We have interviewed people from all walks of Keith's life. Including jazz musician Wynton Marsalis, icon Eric Burdon lead singer of The Animals, film director/musician Mike Figgis and actor Greg Hicks.



Wynton Marsalis | Critically Acclaimed Jazz Musician



Eric Burdon | 'The Animals' and 'War'



Mike Figgis | Musician and Film Director



Greg Hicks | Royal Shakespeare Company

We also hear from the cast of characters who were drawn into Keith's world; these include local musicians, artists, poets and members of the public who shared his quirky corner of Bohemia and tell stories of visiting international jazz legends such as Harry Connick, Jr.

9 SUPPORT AND SCREENINGS.

GEORDIE JAZZ MAN has screened in several international film festivals and won the 2017 Jury Prize for 'BEST INTERNATIONAL SHORT' at this years NorthwestFest. Festivals include; Sheffield Doc Fest (Doc/Player), Aldeburgh Doc Fest, Copenhagen Jazz Film Festival, Long beach indie, L.A. and Oklamhoma Doc Fest. We're also thrilled to be included in this years Solo Positivo Film Festival, the leading music documentary festival in South East Europe.

We plan to take the film to a wide international audience and are currently in talks with several international jazz festivals and independent cinema who are keen to screen GEORDIE JAZZ MAN as part of their 2018 programme.

As well as this we're lucky to have the support of various printed and online press publications such as Jazz Wise Magazine, Jazz Services and many international jazz bloggers including Jazz Wax, Jazz Lives and Jazz Shaped who are following our journey.

10 QUOTES.

"As traditional jazz's musical heyday skulks surreptitiously into the past, those still championing the genre appear evermore distanced, even alienated, against the trajectory of popular culture. Not many people seem to fit the above description more than Newcastle's Keith Crombie, the subject of film-maker Abi Lewis' new documentary 'Geordie Jazz Man'. There is something fantastically quirky about the set-up of the film, the reluctance to show much of Keith in the trailer gives grounds to his air of elusivity ... I'm looking forward to this one." **Jazz Shaped**

"The trailer is lively, moving, energized, unsentimental. I look forward to its release and distribution." **Jazz Lives**

11 CREDITS.

FILM AGOGO LTD: Production Company

PATRICK COLLERTON: Executive Producer

ABI LEWIS: Producer & Director

BARBARA ZOSEL: Editor

JAMES COOK: Director of Photography

COLIN LANG: Sound

LUCIE WARRINGTON: Marketing Producer

THE EAST WING: Audio Post Production Facility

MONSTER PEACOCK: Camera Equipment Supplies

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