

A NEW DOCUMENTARY



# Rock'n'Roll Mamas

*by Jackie Weissman*

*Featuring*

*Kristin Hersh, Zia McCabe and Su'ad Abdur'Rafi*

*Rock Mama Films*

PRESENTS



# *Rock N Roll Mamas*

Starring

*Kristin Hersh*

*Zia McCabe*

*Su'ad Abdur'Rafi*

Directed, Produced, and Edited by

*Jackie Weissman*

Produced by

*Jara Johnson-Medinger*

Executive Produced by

*Allison Anders*

Original Scoring by

*Zia McCabe*

Contact~

*Public Relations Rock Mama Films, LLC*

*Mobile: 503-320-5523*

*Email: [info@rockmamafilms.com](mailto:info@rockmamafilms.com)*

*[www.rocknrollmamas.com](http://www.rocknrollmamas.com)*

# *Rock N Roll Mamas*



## Short Synopsis

ROCK N ROLL MAMAS is a feature-length documentary about three indie rockers who strive to follow their creative dreams and raise their children. Over the course of six years, director, Jackie Weissman, followed Kristin Hersh of Throwing Muses, Zia McCabe of The Dandy Warhols, and hip hop artist, Ms.Su'ad. The verite style of this film takes the viewer into the daily grind of these women's lives. We watch the women as they tour and perform, go to play dates, juggle childcare, and get to gigs. It is a mixture that isn't the glamorous life we imagine when we think of rock musicians, it's the reality.

## Long Synopsis

ROCK N ROLL MAMAS is a feature-length documentary about three indie rockers/mamas who strive to follow their creative dreams and raise their children. Over the course of six years, director, Jackie Weissman, followed Kristin Hersh of Throwing Muses, Zia McCabe of The Dandy Warhols, and hip hop artist, Ms. Su'ad. The verite style of this film takes the viewer into the daily grind of these women's lives. We watch the women as they tour and perform, go to play dates, juggle childcare, day jobs, and get to gigs. It is a mixture that isn't the glamorous life we imagine when we think of rock musicians, it's the reality.

These ladies' lives are a mix of mundane, joy, love, struggle, and perseverance. From the outside it seems like it should be easy, merging motherhood with making music. But merging motherhood and making music is not without its sacrifices. Kristin loses her tour bus while writing a bestselling memoir. Zia suffers relationship issues during her eighteenth year in The Dandy Warhols. Su'ad is a single mom struggling to make ends meet during the day while performing at night.



# Rock N Roll Mamas

## About The Film

Award winning filmmaker Jackie Weissman's ROCK N ROLL MAMAS is a feature length verite documentary made for, by, and about parents. Weissman takes us into the daily lives of The Throwing Muses' Kristin Hersh, The Dandy Warhols' Zia McCabe, and the up-and-coming hip-hop artist, Ms. Su'ad as they face economic instability and the rigors of touring with children. Interwoven with the blood, sweat, and personal fulfillment found in performing, Weissman's wide-angle approach to the story captures the trio's essence as women, artists, and mothers. The scenes deliver both the comedy and tragedy in their true-life situations while on tour and at home.

Mainstream media often portrays rocker moms as crazy and inept or capable but bolstered by huge incomes and an army of support. Attitudes and perceptions by the general public are often judgmental and unforgiving. Weissman offers her audience another view through the lives of Hersh, McCabe, and Su'ad. She provides visibility for a career not normally undertaken by women and defuses the negative portrayals of female rock artists as we watch them encounter life's challenges and react to them responsibly. The relationships between the moms and their kids are poignantly captured during the vast amount of quality time they spend together.

The film's social significance is powerful as it subtly lobbies for structural changes in the way society perceives motherhood, career women, artists, and families. Time reveals the wear and tear on the women, their careers, their families, and their support systems. Yet the film's final message is that there is no one "*right*" way to live and parent; all parents who get through the day doing the best they can are "*rock stars.*"

In addition to the three main characters, Weissman enlisted as Producer and Executive Producer, respectively, Tara Johnson-Medinger, and Alison Anders, two moms/career artists in film to help produce ROCK N ROLL MAMAS. Scoring parts of the film is keyboardist, bassist, and vocalist Zia McCabe, one of the women featured in the film.

# Rock N Roll Mamas



## The Directors Statement

I began making ROCK N ROLL MAMAS nine years ago when my son, Lyle, was three-year's old to better understand how to balance my own creative needs with the needs of my child. I began looking to other artists for inspiration and guidance when I stumbled across an article about women at the onset of their rock star careers when they started a family. I realized immediately I had found the story I wanted to tell. For six years I captured on film the struggles and triumphs of three female rock artists as they balanced their music careers with parenting.

When I started this film, I thought the thesis would be that these strong women are a great example because they can do it all; but after filming them over the last six years, I saw that no one, not even strong women, can do everything well. Something has to give. Kristin loses her tour bus while writing a bestselling memoir. Zia suffers relationship issues during her eighteenth year in The Dandy Warhols. Su'ad is a single mom struggling to make ends meet during the day while performing at night.

Instead of doing it all perfectly, these women struggle and make mistakes but persevere as they strive to live their lives on their own terms - and this is why they set a great example. Celebrity or not, ultimately all women must labor with the stadium-sized challenges of parenting. ROCK N ROLL MAMAS' new thesis, or "*mamafesto*," is that all moms who get through the day-to-day doing the best that they can are "*rock stars*."



# *Rock N Roll Mamas*

The Mamas ~ Cast List



## *Kristin Hersh*

Kristin Hersh started the seminal post-punk band, Throwing Muses, at age 14. She released her first record at age 19 on the same day she went into labor with her first son, Dylan. Since then she's given birth to 11 Throwing Muses albums, five solo recordings, many EPs and singles, and three more sons. In 2003 she formed 50 Foot Wave, a punk rock trio making a name for themselves as a hard-driving encore to Kristin's work with Throwing Muses. Even after 20-plus years as a performer, Kristin still tours several months each year, often with her family in tow. Kristin is married to manager Billy O'Connell, and is mother to Dylan (25), Ryder (20), Wyatt (15), and Bodhi (10).

[www.throwingmusic.com](http://www.throwingmusic.com)



## Zia McCabe

Keyboardist, bassist, and vocalist Zia McCabe began her musical career in 1995 when she joined The Dandy Warhols, despite never having played a musical instrument. Deeply influenced by the psychedelic pop of the Velvet Underground, the band gained an underground following in the United States and more commercial success in Europe with their second album, *Dandy Warhols Come Down*, in 1997. In 2000, they released *Thirteen Tales from Urban Bohemia*, which captured the attention of college radio and began the band's ascent to mainstream U.S. recognition. Their next album, *Welcome to the Monkey House*, released in 2003, was co-produced by Nick Rhodes of Duran Duran. The Dandy Warhols, along with the Brian Jonestown Massacre, were the subjects of the 2004 Sundance-awarded documentary *DIG!* The film, recorded over the course of seven years by Grammy-nominated film director Ondi Timoner, captured the friendship/rivalry between the bands as they navigated their way from obscurity to music industry success. Zia is mother to Matilda Louise McCabe (8).

[www.dandywarhols.com](http://www.dandywarhols.com)



## *Su'ad Abdur'Rafi*

Ms. Su'ad started her hip hop career in 2003 as a featured artist in The Ramsey Brothers. She has performed in the underground hip hop scene in Portland, Oregon, working with numerous notable regional artists, including Scarub, Asop, Eligh, Murs, Sunspot Jonz of the the Living Legends crew, Eyedea & Abilities, Mykah Nyne, The Lifesavas, Ol Dominion, Sweatshop Union (BC), The Coup, and many others. Her debut solo, "The Urban Superwoman EP: The Urban Superwoman is a Savage," came out in 2004. Su'ad is mother to Moses (12).

[www.myspace.com/urbansuperwoman](http://www.myspace.com/urbansuperwoman)

# *Rock N Roll Mamas*

The Mamas ~ Crew List



## *Jackie Weissman*

**Director/Producer/Writer/Editor**

For the past seventeen years, Jackie Weissman has been working as a documentary filmmaker, freelance director/producer and Avid editor. She is the owner and president of Rock Mama Films, LLC, and a full service video production company. Jackie received her MFA in film and video production from Columbia College-Chicago. Her award winning documentary, *THE GORILLA AND THE PIKER*, was featured on WNET, Channel 13 in New York, as a part of its Reel New York series, and has won various festival awards. Jackie's extensive corporate video work includes documentary shorts about Mos Def and the Hot Boys for FUBU's website, [y2g.com](http://y2g.com), as well as videos for Web MD, British Airways, and many others. She has been a film/video instructor at Columbia College-Chicago, The Art Institute of Portland, and Project Youth Doc. Jackie is a founding board member of the Women in Film Portland Chapter (WIF-PDX), and currently serves as the board's vice president. Jackie lives in Portland, Oregon with her husband Andrew, and son, Lyle (11).

[www.rockmamafilms.com](http://www.rockmamafilms.com)



# *Rock N Roll Mamas*

The Mamas ~ Crew List, *continued*

## *Tara Johnson-Medinger*

### **Producer**

With 20 years of experience in the film and television industry, Tara Johnson- Medinger is a force to be reckoned with in the burgeoning Portland film scene. Johnson-Medinger is the Producer of *MY SUMMER AS A GOTH* as well as the Producer of the documentary *ROCK N ROLL MAMAS*. She is the Executive Director of The Portland Oregon Women's Film Festival and co-founder of Sour Apple Productions, a production company dedicated to original filmmaking and festival exhibition. She currently serves on the founding board of the Women in Film Portland Chapter (WIF-PDX). Before moving to Portland, Johnson-Medinger was a manager of affiliate promotion at the FOX Broadcasting Company in Los Angeles. Through her production work as well as POWFest, Tara wants to promote and create new opportunities for women filmmakers not only in Oregon but world-wide. Tara lives in Portland, Oregon with her husband Chris and their two children, Avery (9) and Quinlan (7).

[www.sourappleproductions.com](http://www.sourappleproductions.com)

## *Allison Anders*

### **Executive Producer**

Allison Anders is a Los Angeles-based independent filmmaker. In 1995 she was the recipient of a MacArthur "genius grant" and in 2002 she won a George Foster Peabody Award for distinguished achievement and meritorious service for her semi-autobiographical film *THINGS BEHIND THE SUN*. From the release of her acclaimed first feature *BORDER RADIO* (1989; co-written and co-directed with Kurt Voss) through the recent critical and popular success of *THINGS BEHIND THE SUN*, Anders has established a body of work that is innovative in its visual and sound style and marked by ensemble acting and strong women characters. Her films as writer-director also include *GAS FOOD LODGING* (1992), *MI VIDA LOCA* (1993), *GRACE OF MY HEART* (1996),

# Rock N Roll Mamas

The Mamas ~ Crew List, *continued*



## Allison Anders

and SUGAR TOWN (1999; co-directed with Kurt Voss). Anders' films have premiered at the Cannes International Film Festival and at the prestigious Sundance Film Festival, and retrospectives of her work have been held in Thessaloniki, Greece; Sheffield, England; and at the Karlovy Vary Film Festival in the Czech Republic. She is a distinguished professor at University Of California, Santa Barbara where she teaches film one quarter a year. Anders has also directed episodes of the TV Shows SEX IN THE CITY, COLD CASE, THE L-WORD, MEN IN TREES, SOUTHLAND, and WHAT ABOUT BRIAN. She is the proud mother of Tiffany (33), Devon, (30) and Ruben Anders (17), and a new grandmother. She lives in Los Angeles with her fella Terry Graham.

## Zia McCabe

### Composer

Keyboardist, bassist, percussionist, and vocalist, Zia McCabe began her musical career in 1995 when she joined The Dandy Warhols, despite never having played a musical instrument. Deeply influenced by the psychedelic pop of the Velvet Underground, the band gained an underground following in the United States and more commercial success in Europe with their second album, Dandy Warhols Come Down, in 1997. In 2000, they released Thirteen Tales from Urban Bohemia, which captured the attention of college radio and began the band's ascent to mainstream U.S. recognition. Their next album, Welcome to the Monkey House, released in 2003, was co-produced by Nick Rhodes of Duran Duran.

Zia started a country band, Brush Prairie, in 2009. Brush Prairie recorded the EP, Carry Yourself Back to Me in 2010. Zia dj's under the name DJ Rescue. She is mother to Matilda Louise McCabe (8).

[www.dandywarhols.com](http://www.dandywarhols.com)



# Rock N Roll Mamas

## Full Credits

### *A Film By*

Jackie Weissman  
For My Family

### *Director/Producer*

Jackie Weissman

### *Producer*

Tara Johnson-Medinger

### *Executive Producer*

Allison Anders

### *Associate Producer*

Kathryn Wood

### *Camera*

David McMurry  
Courtney Hermann  
Lindsey Goodwin-Grayzel  
Jonathan Nastasi  
Brian Galford  
Chris Rhoades  
Suree Towfignia  
Tyson Wisbrock  
Lauren Pollock  
Kristen Henderson

### *Additional Camera*

Sarah Marcus  
Lisa Fletcher  
Aurelio Roman  
Jackie Weissman  
Erika Valenciana  
Liz Vice

### *Sound*

Blakesly Clapp  
Rob Cowalt  
Keri-Beth Elliott  
Courtney Hermann  
Brian Hettinga  
Karl Lind  
Jackie Weissman

### *Editor*

Jackie Weissman

### *Additional Editing*

Emily von Gilbert

### *Assistant Editor*

Krissy Wesseloh

### *Transcription*

Erika Valenciana  
Maria Martin  
Emmanuel Sari

### *Animation*

Andrew Dieffenbach  
Sean Burns

### *Original Music*

Zia McCabe  
Sarah Mayfield

### *Music Clearance Rights*

### *Special Thanks to*

Andrew Altschul  
Lyle Altschul  
Zia McCabe  
Travis Hendricks  
Matilda McCabe  
Brent DeBoer  
Courtney Taylor-Taylor  
Pete Holstrom  
Lee Cohen  
Brush Prairie  
Suad Abur'Rafi  
Moses Boone  
Peter Boone  
Claudia Al-Amin  
Adrian Adel  
Kristin Hersh  
Billy O'Connell  
Ryder O'Connell  
Wyatt O'Connell

# Rock N Roll Mamas

Full Credits, *continued*



Bodhi O'Connell  
50 Foot Wave (Bernard  
Georges and Rob Ahlers)  
Jim Brundberg  
Mississippi Studios  
Crocodile Cafe  
Ann Powers  
Evelyn McDonnell  
Corin Tucker  
Fern Cappella  
Sage Leigh  
Lisa Miller  
Michael Kinney  
Ian Miller  
Siren Nation Festival  
Holocene  
Ariel Gore  
Placenta

## *Thanks To*

Carol Weissman  
Sy Weissman  
Phyllis Weissman  
Vikki Mee  
Shel West  
Matt Stippich  
Eugene Fine  
Chris Volinsky  
Barry Sacker  
David Sacker  
Perry Goldberg  
Ana Amman  
Dan Weissman  
Jay Balzer  
Kelly Rudnicki  
John Dunne  
Greg Snider  
Blakesly Clapp

Courtney Hermann  
Beth Harrington  
Allison Anders  
Doug Whyte  
Dawn Smallman  
Sarah Marcus  
Reed Harkness  
David Sacker  
Matt Stippich  
Chris Volinsky  
Eugene Fein  
Jen Van Meter  
Ann and Tom Zelenka  
NW Documentary Center  
The Documentary Group  
Janet McIntyre  
Kelly Morris  
Anna Sachse  
Steve Sharp  
Lori Gomez  
Marie Sablan  
The Hollywood Theater  
Janet Funk  
Fontaine Robertson  
Lainie Ettinger  
Mish Harrington  
Johnny Levenson  
Exprima Media  
Nathan Cherrington  
Kirk Kristlibas  
Corey Pressman  
Andrea Leoncavallo  
Babble.com  
Jenifer Prediger  
Jeff Cosloy  
Brandon Roberts