

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

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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.



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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.

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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*."



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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



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



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

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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, 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



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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

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),

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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



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

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

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

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Jackie Weissman

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Emily von Gilbert

Assistant Editor

Krissy Wesseloh

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Maria Martin
Emmanuel Sari

Animation

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Sean Burns

Original Music

Zia McCabe
Sarah Mayfield

Music Clearance Rights

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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

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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
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Jen Van Meter
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Mish Harrington
Johnny Levenson
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Nathan Cherrington
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