

# The ELVIS Project

*a Yukon road documentary*



*First Film by Adam Green and Bill Kendrick*

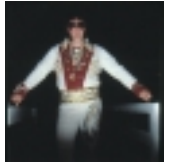
[www.theelvisproject.com](http://www.theelvisproject.com)

## "A MADCAP ROAD FILM"

*David Curtis Director The Dawson City International Short Film Festival*

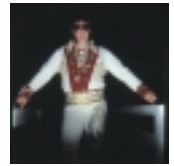


INDIE ROAD FICS PRESENTS A BLUEISH GREEN PRODUCTION DIRECTED BY ADAM GREEN AND BILL KENDRICK  
FEATURING MUSIC BY MATTHEW LIEN ANNE LOUISE GENEST MANFRED JANSSEN DONKEYSMELL  
THE MOIR BROTHERS FISHEAD STEW GORDIE TENTREES WAYNE OMAHA CHARLIE ROSE AND AYLIE SPARKES



## **Synopsis:**

An encounter with a U.F.O. begins one man's journey to become accepted as Elvis Aaron Presley - the man he became. Set in Canada's majestic Yukon Territory, we follow the King, his band The Armageddon Angels, and a rag-tag crew on a tour of some colourful Yukon communities. Along the way, Elvis tells us about his battles with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Hustler Magazine.



## About The Movie:

*The Elvis Project* – a Yukon road documentary, is a 45-min Yukon made documentary about one man’s journey to become accepted as the man he has become – Elvis A. Presley. The movie features Yukon’s own Elvis Presley from Tagish, and exposes some of the trials and tribulations of his life in a refreshing, non-linear, multi-media storytelling style. The film takes the viewer on a tour with Elvis and seventeen others to the Yukon communities of Ross River, Mayo, Dawson City, Carmacks, and Whitehorse. In each place, Elvis and his band “the Armageddon Angels” play to a packed house. Elvis also greets visiting tourists and tells us more about himself, including his legal battles with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Hustler Magazine, and his values and belief in Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) and aliens.

The movie is available in its original MiniDV format, and other formats including VHS, DVD, and Betacam SP. It is in colour except for approximately two minutes, during the movie’s opening black and white scenes, when Elvis is describing his U.F.O. and alien experiences outside Carcross at minus-thirty degrees celsius,

*The Elvis Project* was made over a period of a couple of years and involved the combined effort of many Yukoners. Whether it be the folks that either organized or attended the performances, the seventeen dedicated people who took time off work to travel with the production, or the directors of the film that sorted through more than fifty hours of raw footage to come up with the finished product, it was truly a “Yukon” effort. The result is all about Yukon art, music, people, places, and spirit.

More about *The Elvis Project*:

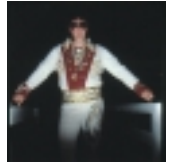
[It’s] a madcap road film/ biopic/ rockumentary shot in brilliant *Yukonvision*... that gleans the characters and misfits who define the cultural goldfields (and pits) of Canada’s hinterland. The first, of hopefully many, in the newly-created genre of “arctic” cult filmmaking.

An awesomely quirky cultural mélange of one-part biography, one-part road film, one-part rockumentary topped with a dash of madness, shaken, stirred, and poured over the screen in brilliant *Yukonvision* that will delight everyone who’s ever dreamt of living on the fringe.

- David Curtis, director, Dawson City International Short Film Festival (2003)

### **Golden Ousik - Peoples Choice Award**

- Anchorage International Film Festival 2003



## The Driving Forces Behind *The Elvis Project*:



### **Adam Green - producer - co-director**

Adam Green grew up and still resides in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Canada. His coordination of *The Elvis Project* is a culmination of his many talents. As an artist, musician, and owner of a graphic design and silk-screening business, Adam easily transferred his many skills to the production of *The Elvis Project* – his first film project. He also picked up a video camera on the Elvis tour and dedicated many hours in post-production to the editing of the Project.

A student of art some years ago at the Victoria College of Art in British Columbia, Adam continues to excel at creative endeavours. Adam's easy-going attitude has, in the past, enabled him to effectively teach several students the art of mural painting on walls of businesses around Whitehorse. With a steady hand on the steering wheel, Mr. Green managed a wide range of tasks and brought together a varied group of individuals to complete *The Elvis Project*.

When he is not busy with creative work, Adam enjoys eating moose meat, playing ice hockey, and spending time with his two young children, Keddy and Nolan.

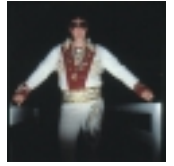


### **Bill Kendrick - co-director**

Bill Kendrick spent his early years in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, before completing a university degree in Montreal and heading up to live in Canada's Yukon Territory. *The Elvis Project* is Mr. Kendrick's first serious foray into movie making, contributing his writing, camera, and editing talents to the project.

In the North, Bill has worked in a variety of settings, including construction, solar energy, and education, as well as generally earning his "Wild Bill" reputation. As a dedicated photographer in high school, the theft of his photos in Central America turned him off the photographic arts – that is, until recently – and in many ways *The Elvis Project* has been the catalyst for his renewed interest in visual mediums.

Bill is very much still part of the Yukon experience, and can typically be found laughing and telling stories in Dawson City or Whitehorse.



## The Driving Forces Behind *The Elvis Project* cont:



### Elvis Presley - featured personality

Elvis A. Presley, of the Yukon Territory, is truly the documentary subject of the Elvis Project. Born Gilbert Nelles to become Elvis A. Presley, Elvis' life-changing UFO experiences have affected him profoundly. A songwriter, artist and a creator of Yukon promotional items, Elvis has both played with Chubby Checker in Las Vegas and built his own cabin in the woods in Tagish, Yukon.

Elvis has released two albums lately, *Elvis Presley Still Living* (1996) and *Elvis Presley Armageddon Angel* (2003). He currently lives in Ross River, Yukon with his partner Jesse.

Elvis also won a pink Cadillac while in Las Vegas.

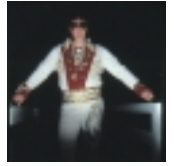


### Charlie Rose - heartbeat of the Armageddon Angels

Charlie Rose is the drummer for the Armageddon Angels, Elvis' touring band, and is featured throughout the Elvis Project. As the dynamic pulse of the Armageddon Angels, Charlie went on the timeless tour through the Yukon Territory and did his best to bring the King into the building on time.

Mr. Rose feels that the northern quadrant is a fine place to learn, grow, and experiment with ideas. According to Charlie, "the buffalo came on a rock. It sat flat on the granite griddle while the gods of sun and rock incubated a *drumming machine*." Charlie Rose then walked away from the rock with the feeling of "boogie woogie" and all that shakes. Since then his life has been swept away with a flurry of bands and shameful road-trips.

Charlie is now in the process of patenting a drum-set that previously lived in the depths of his mind and now sits proudly in his grandmother's living room.



## **Artists Involved:**

Matthew Lien (Featured musician)

This Yukon musician has extensive experience on the world stage and has multiple platinum selling albums world wide.

Anne Louise Genest (Featured musician)

She is a Yukon musician who has played across the country and Alaska. She has one album and is well known on the folk circuit.

Manfred Janssen (Featured musician)

Playing in the Yukon's bar scene for years Manfred has accomplished much in his career world wide. With a new album out, look to see more of Manfred in the near future.

Gordie Tentrees (Featured musician)

In the last few years Gordie has been up and coming in the Yukon's music scene. He is in the studio now cutting a new CD.

The Moir Brothers - Chris and Kevin (Featured musicians/personalities)

Both Kevin and Chris have been in the Yukon their entire lives. From playing music in the bars of Whitehorse they have gone on to play with a virtual who's who of the Yukon's music scene.

Fishead Stew – Rick Sward, Amelia Slaboggen, Matt King, Charlie Rose and Birch Kuch (Featured musicians)  
Travelling from Alaska to Scotland the fisheads are Yukon's working band. They have cut numerous albums and toured extensively locally, nationally and internationally.

Charlie Rose (Featured musician/personality)

Funny and talented Mr. Rose not only has played with numerous bands in the Yukon but internationally as well. He is one of the main characters in the movie and he also plays on the soundtrack.

Aylie Sparkes (Featured musician)

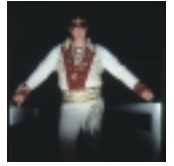
The Yukon's own "deep south blues" guitar player. Aylie has recently made the Yukon home and has enriched the talent pool. He performed background music for The Elvis Project.

Donkeysmell - Mike Anderson, Denis Lacroix, Andrew Zollner (Featured musicians)

Forging their way into the Yukon music scene this vibrant energetic band has in it's young career cut 2 albums and toured locally and nationally. Keep your eyes peeled for this bands unique punk-hillbilly rock, featured in The Elvis Project.

Jim Robb (Featured artist)

Illustrator, painter, editor, it's hard to limit the skills of this well-known Yukon artist. His artwork and magazines "The Colourful Five Percent" are featured in The Elvis Project.



## **Artists Involved cont:**

Jeremiah Percival (Featured animator)

Yukon is the home base for young Jeremiah. It's here he has honed his animation skills, which are featured in the opening scene credits for The Elvis Project.

Wayne Ohmaha (Featured musicians)

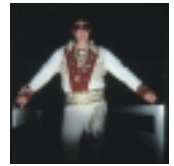
The only featured artists not from the Yukon. They are a working band from Ontario, who traveled to the Yukon and met Elvis in Dawson. After some unforgettable moments they wrote a tune about the king, titled "Tagish Elvis Knows It Ain't Easy", featured in The Elvis Project.

Elvis Presley (Featured musician/painter/personality)

The king has two albums to his credit, an established painter and craftsman. As one of our Colourful Five Percent, this Yukon icon is the focus of this documentary.

Anna Crawford (Featured photographer)

Anna's photographs have been showcased in the Yukon Arts Centre as well as British Columbia. She was the main still photographer in The Elvis Project.



**Press:**

## **Yukon filmmaker lauded in Alaska**

A Whitehorse Star Archive story originally published December 19, 2003

The Elvis Project, a documentary film by Yukon filmmaker Adam Green, has received a prestigious award at the Anchorage Film Festival. The Golden Oosik Award was handed out in the documentary category. The Elvis Project has also been selected for a number of high-profile film festivals in the United States over the next eight months.

“It was a hit,” Green, the film’s producer, said in a statement Thursday.

“The people of Anchorage became caught up in the movie and they were happy to demonstrate their support by honking horns and yelling encouragement from their car windows as we walked down the street. The reaction was much bigger than we expected.”

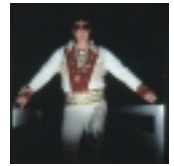
The Yukon-made film documents the life on the road of Tagish Elvis and his band, The Armageddon Angels, as they tour Yukon communities playing for an eclectic and appreciative audience.

The Elvis Project is destined to thrill more American audiences in the months to come when it screens at four high-profile film festivals in the Lower 48.

Confirmed showings for The Elvis Project to date are:

- February 2004, Miami Film Festival;
- March 2004, Los Angeles Film Festival;
- April 2004, New York Independent Film and Video Festival; and
- July 2004, Las Vegas Film Festival.

The Yukon film industry is growing in a number of perspectives. Apart from the many commercials, documentaries and short films made here by Outside producers, locally-made films such as The Elvis Project are gaining deserved attention and accolades from international audiences, the territorial government said in the statement.



**Press cont:**

## **Hunk of burnin' love heats up film festival**

By SUSAN MORGAN  
Anchorage Daily News

(Published: Friday, December 12, 2003)

Elvis, or a Canadian facsimile thereof, will be in the building this week for the Anchorage International Film Festival.

Among 100 films to be shown during the 11 days of the festival, running through Dec. 21 will be "The Elvis Project," a film by producer Adam Green of Whitehorse, Yukon. The documentary revolves around a man who claims to have been visited by aliens in the 1980s.

"(He believes) they gave him the conscious awareness of Elvis Presley," said Green, also the film's co-director. The man who believes he is the King eventually changed his name to Elvis A. Presley and performs wherever he gets the chance -- including on the street.

Not everyone is convinced he's the real deal.

"I think through the movie he shows how he's tried to deal with it. So it has a human rights feel to it," Green said. Green and other Yukoners organized a musical tour with the man and covered 1,400 miles in five days. Local companies got in on the project: a fruit stand donated fruit for the tour, and a friend kicked in moose meat.

The entire project was thrown into question the first night when the guitar player dislocated his finger in a fight. He had it fixed, though, and the 19-member crew plowed on. Green was there, filming all the while.

So, how does Presley sound these days, anyway?

"I'm never sure how to answer that question," Green said. "He's certainly not the Elvis of '77."

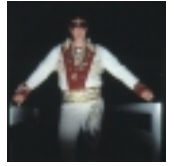
Real deal or no, Elvis will be in Anchorage for several performances, including a gig with Joey Fender & the 55s, and to catch the Alaska premiere of the film, Green said. He might even elaborate on travails mentioned in the movie, including squabbles with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Hustler magazine.

Bringing unusual celluloid glimpses to Anchorage audiences is the goal of festival founder Tony Sheppard, himself an independent filmmaker.

This year, his shout-out to the international film community resulted in 300 entries, down from 2003's 400-plus. Judges selected about one-third of those to be shown at two venues, the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts and the Alaska Experience Theatre, throughout the festival, which began with a preview Thursday. Awards will be given at the annual Golden Oosik ceremony Sunday, Dec. 14.

Other documentaries in contention this year include "Who is Albert Woo?" The film, directed by Hunt Hoe, explores stereotypes assigned to Asian men and asks searching questions such as "Why are Asian men represented as strong, silent, cold and clinical?"

A strong entry in the documentary category is "The Burning Wall." Written and directed by Hava Kohav Beller, the film was described by the Village Voice as "a docu-history on the defunct



## **Press cont:**

German Democratic Republic ... (which) treads the timeline from the perspective of dissidents ... and their harassers at Stasi, the quasi-nation's massive surveillance agency."

Employing methods ranging from historical shots to interviews with those actually depicted, the film provides a horrifying glimpse at man's inhumanity, the building and eventual dismantling of the Berlin Wall and the toll of the battle to bring it down.

The Voice says, "On the surface, Beller's film is an acute primer on midcentury socialist statism gone inevitably screwy, but beneath it, there's something to be gleaned about the psychology of German nationhood." Other categories include Alaska films, short films, super-shorts, features and animation. For filmmaker Green, it's a chance to visit Alaska and show Elvis around a little bit. He said he's "very, very" happy with his first movie.

"I think we have a very interesting, cultlike film," he said. And he doesn't question Elvis' story.

"You know, I like to give that respect to him. He whole-heartedly, 1,000 percent believes in it," Green said of his film's main character. "The whole thing is to tell his story. I'm not there to judge him."

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