

DIRTY OLD  
TOWN

PRESS  
KIT



# THE FILM

is a "going-out-of-business-and-going-insane" tale by young trio Jenner Furst, Daniel B. Levin and Julia Willoughby Nason. In association with Blowback Productions and Executive Producer Marc Levin, this debut feature narrative is emblematic of a new wave in low-budget filmmaking that seeks to redefine the independent landscape.

The project was spun from Levin and Furst's previous documentary

which chronicled the transformation of the Lower East Side through renegade documentarian, artist and activist Clayton Paterson. In addition to Paterson, many of the same characters from "Captured" including Billy Leroy and his famed Antique Tent, form an ensemble cast of self inspired neo-realist players. Much of the film was staged on live corners and locations unbeknownst to the public, arresting a signature spontaneity only found on the streets of Downtown New York.

In this gonzo tone poem, Bowery Billy Leroy has 72 hours to save his star-crossed Junk Store from extinction. Longtime actor and nightlife legend Nicky D steers a cosmic catastrophe into resolution as the half-baked "John Wayne" of Moit Street. There are also first-time acting debuts from

the film's Producer Paul Seigny, the restaurateur and Club Guru, Ashley Graham the young full-bodied super model and Janell Shirtcliff, who plays the film's siren and female lead. The score includes choice musical contributions from established indies like Brian Jonestown Massacre, Elvis Perkins in Dearland, Slowdance and A.R.E. Weapons. Also featuring new songs from singer-songwriters Lorraine Leckie and Chelsea Crowell.

Filmmakers Furst, Levin and Nason used vibrant characters and locations, both real and fictional, to form an eclectic collage, working with available materials and turning film into found art. Executive Producer Marc Levin calls this project "An Absurdist Valentine to a disappearing City".

The team unveiled the work for a select audience of New York City independents and press. In the spirit of underground folklore, Downtown film legend Abel Ferrara presented the screening to an eager crowd of enthusiasts including independent luminary Jim Jarmusch. To date "Dirty Old Town" has premiered internationally and has been released theatrically in New York and Berlin. The film continues to be released around America and throughout the globe.



# CRITICAL ACCLAIM

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"This Movie is Fucking Real."

— Abel Ferrara

## VOICE

"A low Budget Ode to No-Budget NY."

## W

"A vibrant, visceral portrait of the streets of New York at their most sublime."

## NEWYORK PRESS

"When the LES is chock full of high rise condos and Starbucks shops, we will look to films like Dirty Old Town to remind us of what it once was that grew beneath those walls."

## BlackBook

"It's much more street than Mean Streets, and makes Taxi Driver seem like it was shot in Ohio."

## DOSSIER

"A fairy tale set on the Bowery."

"Oddly touching."

— Jim Jarmusch



“Dirty Old Town” has brought together a unique crowd in cities around the world, creating events that transcend the traditional movie-going experience, rallying the local youth culture with music, nightlife and art. Special events have been created in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Paris, London and Berlin.

# THE FILMMAKERS

JENNER  
FURST



Jenner Furst began making narrative films in his early teens. His first feature documentary *Captured* (2008) received international attention for its historical account of Drag, Punk, Heroin and Gentrification in New York's Lower East Side. Soon after the film's release, Furst began collaborating on *Brick City* (2009). His early work helped elevate the vanguard concept and the series went on to garner a Peabody Award, an Emmy Nomination and critical praise around the world. While Co-Producing the second season, he directed his first feature narrative *Dirty Old Town*.

DANIEL  
B. LEVIN



Daniel B. Levin lives and works in New York City. Levin's first feature documentary, *Captured* (2008) has screened worldwide and is being distributed digitally by Cinetic Rights Management. He is the Director of Photography for the second season of the Emmy nominated Sundance Channel docu-series *Brick City*. He has shot films for HBO *Schmatta* (2009) and Sony Music *This Is Jim Jones* (2009). *Dirty Old Town* is Levin's first feature narrative.

JULIA  
WILLOUGHBY  
NASON



Julia Willoughby Nason was raised in lower Manhattan. She began taking black and white photographs at age twelve. Inspired by the nuance and subtlety of fine-art portraiture, she developed intimate relationships with her subjects, building studies in the human condition. In her first feature film *Dirty Old Town*, which she helped author, stage and produce, a signature visual style was created. A collection of her fine-art photographs taken during production will be published in a book and released with the film in 2011.

The Bowery becomes a nexus of shattered dreams when a merchant has 72 hours to pay his rent. Facing extinction, his ramshackle tent of antiquities lures a troop of misfits, freaks and renegades who form a tableaux vivant full of carnival pageantry, white lies and victimless crime in a fleeting glimpse of Downtown New York.



BLOWBACK PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS A FILM BY JENNER FURST DANIEL B LEVIN JULIA WILLOUGHBY NASON  
WILLIAM LEROY NICHOLAS DE CEGLI SCOTTY DILLIN JANEL SHIRTCLIFF ASHLEY GRAHAM PAUL SEVIGNY  
CINEMATOGRAPHY BY DANIEL B LEVIN ART DIRECTOR JULIA WILLOUGHBY NASON EDITED BY JENNER FURST DESIGNER PAUL LAWRENCE  
ORIGINAL SCORE BY PHILIP QUINAZ AND DANIELLE FURST WITH MUSIC FROM A.R.E. WEAPONS LORRAINE LECKIE CO-PRODUCED BY RUDY VALDEZ J.D. McMILLAN  
PRODUCERS MARK BENJAMIN PAUL SEVIGNY CONSULTING PRODUCERS CLAYTON PATTERSON WILLIAM LEROY NICHOLAS DE CEGLI PRODUCED BY STEPHANIE PORTO  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER MARC LEVIN WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY JENNER FURST DANIEL B LEVIN JULIA WILLOUGHBY NASON DIRECTED BY JENNER FURST DANIEL B LEVIN

Photography: Julia Willoughby Nason