

FADE TO STATIC

LISTENING TO THE RADIO



SYNOPSIS

SHORT

FADE TO STATIC is a film about the act of listening to the radio. A mysterious AM radio station beams music and messages to a listening audience. A relationship is formed via invisible bonds and a media stream becomes a soundtrack for life's mundane activities; as a tool to recall memories, dreams, time and space. FADE TO STATIC exposes the unrelenting power of music and the relationships between sounds and the imagination.

LONG

Part ode to broadcasting, part radio play, FADE TO STATIC is about listening to the radio.

Music and messages emanate from a mysterious radio station: CREEPY AM RADIO. Emanating from an unseen void, these sounds form a common thread in the lives of a three people. This film illustrates how the listener may find significance in what is heard, how sounds interact with the mind, using anecdotal and creative story telling as the basis for action. Background din takes on new meaning for the listener in as three central figures filter through noise and find personal discovery; all the while radio broadcast hosts Kathy, Kav, and the Kaptain unleash their on-air personality and magic during their shows and interact with the listener in the vast space of the airwaves. Henry listens in while at work. A familiar song, coupled with the hypnotic vibe of the announcer, transports Henry to another activity; a shadowy bicycle ride to visit a love lost. While at home, Twyla is compelled to respond to a friend speaking on the air. This moment, loaded with infectious music, inspires her to dance! The Savage Severe, an impulsive city street gang is rendered meek when music and messages dominate their den. Fade To Static exposes the unrelenting relationship between sound and the imagination and speaks to the history of the radio broadcast medium, now 100 years old and in a critical phase during its digital age.

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

MUSIC SOOTHES THE SAVAGE BEAST

At the root of this project is my love for music. I am an audiophile and occasional deejay. Sharing and controlling sets of music loaded with meaning has offered a special point of observation. I've learned over the years that music can have an inescapable effect on a listener. Radio (terrestrial, satellite, or web-based) is a unique source of entertainment and became my substitute for television. Rather than watching prime time programming, I'd let sound and the imagination dominate. For me, tuning in is a very active process: collecting information on stations around the world, the place of radio in society, noting playlists and building musical knowledge, locating pirate stations or acknowledging voices from other communities .

EXPERIMENTS

I had acquired a short-range radio transmitter and put it to use. This device was complete with a built-in sound effect generator, an on-board mic, and an obligatory "on the air" light. With some basic engineering, 2 turntables and microphones were connected to the transmitter's preset frequency of AM 1610. A party was held to put this device to the test. Music and announcements were fed from our location to the general public via airwaves. This funtime broadcasting aesthetic was further built upon, surrounding the live broadcast with home stereos, boom boxes, and transistor radios. Fidelity was not the highest priority in this case and took a back seat to the power of communication and revealing what was usually intangible. Those participating were both audience and creator. The reactions were wild and unexpected. Partygoers - astonished that their voice would be heard by anyone "out there" tuning in, were eager to participate. I left that night wanting to harness that excitement, the discovery of something massive hiding in plain sight.

LIVE AND DIRECT

Inspired by my observations at the "radio party", FADE TO STATIC was written. The viewing audience would observe both the listener's reactions and the hidden activity of a radio broadcast. The immediacy of the live broadcast would be altered through methods of cinematic story telling. Radio space can cover the small space of a car and the vastness of the solar system so a sound stage and created sets were used to create an unfamiliar environment and let the presence of sound and the act of listening dominate.

- Tyrone Tanous
Producer / Director
FADE TO STATIC: Listening to the Radio

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CAST & CREW BIOS

Tyrone Tanous:

If obsession is a young man's game, than Tyrone is a young man. Tyrone has been shaped by experiences assisting some broadcast television's more visionary documentary producers. His own projects provide a chance to keep the rhythms of production fresh. For Tyrone, a common source of inspiration is found when examining life's chaotic and serene moments. If pushed, he will tell you he really just wants to make films about music (FILM + MUSIC); two themes to be examined in broad terms.

Travis Trudell:

Travis Trudell earned his Associate of Arts Degree in Film at Rockport College in 2001. After teaching at the Workshops for two summers Travis moved to Massachusetts and started working on local film and television productions. As of 2007 Travis has worked as a set electrician and grip on over ten feature films including the Oscar winning "The Departed" and upcoming films "Underdog", "Gone, Baby Gone", "The Game Plan", "Evening" and "21". He currently lives in Boston with his documentary filmmaker wife Diana.

Handcancel :

Handcancel is a multi-style musician/recordist/artist. He has produced for many successful rap, reggae, & rock artists and is currently working on 2 follow-up albums to his incendiary instrumental opus: "The 48 Beats of Power".

Iann Robinson:

Iann Robinson came to the world of acting and TV quite accidentally. True he made his first splash on television at the tender age of 9 on Sesame Street but it wasn't until he undertook his cable access show Monkey Butt Sex that he got any real recognition. Stemming from his acerbic rants Iann was quickly snatched up by MTV where he spent the years 2000-2003 taking the piss out of celebrities, making fun of pop culture and trying to bring good music to the masses. After MTV Iann briefly worked for Discovery Channel, heading over to Africa to live a tribe and film a pilot. Iann was living quietly in Boston writing comic books for his small press company Isolation Disorder Press and working as a counselor for troubled teens when he was tapped to play a part in Fade To Static. This is Iann's first legitimate acting part (playing a drooling Zombie in the Dawn Of The Dead re-make doesn't really count) and he was proud to be part of it.

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Kevin Ball:

Mr. Ball started his broadcasting radio career in 1977 while in High School, advanced to host a long running college radio show (KSYM 90.1 FM), and later Clear Channel Communications, producing live call-in talk shows, sports programs, recorded and live and sports programs. His television experiences include producing/directing major network programming and is currently developing a sixty-minute documentary entitled the "The Healing Power of Music." and can be heard on a weekend PBS radio show, Host/Producer of The Jazz Gallery (WGBH 89.7FM, 1-6 am). In his spare time, he writes and performs poetry. He co-founded the So-Called Jazz Ensemble and N'Fougou an African based music and dance troupe.

Jam'nastics Inc. Dancers:

Twyla, Deja, & Erika are dancers and instructors with Jam'nastics Inc., a dance company that uses the arts/sports of dance and gymnastics as a vehicle to build community, celebrate diversity, and promote positive change. Their programs offer people of all ages and ability levels the opportunity to learn how physical fitness can help achieve a healthy balance of mind, spirit, and body. Jam'nastics collaborates with many youth and community centers, elementary and high schools, and college organizations to bring quality programming to as many people as possible.

Cathy Cathodic:

When Cathy Cathodic is not starring as your favorite sultry radio personality she keeps herself busy by coming to terms with the modern condition through sonically enterprising rap music. Her rhymes are emotive and resolute, delivering social commentary and self guidance through parables that range from wanton consumer lust, to wanton lust in general. Her soulful voice coupled w/ rhythmic guitar playing and erratic beats create a definite force to be reckoned with.

Jesse Hubbell:

4/5/1979

Aires

Washington D.C. born performer who enjoys late night snacks at Ben's Chili Bowl.

Performs with several Boston bands and a sporadic "juggling act" of a one man show.

Seems to be attracted to projects about bears, and spandex. Has tremendous admiration for the CPDSA.

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CREDITS

FADE TO STATIC LISTENING TO THE RADIO

Featuring:

Cathy Cathodic	Kathy Kavalier
Pape Loum	Henry
Collin Knight	Young Henry
Jasmine Laietmark	Henry's Friend
Twyla Everett	Twyla
Jesse Hubbell	Kav Mc Daniels Daniels
Iann Robinson	Dr. Lowhigh
Kevin Ball	Kpt. Kavalier

The Jamnastics Dancers:

Twyla Everett, Deja Applewhaite & Erika Agard

The Savage Severe:

Gabriela Aguilar, Seth Davis, Mac Carroll, Ross Kelly, Katya Gorker, Andrew Leonard, Sasha Hodges, Kenneth Avery, Peter Toatley

Voices on the air:

Angela Aiello, Tyrone Tanous, MC Hazadus, Erika Agard, Sam Sacks, Pape Loum, Oscar Escartin, DJ On & On, MJ Donoghue, Handcancel

Written Produced & Directed by
Director of Photography
Art Director
Sound Design
First Assistant Director
Editor & Animation

Tyrone Tanous
Travis Trudell
Peter Toatley
Handcancel
Mark Sacco
Reuter

2nd Camera Operators
Dru Dunnaway

Sam Sacks

Angela Aiello

Production Sound Mix

Christopher Nesti

Final Sound Mix

Frank Perez

Boom Operator

Handcancel

Grips

Oscar Escartin
Ethan Hedblom
Megan Valentine

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Electrics Phil Nason
Dru Dunnaway

Dolly Grip Mark Sacco

Production Assistant Lani Smith

Choreography Coordinator Angelique Smith

Still Photographer Maria LaCreta

"Improvalone"
Produced and Performed by
FELIX FANTASIA & Dm FIELDS

"Mariah"
Produced and Performed by
RUDE AWAKENING SOUND feat. SILVADUSS

"The March!"
Produced by
HANDCANCEL

"Beadbeat"
Produced by
HANDCANCEL

"Twyla's Steps"
Produced by
HANDCANCEL

"Nickleplated"
Produced by
Dm FIELDS

"Scanning"
Produced by
Dm FIELDS

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Amy Thompson, Jim Boyd, Mike Tomei

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PRODUCTION NOTES

THE START OF SOMETHING GREAT

One of the most defining and frightening moments surrounding this project was when set construction began in the winter of 2006. For me, this meant the project was becoming a reality and there was no turning back...and that a flatbed load of lumber was being delivered to my residence. All set elements would be built in a spare room in my rented Boston split duplex. Peter Toatley and I ran circular saws at midnight and dipped paint brushes at dawn to meet our tight deadline.

Eventually we built ourselves out of house and home and had to store the finished wall panels curbside, under wraps, and hope an impending snow storm left the materials unscathed. Our timing was perfect and we held our schedule right up to the studio load-in.

Once the sets were revealed in full form, I couldn't help but overhear gears turning in the minds of the cast and crew. Kevin Ball, an actual PBS radio personality, noted the station set resembled his actual on-air booth. I personally could not have been more pleased with the creative details embedded in this project.

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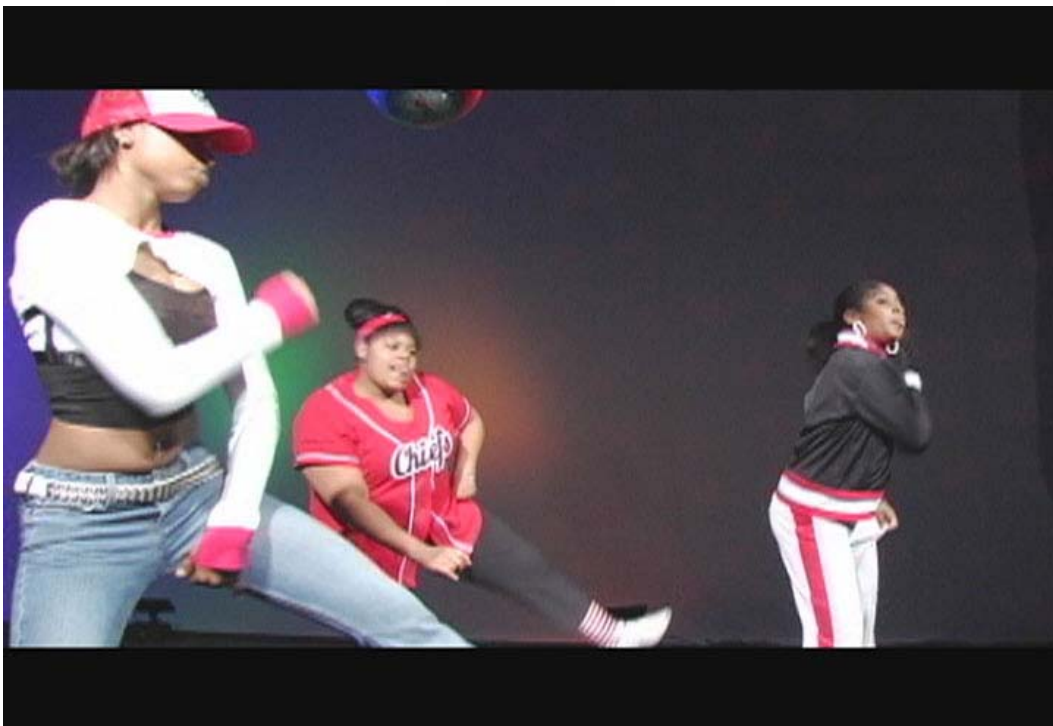
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