



'RUDELY INTERRUPTED' - PUBLICITY MATERIALS

F (I)- DETAILED SYNOPSIS:

"Every artist has a selling point, from Pete Doherty (smackhead) to 50 Cent (bullet-proof) and even Train (blandness). What separates Rudely Interrupted from the William Hung's of this world is that their shtick does not outweigh their abilities as artists. Melbourne's Rudely Interrupted, a band whose members suffer from a range of intellectual disabilities, play a brand of Killers-esque pop so catchy that you quickly leave your preconceptions at the door. You may also start to question your own potential in life."

- *Lost at E Minor review*

For Melbourne Indie Rock act *Rudely Interrupted*, years of hard work are about to pay off. The six piece have cracked a world first - they've been invited to play at the United Nations in New York for International Disability day. Many of the band members have never been out of state before let alone overseas, performing in front of some of the world's biggest luminaries.

To make rock 'n' roll history the band must now raise tens of thousands of dollars to cover accommodation, and flights to gig the band in 5 cities on 2 continents – New York, Chicago, London, Bristol and Manchester.

Touring is challenging for any band, living in each other's pockets, late nights, early mornings, cramped living conditions, and the pressure to perform. But Rudely's six members have challenges few other bands have had to contend with. Five of the six have a range of intellectual and physical disabilities (Blindness, Deafness, Aspergers, Autism and Down Syndrome).

But these disabilities aren't the focus, for their devoted fans in their hometown of Melbourne; it has always been about the music. Since their beginnings with band manager Rohan Brooks two years ago, Rudely Interrupted have been winning over audiences with their infectious indie pop rock.

Rudely Interrupted is a one hour documentary following this band's journey from the pub stages of Melbourne all the way to the stage of the UN in New York and their European tour beyond.

As well as the usual challenges every band faces while on the road, this documentary will delve into the lives of each of its members. Their disabilities though obviously a part of the story will take a backseat to the coverage of the tour and the dynamics of this unique group of people.

"We are here to show people what we can do and just because we have a disability doesn't mean we can't ROCK," says Rory. "We write our own music about our own experiences. We use our weaknesses as our strengths."



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F (ii)- DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

This documentary is all about 6 unique characters, their music and the amazing journey they are about to undertake. The mental and physical challenges this band face are an integral aspect of this story, they are not however the focus. Rudely Interrupted's members are intrinsically funny people with an infectious love of performing – our goal is purely to capture that, as they take the biggest journey of their lives.

As well as the usual challenges every band faces while on the road, this documentary will delve into the lives of each of its members, the challenges their disabilities present and how their band and this opportunity enhances their lives. We do not want to preach, patronize or sugarcoat. While this story is inherently life affirming, that's not the goal of this documentary – forget warm piano scores, and uplifting production music. This is a road trip about a bunch of rock stars. It's a glimpse at the lives of an extraordinary bunch of people going on adventure that will change their lives forever.



F (V)- 'MAKING OF" THE PROGRAM:

Production on Rudely Interrupted began in late 2008. Having heard of Rudely Interrupted through a mutual friend, Benjamin and Susie immediately fell in love with their music and story. With time working against them, they pitched the idea of a feature documentary following the world tour to Greg Quail at Quail TV. Given the brief window between pitching the idea and the band's first gig in New York, there was no time to secure a pre-sale, so with great faith in the story and the team, Greg Quail funded the trip.

Susie spent the months prior to the tour travelling to Melbourne to capture the fund raising gigs, photo shoots, rehearsals and logistics of getting a trip like this under way. Benjamin quit his full time job and joined production just in time for the final rehearsals before take off in November 2008. Veteran DOP John Whitteron (Whitto) completed the production team for the 3 week tour, and together as one big motley crew, (six band members, five carers and four crew) flew to New York City. For many of the band members this was their first trip out of Australia, and excitement levels were high.

The crew hit the ground running in New York City, with a packed agenda, they were keen to film every moment of the band's big adventure. To ensure unrestricted coverage of the tour, everyone stayed together in one giant room in a backpackers in Brooklyn. Though this meant personal space was limited, it allowed the crew 24-7 access to the band and tight friendships formed quickly.

Keen not to engineer stories, Susie and Benjamin let the action play out and captured it without altering the course. The tour went smoothly until six days in when the tour manager, Caroline Tully was fetching the band dinner after a long day. Crossing the road Caroline was hit by a car and seriously injured. To further complicate matters, much of the film crew's equipment was in the van that Caroline had just left. While an ambulance was racing Caroline to hospital, the van was broken into, and 75% of the crew's equipment was stolen (along with one of the carer's passports). With only one camera left to capture the action, the crew had to hire new equipment in every city after that. To complete the New York leg chaos, the lead singer's father (on the tour as a carer and sound engineer) had to abandon the tour to care for a sick friend.

So, two key members of the party down, and much tears and laughter later, the group rolled on to Canada and the United Kingdom to complete a successful tour.



F (VI)- PROGRAM MAKERS PERSONAL STATEMENT:

Susie's personal statement

Meeting the band Rudely Interrupted and making the documentary was an amazing and ultimately life changing experience. My brother Ben and I had always wanted to make a project together and I knew that the company I was working for at the time, Quail TV were looking for more projects. In July of 2008 my brother told me about the band after a friend had mentioned it to him. We both loved the music and thought that a documentary about their trip to New York would make a great film. I quickly got in touch with the band managers, Rohan and Ian and pitched the idea to them only to discover a few people were interested in making the project. I gently pushed until they agreed to let me come to Melbourne and spend a day filming with them and from there the project began. My first day of filming was memorable; the band members are all fascinating and endlessly entertaining people who welcomed me instantly. My first mistake however was taking a lunch break that went half an hour longer than I had told Rory it would and upon my return he berated me for being late. It was a small indication of the challenges the band face every day and a glimpse into the world we were about to become a part of.

We asked John Whitteron, a fantastic camera man if he would come on the tour, warning him that we would be roughing it in backpackers and budget accommodation. Whitto as he is known had just come off shooting second camera on Baz Luhrmann's 'Australia', so we were pretty excited to have such a talent on board. Whitto fell in love with the band members, even though on the first day keyboardist Marcus announced 'I'm going to call Whitto buddha, because of his big belly and sticky outy ears'. Given there are two members of the band with Aspergers, these sort of socially inappropriate comments were rife and often extremely funny in their unflinching honesty.

My brother Ben quit his full time job as a promo producer at Foxtel to join the production and in all honesty I was worried about how we'd go working together. We are extremely close, but we do tend to fight and not only were we going to be together 24-7 filming together, for budgetary reasons we had to share a room. Miraculously we didn't have one fight the entire trip, probably only because we were too busy. The trip was hectic, to say the least - trying to follow six individuals and not miss crucial moments meant we were 'on' all the time. It was also hard to remain separate from the band as they were so embracing and my favourite moment in the documentary is where our sound appears in a bizarre conversation with Rory.

About six nights into the trip, with everything going smoothly, we decided we could have one night off, so Ben, myself and Rohan went to meet some friends for dinner in Manhattan. This was the night Caroline was hit by a car. I was torn between my concern for Caroline and my need to capture the drama that



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ensued. This became even harder to do when we returned to the hostel only to learn the cameras were in a car, somewhere on the streets of Brooklyn. When we did find the car the next day there was a brief moment of joy before I saw the smashed window and you can actually hear me as the camera approaches the car going 'shit'... as my stomach sank. I spent the rest of the day sitting in the back of a police car and waiting at a police station in Brooklyn. That would've made an interesting documentary in itself.

The rest of the tour was smooth sailing and every day was exhausting, but amazing at the same time. Not one day passed where we hadn't all laughed like we had never laughed before and our affection for the band members grew and grew. Seeing the effect the band had on people as they toured was incredible. They are infectious and every where they played people lit up.

Like many people contemplating having kids one day, I've wondered what would happen, should I have a child with a disability. After working with the 6 members of Rudely Interrupted, I have a different perspective on disability, it's not as foreign, nor terrifying and far from the band members being just documentary subjects I consider them my close friends. We do keep in regular contact and I love any chance I get to see them. My biggest hope for this documentary is that it touches people in the way that the band touched me. I hope through the way we've treated the subject matter, that disability will be a little less foreign and not such an issue. I think the more exposure disability is given in a non-sanitised, un-edited fashion, the more it will become less of an issue.



F (VII)- TALENT BIOGRAPHIES:

Rudely Interrupted is one of Australia's truly unique independent rock acts. Based in Melbourne, 5 out of the 6 members share a range of both physical and intellectual disabilities (blindness, deafness, Aspergers, autism and Down Syndrome) but most importantly, a common interest in self expression through music. "We're here to challenge people's thoughts on disability," says Rory Burnside the band's lead singer who was born without eyes and has Aspergers.

"Don't Break My Heart," was their first song and video – the inspiration for which came from a conversation between Rohan (who founded the band) and Rory over a universal question: "Can you die from a broken heart?"

The band's achievements are extraordinary. The Rudies have enthralled worldwide audiences with infectious pop since their first live performance at the East Brunswick Club in May 2007. They've toured Australia's Laneway Music festival, played alongside artists including Feist and Clap Your Hands Say Yeah, and WOWED audiences the world over.

In December 2008, Rudely Interrupted became the world's first indie-band to perform at the United Nations in New York when they played to celebrate International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Performances followed in New York City (Fontana's), Brooklyn (Public Assembly), Toronto (Sneaky Dees), London (The Fly), Bristol (Start The Bus) and Manchester.

The band has a bright future. In October 2009, Rudely Interrupted will mount an Australia-wide tour to promote their debut album **"Tragedy of the Commons,"** and film **"Rudely Interrupted"** – a rockumentary that follows the band from the pubs and clubs of Melbourne to the United Nations and beyond.

In 2010, Rudely Interrupted return to the States to perform at the prestigious VSA arts festival at Washington D.C.'s Kennedy Center.



Rudely Interrupted

THE BAND MEMBERS:

Josh Hogan: (22) Drummer

Josh was born with a rare chromosomal disorder and many physical disabilities, though not officially diagnosed he is believed to be autistic. Although he has only played the drums for 3 years Josh has an amazing ability on the drum kit despite the difficulty he has in holding the sticks properly. He has his way of performing some very complex rhythms with total feel and Josh really carries the band in a live situation. Although at first he can seem quiet, if you take the time to listen, Josh has a lot to say and loves the attention the band brings him. During the time Rudely Interrupted has been together, Josh has become more out spoken and confident.

Josh has a great love of music and his CD collection reveals an eclectic taste, ranging from ACDC to John Denver and everything in between.

Sam Beke (24) Bass player/Entertainer.

An incredible show off all of his life, Sam was born with Downs Syndrome. Sam has been in the band from the beginning for one simple reason; he's a rock star. Band manager Rohan Brooks likens Sam to Sid Vicious, 'He's not the greatest bass player in the world, but he's definitely a showman'. Sam's favourite band is Kiss and insisted on a new coffin shaped guitar case to take on the world tour.

Sam can be hard to understand at first, but once you do people quickly realise that he has a fantastic sense of humour and is always playing for laughs. On one tour he told everyone it was his birthday so they'd buy him drinks, it worked, everyone believed him and Sam had a great free night of booze. Sam's ultimate dream is to one day fly onto stage through smoke and flames. Rohan has promised that one day this dream will be realised.

Constance Kirkpatrick: (46) Tamborine

Connie, as she is affectionately known was born with Downs Syndrome and is legally blind. Despite being the eldest in the band, Connie is undoubtedly the liveliest, shaking her tambourine like her life depends on it. Her impeccable ability for timing and to pick up on the beat is amazing. She more than holds her own on the stage. Connie lives with her sister and her family, after both her parents passed away x years ago.

Connie loves being the only girl in the band and is sometimes a bit of a diva.



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Rory Burnside: (22) Vocalist, guitars, keys/piano and harp.

Rory was born without eyeballs and was later discovered to have Aspergers syndrome.

Rory's lack of sight has heightened his other senses, and as a result has absolute pitch and is a real laugh when you get to know him. His musical talent is amazing, from Beatles songs to Bob Dylan songs as well as Rudely Interrupted songs. He was born in San Francisco and moved to Australia when he was 10 years old. His earliest musical memory is at the Golden Gate Amusement Park where the carousel played a tune in F#. This is Rory's favourite key to sing in.

Rory is interviewed regularly. He's main criteria is punctuality! He can get very upset and annoyed if journalists keep him waiting. Once he refused to do a telephone interview because the journalist called in late – very Rock 'n' Roll! He is obsessed with colours and is very articulate. Rory finds even smallest changes in the itinerary challenging, and this can be hard on the other band members, especially on the road when schedules can quickly fall behind. Rory's father says he's the only guy he knows who's behaviour has improved as the result of joining a band.

Marcus Stone: Marcus Stone: (30) Synths/Keys

Like Rory, Marcus has Aspergers syndrome. He is also legally deaf. Marcus has been playing for years, although Rudely Interrupted is his first band. As well as the band, Marcus has an active social life with a tight group of friends. He works as a gardener at a supported employment service in Melbourne and loves any opportunity he gets to drive his car.

Marcus has his own garage band, but they can't decide on a name as yet! He can talk for hours on subjects of interests, in particular he loves the specifications of engines especially big V8's and mobile phone functions. He is very well mannered and although in a committed relationship, one of his favourite perks of being in a band is the chance to flirt with an array of 'lovely ladies'. Marcus lost his home in the 2009 Black Saturday bush fires, but fortunately his family all managed to escape the flames unharmed.

Rohan Brooks: (39)

As well as managing the band, Rohan also plays guitar and sings backing vocals. Rohan has enjoyed a music career for the past 18 years. He has released records and toured Australia many times over as well as touring the USA in 2004 with JET, The Killers and The Presidents Of The United States with his own band "The Everyones" He formed Rudely interrupted in 2006.

Rohan is very passionate about helping people express creativity and this has also led him to being awarded "Disability worker of the year in 2007" He has been involved in the disability sector for the past 8 years and in this time has held many musical performance/therapy sessions for musicians with a disadvantage or difference in life.



F (VIII)- CREW BIOGRAPHIES:

Susie Jones: Producer/Director

After completing a Film and Television degree at QUT Susie spent two years in London where she worked in the BBC's Comedy Department on a raft of shows in different capacities. During this time she was fortunate enough to work at the Edinburgh Festival, meet several of her comedy idols and even managed to lose Jennifer Saunders' passport. In Sydney since 2003, she has worked on various entertainment and observational reality programs at SBS, ABC, Fremantle, Freehand, Southern Star, Becker Entertainment and Quail TV. Susie is currently producing at Channel 7 but hopes to work on another project with her brother in the near future. *'Meeting the members of Rudely Interrupted and making their documentary was undoubtedly the best professional experience I've ever had, on a personal level it has changed my outlook and I've gained a group of wonderful new friends'*. Rudely Interrupted is Susie's first long form documentary project and she hopes there will be many many more both in documentary and comedy.

Benjamin Jones: Producer/Director/editor

Having finished a degree in psychology, but only half of one in film and television, Benjamin decided it was time to leave the classroom and get some real life TV experience. A move to Sydney ten years ago proved fruitful, and Benjamin has spent the last decade producing movie trailers, music promos and working on channel launches for companies ranging from Channel Nine, to the Country Music Channel. Benjamin and Susie had always discussed producing together at some stage, and *Rudely Interrupted* proved to be the perfect vehicle to test-drive their working relationship. *'I was convinced that Susie and I would have a power struggle, and try and murder each other on the road, but that couldn't have been further from what happened.'* With a tighter than tight budget, and non-stop agenda to cover, there was no time for sibling rivalry to hold up production. In fact, Susie's years of experience producing observational documentaries complemented Benjamin's background in music, and movie trailer post producing perfectly, and a great balance was achieved. *'Working with Rudely Interrupted was a truly life changing experience, it was challenging, confronting, and endlessly rewarding all at the same time.'* Susie and Benjamin have just started a company called 'Sibling Rivalry Productions' and look forward to their next big project.



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John Whitteron - Cinematographer

A Cinematographer for more years than he cares to remember John has worked on a large variety of film and video projects ranging from documentaries such as "Mabo. Story of an Island Man", short films such as Tracy Moffats' "Night Cries" and features such as Baz Luhrmans' "Australia". He has worked for all the local TV networks as well as Discovery, National Geographic, Channel 4 (UK) and many others. A fan of Observational Documentary, shooting "Rudely Interrupted" provided the thrill of what story may be waiting at the end of the next freeway off ramp. "Working with Susie and Ben was a lot of fun and the infectious enthusiasm of the band made it a great doco to work on. It was great to see punters turn up to gigs through some form of solidarity for the disabled and leave as hard core "Rudely" fans."



Rudely Interrupted

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Rudely Interrupted

CREDIT LIST:

(START OF MOVIE CREDITS):

gregory quail presents

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a susie jones and benjamin jones film

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in association with Australian Broadcasting Corporation

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In association with Screen Australia

(END OF MOVIE CREDITS):

directed and produced by

Susie jones and Benjamin jones

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Rudely Interrupted

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john whitteron

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Jon barrie

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donny tam

chris syner

Patrick slater

Chris izzard

Travis wood

Ben banks

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group production manager

sky di pietro

online and colour grade

jake simmonds

tracklay and mix

nathan johnson @ spenson sound

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all music written and produced by

Rudely Interrupted

Publicist

ian woolverton



Rudely Interrupted

Management
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with thanks
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Andrew howie
Caroline tully
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The band members
and their families

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to support the band

rudelyinterrupted.com

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(QUAIL TELEVISION MOVING LOGO)