

DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE AMERICAN DREAM?

NOT YOUR TYPICAL BIGFOOT MOVIE



CONTACT:

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Running Time
62 minutes

USA 2008

Directed & Produced by
Jay Delaney

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BRIEF SYNOPSIS

NOT YOUR TYPICAL BIGFOOT MOVIE provides a look at the trials and triumphs of life in the Appalachian foot hills. Through the experiences of Dallas and Wayne, two amateur Bigfoot researchers in southern Ohio, we see how the power of a dream can bring two men together in friendship and provide hope and meaning that transcend the harsh realities of life in a dying steel town.

COMMENTARY

NOT YOUR TYPICAL BIGFOOT MOVIE tells the story of a quest for the American dream. It shines a light on the complex struggles facing American working-class people in an area where work has vanished. While many audience members may not relate directly to Dallas and Wayne's standard of life, nearly all audiences can relate to the universal questions the story explores.

The light moments early in the film exploring Dallas and Wayne's research methods transform into thoughtful reflection as the filmmaker probes more deeply into the experiences that have shaped Dallas and Wayne. The film becomes not just the story of two friends seeking to prove to the world that Bigfoot exists, but also their deep need to perpetuate their own faith in Bigfoot's existence. Without this hope they place in achieving their own form of the American dream, life's hardships would be nearly unbearable.

As we see Dallas and Wayne carry out their search for Bigfoot and go about living day-to-day life, we realize that these men have had few breaks, and try as they may, the odds of achieving social or financial success are greatly stacked against them. While not everyone has the same opportunities in life, the film explores the sense of responsibility many Americans feel to give it their all in this life and create opportunities for themselves – whatever their circumstances.

Recent headlines decry the growing gap between rich and poor in America, and the U.S. presidential campaign has focused the nation's attention on the plight of the working poor. NOT YOUR TYPICAL BIGFOOT MOVIE gives us a glimpse into the daily lives and real-world hardships of the people who are fast becoming the latest ideological battleground.



EXPANDED SYNOPSIS

In NOT YOUR TYPICAL BIGFOOT MOVIE, filmmaker Jay Delaney provides a look at the trials and triumphs of life in the Appalachian foot hills. Through the experiences of two amateur Bigfoot researchers in southern Ohio, we see how the power of a dream can bring two men together in friendship and provide hope and meaning that transcend the harsh realities of life in a dying steel town.

Dallas Gilbert and Wayne Burton are out to convince the world that Bigfoot exists. They have amassed a vast library of video footage and still photographs after years of venturing into the woods and forests surrounding Portsmouth, Ohio, to conduct their Bigfoot research. They hope this material will prove the creature's existence – and catapult them to fame and wealth. Their appearance on the front page of a 1999 issue of the *Portsmouth Daily Times* served to spread the word throughout southern Ohio, but many skeptics remain.

After years of failed attempts to attract national attention to their work, Dallas convinces a high-profile Bigfoot researcher from California to make a stop in Portsmouth to see his and Wayne's research locations during a national Bigfoot tour. But a misstep by Wayne on an Internet radio talk show throws the future of their research – and the strength of their friendship – in doubt.

The California research team eventually shows up in Portsmouth, but the ensuing events leave Dallas and Wayne downtrodden. In the aftermath, the two learn more about themselves, their friendship and the fragile hope that sustains the American dream.



THE MAKING OF THE FILM

Since filmmaker Jay Delaney first heard of Dallas Gilbert in 2000, he has been consumed with telling this story. He discovered Dallas when a friend passed along a business card that read “Dallas Gilbert, Bigfoot Researcher.” Delaney was taking an undergraduate honors course on the films of Frederick Wiseman and felt inspired to investigate Dallas’s life further. He arranged to meet with Dallas and his research partner, Wayne Burton, and discovered a fascinating and compelling story.

Delaney recruited a few friends to make up his crew and then interviewed Dallas and Wayne on camera using the equipment available to him – a family camcorder. Although the production value was poor, the story captured in Delaney’s 20-minute black and white film haunted him. Delaney says, “To me, Dallas and Wayne represent a new interpretation of the ‘American dream.’ They are simultaneously resilient and fragile guys. Where others have simply given up, Dallas and Wayne have defined themselves as Bigfoot researchers to create a sense of purpose in the midst of the economic struggles they face in an impoverished Appalachian community. They find meaning for themselves in their research, their family lives, and their friendship.”

A few years passed before Delaney again contacted Dallas to learn about their latest research. He also presented the idea to both Dallas and Wayne of making a more extensive film. Delaney wanted to approach the film with a grassroots philosophy in order to achieve an honest, raw quality to the film and to allow the story to evolve naturally.

In late October 2005, Delaney and his crew began filming. They spent many hours with Dallas and Wayne in their homes and at their research locations – Shawnee State Forest and Wayne National Forest – all in the Appalachian foot hills of southern Ohio. They also traveled to the Chattahoochee Bigfoot Conference in Tennessee. After 5 months, filming was completed in February 2006.

The story came together during post-production. Delaney served as Editor and transcribed 55 of the 60 hours of footage. Ohio musicians watched a cut of the film and agreed to provide music for it. Delaney also showed a cut to a post-production sound school in Orlando, Florida, and they agreed to handle the final sound mix for the film.

The majority of the film was completed in late 2007 with a few final touches made in early 2008. Delaney says, “This film has been a true labor of love, and I sincerely hope you find the same magic in Dallas and Wayne’s story that I’ve found.”



DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE AMERICAN DREAM?

JAY DELANEY • DIRECTOR/PRODUCER/EDITOR

NOT YOUR TYPICAL BIGFOOT MOVIE is Jay Delaney's first feature-length documentary. The film holds special significance to him because of its setting in his hometown in the Appalachian foot hills of southern Ohio. In 2000, Delaney directed AMERICAN DREAM, a short documentary about the same subjects and had long desired to revisit their story in greater depth.

Delaney's longstanding commitment to community development informs his approach to filmmaking. Through filmmaking, he explores his interest in the interconnectedness of existence and the ways people carve out meaning in their lives, whether through religion, relationships, career, family, or obsessions. He has a desire to shine a light on the underdogs and everyday people among us who might otherwise be overlooked and whose stories might otherwise go untold.

Delaney is a native of Lucasville, Ohio. Aside from his work for nonprofits and political campaigns, he has worked on numerous productions, including THE NEW BOZENA, directed by Rainn Wilson. Delaney's short film, THE DAY THE WORLD SAVED SHANE SAWYER, premiered at the 2006 Sarasota Film Festival. Most recently, he produced HOPE FOR A THORN, a narrative feature shot in 21 days in Orlando, Florida. Delaney currently attends Stetson University's College of Law in St. Petersburg, Florida, and plans to begin work on his next film soon.

JEFF MONTAVON • EXECUTIVE PRODUCER/PRODUCTION SOUND MIXER

Jeff Montavon's film experience encompasses videography, sound engineering, and editing. He works primarily with nonprofit organizations, including Habitat for Humanity and Ohio Envirothon. His acting and production background includes THE DAY THE WORLD SAVED SHANE SAWYER, AMERICAN COMEBACK, COW HUNTING, and AMERICAN MORNING.

Montavon is a native of Otway, Ohio. His work as an environmental educator has been recognized statewide. Most recently, he shot and edited two music videos: CLEFT FOOT by the Terribly Empty Pockets and A LONESOME OHIO by The Coffee Review Board.

SHANE ALLEN DAVIS • CINEMATOGRAPHER

Shane Allen Davis describes himself as a would-be artist, musician, actor, and writer. Aside from his artistic endeavors, he also has a passion for progressive politics. Davis's acting and production background includes THE DAY THE WORLD SAVED SHANE SAWYER, AMERICAN MORNING, AMERICAN DREAM, and PALS.

Davis is a native of Lucasville, Ohio. Most recently, he has directed two music videos by Ohio musicians: CLEFT FOOT by the Terribly Empty Pockets and A LONESOME OHIO by The Coffee Review Board. Davis currently resides in Columbus, Ohio.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE AMERICAN DREAM?

CREDITS

Director/Producer	JAY DELANEY
Executive Producer	JEFF MONTAVON
Cinematographer	SHANE ALLEN DAVIS
Production Sound Mixer	JEFF MONTAVON
Additional Camera	JAY DELANEY JEFF MONTAVON
Editor	JAY DELANEY
Additional Editing	ERIN KITZINGER JEFF MONTAVON SHANE ALLEN DAVIS
Music	JUSTIN RILEY & BEN COLBURN
Additional Music	CROWE MONTGOMERY
Colorist	MARCO CORDERO
Dialogue Editor	STEVE PIETROFESA
Music Supervisor	BRUCE HENSAL
Re-Recording Mixer	KEITH LABEAU
Post Audio Facility	AUDIO RECORDING TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE ORLANDO, FL

SONGS

“Sorrow is Sunshine”

Written By: CROWE MONTGOMERY

Performed By: CROWE MONTGOMERY

“All This Time”

Written By: JUSTIN RILEY

Performed By: JUSTIN RILEY & TYLER EVANS

DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE AMERICAN DREAM?

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO

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