

Some Almonds Are Harder to Skin Than Others, A Terrorist Training™ Film

Documentary Runtime 11:30

Dan Kelly Director and Executive Producer (231) 882-0460

Trickster Pictures, LLC

Press Book

<http://almondsmovie.com>

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Links to Trailer and Press Book in PDF _____	www.almondsmovie.com

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Title

Some Almonds Are Harder to Skin Than Others (English)

Title - Translations

- Aines amandes sont plus dures a peler que d'autres (French, Francais)
- Alcune mandorle sono piu difficili da sbucciare che altre (Italian, Italiano)
- Algunas almendras son mas dificiles de pelar que otras (Spanish, Espanol)

Type

Movie (Theatrical)

Forms

Documentary
Experimental
Short

Niches

No specific ethnic, gender or religious affiliations
Not a Student Project

Genres

Adventure
Comedy
Art
Avante Garde
Cult
Culture
Educational
Environmental
Improvisation
Independent
Nature
Personal Narrative
Reality
Spiritual
Underground
Wildlife

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Synopsis: Logline

Misfit or mystic? Somewhere in the wilderness a camper rambles at his camera, an advocate for earth amidst a spawl of petroleum based techno-gear. Only an outcast would go solo into the terrible beauty of a Northern Michigan spring. Only a malcontent would dream of an America beyond consumption. Only a dangerous terrorist would weaponize the fresh and raw lifestyle.

Synopsis: Medium (143 words)

Misfit or mystic? Somewhere in the wilderness a camper rambles at his camera, advocating earth amidst a spawl of petroleum based techno gear. It's a manifesto of sorts, an ecstatic narrative, perhaps even evidence of crime.

Two years earlier while scouting locations in Canada for the narrative project 'Daughter of God', Dan Kelly discovered his FBI record and it's mysterious distortions - his arrest in 2003 for protesting the impending Iraq war had been transformed into a sex offense.

As an opponent not only of the war du jour but also of the rapacious consumer society that demands it, Kelly assumed the worst - he had been designated an enemy of the state, a terrorist. He had no choice now but to come fully to life.

'Some Almonds' documents Kelly's trip to the sanctuary of the goddess, there to seek counsel and craft a plan.

Synopsis: Long (622 words)

Misfit or mystic? Somewhere in the wilderness a camper rambles at his camera, advocating earth amidst a spawl of petroleum based techno gear. It's a manifesto of sorts, an ecstatic narrative, perhaps even evidence of crime.

On March 18, 2003 in Traverse City, Michigan, USA, a convoy of army trucks mobilizing for the war in Iraq was blocked by protesters. Eight protesters were arrested, including Dan Kelly. The attorney general of Traverse City charged the eight with 'molesting workers' and 'criminal trespass'. After a few months of legal and media skirmish the attorney general offered to reduce the charges to 'blocking traffic'. The protestors accepted the offer.

Three years later, Kelly was attempting to scout Canadian locations for the narrative project 'Daughter of God'. Canadian immigration denied him entry based on FBI records of the 2003 arrest that showed only the initial charge 'molesting workers' and no further information. The immigration officer explained that in Canada a conviction for 'molesting workers' carried a minimum 10 year sentence, the implication being *sexually* molesting workers. She explained (helpfully) that if Kelly brought a notarized copy of the original court records showing the final disposition of his case, she would correct his Canadian record and he could enter.

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Kelly phoned the Traverse City court clerk and confirmed that the original record was complete and accurate, showing the final adjudication for 'blocking traffic'. He arranged express shipment and a week later returned to the border, had his Canadian records corrected and entered.

The error in Kelly's arrest record had converted him from a political protester into a sex offender. Considering the mad rush to war and the rabid patriotism of the day, human intervention rather than machine error seemed probable. Perhaps it was merely a data worker's little joke - the familiar 'one bad apple' premise. It's hard to imagine why the Feds would pick on Kelly as a matter of policy until one considers that Kelly falls into a unique category - protesters arrested before the war started. Because he and others had pro-actively opposed the administration's objectives, it would be strategically advantageous to limit their future options. Deleting key information from arrest records would restrict travel, undermine community credibility and obstruct employment.

Paranoia? Kelly filed a Freedom of Information Act with the FBI to obtain a copy of his file as the first step in correcting the errors. The FBI responded by letter that no such record existed. Yet Kelly had seen the record at the Canadian border and had been refused entry because of it. Certainly the record existed - why couldn't the file be found?

In the spring of 2007 a rough cut for Daughter of God (DOG) was complete. Kelly scheduled ADR and additional production for visual effects. A camping trip to a remote island would provide the deserted shoreline needed to composite a wrecked cruise ship scene.

Production on the island would not be limited to DOG though. It was time to process the implications of Kelly's FBI file. If the USA's government was starting to target protesters, he ought to have a plan. The distorted FBI record might presage more dire threats.

These days, folks who vigorously advocate social justice, environmental sustainability and spiritual activation are likely to be labeled terrorists. Kelly embraces this doublespeak. If rapacious consumption threatens our Earth then consumers are the ultimate terrorists. Like most Americans, Kelly can't help but consume. It's dangerous to deny addiction - awareness is the first step to recovery.

To train the terrorists is to save the world.

The island is the answer. There the earth's power is close and available. Help can be summoned and joy cultivated. A conversation can be initiated, solutions proposed and examined. Almonds can be sprouted and skinned.

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Dialogues, Transcription (English)

Some nuts are harder to skin than others

...and that's all gonna happen just from these almonds. Just these almonds alone. Will be... enough. Or I should say, with a little bit more but you know... relatively speaking, maybe a bag of almonds like this and a bag of something else... and maybe a bag of something else, around this much stuff... for the entire Earth. That's all it takes, when you put it inside of a Dan Kelly.

(Titles) Some Almonds Are Harder to Skin than Others

(Titles) A Terrorist Training TM Film

(Titles) by Dan Kelly

Can you see me? Hi! (laughter)

So it's the 14th today. Monday, April 14, 2007

(Titles) It's May 14, 2007... not April.

So... Monday 14, Tuesday 15, Wednesday 16, Thursday 17, Friday 18. I'm here on my birthday folks. I'll be picking up the boat on my birthday. So I am very happy that I am actually here, again. Skipped a year. Last time I was here was 2006...

(Titles) 2005 Actually...

but I am here now, again. On my birthday. So happy birthday.

So this is my original campsite... and something tells me I should move. So I am going to move from here, from this spot here to right up on that little hillock right there, so I'll be in this kind of commanding position, so I can easily defend myself in case invaders try to come up the hill and attack.

I'm a vegetarian too. Just like you.

Ramps from North Manitou. Ramp leaves - oychee!

So one thing I have to say is, I'm getting to be a motherfucking bad ass... chef of the wild. OK?

I mean like fresh! Walked right out of the tent, gathered up a bunch of ramp leaves, maybe 8.

So I made mango guacamole with very thin shavings of garlic and I ate it with raw beets, mmm!

...and then you sort of soak them in water and they come back into some sort of a plump grapey-ish form but still very raisin looking.

...spoon the... the uh guacamole into the little ramp leaves and then fold them over and... (chewing noises) god it was so good.

I got in the tent and I made pickles.

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...uh so in here is a layer of beets on the bottom, beets on the bottom, then carrots, then a few pieces of ginger in there and garlic, ho! salty... briney...

Ok so what else did I have for breakfast? ...really ripe plantano and grapes, water grapes.

... what I am having for breakfast. so this is not strictly fresh and raw but what you see there is you've got some almonds, soaked almonds, blanched and skinned, some tart cherries that were dried and then soaked in water to revive them, some goji berries, little red guys and underneath that is some granola, which isn't strictly, um... fresh and raw because it's probably been cooked a little bit and baked a little bit, uh, but the idea is that next time I'm here I didn't have time to make my own granola, so next time I am here I'll come with my own granola which will be sprouted granola.

Look at this beautiful piece of ginger, mmm, look at that little, perfect little break there tells you it's nice and fresh

Got some bits of ginger soaked in hot water... pour that over the top, ah this is my second bowl of this. It's really yummy.

So yeah pickles!

Here's my tent, and Lake Michigan is that way oh, just down the hill and there's the beach, you can hear the waves...

(Titles) Canada, Mexico, Hollywood, Tent

This happened a long time ago. What you're watching right now, this, these almonds and cherries. This grass growing. This season. This spring. It's past. It's happened already. So not only is it completely offset in time, but it's squeeze, all this experience is being squeezed into this little, this little... box. and there's colors and sound and you can immerse yourself in it, you can feel like it's... it's real.

Ok down there? Need a hand? Be careful. Strange tribe lives up on top of this hill. There's one of their houses. You can see it just...just through the trees there. See it?

But it's getting to the point where, the continued survival of the human race, are we going to actually, uh... make it? And there's a lot of very irresponsible people who are putting this fine planet and all the life that's here in jeopardy. So... excuse me, Hello?

If all these lifestyle choices are indeed, ah, good... then... and I'm a conscious being, and I take steps to honor and steward the earth... then, I should be able to prevail in battle, (laughter). And people like me should be able to prevail in battle.

Who ever imagined bad assed vegetarians, huh? Who ever thought about it? Who ever imagined that there could be lethal fresh and raw people? Don't fuck with him - he's fresh and raw.

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Now, obviously if you are going to kick ass you better know how to kick ass. It's like peeling almonds. Bing! The almond is peeled. You know we don't think a lot about it, we don't have any emotional attachment to whether the almond is our enemy or not, it just has to be peeled.

Ahh! Having a well deserved drink - of the hard stuff. Whaaa! Pure Lake Michigan water pumped through my pumpczar ceramic filter. Ahh. (whistles)
Wow, baby.

This is not this... and what this is... is something else... and can be the vehicle of power. All I can do is translate this... to this.

Hello, is anyone in there? There's a little black hole and, and all of you are in that little, that little hole in there. Everyone from the future looking at me. The future is looking at me through this black hole. I'm staring into the future... and I see, if I were to tell you what I saw, I would say that I can see a little tiny reflection of myself in sort of rainbow colors... and I see everything behind me, I can see behind me in the future. And I'm surrounded by beautiful women.

Some nuts are easier to skin than others.

Yonder is the great big lake, one of them big lakes. Actually, what we're doing is we're documenting a happy moment, because I'm happy. Ah! That's what happens when you worship nature. When you're a fricking mystical pagan. You should have seen the stuff I did today. Rituals. Nakedness. Sex Magic. Yep. Got what I wanted, mmm hmm. Yep, mystical paganism is one of those, ah... spiritual systems that pays off, like taoism. You get results, you know what I am saying?. Immediate results. That's what we need, that's what we're talking about.

Alright well, that's enough for now, thank you. Just wanted to share, just wanted to share.

(Titles) Some Almonds Are Harder to Skin than Others

(Titles) A Terrorist Training TM Film

(Titles) by Dan Kelly

(Titles) © Dan Kelly 2009

You know some of these almonds skin easily and some don't.

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Production: Country

USA Production and Filming

Production: People

Dan Kelly - Director and Executive Producer

doorbell@tricksterpictures.com

Creative Director, Trickster Pictures

PO BOX 2090

New York, NY 10013

231 882-0460

Birthdate May 18, 1963

Male

Citizenship USA

Funding

Estimated Cash Budget - \$1000 US Dollar

Source of Funds - Trickster Pictures / New Project Development

Script

No script

People: Talent

Dan Kelly - Lead Actor, Voice-Over

doorbell@tricksterpictures.com

Creative Director, Trickster Pictures

PO BOX 2090

New York, NY 10013

231 882-0460

Birthdate May 18, 1963

Male

Citizenship USA

People: Craft

Dan Kelly - Cinematographer/DP

doorbell@tricksterpictures.com

Creative Director, Trickster Pictures

PO BOX 2090

New York, NY 10013

231 882-0460

Birthdate May 18, 1963

Male

Citizenship USA

People: Post

Dan Kelly - Digital Effects, Picture Editor, Sound Editor

doorbell@tricksterpictures.com

Creative Director, Trickster Pictures

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Date of Completion

January 2009

Running time

0 hours 11 minutes 30 seconds.

Screenings

No Public Screenings.

Rights: Status

The project does not have distribution or sales representation.

Dialog: Original

Main dialog is in English.

Dialog:Translations

No translations are available.

Format: Picture

Color

Format: Aspect Ratio

1.78 (16x9)

Format: Shooting

The camera original format(s) of the project is DVCPRO HD 720p NTSC.

Format: Exhibition

The following public exhibition formats are available for the project:

DVD Region 0-6 NTSC and PAL

Mini-DV NTSC and PAL

DigiBeta NTSC

.MOV (Quicktime)

Digital Cinema Package 2K

Format: Sound

Stereo

Format: Sound Mix

Dolby

Format: Screeners

DVD Region 0-6 NTSC and PAL

Mini-DV NTSC and PAL

.MOV (Quicktime)

Print Traffic: Value

The replacement value of each exhibition copy, for insurance purposes is:

DVD Region 0-6 NTSC and PAL - \$15 US Dollars

Mini-DV NTSC or PAL - \$15 US Dollars

DigiBeta NTSC - \$50 US Dollars

Digital Cinema Package 2K - \$100 US Dollars

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Print Traffic: People

Contact for exhibition copies of the project is:

Dan Kelly - Preview Return, Print Return, Print Shipper

doorbell@tricksterpictures.com

Creative Director, Trickster Pictures

PO BOX 2090

New York, NY 10013

231 882-0460

Birthdate May 18, 1963

Male

Citizenship USA

Publicity: Website

The official website of the project is:

<http://almondsmovie.com>

Publicity: Trailer

The promotional trailer for the project is:

<http://tricksterpictures.com/almonds/01.html>

Publicity: Consent

Dan Kelly consents to press screenings and/or television broadcasts of excerpts of the project for publicity purposes.

Publicity: Press Kit

Press materials are available to support pre-screening and exhibition at:

Withoutabox.com

DIGITAL PDF <http://tricksterpictures.com/almonds>

Publicity: Manager

Dan Kelly - Preview Return, Print Return, Print Shipper

doorbell@tricksterpictures.com

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Production Still Photos

A Well Deserved Drink (© 2009 Dan Kelly)



Playful monolog inspired by potable water with references to sex magic and happy moments in general.

The Mostly Sprouted Breakfast (© 2009 Dan Kelly)



Discourse on and appreciation for a cost effective fuel for change.

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Shut 'er Down (© 2009 Dan Kelly)



A final gambol through the forest before breaking camp.

Filmography: Dan Kelly

2009 - 2010 **Documentary film** (feature), On Desire, Director, Cinematographer and Editor. In the summer of 2009, 2 artists sail the 8 seas of the Hawaiian Islands aboard Desire. On Desire follows their discussions and discoveries about global health and explores the idea of sailboats as placeholders for planets.

production blog - <http://ondesire.com>

2005 - 2010 **Narrative film** (short), Daughter of God, Writer, Director and Editor. A young women discovers she's going to give birth to the Daughter of God. Currently in post-production.

production blog - <http://holyboners.com>

2007-2009 **Documentary film** (short), Some Almonds Are Harder To Skin Than Others, Director and Editor. Political musings and pagan hijinks on a remote island. Currently applying to film festivals.

<http://www.almondsmovie.com>

2005 **Narrative Film** (short), La Pala (The Shovel), Lead, Director and Editor. A forsaken castaway finds the way.

2003 **Documentary Film** (short), 500k in 10 minutes, Director, Cinematographer and Editor. A visual verification of the attendance at a protest march in Washington, DC.

http://www.artisthouse.com/archive/2002/500000_in_10/500000_in_10.mov

2002 **Narrative Film** (short), Toe Socks, Cinematographer, Co-editor. Quirky sketch about personal preference and tolerance of different viewpoints.

http://artisthouse.com/archive/2002/toe_socks/toe_socks.mov

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Biography: Dan Kelly

Who Needs Credentials - I've got Lineage!

My grandfather was an early adopter, documenting our family's antics with his 8 mm Norelco, circa 1950. Being the youngest of 4 brothers, I arrived too late to be featured prominently in his films but I did catch later screenings, complete with live and often contradictory narration. In the sixties my brother made several movies with a Super 8 Bell and Howell, featuring me and the neighbor kids. Around 1982 my family got one of the first consumer video cameras - a clunky thing that attached to a portable VHS deck and needed blaring sunlight for a decent picture. My girlfriend and I tried taping ourselves doing non-parentally approved activities, but even with all the lights on in the bedroom we came out looking like laughing fuzzy ghosts.

Eventually I got my very own Video 8 camcorder and in collaboration with a few friends invented 'Trash Video'. Not trash like trashy sex, but trash in the sense that we didn't worry about planning shots or wasting tape. We could take chances, do silly things and sort it all out later - like taping ourselves eating dinner for an hour, or taping ourselves watching a tape of ourselves eating dinner. Indeed.

In 1985 I took a video editing course at the Global Village, a sort of media laboratory in Manhattan, working in a 3/4" Umatic AB roll suite. Unfortunately I lost all the work I did there, but my greatest regret was not getting any action with Jordan, my sexy Israeli editing parter, rowr!

Later that year I moved in with my friend Bob Stevenson, a film student at the University of Bridgeport, and fell in love with another film student, Barbara Jo Steel. All this film student interaction eventually triggered a multi-media production for Jim Allegro's architectural thesis project, The Institute of New Music.

I shifted to Michigan in 1987 with the notion of editing for a small TV station, but it wasn't until 1992 that I finally landed my first professional editing job - in Traverse City's "premier" independent production house. For premiere read "shlock factory" - but it was the best shlock in town! Less than a year later I was fired because of my poorly suppressed disdain for the slapdash production ethic and the owner's goofy management style.

While waiting for my big break as an editor in Northern Michigan, I sold Apple computers equipped with analog video interfaces. I started configuring videographic systems for distance learning applications and providing custom illustration and animation with a TV emphasis.

Around 1991 I co-founded the local cable access station, Benzie Public Access Channel 2. What fun, what a lot of work! After two years of amazing community service the noble experiment was abruptly ended when certain elected officials of the franchising authority, threatened by the prospect of consistent accountability to their constituents, conspired with the cable provider to pull the plug.

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In 1994, I collaborated on a multi-media video performance with dancer and choreographer Paula Vinzi, incorporating multiple video cameras, live effects, video projection and 3D animation. I wrote, co-directed, and starred in the work as well - phew!

Having expertise with video enabled computers I knew affordable non-linear editing was inevitable. The days of generation loss and expensive suites were numbered, so too the days of crappy clunky cameras. I hunkered down and waited. I tried some projects with Adobe Premiere, but Moore's Law needed a few more years to make adequate hardware affordable. Incidentally, I invented Quicktime, or at least inspired it, in a hundredth monkey sort of way.

In 2001 I made the plunge, buying Final Cut and a Sony PD-150 all in one shot. I've never looked back... until I decided to write this little blurb.

Director's Statement (190 words)

I am an artist serving the earth. My primary channels of expression are painting, performance and film making. My emphasis as a planetary steward is on sparking awareness and supporting wilderness. Though I have completed some undergraduate coursework in the visual arts, software design and video editing, I enjoy a mostly unconventional education. Combining hands on experience and geeky technical curiosity with a penchant for identifying the gestalt, I constantly self educate. I've produced experiential learning products for science and art. I've managed a public access television station, facilitating hundreds of community (non-corporate) documentaries and news programs for the general public. I've designed, developed and conducted unprecedented media literacy projects for youth. I've authored and been awarded numerous grants from state agencies, non-profit organizations and corporate entities.

I was arrested on March 18, 2003 in Traverse City, Michigan along with 7 other protesters for blocking a military convoy preparing to support the attack on Iraq. The resulting legal skirmish and ongoing international media coverage challenged the "with us or against us" propaganda and facilitated real debate within the community. My activism since has included lower profile protests and documentary work.

Trailers and Clips

<http://almondsmovie.com>