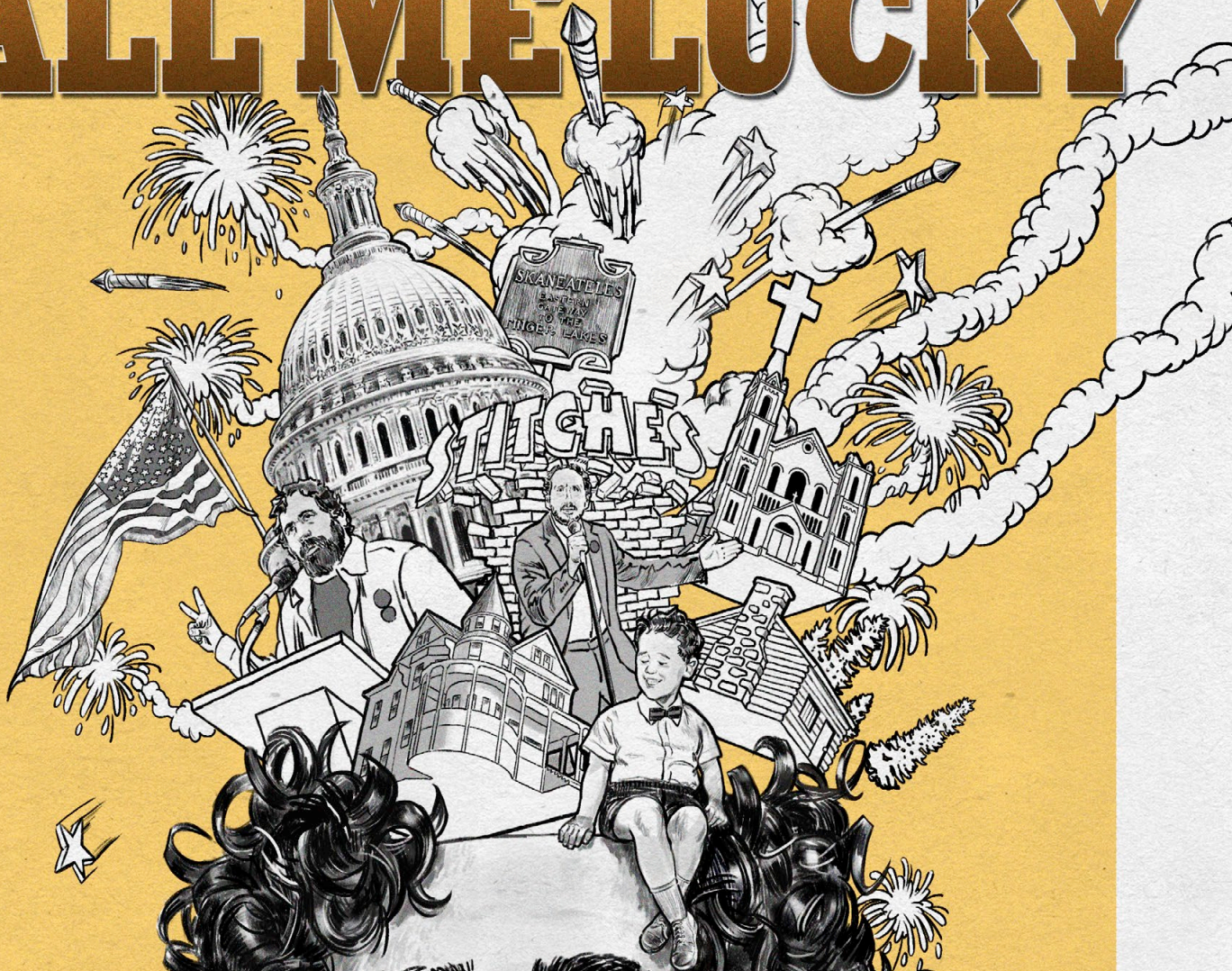


A BOBCAT GOLDTHWAIT FILM

CALL ME LUCKY



**"TERRIFICALLY
ENGAGING."**

- *Variety*

**"BOBCAT GOLDTHWAIT'S
MASTERPIECE.
A TRULY BEAUTIFUL
HUMAN DOCUMENT."**

- Drew McWeeny, *Hitfix*

OFFICIAL SELECTION
SUNDANCE
FILM FESTIVAL
2015

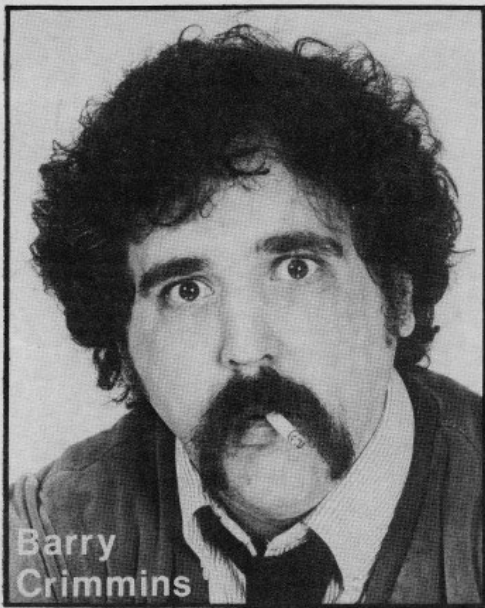
CALL ME LUCKY

a film by Bobcat Goldthwait

CALL ME LUCKY is an inspiring, triumphant and wickedly funny documentary with a compelling and controversial hero at its heart. Barry Crimmins, best known as a comedian and political satirist, bravely tells his incredible story of transformation with intimate interviews from comedians such as David Cross, Margaret Cho and Patton Oswalt, activists such as Billy Bragg and Cindy Sheehan and directed in inimitable style by Bobcat Goldthwait (*World's Greatest Dad/God Bless America/Willow Creek*).



As a young and hungry comic in the early 80's Barry Crimmins founded his own comedy club in Boston, in a Chinese restaurant called the Ding Ho. Here he fostered the careers of new talent who we now know as Steven Wright, Paula Poundstone, Denis Leary, Lenny Clarke, Kevin Meaney, Bobcat Goldthwait, Tom Kenny and many others. These comics were grateful for Barry's fair pay and passionate support and respected him as a whip-smart comic himself but, as becomes clear in their interviews, they also knew he was tortured by his past.



As archive footage of Barry shows, he was thickly mustachioed, thick set and thinly disguising an undercurrent of rage beneath his beer swilling onstage act. It seemed Barry was the fierce defender of the little guy but also an angry force when confronted.

As one of the top new comedians in the country he appeared on *The HBO Young Comedians Special*, *The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour*, *Evening at the Improv* and many other television shows in the 80's. With a certain level of fame, Barry felt no more fulfilled and began to move away from the mainstream audience-pleasing jokes and into a more political act.

"I will no longer provide distraction for the American people," he says in one interview at the time, "because *the world is on fire and one of the primary fuels is the ignorance of the American people.*"

Smashing the hypocrisies of political power and attacking bullies made sense for a man who, unbeknownst to even those closest to him, had suffered horrific abuse as a child. What Barry's gruff, hard-drinking, curmudgeonly persona was hiding was a secret he'd struggled with since the age of four - the relentless rapes that nearly killed him.

During a performance in 1991 Barry finally brought the personal into his political act and shocked everyone with the on stage revelation of what he wanted no one else to ever experience.

After this shocking revelation and a personal breakdown, Barry's journey to uncover and recover from his abuse compelled him to seek others who had suffered as well. His quest revealed even more shocking discoveries. As the internet was emerging as a social media tool, Barry found that AOL chat rooms were rife with the trafficking of child pornography. After fighting the perpetrators by posing as a child online, he took the evidence to AOL who ignored it, to the police who didn't have computers in their offices at the time, and finally, to the Senate. There, Barry battled with AOL's slick legal defense and the Senate's self-congratulatory ignorance of the internet, and won. His testimony was responsible for AOL's change of policy and the first pedophile arrests using online evidence.



Barry's obstinate attitude was becoming a force for good and his work on himself and for other victims was strengthening and softening him at the same time. Barry wrote books, newspaper articles, and became a leading political activist.



While working for Air America, Barry became instrumental in making the story of Cindy Sheehan, who had lost her son Casey in the second Iraq war, part of the national debate. His efforts led to the shining of the worldwide media spotlight on Camp Casey, a political rally seeking answers right at the president's door.

During the making of *CALL ME LUCKY* a certain alchemy occurred. In tracing Barry's steps back from his current life in the Finger Lakes, where he's built a home for himself in the middle of nowhere, to Boston where he set off the careers of so many comics, back to his childhood home, also in upstate New York, and into the basement where the abuse happened; the healing of the man is palpable. His attitude of forgiveness and hope is an inspiring one. Through talking to friends of Barry's from celebrated comedians to his local mechanic; stories of others' own battles with the ghosts of past abuse came out. What began as a personal human story deepened into a far reaching clarion call of disclosure and action for all.

Barry has received the Peace Abbey Award given to him by Howard Zinn and received the Courage of Conscience Award alongside Dr. Maya Angelou.

He was also honored at Sundance in 2015, when the premiere of *CALL ME LUCKY* was received with two standing ovations. The crowd rising to cheer for Barry Crimmins was living proof that his story is universal, and that his steadfast courage will continue to change lives.

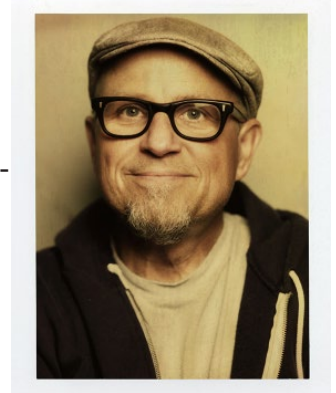
The Filmmakers

Bobcat Goldthwait - Director

“One of the most original and intelligent voices in American independent cinema.”
- *Timeout London*

Three time Sundance director Bobcat Goldthwait is helming *Call Me Lucky*. His critically acclaimed and award winning movies *Willow Creek*, *God Bless America*, *World’s Greatest Dad*, *Sleeping Dogs Lie*, *Windy City Heat* and the cult classic *Shakes the Clown* have played in theaters and festivals around the world.

In 2013 Goldthwait was named director of the year by Esquire Magazine for his dark comedy *God Bless America*.



As a television director Goldthwait has worked on such shows as *Maron*, *Chappelle’s Show*, *Important Things With Demetri Martin* and directed *Jimmy Kimmel Live* for three years. He has also directed comedy specials for Patton Oswalt, Anjelah Johnson and Morgan Murphy.

In 2013 Goldthwait received a tribute and the German Independence Award from the Oldenburg Film Festival.

Clinton Trucks & Charlie Fonville, Type 55 Films - Producers

Type 55 Films is an award-winning production company founded by Charlie Fonville and Clinton Trucks in 2011. They produced Morgan Murphy’s one hour comedy special “*Irish Goodbye*”, which premiered on Netflix in January 2014. Currently they’re in post production on *The Thrilling Adventure Hour Live* Concert film. They’ve also produced comedy specials for Robert Kelly, Brian Gaar, and Gary Gulman, and music videos for Train, Fall Out Boy, Matt Nathanson, and Steel Panther.

Charlie and Clint have produced commercials, music videos, web series, and other projects for Funny or Die, Nerdist, TiVo, Eleven Seven Music, Virgin Megastores, Microsoft, Oculus VR, Pantene, All Things Comedy Podcast Network, Epson, Adult Swim.com, Welk Music Group, and Live Nation among others. They won “Best TV Spot” for Virgin Megastores at the National Association of Recording Merchandisers.

Bradley Stonesifer - Cinematographer

Acclaimed cinematographer Bradley Stonesifer has lensed the feature films *The Vicious Kind* (Sundance), *God Bless America* (Toronto Film Festival and SXSW), *Spork*, which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival and also the action comedy *Hit and Run* which opened in 2,800 theaters in 2012. Bradley was nominated for the grand jury prize at the 2014 Sundance Film Festival for his short film *Me + Her*.

Jeff Striker - Editor

Jeff Striker is an editor and video artist. Jeff has created live visual designs for bands like Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros, Cults & Delta Spirit, as well as interactive video installations for Comedy Central and Michael Kors. He was a co-editor of the 2009 documentary, “*The Heretics*”, which premiered at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. This is his first feature film as lead editor. Jeff lives in Brooklyn, NY.

Charlyne Yi - Composer

Charlyne Yi is an accomplished comedian, actress, writer, and musician. Her screenplay for *Paper Heart* won the Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival, and she has appeared in the films *Knocked Up*, *This is 40*, and *Cloverfield*, and was a series regular on *House*.

Quotes about Barry Crimmins

“Before Stewart, before Colbert, before Maher, there was and thankfully still is Barry Crimmins. The premiere political comic in America and also one of its sharpest and most passionate minds.”

- David Cross

Comedian, Actor, Writer

“Mr. Show”/“Arrested Development”/“The Increasingly Poor Decisions of Todd Margaret”

“Barry is hilariously funny but more importantly; his humor comes out of a deep intelligence, an extraordinary understanding of the world around him and an intense commitment to social change.”

-Howard Zinn

Activist/Playwright /Author of A People’s History of the United States

“A mixture of Thomas Paine and Mark Twain, Crimmins mixes politics and humor with savage results.”

- Michael Blowen

Boston Globe

“Crimmins uses his sharp sense of irony as a political weapon. In his hands, the subversive joke is the first small act of resistance.”

- Billy Bragg

Musician/Songwriter/Activist

“He breaks down reality in a hilarious way. He seems ticked off at everything, and when you hear him, you agree.”

- Steven Wright

Comedian/Actor



Call Me Lucky

ABOUT MPI MEDIA GROUP

The MPI Media Group is a leading producer, distributor and licensor of films. Founded in 1976, Chicago-based MPI Media Group remains one of the largest independent entertainment companies producing and distributing a compelling slate of the world's most respected cinema, documentaries, performances and television programs. MPI's wholly owned subsidiary, Dark Sky Films is dedicated to the discovery, preservation and production of elevated genre/art house horror, sci-fi and cult films from around the world. | Follow us on twitter: [@mpimediagroup](https://twitter.com/mpimediagroup)

MPI MEDIA GROUP PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH TYPE 55 FILMS A FILM BY BOBCAT GOLDTHWAIT "CALL ME LUCKY"
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY BRADLEY STONESIFER EDITOR JEFF STRIKER MUSIC BY CHARLYNE YI EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS GREG NEWMAN BOBCAT GOLDTHWAIT
PRODUCED BY CLINTON TRUCKS CHARLIE FONVILLE CO-PRODUCERS BARRY CRIMMINS BRADLEY STONESIFER DIRECTED BY BOBCAT GOLDTHWAIT
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