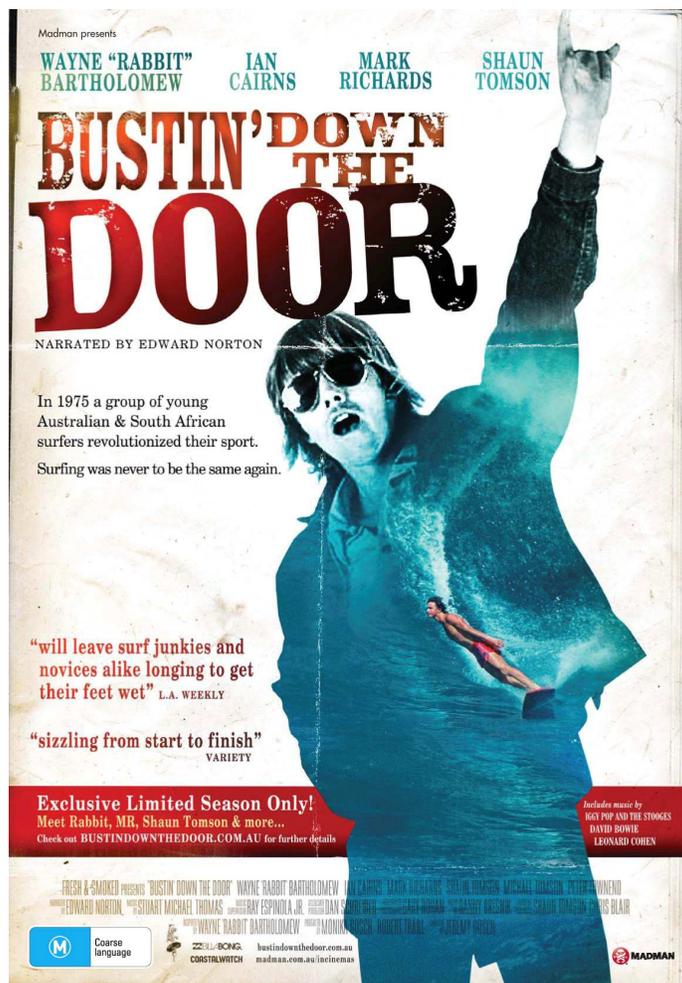


Press Kit

BUSTIN' DOWN THE DOOR

A film by Jeremy Gosch



"will leave surf junkies and novices alike longing to get their feet wet" L.A. Weekly

RUN TIME: 95 mins

RATING: M

RELEASE DATE: January 14th 2009 (Madman Special Event Screenings) supported by events and talent tour.

WEBSITE: bustindownthedoors.com.au

DIRECTOR: Jeremy Gosch

STARRING: Shaun Tomson
Wayne "Rabbit" Bartholomew
Ian Cairns
Mark Richards

NARRATOR: Edward Norton

TAGLINE

In 1975 a group of young surfers revolutionized their sport. This is their untold story.

SYNOPSIS

BUSTIN' DOWN THE DOOR chronicles a tumultuous two-year period of competitive and cultural clashes in the mid-Seventies in surfing's Mecca - Hawaii's North Shore of Oahu - as a small crew of Australians and South Africans set out with... BUSTIN' DOWN THE DOOR chronicles a tumultuous two-year period of competitive and cultural clashes in the mid-Seventies in surfing's Mecca - Hawaii's North Shore of Oahu - as a small crew of Australians and South Africans set out with attitude and determination to change the world of surfing.

Framed around the emerging careers of World Champions-to-be Wayne "Rabbit" Bartholomew, Shaun Tomson and Mark Richards, BUSTIN' documents how these young men risked everything to become the best surfers in the world, and how their courage and vision began a cultural revolution that led to the birth of professional surfing and ultimately what has become today's billion-dollar surf industry.

LONG SYNOPSIS

By the early 1970's the North Shore of Oahu, Hawaii was already established as the world's ultimate surfing Mecca. It was a true proving ground for any surfer who wanted to play on the main stage. Every winter, the best surfers in the world converged on the North Shore to

test their skills in the most radical waves known to man, but it was also a cultural crossroads, a melting pot of surfers and stoners where weirdness was the norm. The lawless atmosphere, consisting of gangs and drugs and hippies and surfboards, was often described as 'the wild west'. This is where the humble beginnings of a professional sport were born.

Enter a brash young crew of Australian and South African surfers who had a vision for a sport that was barely yet defined as such. The young crew was made up of six individuals: Wayne 'Rabbit' Bartholomew, Peter Townend, Mark Richards, and Ian Cairns (all from Australia) and Shaun and Michael Tomson (cousins from South Africa). The six surfers came from world-class home surf breaks where they had been honing their aggressive skills since childhood. Individually, each surfer possessed unique styles that were in stark contrast to the cruisy, nonchalant styles of the top surfers at that time. Collectively, they represented a new generation of innovative surfers who were hell bent on replacing Hawaiian surf kings like Barry Kanaiaupuni, Reno Abellira, Jeff Hakman, and Gerry Lopez as the leaders of the sport.

The only problem was, well...nobody knew who these kids were. So they had to take some risks to get their names recognized. The only way they knew how was to surf aggressively with reckless abandon in hopes of catching the eye of one of the few surf photographers prowling the beaches looking for the next cover shot. Their plan was correct. By the end of the '74 season, the kids were on the map. They didn't win any contests (or get invited, for that matter), but their names were out there and people were starting to take notice.

Fast forward to the '75 season. Not only did the crew get invites to ALL the contests, but they proceeded to sweep them in grand fashion. They also brought a sense of professionalism they hoped would establish surfing as a legitimate sport, complete with sponsors, paychecks and big name stars. There was a focus, intensity and drive with this group that had been missing in the sport since its inception. There was also a sense of entitlement and braggadocio that riled up resentment among the locals who called the North Shore their home.

Between the '75 and '76 seasons, things really took off. The crew was seen as heroes in their home countries. Newspaper and magazine articles declared them Kings of surfing. The crew even went as far as to declare themselves #1, most notably in an article penned by Rabbit titled, "BUSTIN' Down the Door". The Hawaiians and North Shore locals were enraged. When Rabbit arrived early that next winter, he certainly didn't receive the fanfare he had grown accustomed to.

The boastful articles from the previous year had the locals boiling, and they finally had someone to release some steam on. What was supposed to be a victorious and celebratory season quickly devolved into months filled with death threats and violence. Nearly every member of the 'crew' ran into their share of conflict. Rabbit had his teeth knocked out and was almost drowned, and most of the crew received death threats and were banned from surfing the North Shore. Whatever momentum had been built the year before was promptly erased. The dream of being professional surfers was crumbling right before their eyes.

However, after a large scale meeting, a peace treaty was made with the help of surfing legend Eddie Aikau and his family. After reconciliation, the Australians and South Africans were allowed to surf freely on the North Shore again. At the same time, plans were being drawn up for an organized world tour that would eventually crown surfing's first TRUE champion. Over the course of the next seven years, the crew maintained an unparalleled dominance over the sport. Peter Townend, Rabbit Bartholomew, Shaun Tomson, and Mark Richards were professional surfing's first World Champions.

Through all of the trials and tribulations, surfing found its footing and started an unprecedented rise through pop culture. The emergence of a multi-billion dollar surf industry over the next two decades, as well as an exotic world tour that visits the best surf breaks on the planet and is watched by millions via TV and the internet, can be directly attributed to the surfers who put everything on the line to chase a dream. "BUSTIN' DOWN THE DOOR" is their story, told through the eyes and words of those who lived it.

POSITIONING

During the winter of 1975 in Hawaii, surfing was shaken to its core. A group of young surfers from Australia and South Africa sacrificed everything and put it all on the line to create a sport, a culture, and an industry that is today worth billions of dollars and has captured the imagination of the world. With a radical new approach and a brash colonial attitude, these surfers crashed headlong into a culture that was not ready for revolution.

Surfing was never to be the same again.



BIOGRAPHIES

JEREMY GOSCH - DIRECTOR

Even though he was born far from any semblance of Hollywood, Jeremy Gosch had it in his blood. His mother was a stage actress, and at age 8, they decided to pack up all the family's belongings and move from the quiet town of Brewster, Massachusetts to the bustling Los Angeles suburb of Burbank. Jeremy immediately got to work as a child actor landing roles in numerous commercials and guest appearances on network shows. Jeremy received excellent reviews for these performances, but as the years went on he was determined to become a film director.

With a natural affection for off kilter subjects, his first film *Wine* (1996) was an adaptation of a chapter of Charles Bukowski's book *Ham on Rye*, which he wrote and directed. Jeremy followed up with another Bukowski adaptation that he adapted and directed, called *Death of Ramon Vasquez* (1998). He made his feature film-directing debut with his own screenplay, *Last Ride* (2001), which was picked up for distribution worldwide and premiered on Showtime here in the U.S.

Jeremy started his own production company, *Fresh & Smoked*, in 2006, his first documentary, *BUSTIN' DOWN THE DOOR*, is a homage to Jeremy's favorite hobby and pastime and also a testament to his passion and fortitude as an up and coming feature film director.

SHAUN TOMSON

In the mid-'70s, surfing was a counter culture pursuit -- long hair was everywhere, contests represented conformity and spiritual quests for mystical waves were the road to nirvana. The last thing the sport wanted was a professional, well-spoken figure at the helm, but that's what it got in Shaun Tomson. Years ahead of his contemporaries, he stood alone with articulate grace and redefined tuberiding and professionalism in the process.

Tomson was born in Durban, South Africa, where he picked up his first surfboard at age 10. He was the son of a successful businessman whose promising swimming career had been cut short by a vicious shark attack. By the time the '60s were out, Tomson had won the South African Boys' title, attended his Bar Mitzvah and had his first experience in Hawaiian surf.

In 1973, Tomson performed his civic duty by serving 18 months in the national army and afterward attended university in Durban in pursuit of a business degree. He became South Africa's most successful surfer, winning the country's largest event, the Gunston 500, six

times in succession. One year short of finishing his degree, he joined the International Professional Surfers tour's maiden voyage expecting to return to classes soon.

The landmark Hawaii winter of 1975-'76 belonged to a group of groundbreaking regularfoots and Tomson, in particular. At the Pipeline Masters, a goofyfoot stronghold, his backhand approach vaulted him past a quintet of established maestros to victory. Even more convincingly, he lifted tuberiding to new heights with his in-the-barrel maneuvering at Backdoor and Off the Wall. The art tuberiding was still in its infancy, having been explored for only a handful of seasons, but Tomson delved deeper than anyone thought imaginable. The results were captured by Bill Delaney in his seminal film *Free Ride*. As audiences witnessed Tomson turning and pumping through unmakeable sections, his status as the world's best was solidified.

As a competitor, Tomson's consistency and longevity marked one of the most prolific careers in professional surfing. A perennial in the Top 16, from the tour's inception in 1976 until 1989, he earned the 1977 world title and came inches from regaining it from Tom Carroll in 1985. His popularity was immense, garnering him top honors at the 1978 Surfer Poll and successful business ventures with Instinct apparel, surf shops and Shaun Tomson Surfboards. Wherever he traveled, surfers envied his abilities, and women swooned over his model good looks.

In 1982, Tomson relocated to Santa Barbara as a more centralized home base. He married his wife Carla in 1987, and the couple had one son, Mathew. After retiring from the world tour in 1990, Tomson returned to South Africa to complete his bachelor's degree in business, in which he finished at the top of his class. "It was tough," he says, "I was older than some of the lecturers."

With degree in hand, the Tomsons returned to California to escape South Africa's volatile political and economic situations and to pursue further business interests. They began Solitude Clothing in 1998, with offices only one-half mile from the world-class surf break of Rincon.

Above all, it was Tomson's professionalism that granted surfing a much-needed boost in respect. And in the process, he's been a key figure in helping competitive surfing evolve from backyard events for pocket change to grand productions with millions of dollars in prize money.

He was most recently listed as one of the 25 most influential surfers of the century (*Surfer* 1999) and one of the 16 greatest surfers of all time (*Surfing*, 2004). Tomson is currently chairman of the Surfrider Foundation's Advisory Board and received the Environmentalist of the Year Award (SIMA 2003). He is the recent author of the best selling surfing and inspirational book "Surfer's Code – 12 Simple lessons for riding through life".

MARK RICHARDS

Mark Richards was born in Newcastle, Australia, the only child of a car salesman. He was surfing by age six at Mereweather Beach, and his dad's car dealership eventually transformed into a surf shop. His mom and dad surfed themselves, but the majority of early inspiration came from Nat Young.

On the Australian amateur circuit, Richards routinely surfed in and won the age group above his own. Never keen on traveling for surf, he'd rather go out at home in Mereweather no matter what the conditions. Professional surfing still hadn't been invented, so as Richards rose through the ranks, his only goal was an Australian Senior Title. "Pro surfing," he says, "just sort of happened."

In the groundbreaking winter of 1975, MR was on the front lines of the North Shore along with Shaun Tomson and Rabbit Bartholomew, as the limits of performance surfing were redefined. Riding Lightning Bolt single fins shaped by Reno Abellira, his wins in both the Smirnoff and the World Cup helped bust down the door of Hawaiian supremacy.

As it turned out, the rise of pro surfing coincided with that of MR. In 1976, he won the richest event on the fledgling IPS tour, the Coke Surfabout in Sydney, but he hovered near the top for three years before putting it all together.

Building on the influences of shaping legends Reno Abellira, Dick Brewer and Spider Murphy, Richards began shaping his own boards in 1976. He developed a revolutionary, short, winged swallow twin-fin design perfectly suited to his loose, angular style. At 6'0", his swooping turns earned him the nickname "The Wounded Gull." His patented bottom-turn/snapback combination was ages ahead of its time and set him apart from the single-fin sluggishness of the time.

By 1979, with the twin-fin perfected, MR assumed the throne. For four consecutive years, he dominated the world tour, winning in every type of surf. Even as the thruster gained popularity, he clung to his beloved twinnie and suffered nothing for it. Unfortunately, he developed back problems early on, and upon claiming his fourth world title, he slipped into semi-retirement. Coupled with the mental and physical fatigue of holding the title for four straight years, he tore ligaments in his ankle that kept him landlocked for six months.

MR retreated to Newcastle, where he shaped boards, worked in the surf shop and married his longtime girlfriend, Jenny. Already the most successful surfer in history, he could have hung it up as a legend at 25.

In 1985, after competing in only selected events for a few years, Richards arrived on the North Shore for the Billabong Pro. He dominated the early rounds at Waimea and finished the job at Sunset. The next season, at nearly 30 years of age, he won it again, this time at

maxed out Waimea and Sunset. In the world's most challenging arena, he met the alleged new guard and gave them a clinic. It was a perfect encore.

MR still lives in Newcastle with his wife and three children. He still runs the family surf shop and is a masterful shaper, currently working on what he calls the "Supertwin." Swimming keeps the bad back in check, but he has to take it easy in the water -- which is fine with him. Unlike many of his former rivals, MR is comfortable with the fact that he has nothing left to prove. Nevertheless, he returned in 2001 to claim victory in the World Masters Championships over 40 division in Ireland, taking down all his old foes and inching ever closer to Kelly Slater, the only human with more world titles

WAYNE "RABBIT" BARTHOLOMEW

Rabbit is the color of surfing.

As electric as the act of riding waves is, it would all seem dreadfully uncharged without a character like Wayne Bartholomew. Regardless of his varied roles -- from tube riding master to professional pioneer to wily competitor to promoter to environmentalist to head of the Association of Surfing Professionals - he is at the heart of the sport.

Great surfers are born, but Rabbit was self-made. Matt Warshaw summed him up best in a Surfer's Journal profile with three words: struggle, achievement, and style. This is as true for his approach to surfing huge Pipeline waves as it is for his life. He got the nickname "Rabbit" because he used to jump between pinball machines - in the penniless days when he had to scrounge for food.

He began surfing at Snapper Rocks on the Gold coast in Australia, but the story starts when he moved to Kirra at age 13. Rabbit became synonymous with Kirra, and some argue that, thanks to his formative years at the famed Gold Coast point break, no one in the world has logged more tube time than he has. By the early '70s, he was cleaning house on the Australian circuit, clashing with hometown rivals Peter Townend and Michael Petersen

Rabbit burst onto the international scene in the winter of 1975. A few years earlier, he had made his first visit to Hawaii's North Shore, an annual pilgrimage he hasn't missed since. That winter, the status quo was rocked by the surfing of Shaun Tomson, Ian Cairns, Townend, Rabbit and a few others. Hawaii was no longer the exclusive domain of locals; the crew had, in Rabbit's words, "busted down the door." Tuberiding was taken to new levels and was documented by Bill Delaney's Free Ride -- shot mainly from that season.

Professional surfing was still a dream in those days, but Rabbit had the vision and the personality to sell it. His tactics, confidence and flair made him a top-rate competitor for professionalism's first decade. He was crowned world champion in 1978, remained in the top five for seven consecutive years and came within a whisker of regaining the title in 1983. His image was David Bowie meets Muhammad Ali -- pure rock-and-roll flash -- and it gave

the tour the drama it desperately lacks today. Rabbit was consummately professional, but he never let it get in the way of having fun.

Not knowing how to exit pro surfing with the grace that gave him one of history's most stylish kick-outs, he slid down the ratings until 1986, then spent a few years in limbo. By the mid-'90s, he had become surfing's global ambassador after running a series of classic events at Kirra and fighting to save our world's oceans.

In 1999, Rabbit took over the reigns of the Association of Surfing Professionals moving the corporate offices Down Under. Nearing the half-century mark, he remains an avid tube rider. At last fall's Quiksilver World Masters Championship in France, he outclassed a handful of old rivals en route to victory, proving once again that as long as Rabbit's around, surfing will always have it's own sultan of style.

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