



**MUSIC
BOX
FILMS**

Presents

Old Goats

A Film by Taylor Guterson

94 min., USA

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<http://www.musicboxfilms.com/old-goats-movies-95.php>

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Synopsis

Winner of the Special Jury Prize at Cinequest Film Festival, *Old Goats* is the hilarious and heartfelt story of a trio of spirited senior citizens who “refuse to go quietly into that good night.” Britt, Bob, and Dave say what they please and don’t hold anything back on their quest to make the most of their sunset years. Opinionated and set in their ways, each man confronts aging in his own unique fashion: conventional Dave quietly rebels against how his wife wants them to spend their retirement, hoarder Britt struggles to learn internet dating from his houseboat, and lively ladies’ man Bob juggles an unstable girlfriend and a fanciful memoir about his so-called “notorious” past.

Filmed on Seattle’s rustic Bainbridge Island, this award-winning slice-of-life comedy quickly became a festival darling and has been charming audiences ever since. From the Men’s Oatmeal Club to the online dating site SeniorConnections.com, *Old Goats* finds offbeat humor in the everyday foibles of life and love after retirement and gives a refreshing perspective on “the golden years” through the eyes of three men who don’t feel (or act) anywhere close to their age. Rife with plenty of attitude, these “old goats” prove it’s never too late to start an adventure or follow your dreams.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS – Taylor Guterson

You might say I got interested in filmmaking for all the wrong reasons. When I was sixteen, I had the opportunity to visit the set of a large Hollywood feature and was fascinated by the spectacle - the synchronization of all the moving parts, the glamour of seeing movie stars behind-the-scenes. The irony is, as I started making my own films, I was drawn to small projects using minimal crew and cast with non-actors.

I was pretty much self-taught as a filmmaker; I just played around with the equipment, picking it up as I went along. After doing a few short films that played film festivals and competitions, and producing and directing corporate videos for a couple years, I felt like I had the chops and confidence to take on a feature. What I didn't have was the money.

I'd met the three leads of *Old Goats* independent of one another and knew I wanted to cast them in a project. Each had a distinct, inherently interesting personality, and I knew if I could capture them on film essentially being themselves, they could keep an audience engaged and carry the movie. In this case, life imitated art in an extremely beneficial way. All three of the leads were retired, had a lot of spare time, and were looking for something to do - much like their onscreen alter egos. They immediately took to the project and really threw themselves into it. Beyond giving great performances, each had a lot of friends and knew a lot of people, and helped me out in a lot of very practical ways - such as securing locations and wrangling extras. Benita Staadecker, who gave an excellent performance as Britt's love interest, was also extremely helpful in countless ways. I honestly don't know if the film could have been made if they hadn't had the time and enthusiasm to invest in it.

Despite the realism of the performances, the film isn't a documentary; but it is a blend of truth and fiction. I devised a story to fit the personalities of Bob, Britt and Dave. It's basically these three men behaving like themselves in imaginary circumstances.

Old Goats was essentially shot with a two-person crew: myself and my business partner Jonathan Boyer. We shot for 54 days over a seven month period. The schedule was very much dictated by our budget, or lack thereof. We had to take a lot of breaks between shooting days to get our resources together for upcoming segments. And this is an example of how working with three retirees was a huge advantage. They had few, if any, competing commitments. When the elements for a given segment fell into place and we were ready to shoot, they could be available at a moment's notice. It gave us tremendous flexibility and was a major reason we were able to complete the entire film for under \$5,000.

While shooting, I repeatedly warned everyone involved that it was very possible we would end up being the only audience *Old Goats* ever had. And I was serious. So the positive reaction the film has received is extremely gratifying. I also find it interesting that the humor comes across most strongly, while the darker aspects receive less notice. The main reason for that is obvious: Bob, Britt and Dave are hilarious. I also wonder if there's another dynamic at work, and audiences are reacting to the film the way most of us react to life: we laugh as a way to keep the hard realities - including those associated with aging - at a distance.

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY

Taylor Guterson

Taylor Guterson (son of Novelist David Guterson, *Snow Falling on Cedars*) grew up in the Pacific Northwest on Bainbridge Island, WA. He graduated from the University of Washington in 2004 with a Bachelor's degree in arts and cinema studies. Taylor started his career with a difficult stretch of landscaping and production assistant gigs, before landing a full time position with an internal corporate studio in Seattle. He is currently a principal at Elliott Bay Productions, a video and events production company, where he produces and directs corporate and non-profit videos. Taylor makes his home in Issaquah, WA with his wife Elizabeth. *Old Goats* is his first feature film.

BIOGRAPHIES - The Old Goats

Bob

Bob Burkholder got his start in Salina, Kansas during the hard times of the early 1920's and 30's. He developed into a man of style and substance who lived a life of danger and risk with uncommon enjoyment. He survived World War II, finished college with a BS in Wildlife Biology, married, and became a bush-pilot/biologist in Alaska for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Burkholder raised seven children and continued studying and managing wildlife for over thirty years until his retirement in 1983 to Bainbridge Island. There, he became a political activist for good government and environmental issues, served on several boards and committees, and wrote numerous letters to newspapers. Burkholder published several popular and scientific articles, as well the book *Skirting the Edge* – which featured prominently in *Old Goats*. Burkholder passed away in 2013.

Britt

Now retired, Britt Crosley enjoys gardening with his wife Carolyn and socializing with the old men on the Island. He traveled extensively to Alaska during his career as a CPA working primarily with the electric utility industry. He enjoyed hunting, downhill skiing and curling during his 62 years in Alaska. Proud of his 29-year marriage to Carolyn (his high school sweetheart), he's the father of four socially responsible children, all apples of his eye. He is also a classical music hobbyist, fond of listening and the collecting. He extensively reads non-fiction and fiction alike with equal enthusiasm and is an amateur photographer specializing in smiley faces.

Dave

David Vanderwal was born and raised in Hudsonville, Michigan. He has a BA from Hope College and a BS in Aeronautical Engineering from The University of Michigan. He joined The Boeing Company in 1973 and retired in 2009 after a 36-year career. He was also co-founder of the successful professional model-making company R & D Unique, which he sold in 2004 after 25 years. He and his wife Bianca fill their time with their hobbies, art, friends, and their boat. *Old Goats* is his first feature-length film.

AWARDS

"Best of the Fest" - Seattle International Film Festival

"Best of the Fest" - Palm Springs International Film Festival

"Best of the Fest" - Sun Valley Film Festival.

"Special Jury Prize for Narrative Features" - Cinequest Film Festival

CREDITS

The Filmmakers

Director: Taylor Guterson

Producer: Taylor Guterson, Johnathan Boyer

Executive Producers: David Skinner and Tom Gorai

Editor: Taylor Guterson

Screenwriter: Taylor Guterson

Cinematographer: Taylor Guterson

Produced in Association With ShadowCatcher Entertainment

The Cast

Britt Britton Crosley

Bob Bob Burkholder

Dave David VanderWal

Cynthia Benita Staadecker

Crystal Gail Shackel

Doug Steve Stolee

The Audience Reacts

<http://youtu.be/-GpO4MTjmy8>

About Music Box Films

Music Box Films is a leading theatrical and home entertainment distributor of international, American independent and documentary films in North America.

Past releases include Guillaume Canet's hit thriller TELL NO ONE; the film adaptations of Stieg Larsson's trilogy of international mega-selling novels - the first in the series- THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO, with over \$10 million in US box office, was one of the most popular international releases of the decade; Terence Davies' THE DEEP BLUE SEA starring Rachel Weisz, New York Film Critics Circle Best Actress winner; and Philippe Falardeau's Academy Award-nominated MONSIEUR LAZHAR.

Upcoming titles include Roger Michell's LE WEEK-END, written by Hanif Kureishi and starring Jim Broadbent; the hit French mini-series THE RETURNED, currently seen on Sundance Channel; five-time Academy Award® nominee Jan Troell's THE LAST SENTENCE; and Jan Ole Gerster's German smash hit OH BOY, which swept the German Oscars earlier this year.

Music Box Films is independently owned and operated by the Southport Music Box Corporation, which also owns and operates The Music Box Theatre, Chicago's premiere venue for independent and foreign films.