

**MUSIC
BOX
FILMS**

presents

WE ARE TWISTED F*ING SISTER!**

A film by **Andrew Horn**



134 min. | USA | Unrated | 2014 | 1.77:1

Official Site: <http://www.musicboxfilms.com/twistedsister>

Press Materials: <http://www.musicboxfilms.com/twistedsister-press>

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SYNOPSIS

In the mid-1970s, Twisted Sister claimed glitter rock for their own, cross-dressing their way to headlining every club within 100 miles of New York City, from New Jersey bowling alleys to Long Island beach bars. With gigs six nights a week, they were the most successful live bar band of suburban New York, selling out 5,000-seat shows fueled by their no-holds-barred stage presence and aggressive metal setlists. But by the early '80s, they found themselves balancing on a double-edged sword, hugely popular with local audiences but without a national following – or a record deal – to speak of.

When Twisted Sister finally got their big break in 1983, they'd go on to become one of the biggest glam rock bands of the decade; their over-the-top live shows drawing sell-out crowds and their music videos defining an early MTV network. To anyone who knew the hard-fought battle they'd won to get there, "the band that killed disco" was no overnight success. **WE ARE TWISTED F***ING SISTER!** is the mesmerizing, wickedly appealing and never-before-told story of the ten grueling years leading up to the band's legendary career, recounted directly by the band themselves, their managers and their biggest fans.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

When Twisted Sister got their big break in 1983, they became one of the biggest glam rock bands of the 1980s, their live shows drawing sell-out crowds and their music videos defining an early MTV. But "the band that killed disco" was no overnight success. **WE ARE TWISTED F***ING SISTER!** is the wickedly appealing and never-before-told story of the ten grueling years leading up to the band's legendary career, recounted directly by the band themselves, their managers and their biggest fans.

LOGLINE

WE ARE TWISTED F*ING SISTER!** is the mesmerizing, never-before-told story of the ten grueling years leading up to the rock band's legendary career, recounted directly by the band themselves, their managers and their biggest fans.

AWARDS AND FESTIVALS

Official Selection – International Documentary Film Festival, Amsterdam

Official Selection – Soundtrack Cologne

Official Selection – Goteborg Film Festival

Official Selection – Doc of the Bay Film Festival

Official Selection – Planete Doc Film Festival

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

When I started working on this film, I had no idea what I would be getting myself into. To begin with, I didn't come into this as a Twisted Sister fan. Far from it. I met Dee Snider and Jay Jay French while researching for my previous film *The Nomi Song*, about the German New Wave singer, counter tenor, and performance artist, Klaus Nomi. Back in 1979 Nomi, who was the hit of the NY downtown club scene, was somehow booked to open for Twisted Sister in a club in New Jersey, just as Twisted was emerging as the reigning bar band in the massive suburban club scene surrounding Manhattan. Apart from both performing in bizarre make-up, the two acts couldn't have been more different, and their respective audiences may as well have come from parallel universes. A wild scene erupted when Klaus, dressed as a weimar space man, tried to sing an aria from a Saint Saens opera to Twisted's suburban bar audience. What little I knew of Twisted Sister at the time, it sounded hilarious and Jay Jay appeared in the film to describe it.

After the movie was completed, Jay Jay and I spent an afternoon together and he started filling my head with stories about Twisted's own crazy shows in the bars. Jay Jay's description of what he called "bar band shtick" – the various means they used to engage their audiences – sounded to me like it's own kind of performance art, just for a whole other type of crowd. To my virgin ears it all seemed pretty surreal, and I thought this might be an easy, fun subject to do something with while I was trying to come up with my next "real" project.

I had no inkling that I would end up with a story of truly epic proportions, told with unexpected wit and some real smarts, a story that would consume my life over a period of years. A story about music, craziness, ambition and any number of wild catastrophes, with a bit of unknown Rock 'n Roll history thrown in for good measure. And, believe it or not, a real human story with some real and valuable life lessons - which is not exactly what you'd expect from a bunch of guys dressed like big ugly hookers.

-Andrew Horn
Berlin, May 2015

FILMMAKER BIO

ANDREW HORN - DIRECTOR

Andrew Horn's work has encompassed a wide range - from making films on post-modern dance in New York to writing for one of Germany's most popular soap operas, from film musicals to music documentaries, from Eastern Europe to the East Village. His feature films DOOMED LOVE and THE BIG BLUE, as well as the documentary feature EAST SIDE STORY (named as one of the 10 best films of the year in Time Magazine), and his most recently completed film, THE NOMI SONG (named in the year's 10 Best on VH1, and Uncut's Top 25 DVDs), all featured, if not premiered, at the Berlin Film Festival. These, as well as his earlier short films, have been widely shown all over the world and appear in the collections of The Museum of Modern Art, the BFI, Cinematheque Francais, Munich Film Museum, Deutsche Kinemathek and the Lincoln Center Library of Performing Arts.

Born in New York, Andrew Horn graduated from New York University School of the Arts where his junior thesis film was nominated for an Academy Award. After living in New York as a filmmaker and graphic artist, he came to Berlin in 1989 as a guest of the DAAD Berlin Artist Exchange fellowship program, where he has remained, working as a filmmaker, writer, and journalist for such magazines as Screen International, Moving Pictures and Variety, as well as an Emmy Award winning film researcher for projects for BBC, ZDF, Arte, Channel 4, PBS, HBO, The Paul Robeson Foundation, Michael Moore and Spike Lee.

CREDITS

Produced and Directed by Andrew Horn

Director of Photography
Sound
Editing
Starring Twisted Sister

Mark Daniels
Robert Poss
Eric Scheffter, Silke Botsch
Dee Snider
Jay Jay French
Eddie Ojeda
Mark "The Animal" Mendoza
A.J. Pero

About Music Box Films

Founded in 2007, Music Box Films is a leading North American distributor of acclaimed international, American independent and documentary features along with the best in international television. Recent releases include Pawel Pawlikowski's *IDA*, the 2015 Academy Award®-winner for Best Foreign Language Film, the acclaimed French TV series "Maison Close," and the Golden Globe-nominated Israeli film *GETT: THE TRIAL OF VIVIANE AMSALEM*.

Upcoming releases include **THE CLUB**, Pablo Larraín's Golden Globe-nominated black comedy about exiled priests, winner of the Silver Bear Grand Jury Prize at the 2015 Berlin International Film Festival and Alexander Sokurov's **FRANCOFONIA**, the story of the Louvre under Nazi Occupation. 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.