

Music Box Films presents  
**STUFFED**

Dir. Erin Derham

*Official Selection*  
SXSW Film Festival 2019



**PRESS NOTES**

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**SYNOPSIS**

*Stuffed* is a documentary feature film about the surprising world of taxidermy. Told through the eyes and hands of acclaimed artists across the world, the film explores this diverse subculture, where sculptors must also be scientists, seeing life where others only see death. From an all-female studio in Los Angeles that has

elevated taxidermy to the forefront of fashion and modern art, to fine artists in the Netherlands, these passionate experts push creative boundaries. The film highlights a diversity of perspectives including an anatomical sculptor in South Africa and a big game taxidermist in Ohio. And, in an unexpected twist, *Stuffed* reveals the importance of preserving nature, using taxidermy as its unlikely vehicle, and the taxidermist as its wild driver.

## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

When Executive Producer Rachel Price and I first embarked on *Stuffed*, a documentary about taxidermy, we could not have been two more unlikely candidates. I remember the day she brought it up to me, and I thought "Gross! I'm a vegetarian and I love animals." But Rachel gave me a couple of articles and a historical reference to review that changed my mind within two days. Exploring taxidermy made perfect sense, though. We are conditioned to embrace stereotypes as truth, and from my experience stereotypes are almost never the norm.

I couldn't believe how ignorant I had been about a subject so close to the thing I love most: animals. The environment, nature, and animals have always been what interests me most about this world. Growing up, it was always thrilling to see wildlife and this obsession followed me to college. I have a Masters of History with a focus in Environmental History and wrote my graduate thesis on a woman who turned her backyard into a woodland bird and animal sanctuary, while she was fighting the government to stop spraying DDT. I studied her for two years and this experience gave me an appreciation for the underdog, for those willing to push boundaries and make sacrifices for what they believe in. It was at that point I knew these were the stories I wanted to tell.

I knew that I would be the right director to make this film. I thought precisely what most people think about taxidermy, so I could see both sides. Since graduate school, I have been looking for a way to make a documentary about environmentalism and protecting nature without being finger-waggy and depressing, and taxidermy is the perfect artistic vehicle to do this!

These people love animals. They protect animals. They donate time, money, and skill to nature conservancies to help connect our future generations to nature. They are funny, and kind, and wild. Best of all, they are a fascinating breed of human that is highly proficient at both science and art.

To be successful like the artists we follow in the film, taxidermists must understand sculpting and painting, and they need to have a grasp of chemistry and biology, animal behavior, movement, and they need to know hundreds of species' habitats. They are a misunderstood collective of scientists and artists, who use both sides of their brains to complete each and every mount. It is the most fascinating subject I never knew existed.

So, when viewers watch this documentary, I hope they will see the passion these taxidermists have for animals. I hope that by breaking the stereotype of what a taxidermist looks and sounds like, audiences will think twice about the next judgement they place on a group they know little about first hand. I hope they see conservation through a new artistic lens. And I hope they have fun!

It has been a life changing experience and absolute dream come true making *Stuffed* across six countries, for two years, with my Canadian-American crew family. I am excited to bring it to audiences first at SXSW.

## **ABOUT THE DIRECTOR - ERIN DERHAM**

Erin Derham, is an international award winning film director who began her career editing and directing for PBS. After receiving an MA in History, she founded History Boutique Films, and made *Buskin' Blues* numerous awards, screened at 11 film festivals, a music documentary

exploring the secretive lives of street performers. It won internationally, and was released for worldwide distribution in 2016 by Red Bull TV. Her other films include *Julian Price*, a historical documentary about an inspirational philanthropist, and *Blue Air*, a narrative film following a young mother and child finding strength in the great outdoors. Derham's passion for filmmaking is shown on screen by exploring the human experience and her creative fury is evident in all of her work. Music is an obsession, and becomes integral to her storytelling process.

## TAXIDERMISTRY ARTISTS FEATURED IN STUFFED

### ALLIS MARKHAM

Allis Markham, owner of Prey Taxidermy, is an award-winning taxidermist based in Los Angeles, California. Recently, she was named 'Third in the World' at the 2017 World Taxidermy Championships for her African Jacana.

Her clients include institutions such as the Los Angeles Natural History Museum, Natural History Museum of Santa Barbara, Moore Lab of Zoology, The Huntington Library, The Frost Museum of Science, Colorado State University and The Getty. Her work can be seen in the new Gucci perfume ad, The Nomad Hotel, EB Florals and television shows such as Bates Motel.

Born in the small town of Madison, Indiana, Allis grew up with a love of both nature and art -- happily with a lack supervision that made exploring both possible. Her first career as the Director of Social Media Strategy for the Walt Disney Company however, was a far cry from her naturalist roots...

In 2009, Allis attended the Advanced Taxidermy Training Center in Montana. Upon her return to Los Angeles, she began volunteering at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles. There she met her mentor, museum taxidermist Tim Bovard. Under his tutelage, Allis earned a staff position in taxidermy leaving her computer behind for good and picking up a scalpel. Today, she has an all-female taxidermy in the heart of downtown Los Angeles.

### JAAP SINKE AND FERRY VAN TONGEREN

Based in Amsterdam, Sinke & van Tongeren have been creating and working together for almost two decades. They teamed up to do film, advertising, graphic design and taxidermy. Besides that van Tongeren also works for the Dutch Museum of Natural History in Leiden. Preparing for the very important scientific collection enables him to learn a broad variety of techniques and spend time with one of the largest and oldest taxidermy collections in the world.

Sinke & van Tongeren recognize the value of history. Both in an artistic and scientific way. They cherish the patience, perseverance and craftsmanship of these passed times. They use all of this to create fine taxidermy with a quality you haven't seen for a long time.

To seize animals in all their glory they've been studying old Dutch masters like Weenix, Hondcoeter and van Olen. In the 17th century they managed to portray the exotic animals – that were brought in by explorers like Darwin – in such a way it showed every flamboyant detail. Working in their style helps Sinke & van Tongeren to make their animals look alive and scintillating. Giving them a stage with the finest selection of antique materials makes the pieces even more unique and desirable.

### TRAVIS C. DE VILLIERS

Travis C. De Villiers is a multiple award winning professional Anatomical Sculptor and Taxidermist which make a perfect combination of his love for the natural world and his ability to capture animals realistically through Anatomical studies. He was raised in Zimbabwe and schooled in

South Africa where the art of taxidermy found him as a young adult. Mother Africa - her wilderness and her wildlife are in Travis's blood.

Self-taught in his skills, Travis continues to push boundaries in the field of Taxidermy, driven by the pursuit of anatomical perfection and hyper-realism. His goal is to restore nature's most beautiful creatures with a fluid and realistic touch. In his work, he personally handles the design, sculpting, mounting and finishing touches of the animals entrusted to his care.

## **DANIEL MENG**

Daniel is an award-winning taxidermy artist currently working out of Dakota Taxidermy in Bismarck, North Dakota. Born in Switzerland and raised in Ohio, Daniel is a passionate hunter and conservationist. He has traveled extensively to work on projects with some of the top taxidermy artists in the world and at the age of twenty-one, received the "Best in World" title at the World Taxidermy Show.

## **CREW**

**Director...**Erin Derham

**Producer...**Kaleena Kiff, p.g.a., Galen Fletcher, p.g.a., Erin Derham, p.g.a.

**Executive Producer...**Rachel Price, Holly Brydson, Alexander Behse

**Cinematographer...**Jan Balster

**Editor...**Jenn Strom

**Sound Designer...**Kirby Jinnah

**Music...**Ben Lovett

**Associate Producers...**Allis Markham, Travis de Villiers

**Story Editor...**Jenn Strom

**Supervising Sound Editor/Re-Recording Mixer...**Kirby Jinnah

**Post Production Supervisor...**Jenn Strom

**Production Manager...**Jennifer A. Haire

**Unit Manager...**Nick Iway

**Visual Researcher and Clearances Coordinator...**Erica Landrock

**Title Sequence Illustrator...**Kirsten Franson

**Motion Graphics...**Robert Klein

**Assistant Editor...**Nick Van Berkel

## **TAXIDERM Y ARTISTS**

**Allis Markham**

**Ferry Van Tongeren**

**Jaap Sinke**

**Daniel Meng**

**Travis de Villiers**

**Wendy Christensen**

**Timothy Bovard**

**George Dante**

**Ken Walker**

**Mandy Den Elzen**

**Sarina Brewer**

**Remington Hutton**

**Dakota Rose Gould**

**Madison Rubin**

Roger Hutton  
Mark Breen Klein  
Katie Innamoto  
John McCormack  
Paloma Strong  
Jordan Hackle

### ADDITIONAL CAST

David Jackson  
Samantha Jackson  
Lisa Jackson  
Jay Kirk  
Kathy Blomquist  
Larry Blomquist  
Olivia Miseroy  
Sandy Attanasio  
Brian Griffon

### HOLLAND / BELGIUM CREW

Line Producer...Thomas Rohde  
Cinematography...Floris van der lee  
Assistant Camera...Jip Hilferink  
Location Sound...Oliver Pattinama  
Production Assistant...Erwin Bos

### SOUTH AFRICA CREW

Assistant Camera...Macaire Cox  
Location Sound...Andre Feldmann  
Production Coordinator...Daphne Jefferis  
Driver...Paul Magwele

### IOWA CREW

Assistant Camera...Adam Pinnell  
Location Sound...Robert Nelson  
Production Coordinator...Joe Heath  
Additional Camera Operator...Joe Clark  
Gaffer/Key Grip...Ben Velzen  
Grip/Lighting/Art Dept Swing...Nick Iway  
Transportation Captain/Driver...Julius Fletcher

### ARCHIVAL & PHOTOGRAPHY ELEMENTS SHOOT

Director...Jenn Strom  
Producer...Holly Brydson  
Cinematography...Naim Sutherland  
Assistant Art Director...James Boatman  
Image Researcher...Jenn Strom

### WORLD COMPETITION CREW

**Assistant Camera**...Dan Hedges  
**Location Sound**...Alan Chow  
**Production Coordinator**...Joe Heath  
**Gaffer/Key Grip**...Adam Pinnell  
**Grip/Electric Swing**...Nick Iway

### CAT SHOW / CONSERVATION AMBASSADORS CREW

**Assistant Camera**...Mike Cardenas  
**Assistant Camera**...Matt Borek  
**Location Sound**...Rob Reider  
**Production Coordinator**...Aaron Hammersley  
**Gaffer/Key Grip**...Ben Velzen  
**Grip/Electric Swing**...Nick Iway  
**Hair/MU/Wardrobe Dept Head**...Myla Kellerman  
**Production Assistant**...Alyssa Appleton

### ADDITIONAL CALIFORNIA CREW

**Additional Cinematography**...Brian Henderson  
**Additional Cinematography**...Oliver Bukowsky  
**Location Sound**...Brendan Johnson  
**Location Sound**...Paul Stula

### AUDIO POST PRODUCTION SERVICES

**A Thousand Words Post Inc**

**Sound Editing**...Shawn Vanderloo, Hugh Wielenga  
**Foley**...Leon Campbell, Ian Buchanan

### DI POST PRODUCTION SERVICES

**FINALE POST PRODUCTION, VANCOUVER, BC**

**Colorist**...Lionel Barton  
**Online Editor**...Chris Boettcher  
**Project Manager**...Julia Neindorf

### ADDITIONAL CREW

**Publicity**...Adam J. Segal, The 2050 Group  
**Production Attorney**...Roger Cramer  
**Curiosity Pictures Legal Services**...Eva Schmieg  
**Additional Cinematography (Asheville)**...Paul Anderson  
**Location Sound (NY/NJ)**...Artem Kulakov  
**Location Sound (Asheville)**...Paul Anderson

### MUSIC

**Original Score Written and Produced by**...Ben Lovett

**Engineered by...**Clay Blair and Julian Dryer  
**Assisted by...**Omar Yakar and Justin Hrabovsky

**Recorded at Boulevard Studios, Los Angeles, California & Echo Mountain Studios, Asheville, North Carolina**

**Cello...**Tim Loo, Franklin Keel  
**Violin...**Charlie Bisherat, Emily Schaad, Mariya Potopova, Julian Pinelli  
**Viola...**Kara Poorbaugh  
**Flute...**Sara Andon  
**Clarinet...**Stephen Loew  
**Concert Bass...**Jonathan Flaughter  
**Piano...**Dave Palmer, Taylor Pierson  
**Electric Bass...**Benjamin Balcom  
**Electric Guitar...**Trevor Menear  
**Acoustic Guitar...**Bennett Lewis  
**Additional Guitars...**Leo Abrahams  
**Synthesizer...**Dave Palmer  
**Trumpet...**Ben Hovey  
**Mandolin...**Bennett Lewis  
**Percussion...**Benjamin Balcom

**Music Editor...**Jenn Strom

“Devil Like Me”  
 Written by Samuel Melo [BMI]  
 Performed by Rainbow Kitten Surprise  
 Published by RKS Compositions  
 Administered by Songs of Kobalt Music Publishing

**V I S U A L M A T E R I A L C O U R T E S Y O F**

Adam Cole/NPR  
 Albert Bierstadt. The Oregon Trail, 1869. Oil on Canvas. Gift of Joseph G. Butler III. Collection, The Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, Ohio  
 Allis Markham  
 American Museum of Natural History, Library  
 Andreas Berlin / Unsplash  
 Getty Images  
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 Bradley Feller / Unsplash  
 Brian Bassella / Chicago Tribune / TNS  
 Carl Akeley/Field Museum Library/Getty Images  
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Dover Publications  
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Henry, Holt and Company

Hummingbirds A Life-size Guide to Every Species, by Michael Fogden, Marianne Taylor, Sheri

L. Williamson (2014, Harper Design) is used by permission of HarperCollins Publishers

Jaap Sinke and Ferry Van Tongeren

Jay Town / Newspix

LA Downtowner  
LA Weekly  
Library of Congress Logan White

Marc Hill / Alamy Stock Photo  
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Michael & Patricia Fogden / MINDEN PICTURES  
Michael Kirby Smith  
Michael Sears / Milwaukee Journal Sentinel  
Milwaukee Public Museum

© 2019 Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Albert Bierstadt, American (born in Germany), 1830–1902 The Buffalo Trail, about 1867 Oil on canvas 80.96 x 121.92 cm (31 7/8 x 48 in.) Museum of Fine Arts, Boston Gift of Martha C. Karolik for the M. and M. Karolik Collection of American Paintings, 1815–1865 47.1268

Nate Imig, 88Nine Radio Milwaukee  
Nick Fewings / Unsplash  
Northwestern School of Taxidermy / James Houston  
Penguin Random House LLC  
Robert Clark  
Rodrigo Buendia/AFP/Getty Images  
Saffron Walden Museum  
Sarina Brewer  
The Refinery Photo Studio  
Travis De Villiers  
Uriel Soberanes / Unsplash

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

The Derham Family  
Matt Van Swol  
The Kiff Family  
Adam Kane  
Bronwyn McBride  
Natural History Museum of Los Angeles American Natural History Museum



Mo Simpson  
Carmen Pollard  
Brent Riggs  
Conservation Ambassadors Museum Old Amelisweerd Kasteel D'Ursel

Cayman Islands Film Festival

Gary Lucchesi  
Tim Bovard Elizabeth Kellerman John Janelli

Ferry Van Tongeren  
Jaap Sinke  
Wendy Christiansen  
Animals in Wonderland, Jeru and Juan Kathy and Larry Blomquist

Shirley Moore  
Julie Forkasdi  
Erica Wolf  
Peter Monaghan  
Susan Fuller and Julie Stofel Rachel Mayer

Jean Geiger and Wayne Palsson Don Norman  
Larry James  
Ilona Hileman

Susan Dernfeld  
Karen Ramshaw  
Tricera Imaging Solutions Mount Pleasant Furniture

## **EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY**

83 West  
Panavision Johannesburg Cam-a-lot Netherlands

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## **ABOUT MUSIC BOX FILMS**

Music Box Films is a North American distributor of acclaimed international, independent, and documentary features. Recent releases include Christian Petzold's critically acclaimed TRANSIT, Thomas Stuber's romantic drama IN THE AISLES, Claudio Giovannesi's PIRANHAS, and Kirill Mikhanovsky's GIVE ME LIBERTY. Upcoming releases include François Ozon's BY THE GRACE OF GOD and Levan Akin's AND THEN WE DANCED (Sweden's official submission to the 2020 Academy Awards). Music Box Films is independently owned and operated by the Southport Music

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