

# SOUND FOR THE FUTURE

A FRACTURED HISTORY OF BRITAIN'S YOUNGEST POST-PUNK BAND

## THE HIPPIES



## A MATT HULSE FILM

WITH MUSIC FROM XTC/GANG OF FOUR/SLEAFORD MODS  
THE STRANGLERS/UGHT/FRED CHAMPION/LUFT  
JOE GIBBS/THE HIPPIES & GENERATION RIOT

**Producers: Ashley Horner & Aimara Reques**

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# SOUND FOR THE FUTURE - A MATT HULSE FILM

**THE HIPPIES** were a bizarre English punk band formed in '79 by the Hulse children, Toby (12), Matt (11) and Polly (8). Their cassette album 'A Sound for the Future' featured songs about disease, assassination & the Antarctic.

*"Would you please stop sitting around in your pyjamas, eating toast & singeing your legs by the gas fire. Fuck it - form a band!"* (Ruth Pendragon, Mother & Manager)

The band performed ticketed live shows for their mother's kindly and chaotic group of friends, part of the ramshackle 'Cambridge fringe element': the homeless, drunks, animal rights activists, junkies, cross-dressers and a pair of gay Franciscan Friars. Their DIY approach & domestic sound still resonates with semi-ironic naive charm, echoing **The Shaggs** or **Daniel Johnston**. Their star shone briefly, before breaking up due to musical differences and possibly an argument over crisps.

**THE HIPPIES** then and now. What truly happened back in the past and whose side of the story should be told? Especially as the film's director was the band's 11 year-old drummer? Matt's mum, Ruth, maverick, mystic, manager, plays a pivotal role in the bigger picture, offering an insight into a time of personal and social upheaval, both for her and her family in Thatcher's Britain. Matt reforms and reimagines **THE HIPPIES** through a series of workshops and experiments with a teenage cast, eventually creating a contemporary rival to his childhood band in **GENERATION RIOT**. Using music of the period, archive, animation and poetic recreations of key moments, Matt Hulse explores a part-remembered, kaleidoscopically fractured, family history, through an energetic, jarring, ride; part performance, part art, part process, post-punk.

Genre:	Hybrid Documentary	Co-Producer:	Aconite Productions, Scotland
Status:	Completed May 2020	Language:	English
Producers:	Ashley Horner & Aimara Reques	Website:	<a href="http://www.pinballfilms.com">www.pinballfilms.com</a>
Director:	Matt Hulse	Territories:	All available
Writer:	Matt Hulse	Format:	4K, DCP
Duration:	102 Minutes	Backers:	Creative England/Screen Scotland





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"THE HIPPIES music and our shared stories as a young band have been on my mind for ages" says Matt Hulse. "It's a rare tale, from a unique time - the energetic, earnest innocence resonates down the years. I've been wondering what motivated our mum to steer us in this direction? What did she make of the band? Why and how do these tunes still resonate? Who and where are the child bands now, what's their story? And can The Hippies still remember how to play these tunes?"

"I love the conventional formality and clichés of the music documentary form. It's a very rigid, conservative form dressed up as 'Rock 'n' Roll'. Full of its own self-importance, and ripe for teasing, challenging, mimicking... as a means to explore important subjects, however. Christopher Guest's 'Spinal Tap' offered a fond and intelligent critique of that world and genre, blurring the subtle line between documentary and fiction. It's a strangely moving film, and very funny. 'Spinal Tap' is a touchstone, along with the influence of other classic, playful and irreverent music-led 'rock docs' such as 'Sympathy for the Devil' (the longeurs), 'Slade in Flame' (the honest naivety), 'The Great Rock 'n' Roll Swindle' (the attitude), 'The Kids Are Alright' (the inventiveness), The Rutles (the humour) and 'Stop Making Sense' (the process)."

The film is an energetic, jarring, comical musical ride through a part-remembered, kaleidoscopically fractured, family history, bringing both hope and resolution, built on a love of the DIY punk aesthetic. **XTC, SLEAFORD MODS, GANG OF FOUR, THE STRANGLERS, OUGHT, FRED CHAMPION** and **THE HIPPIES** all provide music to soundtrack the film. **SOUND FOR THE FUTURE** features the last performance by the sadly departed Andy Gill of **GANG OF FOUR**.



**Matt Hulse (Director)** is an artist filmmaker. His diverse practice embraces moving image, photography, music, sound, performance, written word, social media and community engagement. His films and videos have screened in cinemas and on television in 25 different countries. Matt's second feature length film **DUMMY JIM** (2013) premiered at **Rotterdam International Film Festival** where it enjoyed four sell-out public screenings and was nominated for a prestigious **Tiger Award**. The film was described by **EIFF** as "a totally unique mixture of documentary, fiction and playful visual poetry." In 2017 he was overall winner of Germany's prestigious **Felix Schoeller Photo Award** for a series of photos called **SNIPER** shot in North Korea, Hong Kong and Outer Mongolia, described in the **British Journal of Photography** as "revealing the existential core of humanity in disturbingly simple pictures."



**Ashley Horner (Producer)** In 1999 Ashley co-founded Pinball Films with a plan to make exciting and commercial art cinema in the European tradition. He is an experienced film professional of over twenty years, both as producer and director, well versed in working with new, exciting and maverick talent. Ashley's feature film **BRILLIANTLOVE** (aka **THE ORGASM DIARIES**) was selected for the Tribeca Film Festival in 2010, where **IFC** picked up world rights to the film after its premiere. **THE ORGASM DIARIES** was released internationally by **IFC Midnight** in the US and **SODA PICTURES** in the UK, grossing more than double its production budget. Ashley is in pre-production on the science fiction feature **ÜBERMAN**, produced by Keith Bell (**THE DESCENT/HARRY BROWN**), who recently joined the company. He is an active member of ACE, EAVE, the European Film Academy and joined Trans Atlantic Partners in 2018.



**Almara Reques (Producer)** is the founder of Aconite Productions, an innovative company based in Scotland dedicated to the production of high-quality creative documentaries that bring stories of global significance to the world stage. She has over 25 years of experience in the film industry in the UK and has collaborated with a number of renowned directors and producers from both the UK and abroad. She is a winner of two **BAFTA** Scotland Awards; a **FOX SEARCHLIGHT** Award; an **AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL** Media Award; and the Golden Star Award from El Gouna Film Festival; and she was nominated for the Grierson Award for Documentary at Edinburgh International Film Festival in 2005. Almara was the lead producer of the award-winning documentary **AQUARELA**, which was directed by Victor Kossakovsky, premiered at Venice 2018 and was shortlisted for the **OSCARS** in 2020. Other company credits include **BRASILIA: LIFE AFTER DESIGN** by Bart Simpson, **15 IN GAZA** by Wesam Mousa and Rana Ayoub and **EVERYBODY'S CHILD** by Garry Fraser.



Ruth Pendragon/Mum



Matt Hulse/Director



Young Matty



Emmanuel on the Wasty Land



The Hippies Re-Imagined



Generation Riot