

WHEN YOU'RE STRANGE

Ein Film von
Tom DiCillo

Erzählt von
Johnny Depp

Mit
**John Densmore, Robby Krieger,
Ray Manzarek & Jim Morrison**

Dauer: 86 Minuten

Kinostart: 29. Juli 2010

**Bilder Download:
www.frenetic.ch/presse**

SYNOPSIS

Kaum eine Band hat das Aufbegehren einer jungen Generation so verkörpert wie The Doors. Ihre unverwechselbaren Sounds, ihr Wille zu bedingungsloser künstlerischer Freiheit, ihr Hang zu den dunklen Seiten der Seele und Jim Morrisons Exzesse inspirierten Generationen von Jugendlichen: cool, rebellisch, unsterblich. Fast 40 Jahre nach dem Tod des charismatischen Rock-Poeten Jim Morrison hat die Band nichts von Ihrer Faszination eingebüßt. Mit den bisher ungezeigten Kurzfilmen von Morrison und noch nie gesehendem Archivmaterial, das die Doors auf der Bühne, hinter der Bühne und in privaten Momenten zeigte, lässt der preisgekrönte Regisseur Tom DiCillo den Mythos „Doors“ wieder aufleben. Erzähler dieser einzigartigen Geschichte der Popkultur ist der Schauspieler Johnny Depp.

PRESSENOTIZ

WHEN YOU'RE STRANGE ist die erste Kino-Dokumentation über The Doors. Sie erzählt die Geschichte der Band von den Anfängen am Strand von Venice Beach 1965 über die sechs Studioalben (allesamt Meilensteine der Popmusik) bis zu Jim Morrisons Tod im Jahr 1971. Um die Wahrheit vom Mythos zu unterscheiden, verzichtet Tom DiCillo – Kultregisseur (LIVING IN OBLIVION) und Kameravirtuose (STRANGER THAN PARADISE) – auf Schauspieler und verlässt sich allein auf das Archivmaterial. Dieses aber ist bereits so intim und dramatisch, dass Sprecher Johnny Depp kommentiert: „Das hypnotisierende, bisher unveröffentlichte Material von Jim, John, Ray und Robby zu sehen, hat mir das Gefühl gegeben, das alles noch einmal durch ihre Augen zu erleben.“

CAST

John Densmore Drummer
Robby Krieger Gitarrist
Ray Manzarek Keyboarder
Jim Morrison Sänger

CREW

Regie und Buch TOM DICILLO
Erzähler JOHNNY DEPP
Produzenten PETER JANKOWSKI
JOHN BEUG, JEFF JAMPOL, DICK WOLF
Schnitt MICKEY BLYTHE & KEVIN KRASNY
Archivmaterial PAUL FERRARA

ÜBER DEN FILM

Award-winning writer-director Tom DiCillo's riveting film uncovers historic, previously unseen footage from the illustrious rock quartet and provides new insight into the revolutionary impact of their music and legacy. The film is narrated by Johnny Depp. The creative chemistry of four brilliant artists – drummer John Densmore, guitarist Robby Krieger, keyboardist Ray Manzarek, and singer Jim Morrison – made The Doors one of America's most iconic and influential rock bands. When You're Strange is the first feature documentary to tell their story. Using no actors and only footage shot between their formation in 1965 and Morrison's death in 1971, it follows the band from the corridors of UCLA's film school, where Manzarek and Morrison met, to the stages of sold-out arenas.

Taking its title from the cabaret-tinged Doors hit "People Are Strange," the film chronicles the creation of The Doors' six landmark studio albums in just five years, as well as their electrifying live performances. Rare cinéma vérité footage offers an intimate glimpse into their musical collaboration – and their offstage lives. "The Doors' music is the rock equivalent to film. It has great drama, sex, poetry, and mystery. Their music is for all those who've ever felt the cool chill of isolation and oddness in themselves; which in effect is all of us," says filmmaker DiCillo. "I first heard The Doors in 1966 as a sophomore in college." says producer Dick Wolf. "I'm still listening 42 years later and so is my 15-year old son. The Doors will be remembered, and listened to, as long as people have ears." Additional credits for When You're Strange include producers Wolf, John Beug, Jeff Jampol, and Peter Jankowski.

*Geoff Gillmore*¹: "The Doors are probably my favorite band. Maybe that's because they emerged at such a troubled point in American history and so captured the zeitgeist of that era, the late 1960s and early '70s. And yet I don't mythologize them. But Tom DiCillo's feature documentary is such an inspired portrait of not only the band and its iconic singer, Jim Morrison, and also that time period and its contradictions, its optimism and fury, its co-optation and transformation, that it instantly carried me back to those days.

When You're Strange is far from a nostalgic journey and much more than a biopic. Using only original footage shot between 1966 and 1971, DiCillo's film attempts to disentangle truth from myth, depict the artist and the alcoholic/addict that was Morrison, and showcase the other members of the band: Ray Manzarek, Robby Krieger, and John Densmore, who together channeled the group's magic. It manages to preserve the mystique but never ceases to unearth new revelations and augment our understanding of who the Doors were and what they became. As well as an astute chronicle of the times, this is a deeply personal film for DiCillo. In the final analysis, When You're Strange is a rare tribute to music, individuality, and a generation and resonates with an authenticity that speaks to anyone who wants to understand that era and what it means today."

¹ *Geoff Gillmore is Chief Creative Officer of Tribeca Enterprises and was the former director of the acclaimed Sundance Film Festival.*

JIM MORRISON - Leadsinger

At the center of The Doors' mystique is the magnetic presence of singer-poet Jim Morrison, the leatherclad "Lizard King" who brought the riveting power of a shaman to the microphone. Morrison was a film student at UCLA when he met keyboardist Ray Manzarek on Venice Beach in 1965. Upon hearing Morrison's poetry, Manzarek immediately suggested they form a band; the singer took the group's name from Aldous Huxley's infamous psychedelic memoir, "The Doors of Perception."

Constantly challenging censorship and conventional wisdom, Morrison's lyrics delved into primal issues of sex, violence, freedom and the spirit. He outraged authority figures, braved intimidation and arrest, and followed the road of excess (as one of his muses, the poet William Blake, famously put it) toward the palace of wisdom.

Over the course of six extraordinary albums and countless boundary-smashing live performances, he inexorably changed the course of rock music – and died in 1971 at the age of 27. He was buried in Paris, and fans from around the world regularly make pilgrimages to his grave. In 1978, the surviving members of the band – Manzarek, guitarist Robby Krieger and drummer John Densmore – reunited to record the accompanying music for "An American Prayer", a compilation of Morrison's poetry readings. He remains the very template of the rock frontman, and his singing, poetry and Dionysian demeanor continue to inspire artists and audiences around the world.

JOHN DENSMORE - Drummer

Drummer John Densmore was far more than merely the rhythmic engine of The Doors. Strongly influenced by jazz skinsmen like Elvin Jones and the supple grooves of the Brazilian wave, he brought a highly evolved sense of dynamics, structure and musicality to his beats. Inexorably drawn to music from childhood, Los Angeles-born Densmore honed his sense of dynamics playing with his high school marching band.

In the mid-'60s he joined guitarist Robby Krieger in a band called Psychedelic Rangers; shortly thereafter they hooked up with keyboardist Ray Manzarek and Morrison, and an explosive chapter in the development of rock 'n' roll began. A raft of paradigm-shifting recordings and epochal live performances would follow. Morrison's death in 1971 marked the end of an era, though the surviving trio recorded two more albums of songs and an instrumental backdrop for the late singer's recorded poetry.

The versatile musician explored reggae and jazz in subsequent projects, wrote books and articles and became active in L.A.'s adventurous theater community. He earned an L.A. Weekly Theatre Award for the music he created for the Tim Robbins-directed stage production "Methusalem". He also co-produced the play "Rounds", which was given the NAACP award for theatre in 1987. Densmore's autobiography, "Riders on the Storm: My Life With Jim Morrison and The Doors", was published in 1991 and was a New York Times bestseller. He's written articles and essays for Rolling Stone, London Guardian, The Nation, and many nationally syndicated newspapers.

RAY MANZAREK - Keyboarder

Ray Manzarek was the architect of The Doors' intoxicating keyboard sound. Manzarek's evocative playing fused rock, jazz, blues, bossa nova and an array of other styles into something utterly, dazzlingly new. The group was born in 1965, when Jim Morrison and Chicago native Manzarek -- both UCLA film students -- met on Venice Beach. The singer's poetry was a perfect fit for the classically trained keyboardist's musical ideas, and eventually they decided to form a band.

Though several bassists auditioned for the group, none could match the bass lines provided by Manzarek's left hand.

Signed to Elektra Records, The Doors released six studio albums, a live album and a compilation before Morrison's untimely demise in 1971. Manzarek, Krieger and Densmore released two albums as a trio under the Doors moniker, with Manzarek and Krieger handling vocals. Manzarek next formed the group Nite City, which invited comparisons to Mott the Hoople and Aerosmith; the quintet released its one album in 1977. The surviving Doors reunited to create a musical backdrop for Morrison's recorded poetry on the 1978 release "An American Prayer". Manzarek produced and performed on five of the L.A. band X's albums, including "Los Angeles", which remains one of the high-water marks of the punk movement. The keyboardist has since authored several books, and recorded numerous solo albums. He currently lives in Napa Valley, California.

ROBBY KRIEGER - Gitarrist

With a flair for wicked bottleneck slide, exploratory solos and gutbucket grooves, guitarist Robby Krieger brought a stinging, sinuous intensity to the sound of The Doors. But he was also a key songwriter in the band and penned some of their biggest hits – notably their mesmerizing #1 hit, "Light My Fire." Before picking up the guitar at age 17, the L.A. native studied trumpet and piano. The inspiration for switching to guitar came not from rock 'n' roll, but Spanish flamenco music. His first guitar hero, however, was jazz legend Wes Montgomery.

After Morrison's death in 1971, Krieger, Manzarek and Densmore carried on as a trio. They released two more albums as the Doors before calling it quits in 1973, though they did reconvene a few years later to create music for poetry Morrison had recorded shortly before his death, released as the 1978 album "An American Prayer!". Krieger went on to enjoy success as a jazz guitarist, recording a handful of records with the Robby Krieger Band in the 1970s and '80s. "Versions" (1983) and "No Habla" (1986) amply demonstrate his versatility. "I think playing guitar is probably the one thing that gets better with age," he says. Robby Krieger is listed among Rolling Stone's "100 Greatest Guitarists of All Time."

TOM DICILLO - Buch & Regie

“The Doors’ music is the rock equivalent to film. It has great drama, sex, poetry, and mystery. Their music is for all those who’ve ever felt the cool chill of isolation and oddness in themselves; which in effect is all of us. So much mystery and legend surrounds The Doors, the challenge was to find some personal truth and present it accurately. Delving into the original footage was like falling into a mirror of America; only one that was tilted back at a 40 year angle. It all had an intensity and immediacy as if it had been shot two days ago. It carried the drama and intimacy of a narrative film. As a result I decided to bend the documentary form a bit and not use contemporary interviews with talking heads referring back to a past event. I was much more excited by letting the film exist in a living moment as if it were happening in the present. The Doors insisted on complete artistic freedom in their music. They had a strange, completely original sound and were committed to the truth as they saw it. It was not always pretty -- as Morrison’s excesses increased it was frequently disturbing. But, as an independent filmmaker I related to this commitment. The Doors, they never sold out. It was deeply inspirational to be reminded that not everything is for sale.” (Tom DiCillo)

Tom DiCillo received his MA in Directing from NYU’s Graduate Film School in 1979. In 1984 DiCillo shot (and acted) in STRANGER THAN PARADISE (1984) for classmate Jim Jarmusch. In 1987 DiCillo wrote and performed a show in NYC called JOHNNY SUEDE (1991). This led to his first feature, starring Brad Pitt and Catherine Keener. JOHNNY SUEDE (1991) won Best Picture at the 1991 Locarno Film Festival. DiCillo’s LIVING IN OBLIVION (1995) starred Steve Buscemi, Catherine Keener and Dermot Mulroney and won Best Screenplay at the 1995 Sundance Film Festival. Other awards include Best Picture at the Deauville Film Festival. In 1996 DiCillo wrote and directed BOX OF MOONLIGHT (1996), starring John Turturro, Sam Rockwell and Catherine Keener. The film premiered at Sundance and was in the Main Competition at the Venice Film Festival. DiCillo made ECHT BLOND (THE REAL BLONDE, 1997) in 1998, starring Matthew Modine, Catherine Keener, Darryl Hannah and Christopher Lloyd. The film opened the Deauville Film Festival and was released in the US by Paramount. In 2000 DiCillo wrote and directed DOUBLE WHAMMY (2001), starring Denis Leary, Elizabeth Hurley, Steve Buscemi and Chris Noth. DiCillo’s DELIRIOUS (2006) released in 2007, starred Steve Buscemi, Michael Pitt, Alison Lohman, Gina Gershon and Elvis Costello. DELIRIOUS (2006) won Best Director and Best Screenplay at the 2006 San Sebastian Film Festival as well as Special Jury Prize at the Istanbul Film Festival and Best Director at the HBO Comedy Arts Festival. WHEN YOU’RE STRANGE is DiCillo’s first full length documentary.

DICK WOLF - Produzent

Emmy and Academy Award winner Dick Wolf is the architect of one of the most successful brands in the history of television: LAW & ORDER (1990-2010). Wolf serves as creator and executive producer of the three LAW & ORDER drama series from Wolf Films and Universal Media Studios – LAW & ORDER, LAW & ORDER: SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT (1999-2010) and LAW & ORDER: CRIMINAL INTENT (2001-2010). Wolf produced TWIN TOWERS (2002), the 2003 Academy Award winning Short Documentary about two brothers, one a policeman and the other a fireman, who lost their lives in the line of duty on September 11th. Wolf also produced WHEN YOU’RE STRANGE, a critically-acclaimed documentary about The Doors which has been accepted into the prestigious Berlin Film Festival.

In 2007, Wolf executive produced the HBO original movie BURY MY HEART AT WOUNDED KNEE (2007), which won six Emmy Awards, including Outstanding Made for Television Movie. The film tells the tragic and powerful story of the subjugation and cultural extermination of the Native American, and garnered a record of 17 Emmy nominations, the most of the 2006-2007 television seasons. The film also received the prestigious Broadcast Film Critics Association’s Critic’s Choice Award for Best Picture Made for Television. Wolf’s LAW & ORDER series continues to rewrite the annals of television history. With over 400 episodes produced, LAW & ORDER – now in its 19th

season on NBC – is the longest-running current drama series on television. It has earned eleven consecutive Outstanding Drama Series Emmy nominations – the record for most consecutive series Emmy nominations in the history of television – tied with CHEERS (1982- 1993) and “M*A*S*H” (1972-1983) – and won the coveted Emmy in that category in 1997. LAW & ORDER’S other accolades include: the highly-coveted Peabody Award; multiple Emmys; the Crystal Apple Award from the New York City’s Mayor’s office of Film, Theater and Broadcasting; the Writer’s Guild Award for Television and numerous other high ranking tributes. LAW & ORDER: SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT, in its tenth year on NBC, has been one of the network’s top performers, and continually wins its Tuesday night time period, monopolizing audiences by a wide margin in ratings, share and demographics. Star Mariska Hargitay (who plays Detective Olivia Benson) has received three Emmy nominations for Lead Actress in a Drama Series, winning in 2006. Co-Star Christopher Meloni (who plays Detective Elliott Stabler) has also earned an Emmy nomination in the Lead Actor in a Drama Series category. In addition, Leslie Caron, Cynthia Nixon and Amanda Plummer have earned Outstanding Guest Actress in a Drama Series Emmys for their work on the show. LAW & ORDER: CRIMINAL INTENT, in its eighth season, stars Vincent D’Onofrio and Academy Award nominee Jeff Goldblum, with Kathryn Erbe, Julianne Nicholson and Eric Bogosian. Criminal Intent has dominated its timeslot in the ratings at its new home on the USA Network. Wolf has been a creative force in television for more than 25 years, with an illustrious career as a top advertising executive and continuing as one of television’s most prolific producer/writers with such series as CONVICTION, L.A. DRAGNET (2006), HILL STREET BLUES (1981), MIAMI VICE (1984-1989), NEW YORK UNDERCOVER (1994-1998), ARREST & TRIAL (2000) SOUTH BEACH (1993), FEDS AND PLAYERS (1997).

Among his feature film credits are the screenplay for the hit Paramount release SCHOOL TIES, writer and executive producer of MASQUERADE (1988) and writer and producer of NO MAN’S LAND (1987). His personal honors include such awards as: the Award of Excellence from the Banff Television Festival; the 2002 Creative Achievement Award from NATPE and the 2007 Brandon Tartikoff Award; the Producer’s Guild of America’s Norman Lear Showmanship Award, the Anti-Defamation League’s Distinguished Entertainment Industry Award; the DGA Honors; the International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Lifetime Achievement Award; the Governor’s Award by the New York Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences; the 1997 achievement award from the Caucus for Producers, Writers, and Directors, the 1998 Television Showman of the Year Award from the Publicist’s Guild of America and the 2002 Tribute from the Museum of Television and Radio. On March 29, 2007, Wolf received a star on Hollywood’s world-famous Walk of Fame. Wolf is also an Honorary Consul of Monaco and is its primary liaison with the entertainment community. He is actively involved in the principality’s prestigious annual television Festival

DER SOUNDTRACK ZUM FILM

Sie waren eine der wohl einflussreichsten Bands, die der Rock je hervorgebracht hat: THE DOORS. Ihr Frontmann Jim Morrison, ein begnadeter Performer, talentierter Poet und tragischer Held des Rock'n'Roll gleichermaßen, wurde noch zu Lebzeiten zu einer Ikone der bewegten Sechziger Jahre, deren Strahlkraft bis heute nachwirkt. Die Geschichte der DOORS wurde nun zum ersten Mal in einer umfassenden Filmdokumentation aufgearbeitet, die den Titel *When You're Strange* trägt und einen exquisiten Soundtrack mitbringt, der selten gehörte Live-Performances, einige Original-Klassiker der DOORS und Gedichte Morrisons enthält, die von Schauspieler und Musiker Johnny Depp rezitiert werden, der im Film auch als Sprecher fungiert.

Eine wahre Schatzgrube für alle, die sich den DOORS zum ersten Mal nähern, aber auch für jene, die bisher glaubten, ihre DOORS-Sammlung sei bereits komplett. Das mit 32 Tracks reichlich umfassende Repertoire des Soundtracks *WHEN YOU'RE STRANGE - SONGS FROM THE MOTION PICTURE* enthält neben 14 DOORS-Hits aus allen sechs Alben der Band zusätzlich rare Live- Mitschnitte, nämlich *When The Music Is Over* aus einer dänischen Fernsehshow, *Break On Through (To The Other Side)* vom Isle of Wight-Festival 1970 und den legendär-skandalösen *Light My Fire*-Auftritt aus der Ed Sullivan Show. 14 Original-Morrison-Gedichte wurden von Johnny Depp eingelesen und in packender Dramaturgie über das gesamte Tracklisting verteilt, etwa *The Spirit Of Music*, *Cinema* und die kompromisslose Abrechnung Morrisons mit seiner Heimat, *Goodbye America*. Außerdem liest Johnny Depp William Blakes *The Doors of Perception*, das Pate für den Bandnamen stand. Zusätzlich aufgewertet wird der dokumentarische Charakter des Soundtracks zudem mit insgesamt fünf grundlegenden Interviews mit den Bandmitglieder Jim Morrison, Ray Manzarek, Robby Krieger und John Densmore. Auch das Repertoire der DOORS-Songs spricht für sich selbst: *Touch Me*, *The End*, *L.A. Woman*, *Five To One*, *Soul Kitchen* und natürlich das titelgebende *People Are Strange* sowie weitere Marksteine der Rockmusik kennzeichnen eine der besten Song-Compilations, die zum Thema THE DOORS je erschienen sind.

Der Film selbst bietet jede Menge bislang unveröffentlichtes Material aus den Jahren 1965-1971 und wurde von Wolf Films/Strange Pictures in Zusammenarbeit mit Rhino Entertainment produziert und von Abramorama veröffentlicht. Die Regie für die 90-Minütige Doku führte der mehrfach preisgekrönte Tom DiCillo. „Man sagt, wer sich an die Sechziger erinnern kann, sei nicht dabei gewesen“, so Producer Dick Wolf. „Ich kann definitiv sagen, dass ich mich daran erinnere, wie ich das erste THE DOORS-Album an dem Tag erstand, als es erschien, und es dann zehn oder zwölf Mal hintereinander durchhörte. Beide Seiten. Jeden Song. Und seitdem bin ich ein Fan. Der Film beschreibt zwar die Geschichte der Band, gibt aber auch einen Einblick in eine Zeit, die sich niemals wiederholen wird.“ Und Johnny Depp, als 1963 Geborener definitiv ein Kind der Generation danach, schwärmt ebenfalls: „Als ich das hypnotisierende, bisher unveröffentlichte Footage über Jim, John, Ray und Robby sah, hatte ich das Gefühl, alles aus ihrer Perspektive zu erleben. Eine Rock'n'Roll-Dokumentation, oder überhaupt eine Dokumentation, kann nicht besser gemacht sein als diese. Was für eine Ehre, dass ich daran beteiligt sein konnte. Ich bin stolz darauf, vielleicht mehr als auf alles, was ich bisher gemacht habe!“