



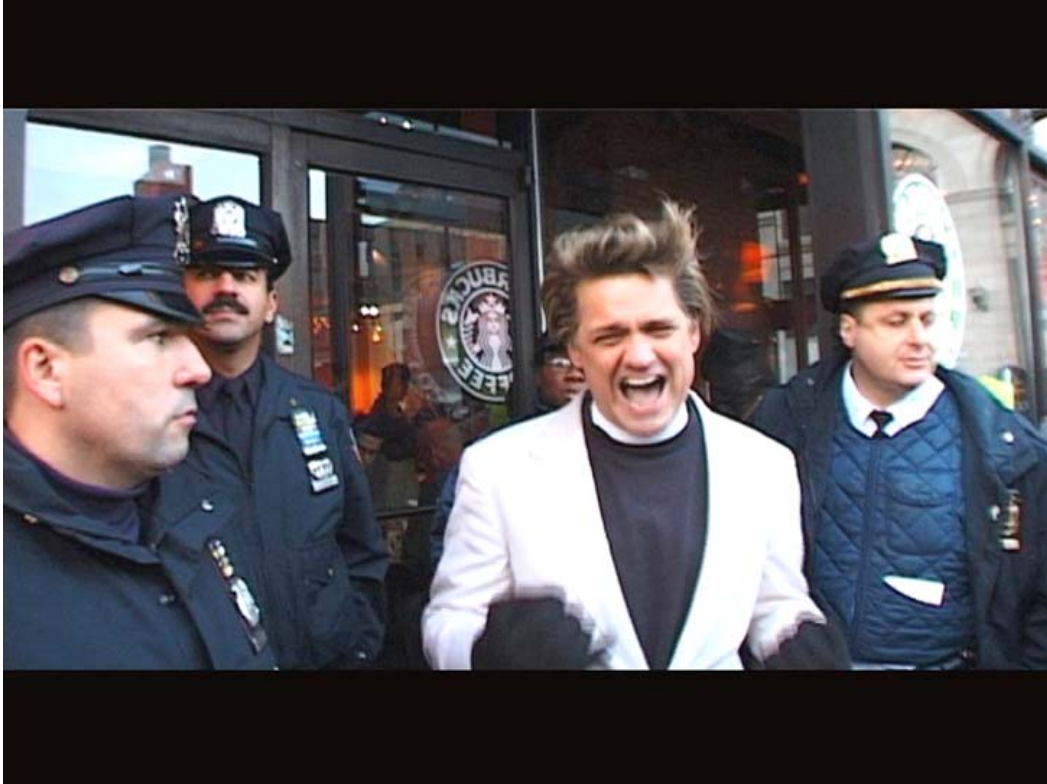
play loud! productions | gubener strasse 23 | 10243 berlin, germany  
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Boston Globe, Boston Herald, Chicago Tribune

**This film is a must for all people who believe that Michael Moore went mainstream.**  
Copenhagen Documentary Film Festival

**The most hilarious and pointed political theater in New York.**  
New York Times



play loud! presents

# REVEREND BILLY

## *and the Church of Stop Shopping*

a film by Dietmar Post + Lucía Palacios

Documentary Film | USA, Germany, Spain | 2002 | 60 min  
DVD with many EXTRAS: Interview with Bill Talen (30 min), Subtitles in German & Spanish, Trailer, etc. | NTSC codefree

[www.playloud.org](http://www.playloud.org)

reverend billy & the church of stop shopping



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## PRESS RELEASE

play loud! productions presents

# REVEREND BILLY & THE CHURCH OF STOP SHOPPING

a play loud! documentary film by Dietmar Post and Lucia Palacios

### This 'Reverend' preaches with punch

By Janice Page

Boston Globe

Published: 05/02/2003



Reverend Billy preaches his gospel on street corners, in subways and stores, even from the occasional rooftop. Put down your Starbucks lattes and Barnes & Noble paperbacks, he shouts through a handheld amplifier; let Disney know that you grasp the four-fingered devilishness of its clever merchandising.

As this self-appointed minister of social change sees it, America's neighborhoods are being overrun by exploitative corporate storefronts pushing dangerous transnational fairy tales. His guerrilla sermons aim to point out the dangers of indiscriminate consumerism; in fact, he may be the only spotlight-craving evangelist who advises that the way to save your soul is to quit opening your wallet without thinking. "Hallelujah!" he exclaims as he lays hands on the forehead of a Disney store patron in midtown Manhattan. "She stopped shopping!"

But what's most miraculous about Dietmar Post's **highly entertaining documentary** "Reverend Billy and the Church of Stop Shopping" is that it frequently gets past all the theatrics and manipulations, capturing what's genuinely empowering about a guy who dedicates himself to living outside the box.

Bill "Reverend Billy" Talen is no formally ordained minister; that much is immediately clear from his cobbled uniform with the white clerical collar that doesn't even meet the neck of his black T-shirt. Still, this self-styled preacher/performance artist has more spirit and conviction than most churchgoers. He spends his days organizing "actions," which might be protests that he leads at the ersatz cafes that grind on him like Bob Marley musak, or an intervention to save a condemned historic home of Edgar Allen Poe. Say what you will about Talen's hyperventilating, Jimmy Swaggart-style choice of character, Reverend Billy generally has no trouble drawing a crowd.

And where there's a heated crowd in New York City, there are, eventually, police. Post's most volatile footage involves authorities employing all manner of methods to deal with Reverend Billy, up to and including arrest. Reverend Billy isn't as belligerent as Andy Kaufman or as famous as Michael Moore, so the confrontations have an unpredictable excitement.

Best of all, though, are the many moments when German filmmaker Post puts a camera on Reverend Billy's misfires and imperfections. Two women listening to the Stop Shopping Gospel Choir sing ("No more Starbucks! No more mochas!") pronounce it an insult to God. A Disney store protest involving Mickey Mouse duct-taped to a wooden cross causes a befuddled passerby to remark "Mickey's dead?" And even an activist has to have a sense of humor when he's caught owning the very products he condemns. "If you walk on water with Florsheims," he jokes as he laces up his dress shoes, "you're just going to drown."

Social change begins with the willingness to trespass and make a fool of yourself for what you believe in, Reverend Billy preaches. If you fear that concept has lost its place in our world, check out his church.

**reverend billy & the church of stop shopping**



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### **More press quotations**

"Like Michael Moore, Reverend Billy puts himself on the line, exposing corporate pomposity wherever he finds it."

**San Francisco Independent Film Festival**

"The film is a fine piece of not only political and social commentary, but also of cinéma vérité."

**University of California, School of Humanities**

"A rebellious film."

**ZITTY-Stadtmagazin Berlin, Germany**

"Which American TV station will have the guts to show this film?"

**Albert Maysles, Filmmaker, New York**

"Though the collar is fake, the call is real."

**Alisa Solomon, Village Voice, New York**

"A forceful portrait of a braveheart fighting against windmills."

**The Ex-Berliner Magazine**

### **The directors and producers**

**Dietmar Post** is a filmmaker, service producer and voice over talent. Born in 1962 in Germany he studied Cinema Studies in Berlin (Germany), Madrid (Spain) and New York (USA). His short films Bowl of Oatmeal and Cloven Hoofed have been acclaimed at film festivals around the world. He currently lives in New York and Berlin.

**Lucia Palacios** is a filmmaker, TV producer and voice over talent. Born in 1972 in Spain she studied Journalism and Cinema Studies in Madrid (Spain) and New York (USA). She currently lives in New York and Berlin.

**Post and Palacios** in 2006 released their award-winning documentary film "monks – the transatlantic feedback". For more info please visit <http://www.playloud.org/themonks.html>

### **Awards**

Audience Award for best "Opera Prima" at REC FESTIVAL in Tarragona (Spain), 2004

2<sup>nd</sup> Best Documentary Film at Melbourne Underground Film Festival (Australia), 2003

### **Credits**

Script, director, camera, sound

Co-director, producer, camera, sound

Editor

Protagonists

Length

Format

Released

Dietmar Post

Lucia Palacios

Karl-W. Huelsenbeck

Bill Talen

60 min + 30 min Interview

Digibeta/BetaSP/DVD (DVD w/ German + Spanish subtitles)

2002 – USA, Germany, Spain

### **Other play loud! films**

Bowl of Oatmeal

Cloven Hoofed

monks - the transatlantic feedback

Klangbad: Avant-garde in the Meadows

### **Additional information, downloadable film stills, and press copies of the film**

<http://www.playloud.org/revbilly.html>

<http://www.revilly.com>

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## **LIST OF SCREENINGS/FESTIVALS**

### **REVEREND BILLY & THE CHURCH OF STOP SHOPPING**

(Documentary Germany/Spain/USA 2002 – 60 + 30 min – DVD w/German & Spanish subtitles, or BetaSP, DigiBeta)

Helsinki (Finland) at Lens Politica Film Festival (Dec 2005)  
Köln (Germany) at Filmhaus Kino (March 2005)  
Frankfurt (Germany) at Orfeos Erben Cinema (Feb 2005)  
Berlin (Germany) "globale" Filmfestival (Jan 2005)  
Hamburg (Germany) at Abaton Cinema (December 2004)  
Copenhagen International Film Festival (Denmark) (Nov 2004)  
Calgary (Canada) Calgary Int. Film Festival (Sept 2004)  
Santiago (Argentina) Int. Human Rights Film Fest (August 2004)  
Philadelphia (USA) Lost Film Festival (August 2004)  
Berlin (Germany) Architektur und Film Festival (June 2004)  
Ljubljana (Slovenia) Politically Incorrect Film Festival (May 2004)  
New York (USA) Two Boots Pioneer Theatre (April 2004)  
Tarragona (Spain) REC Film Festival (April 2004)  
Göttingen (Germany) Kino Lumiere (April 2004)  
Los Angeles (USA) Laemmle Theatres (April 2004)  
Barcelona (Spain) Festival The Influencers (April 2004)  
Bochum (Germany) Endstation Kino (March 2004)  
Bottrop (Germany) Filmforum der VHS Bottrop (Feb 2004)  
Berlin (Germany) Maulhelden Festival (Jan 2004)  
Berlin (Germany) Dokument Kino (Jan 2004)  
Madrid (Spain), Human Rights Film Festival, Cines Verdi (Dec 2003)  
Leicester (UK), Phoenix Arts Cinema (Dec 2003)  
Augsburg (Germany), Independent Film Days (Nov 2003)  
Reykjavik (Iceland), Nordic Cultural Centre (Nov 2003)  
Madison (USA), Electric Eye Cinema (Nov 2003)  
Denver (USA), Visualized Film Festival (Nov 2003)  
Houston (USA), Aurora Picture Show (Nov 2003)  
San Francisco (USA), Red Vic Movie Theatre (Nov 2003)  
Bogotá (Colombia) V Muestra Internacional de Documental (Nov 2003)  
New York (Anthology Film Archives, Oct/Nov 2003)  
Barcelona (Spain) Docúpolis - Documentary Film Festival (Oct 2003)  
Leipzig (naTo Kino, together with Attac Leipzig, Oct 2003)  
Valdivia (Chile) Festival Internacional de Cine (Oct 2003)  
Glasgow Film Theatre (Scotland, Oct 2003)  
Leeds International Film Festival (UK, Oct 2003)  
Nürnberg Human Rights Film Festival (Germany, Sept 2003)  
Philadelphia, The Celluloid Sideshow (Sept 2003)  
Freiburg, Kommunales Kino (Aug/Sept 2003)  
Cleveland Museum of Art (Aug 2003)  
Belgrade (BELEF, Belgrade Summer Arts Festival, July 2003)  
Austin (July 2003, Alamo Drafthouse)  
Melbourne Underground Film Festival (July 2003)  
Berlin (June 2003, Lichtblick Kino)  
Washington D.C. Underground Film Festival (May 2003)  
Boston (May 2003, Coolidge Corner Theatre)  
Rotterdam (April 2003, Worm & Witte de With Art Center)  
Berlin (March/April 2003, Kino Brotfabrik)  
Jacksonville, FL (March 2003, Subterranean Cinema)  
Kiel (March 2003, Filmgruppe Chaos)  
San Francisco (Feb 2003, Independent FF)  
Vancouver (Jan 2003, Blinding Light)  
Seattle (Nov 2002, North West Film Forum)  
Chicago Underground Film Festival (Aug 2002, world premiere)  
**BOOKINGS THROUGH PLAY LOUD!**  
Soon in more cities!

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