



Dietmar Post's delirious new film, *REVEREND BILLY & THE CHURCH OF STOP SHOPPING* (play loud! productions; <http://www.playloud.org>), offers a persuasive portrait of Reverend Billy (a.k.a Bill Talen), an anti-globalization performance artist who slips on a fake-clerical collar and, with a religious fervor, leads guerilla protests throughout New York City. The hour-long documentary begins in the East Village, where Billy heads an Astor place "Boycott Starbucks" assembly, complete with his anti-shopping gospel choir. It continues with Billy's 29th "Disney Action" at their Times Square tourist-trap, with Billy and his merry band protesting their corporate sweatshop tactics while lugging crucified Mickey Mouse plush toys on the subway. The final sections cover Billy's civil disobedience in the face of NYU's decision to replace the landmark Poe House with a high-rise, which leads to his arrest by the humorless NYPD. Billy's revolution against consumerism and trans-national super-companies is a noble cause, but what makes him so effective is his mix of savvy street theatre and humor, while Post does an expert job of capturing Talen's intelligence and off-the-wall passion. This informative and hilarious DVD also includes a half-hour interview with Bill in his home. Hallelujah!

Steve Puchalski, Shock Cinema Magazine, # 22, Spring-Summer 2003