

# MOVIE MAKER

THE ART AND BUSINESS OF MAKING MOVIES

> [Login](#) | [Register](#)

Submit your video and see how your dreams can take you. [click](#) to submit your video

Make it Big

March 31, 2008

ABOUT | CONTACT | NEWSLETTER | Search

<b>HOME</b> LATEST HEADLINES
SCREENWRITING PRODUCING DIRECTING ACTING CINEMATOGRAPHY EDITING DISTRIBUTION EDUCATION FESTIVALS LOCATIONS
LISTINGS ARCHIVES HOP INTERVIEWS ON THE MOVE VIDEOS
BLOG FORUMS CONTESTS POLLS
SUBSCRIPTIONS ADVERTISING

## DIRECTING

### The Jesus Guy Inspires First-Time Director

EMAIL  
 PRINT

by [Melissa Rose Kimbler](#) | Published March 20, 2008

A man who travels around the world to preach doesn't usually find favor in the modern-day era of technology and skepticism. But the "Barefoot Evangelist" defies expectations. He has attracted the attention of "20/20" and *Time* Magazine and is now the subject of commercial director Sean Tracey's first documentary feature, *The Jesus Guy*. The title suits the man who has renounced his possessions, goes by no other name than "What's Your Name?" and has visited 47 states and 13 countries during his 16-year evangelical journey. In *The Jesus Guy*, Tracey maintains an objective eye to follow What's Your Name? as he encounters believers and non-believers alike. The film has garnered praise from film festivals around the country and has inspired Tracey to continue on the path of moviemaking.



**Melissa Rose Kimbler (MM): You've been directing commercials for more than 15 years and currently serve as the chief creative director of your own commercial production company, Sean Tracey Associates. How do you think your background affected your first foray into documentary moviemaking?**

**Sean Tracey (ST):** I was spoiled and used to having anywhere from 15 to 40 professionals (cinematographer, set designers, audio, makeup, etc) working with me on location or on a commercial. At the same time, many times it felt like a huge ball-and-chain when I wanted to change my mind about something, try shooting a scene in a different way or in an alternate angle or location. Too many people and too big a craft service and video village to be quick about anything. This documentary was my opportunity to be like MTV's "Unplugged." No smoke, no mirrors, back to basics. I started the film with an assistant and audio person on location, but that just got in the way of meaningful encounters with people on the street for the subject. So I gave them up too after a couple weeks. It was just me, a camera, a lav, a shotgun and a bunch of batteries and the barefoot Jesus Guy. I guess I followed his lead in simplicity. Being less conspicuous certainly got me footage not possible with a full crew.

**MM: Did you decide that you wanted to make a documentary before you met The Jesus Guy or was it as a result of your meeting? What was your first impression of him?**

**ST:** I had been looking for a subject for a documentary for some years. I hadn't felt strongly enough about any character carrying the whole movie until I met What's Your Name. My first impression of him was serious. He can have quite a commanding presence at times. My first interaction with him was one of those times.

**MM: Do you call him by his given name, Carl James Joseph, or by his preferred moniker, "What's Your Name?"**

**ST:** I still call him "What's Your Name?" I guess I got used to it.

**MM: You have been praised for keeping an objective eye on your subject. Did you ever find that it was difficult not to include your personal feelings?**

**ST:** No. I made a decision and commitment not to do it.

**MM: What was it like having the Oscar-nominated documentarian Albert Maysles as a mentor for the project? What sorts of advice did he give you during the process?**

**ST:** I remember once, on the road with What's Your Name?, I felt that he was opening up to me like a friend, and I may have been crossing what I thought was

**BLOG** **FORUMS** **POLLS**

Latest from the forums:

- [widescreen and handheld camera](#) by [jdcopp](#)
- [Screenwriting Articles](#) by [bluecat](#)
- [Share or promote your Films on www.FilmTube.tv](#) by [FilmTube.tv](#)
- [Extending my network & IMDB Pro / IMDB Resume](#) by [JUSTINREIDTVEDT](#)
- [Just breaking in](#) by [Meke](#)
- [Full Orchestral Film Music Composer](#) by [steve347](#)
- [Last chance to win 007 DVD collection](#) by [softmachine](#)
- [Call for Submissions - Short Movie Festival - Great Prizes!!! DEADLINE in 17 days!!!](#) by [RedQuyn](#)
- [How Many Drafts?](#) by [Muna](#)
- [It starts with a great story...](#) by [Minnesota](#)

[FORUM](#)

SITE DELIVERY OPTIONS

[NEWS FEED](#) [NEWSLETTER](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

Submit your video and see how your dreams can take you. [click](#) to submit your video

RELATED ARTICLES FROM THE ARCHIVES

1. 3/28/2008: [Gambling on Poker Movies](#)
2. 3/27/2008: [David Schwimmer Makes Fatboy Run](#)
3. 3/27/2008: [MM Remembers Richard Widmark](#)
4. 3/19/2008: [Anthony MInghella: 1954 - 2008](#)
5. 3/10/2008: [Zak Penn: Things I've Learned](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

**GLIDECAM**  
CAMERA STABILIZERS

I can't believe it's ROYALTY FREE!

[TWISTEDTRACKS.COM](#)

SELL YOUR TV CONCEPT NOW

[SELLYOURTVCONCEPTNOW.COM](#)

some "line" of objectivity. I called Albert and asked him what to do. He said not to be afraid of becoming his friend and opening up to him. It was good for the film and his ability to trust me with any situation. He was right. The film became more and more an intimate portrait as the subject got to know and trust me as a friend.

**MM: Since the world premiere at the Sidewalk Moving Picture Festival in 2007, *The Jesus Guy* has been an official selection at numerous festivals. Any plans for a theatrical release? What about making films in the future?**

**ST:** We have our foreign distribution lined up. There's been interest in a limited theatrical release, but I don't have anyone locked in to handle it yet. I really came from a career of working with scripts and actors (dramatic dialogue)... so I would like to find a dramatic feature project. I already have another documentary in the works. Have to let that subject be a surprise!

For more information, visit [www.thejesusguy.com](http://www.thejesusguy.com).

Ads by Google

### [Shooters Post & Transfer](#)

Digital Intermediates to HDCAM  
SR Color Correct, Conform,  
Titles, VFX

[www.shootersinc.com](http://www.shootersinc.com)

<b>SHARE THIS STORY</b>		<b>TAGS</b>
Del.icio.us	Digg	albert maysles barefoot evangelist
Reddit	StumbleUpon	carl james joseph sean tracey
Yahoo	Facebook	sean tracey associates
		sidewalk moving picture festival
		the jesus guy what's your name

ADVERTISEMENT

COMMENTS | [POST A COMMENT](#) ▼

#### POST A COMMENT

OUR PRIVACY POLICY | We will not publish or sell or share your email address or other personal information. [Read more.](#)

Name:

Email:

URL:

Type the word you see below:



Comment:

Remember my personal information

Notify me of follow-up comments?

[HOME](#) | [LATEST HEADLINES](#)

[SCREENWRITING](#) | [PRODUCING](#) | [DIRECTING](#) | [ACTING](#) | [CINEMATOGRAPHY](#) | [EDITING](#) | [DISTRIBUTION](#) | [EDUCATION](#) | [FESTIVALS](#) | [LOCATIONS](#)

[LISTINGS](#) | [ARCHIVES](#) | [HOP INTERVIEWS](#) | [BLOGS](#) | [FORUMS](#) | [CONTESTS](#) | [SUBSCRIPTIONS](#) | [ADVERTISING](#)

[About](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Contact](#)

© 2008 MovieMaker Magazine  
Web site design by Hop Studios