

back street heroes

# BOOTS

## SOMETHING WICKED

TURBO'D GSX-R  
HARDTAIL!

### BULLDOG BASH – IT'S ALL HERE!

### ONE OF A KIND

RIGID NORTON SINGLE

### BLACK PEARL

PREPARE TO BOARD  
THE PIRATE BIKE  
ME HEARTIES!

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# Dread- nought!

## WILLI'S LOUD GREY FELLOW

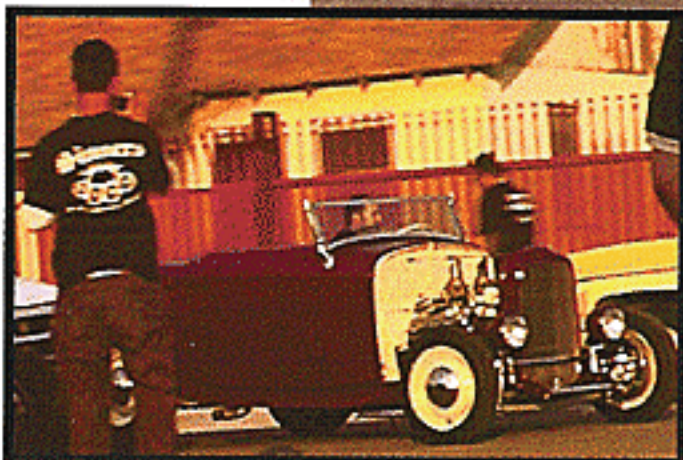
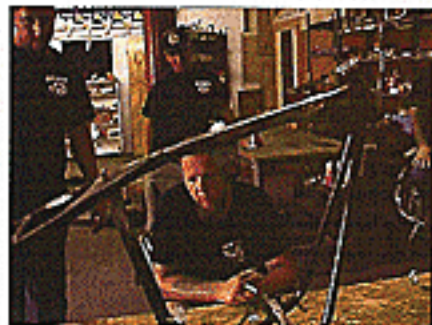
Plus: PISSED INDIAN, FARO PT 2, SHEENE RUN, ROUGHLEY'S SHOW, HASTINGS RUN,  
BERKSHIRE TRIUMPH SHOW & MUCH, MUCH MORE...



# CHOPPERTOWN: THE SINNERS

So, there are two ways of doing this. There is the short way, and there is the long way. This is the short way: 'Choppertown: The Sinners' is quite simply the best documentary film ever made about custom bikes. Go and buy it.

Ah, some of you want to know more? Okay. Choppertown is the creation of Scott di Lalla and Zack Coffman, two filmmakers who'd long wanted to make a film about motorcycles. Di Lalla had even written a script for a fictional movie about a bike gang and hawked it round several studios. Unfortunately this coincided with the films 'Biker Boyz' and 'Torque', both of which were universally panned by the critics and the public, and suddenly Hollywood regarded bike films



frame in the boot of his '54 Chevy lead sled, through to the bike being completed and out on the road. As the Sinners' old skool Harley and Triumph chops show, this is a world removed from the current image of choppers disseminated by the likes of 'American Chopper'. These bikes are the result of autojumble bargains, one off parts, ingenuity and

as box office poison. With the rise of chopper programmes on TV, and the setting up of their own company, One World Studios in 2001, di Lalla and Coffman decided to make their own film.

To cut a long story short, they spotted a picture of bike builder, Kutty Noteboom, and his club, the Sinners, in The Horse magazine, tracked him down, and won the trust of the club to make this film. The Sinners is a motorcycle and hot rod club in the old-fashioned sense of the word; They're buddies, they build bikes and cars, they party together, they look out for each other, but there is a refreshing lack of the righteousness that's often present in other clubs.

The loose plot of the documentary follows the building of Kutty's bike, from the time he arrives at the workshop of fellow Sinner (and one of the original founding members), Rico Fodrey, with an old Harley

hard work – at the beginning of the film Rico waxes lyrical about an oil tank Kutty has found at a swap meet: "We found this oil bag in a bunch of Harley parts. Who knows who made it, and even though we don't know anything about it, somebody made this, somebody made this thing with some skill and it might not be the neatest thing in the world but that's what we love. Some cool guy made this, and we found it, and we're lucky to be able to use it."

Although the hour-and-a-half long film ostensibly traces the construction of Kutty's old skool Harley, Choppertown is really about the brotherhood that exists between a group of bikers. Original member and musician, the still incredibly handsome James Intveld provides the introduction to the film, as well as several of the songs on the soundtrack (in addition to a successful solo career, Intveld has played



lead guitar for The Blasters, upright bass with Dwight Yoakam, as well as being a top session man), but it's Rico who is not only the heart of the Sinners, but of this film. He unashamedly and unaffectedly talks of the love and devotion that keeps the club together, explaining the brotherhood of clubs better than anyone I have ever heard.

While the camerawork is, on occasion, more enthusiastic than accurate, when di Lalla and Coffman get it right, they do so brilliantly, and none more so than in the riding shots, the first of which, showing Rico riding on the freeway to a gig of Kutty's band, is heartrendingly beautiful.

The final shots of Choppertown are set against James Intveld's elegant and aching 'A Sinner's Prayer' and are surprisingly moving. A few minutes after I watched Choppertown for the first time I caught a bit of American Chopper and the contrast was startling – it was like putting a handcrafted sculpture up against Barbie dolls. I would swap those last dying moments of Choppertown for every episode of American Chopper ever made. Choppertown is quite simply the best documentary film ever made about custom bikes. Go and buy it.

Choppertown: The Sinners is available on DVD through the splendid Chopperbuilder web site, and can be purchased online at [www.chopperbuilder.co.uk/choppertown.html](http://www.chopperbuilder.co.uk/choppertown.html). (5)

