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Choppertown: the Sinners

By Lisa Dalgaard

New filmmakers Scott Di Lalla and Zack Coffman of One World Studios

Debut their new documentary. Scott Di Lalla built his first chopper (a '72 Sporty) before he could even legally drink. He had longed to produce a film about Bikers so he wrote a script about a fictional group of bikers called "Lords of Gravity."

"I wanted to make a film about the regular Joe building a bike in his back yard. Built to ride," says Di Lalla. Well, fiction became reality when they met Kutty of the Sinners. "He was a young guy but everything about him was old school; his chopper, his style, even the grease in his hair."

Choppertown is the world's first documentary about the hot rod and motorcycle club, the Sinners. Modern day greasers, the Sinners are all about the old school. None of them is old enough to have experienced the hot rod heydays of the '50s and '60s, but still they live on the edge of society chopping cars and bikes and searching for vintage parts to make their "Rat Rods," "Trumps," "Merces," and "Bobbars" into rolling works of art.

Rico Fodrey, known as Father Fury by his fellow Sinners, is the nucleus and emotional center of the Sinners. One of the original founding members, he is a true enigma; always proving that looks can be deceiving. A gifted mechanic, among other things, Rico has also traveled the world as roadie and soundman for some of the most famous (and infamous) rock bands. His shop serves as the hub for all things Sinner, including the building of Kutty's bike in "Choppertown." He's always quick to remind everyone, "We're just a bunch of guys wearing the same shirts."

Kutty Noteboom, named after a bottle of Scotch, is the son of custom car builder Jim "Bones" Noteboom. Even though his job as a foreman for his family's construction business keeps him busy, he still finds time to build bikes that have a unique "Kuttyness" to them; as Kutty puts it "they look old, but they're new." A loving family man, Kutty looks forward to sharing his love of the old school with his two-year old son, Kyler. Kutty is also known for being lead guitarist in Rockabilly-punk band, The Whitewalls, several of whose songs are featured in "Choppertown."

James Intveld, composer, actor, director, and crooner extraordinaire, is also a founding member of the Sinners. As Rico tells it, "The Sinners pretty much started in Jimmy's basement, hangin' out at his house." A member of the Rockabilly Hall of Fame, James has a huge following for his uniquely styled country/rock and roll. In the film, while taking a break from his busy touring schedule, James shows up at Rico's shop to lend a hand with Kutty's bike.



COLE FOSTER, the Salinas Boy, is known as a master fabricator of hot rods and bikes and has been featured in countless magazines and on such hit shows as The Great Biker Build-Off. Long-time friend of Rico, Cole heads up the Nor Cal contingent of the Sinners known as the Nomads.

In the opening of the film, we are introduced to Sinner Kutty Noteboom as he arrives at fellow Sinner Rico's shop with a beat up old bike frame in the trunk of his '54 Chevy. Rico, the resident master of all things motorcycle, has a good look at the frame and proclaims it "a good piece, a good start."

With that, the process (and the adventure) begins. Several more Sinners arrive at the shop to have some beers and help out with Kutty's bike and they work into the evening swapping stories and wrenching on the bike.

The film takes Rico and Kutty on a voyage to Orange, CA where their friend Jimmy White helps them fabricate a mean set of pipes for Kutty's rapidly evolving chopper. From there they head up north to Salinas, on the anniversary of James Dean's demise, right through the same intersection where the young star met his fate, ironically, while he was also traveling to Salinas. Once there all hell breaks loose with Jason Jesse, the Sinner Nomad ex-pro skater turned chopper-builder. Kutty is given a comical and macabre "Baby Tank" as a gift and he knows he'll need to use his imagination to figure out what to do with it.

Sinner Nomad Cole Foster's place is just up the road so they pay him a visit and entreat him to put his hands on the bike by creating a beautiful hand-made



tank from the Baby Tank's underpinnings.

Back in Southern California, Kutty's bike is completed and his Sinner brothers are there to watch him kick it over. It takes a few tries, but when the bike starts the emotion is real. With tears welling in his eyes, Rico watches the guys celebrate the sweet sound of Kutty's chopper as it revs and purrs, asking to be taken out and cut loose.

As Kutty finally joins the pack, we feel what it is to be free on the road, troubles left behind. The sound of your brothers' bikes filling your ears, a glint of pride in your eyes.

Quick Throttle attended the advance screening of this new film and even watched it with the Sinners on first viewing. The film captures the essence of how men view their motorcycles, much like women view their children. They share a love for that which they have

created. Like a child, they nurture it until it is complete, until it "grows up" to become the artistic beauty that fulfills them. The also machine ties them emotionally to their brothers in a way that is hard for some women to understand. Rico explains this fraternal brotherhood as the kind of love men should have with their fathers. We see an emotional void in their lives fulfilled everyday throughout this film. Oh and they're all really cool guys, too.

To purchase this film go to www.Choppertown.net

