

ROWDY GIRL

Directed by Jason Goldman

2023 // English // Documentary // USA // 72 minutes



ROWDY GIRL

The story of
a Texas cattle rancher
who went vegan.



Wild Growth Media IN ASSOCIATION WITH Little Walnut Productions & The Bindery PRESENTS Rowdy Girl
EDITED BY Pilar Rico DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY Bridget Mcquillan, Dimitri Boriselvicz & Caleb Kuntz
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER Mobg CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS Greg Beauchamp & Carter Collins
PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY Jason Goldman

RowdyGirlFilm.com

North America bookings:

Argot Pictures

Jim Browne | jim@argotpictures.com

646.732.3725

Press contact:

Sasha Berman

sashaberman@mac.com

310.450.5571

SYNOPSIS

After a spiritual awakening, a former Texas cattle rancher leaves the cruel cycle of animal agriculture and transforms her husband's beef operation into a sanctuary.

Executive produced by Moby, [Rowdy Girl](#) showcases the inspiring work of Renee King-Sonnen, who has lived on both sides of the fence, and proves that there is a common ground between farmers and vegans: a shared mission of compassion and sustainability.

Jason Goldman's verité style lovingly captures the dynamic connection between Renee, her husband Tommy and the hooved and feathered friends who inhabit Rowdy Girl Sanctuary.

ABOUT ROWDY GIRL SANCTUARY

Founded in 2015 by Renee King-Sonnen, [Rowdy Girl Sanctuary](#) ("RGS") is a 501(c)(3) charity located between San Antonio and Houston, in Waelder, TX that provides sanctuary to rescued farm animals and advocates a vegan lifestyle.

After going vegan, King-Sonnen and her husband, Tommy Sonnen, turned their beef cattle ranch into a farm animal sanctuary that seeks to rescue farm animals from the cruelties of factory farming. Its mission is to educate the public about the cruelties of factory farming and to inspire other ranchers to experience a paradigm shift and help them move from participating in the cruelty of factory farming to living out compassion towards the animals whose lives usually end in brutal death.

FILMMAKER STATEMENT

I was originally drawn to Renee's story when I learned that she was not only rescuing animals, but rescuing ranchers. That idea crystalized in my mind, that her method of activism was disarming, displayed vulnerability, and was authentically holistic. I could see how she embodies the core philosophy of animal liberation: that animals are sentient beings who have their own interests, desires, and complex emotional lives. My intent with this film was to showcase the deep compassion, understanding, and unusual methods that are required of activists to help people open their hearts and minds to the cruel nature of animal agriculture. It was critical to show that there is no blame or judgment upon those working in the industry. Instead, Renee is building a compassionate world in her vision, that is inclusive and accepting, empathetic and patient. This informed how I approached the technical aspects of filmmaking, following strict observational criteria, even avoiding music in favor of the voices and sounds of her animal family. The result is a deeply immersive and emotional experience that speaks to the heart of Renee's mission. The world is waking up to the ongoing cruelty in industries that rely upon animals to make their products and it's the work of people like Renee who extend a hand to those ready to change.

- Jason Goldman

FILMMAKER BIOGRAPHIES

JASON GOLDMAN | DIRECTOR, PRODUCER

Jason Goldman has been a New Yorker for 20 years and gained his earliest filmmaking experience under the tutelage of Albert Maysles where he learned the foundation of direct cinema. Applying those elements to both short and long form documentaries, his producing career has included worldwide ad campaigns, short documentaries, and feature length original films. In 2018 he produced *SIDELINED*, the first short documentary financed and distributed by A&E IndieFilms which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival. Most recently, Jason turned to directing in completing his first feature, *ROWDY GIRL* premiering at Hot Docs 2023. He is currently in production on his next project about an environmental activist in Atlanta and producing a film, currently in post production, about the AIDS Crisis in Provincetown, Massachusetts. He is a mentor with ReelWorks, an organization that teaches filmmaking to underserved city youth and is active in the non-profit collective Filmshop.

MOBY | EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Moby was born Richard Melville Hall in Harlem, NYC in 1965. His father gave him his nickname "Moby" when he was 10 minutes old due to his hereditary relationship to Herman Melville. Moby started playing classical music and studying music theory when he was 9 years old, and then came of age musically in the punk rock scene in and around NYC in the early 80s. He released his first single, "Go," in 1991 (listed as one of "Rolling Stone" magazine's best records of all time) and has been making albums ever since. He has sold over 20,000,000 albums worldwide. In addition to making his own records, Moby has produced and remixed artists as varied and disparate as David Bowie, Public Enemy, Britney Spears, Ozzy Osbourne, The Beastie Boys, and Daft Punk, to name a few. Moby also works with and supports various non-profit organizations, including The Humane Society, Emily's List, The ACLU, and The Institute for Music and Neurologic Function. Moby's Little Walnut Productions is consistently putting out content like *WHY I'M A VEGAN* and *MOBY DOC* and recently released feature documentary *PUNK ROCK VEGAN MOVIE* that is free to all. Moby currently has a slew of new music coming out and has loaned his voice to the podcast world with Moby Pod.

PILAR RICO | EDITOR

Pilar Rico is a freelance editor based between New York City and Spain. She was a recipient of the 2018 Karen Schmeer Film Editing Fellowship, Diversity in the Edit Room. Prior to *ROWDY GIRL*, she most recently edited the feature length-documentary *THE GREAT GREEN WALL* (2019) by Emmy-award winning writer/director Jared P. Scott and produced by Oscar-nominated director Fernando Meirelles. Past films include *THE FREEDOM TO MARRY* (2016) by Eddie Rosenstein, winner of Best Editing and Best Documentary Film at Savannah Film Festival, and the films *GRAZERS: A COOPERATIVE STORY* (2012) and *PATRIMONIO* (2018) by award winning directors Lisa F. Jackson and Sarah Teale's, which premiered at Berlinale and Full Frame. She has also edited short documentaries for companies such as Retro Report, including a PBS segment on the #MeToo movement and The New York Times film about the killing of Chilean musician Víctor Jara. Pilar has edited commercial/branded content for companies including VICE Media, Flatbush Pictures, Public Record, and ad agencies such as J. Walter Thompson, Wunderman, and MotherNY. Outside the edit room, Pilar has worked as director, producer and cameraperson in several films in Spain and America such as *WELCOME TO THE WORLD*, *GREEN CARD* and *PLAYING GOODBYE*.



PRODUCTION CREDITS

Director/Producer	Jason Goldman
Executive Producer	Moby
Co-Executive Producers	Greg Beauchamp Carter Collins
Editor	Pilar Rico
Camera	Bridget McQuillan Dmitri Borysevicz Caleb Kuntz
Sound Mix	Calvin Pia
Colorist	Greg Reese
Post Production Supervisor	Matt Dunne
Head of Development at Little Walnut	Lindsay Hicks

###