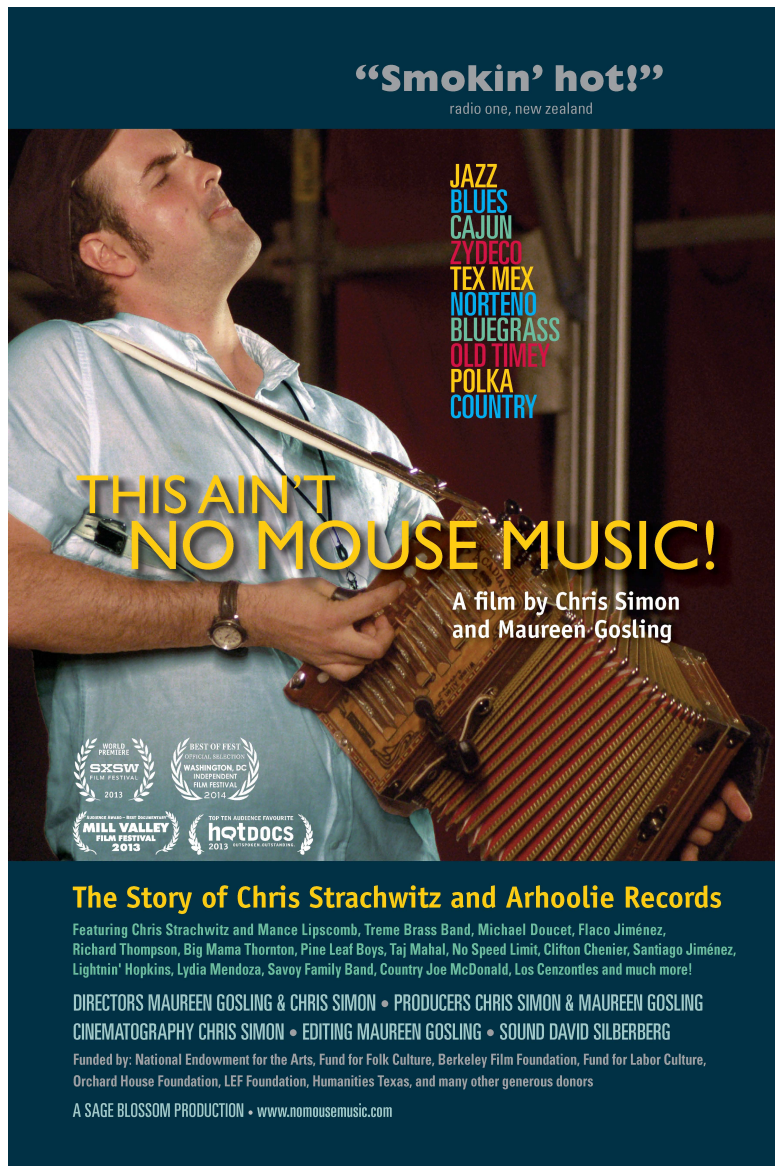


# ARGOT PICTURES

PRESENTS

## THIS AIN'T NO MOUSE MUSIC!



**“Smokin’ hot!”**  
radio one, new zealand

JAZZ  
BLUES  
CAJUN  
ZYDECO  
TEX MEX  
NORTENO  
BLUEGRASS  
OLD TIMEY  
POLKA  
COUNTRY

**THIS AIN'T  
NO MOUSE MUSIC!**

A film by Chris Simon  
and Maureen Gosling

WORLD PREMIERE  
SXSW  
FILM FESTIVAL  
2013

BEST OF FEST  
OFFICIAL SELECTION  
WASHINGTON, DC  
INDEPENDENT  
FILM FESTIVAL  
2014

MILL VALLEY  
FILM FESTIVAL  
2013

TOP TEN AUDIENCE FAVORITE  
hotdocs  
2013

**The Story of Chris Strachwitz and Arhoolie Records**  
Featuring Chris Strachwitz and Mance Lipscomb, Treme Brass Band, Michael Doucet, Flaco Jiménez, Richard Thompson, Big Mama Thornton, Pine Leaf Boys, Taj Mahal, No Speed Limit, Clifton Chenier, Santiago Jiménez, Lightnin’ Hopkins, Lydia Mendoza, Savoy Family Band, Country Joe McDonald, Los Cenzontes and much more!

DIRECTORS MAUREEN GOSLING & CHRIS SIMON • PRODUCERS CHRIS SIMON & MAUREEN GOSLING  
CINEMATOGRAPHY CHRIS SIMON • EDITING MAUREEN GOSLING • SOUND DAVID SILBERBERG

Funded by: National Endowment for the Arts, Fund for Folk Culture, Berkeley Film Foundation, Fund for Labor Culture, Orchard House Foundation, LEF Foundation, Humanities Texas, and many other generous donors

A SAGE BLOSSOM PRODUCTION • [www.nomousemusic.com](http://www.nomousemusic.com)

**Directed by Chris Simon and Maureen Gosling**  
**93 minutes, USA, 201**

**Bookings & Press:**

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# THIS AIN'T NO MOUSE MUSIC!

Roots music icon Chris Strachwitz is a detective of deep American music - music that's the antithesis of the corporate "mouse music" dominating pop culture.

Born a German count, Strachwitz came to the US as a teenager in 1947. There he saw a film that would change his life forever: *New Orleans*, starring Billie Holiday and Louis Armstrong. Since then, his life has been a relentless quest to track down and record the best of American roots music—New Orleans jazz, down home blues, Cajun, Zydeco, and Norteño.

Strachwitz is the legendary founder of Arhoolie Records, the label that brought rural American music out of the shadows and into the limelight. He also brought rural musicians to Europe, introducing wildly enthusiastic audiences to the rhythms of bluesman Lightnin' Hopkins, Zydeco king Clifton Chenier and others. In the process, he changed music in the US – and the world - forever. From Texas to New Orleans, Cajun country to Appalachia, join Ry Cooder, Richard Thompson, Taj Mahal, Bonnie Raitt, Michael Doucet, the Pine Leaf Boys, Flaco Jiménez and the Treme Brass Band for a delightful hip-shaking romp, as Strachwitz continues his passionate quest for the musical soul of America.



**Mance Lipscomb and Chris Strachwitz, 1964**

# DIRECTORS'S STATEMENT

by Chris Simon and Maureen Gosling

Sometimes the most obvious story takes a long time to recognize. We've known Chris Strachwitz and have been an intimate part of the Arhoolie Records family for over 35 years. However, it wasn't until eight years ago that it occurred to us that we should make a film on Chris. Happily, he agreed that we would be the perfect team to entrust with his story. Maybe he thought he could boss us around, since we had worked with him and his oft times partner, documentary filmmaker Les Blank, on numerous projects for many years. Or maybe he didn't know what he was getting into. He certainly didn't realize (nor did we!) that it would take so long to complete the film.

We hit the road with Mr. Chris in the spring of 2005, filming with him as he visited old friends in Texas and Cajun country, and recorded in New Orleans and later, in the Blue Ridge Mountains and at Berkeley, his home. If the film seems to have the intimacy of a home movie, that's because it was also a journey into the places, music and lives of people we know and love, as well. It was also a chance to explore the massive treasure trove of Strachwitz' personal photo and home movie archive. It was a fun and fascinating adventure and we want to make sure the audience has the same intimate experience.

For us, the film represents an opportunity to share the story of an unsung hero, a German immigrant who left an indelible mark on American culture – in fact, on the culture of the world. The film is just the tip of the iceberg of the musicians and genres of music that Strachwitz has documented while following his passions for eight decades. Today, at 80+, his enthusiasm has not waned. He's an example to us of the riches following your personal vision can bring and how one person can literally change the world.



**The Pine Leaf Boys**

# FESTIVALS

**SXSW Film Festival**, World Premiere, USA  
**Nashville Film Festival**, USA, Special Jury Prize  
**Mill Valley Film Festival**, USA, Audience Award – Best Doc  
**HOT DOCS**, Canada, Top 10 Audience Favorite!  
**Dallas Video Fest**, USA, Special Jury Prize  
**Mendocino Film Festival**, USA  
**Sydney Film Festival**, Australia  
**New Zealand Film Festival**, New Zealand  
**Melbourne Film Festival**, Australia  
**Viennale**, Austria  
**IN-EDIT**, Barcelona, Spain  
**Adelaide Film Festival**, Australia  
**Brisbane International Film Festival**, Australia  
**Margaret Mead Film Festival**, USA  
**Aspen Film Festival**  
**Cinema on the Bayou**, Best Feature Documentary  
**DC Independent Film Festival**, Best of Fest  
**Big Sky Documentary Film Festival**

“Smokin’ hot!”  
**Radio One, New Zealand**

“This film puts the heart and soul back into music and opens your mind to incredible artists you may never heard of.”  
**The Film Reel, Toronto**





## ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

### MAUREEN GOSLING

Maureen Gosling, a documentary filmmaker for forty years, produced and directed *Blossoms of Fire*, on the legendary Zapotecs of southern Oaxaca, Mexico, which was broadcast on HBO Latino and five other international television channels. She was co-filmmaker/editor/and/or sound recordist with acclaimed director, Les Blank, for twenty years on twenty films, including *Burden of Dreams* (British Academy Award). She has constructed and shaped dozens of films for Blank and many other directors, including Luke Griswold-Tergis' *Smokin' Fish* (IFP Doc Lab honoree, broadcast nationwide on PBS+), Abby Ginzberg's *Cruz Reynoso: Sowing the Seeds of Justice* (Latino Public Broadcasting), and Jed Riffe's four-part nationwide PBS series, *California and the American Dream: California's "Lost" Tribes*.

### CHRIS SIMON

Chris Simon has been an award-winning documentary filmmaker for more than 25 years. After 15 years of producing (as well as doing sound and editing) for renowned documentary filmmaker Les Blank, Simon started her own company, Sageland Media. Her independent documentaries include: *Down an Old Road: The Poetic Life of Wilma Elizabeth McDaniel*, which explores the vision of poet Wilma McDaniel and California's Dust Bowl Migrant culture; *My Canyonlands*, a portrait of Kent Frost, Utah's modern John Muir and the canyon country he loves; and most her most recent, *I Hear What You See: The Old-Time World of Kenny Hall*, a portrait of the legendary blind mandolin player and his music. Chris' work has been supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, the California and Utah Humanities Councils, and numerous private foundations and individuals



**Chris Simon (left) and Maureen Gosling**

# THIS AIN'T NO MOUSE MUSIC!

<b>Directors</b>	Chris Simon and Maureen Gosling
<b>Producers</b>	Maureen Gosling and Chris Simon
<b>Cinematography</b>	Chris Simon
<b>Editing</b>	Maureen Gosling
<b>Sound</b>	David Silberberg

## Featuring

Chris Strachwitz	Marc Savoy
Treme Brass Band	Ann Savoy
Davia Nelson	Savoy Family Band
Richard Thompson	Bob Murphy
Billy Roy Morales	Santiago Jiménez, Jr.
Ry Cooder	Flaco Jiménez
Bonnie Raitt	Los Cenzontles
Taj Mahal	Tom Diamant
Archie Green	Joe Wilson
Lionel Batiste, Sr.	No Speed Limit
Michael Doucet	Stevie Barr
Jerry Brock	Amber Collins
Henry Youngblood	Creole Belles
Wilson Savoy	La Familia Govea

## ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE

### Films by Les Blank

“Dry Wood”

“Hot Pepper”

“Spend It All”

“A Well Spent Life”

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

Courtesy of Les Blank

### Films by Chris Strachwitz and Les Blank

“Chulas Fronteras”

“J'ai Eté au Bal”

“Del Mero Corazón”

Courtesy of Brazos Films

### “Down Home Music 1963”

Courtesy of Chris Strachwitz and Dietrich Wawzyn

