

# Helen Marketti's Music Corner

The documentary will grab your attention the moment it begins as a medley of songs that many generations are familiar with start to give the audience a glimpse of what is to come. California Dreamin' (The Mamas & The Papas), Surf City (Jan & Dean), A Little Less Conversation (Elvis Presley), Good Vibrations (The Beach Boys), These Boots Were Made For Walking (Nancy Sinatra), Pink Panther (Henry Mancini), The Beat Goes On (Sonny & Cher)...and indeed the beat goes on because the song list is endless.



Listening to hit after hit as the songs climbed the charts over forty years ago, fans may have not really took the time to think about who else may have been playing on their favorite album.

The Wrecking Crew was a group of studio musicians in Los Angeles who played on nearly every hit that came out of the west coast during the 60s. Taking over fifteen years to put this documentary together, Denny Tedesco has worked on this project with a labor of love to share with the world the significance of these musicians.

Denny's father was Tommy Tedesco who played guitar for The Wrecking Crew. "I started working on the documentary when I found out my father was ill with terminal cancer," explains



Denny. "I didn't want it to be a story just about my father or me. In 2006, my editor and I went through the documentary and he told me at the time that it was "just another documentary" for the History channel. He said there needed to be more to it and suggested that I somehow become involved with it directly so it's more of a personal story as well. It was a huge project to take on. I played the role of narrator and people wanted to know who I was. It just kept going from there.



"A friend of mine said, "Why don't you say that this is a story about my father and his extended family, The Wrecking Crew?" That made perfect sense and after

that we started going to film festivals everywhere."

There are interviews on the film from Tommy Tedesco, Hal Blaine (drummer) and Carol Kaye (bass guitar) who was the only female in the group. For a short time, even singer Glen Campbell was a member of The Wrecking Crew. When the audience is watching the musicians share their experiences with humor, wit and a passion for music, it is clear why this group of

studio musicians were sought after to work on so many projects from hit singles, to full albums to movie soundtracks. Their personalities make the audience feel as though they are sitting in the same room as long time friends, not merely watching on a screen, which signifies a powerful film.

"If this documentary was made in only two to four years, it wouldn't have been as good because therev was so much to say and so much to be done," said Denny. "Some of the people I interviewed for this are no longer with us, so every interview is important. One thing I learned from my editor is that you can't include everybody in the documentary because if you have too many people then the audience won't be able to fall in love with anyone."

Denny's father, Tommy Tedesco had his philosophies to live by. He had his own thoughts about earning a living...A) Connections to the future...B) Learning experience...C) Money and D) Just for fun. "My father never turned down an opportunity. He taught us the same thing and we grew up with his philosophy of how to live," said Denny. "You must never

turn anything down because you never know where it might lead you next. My father was blessed to be



able to earn his living doing what he loved but he always knew the next generation would come when it was their time as well."

Denny never tires of watching the film with a new audience at each film festival. "You're anticipating when the audience may laugh or collectively sigh, that's when you know you have something that gets peoples attention."

Denny's other projects include producing the Time Life Music infomercials. "No matter how you look at it, I'm still involved with the rock and roll aspect," he jokes.

Defining who The Wrecking Crew was is not an easy answer and it changes depending on the moment. "The Wrecking Crew was a group of talented musicians in the 1960s that were known in the music community as the greatest rock and roll studio musicians



in town," said Denny. "They were tight as can be. They were all at the right place at the right time. It's a story about people who are working, who are making a living putting their kids through school and going through all of life's events. They were on a train that was moving very fast and they made money doing what they loved. I want people to check out the out takes on the web site, too. This documentary is about more than just music."

For more information:  
www.wreckingcrewfilm.com

The Wrecking Crew is on Facebook.

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