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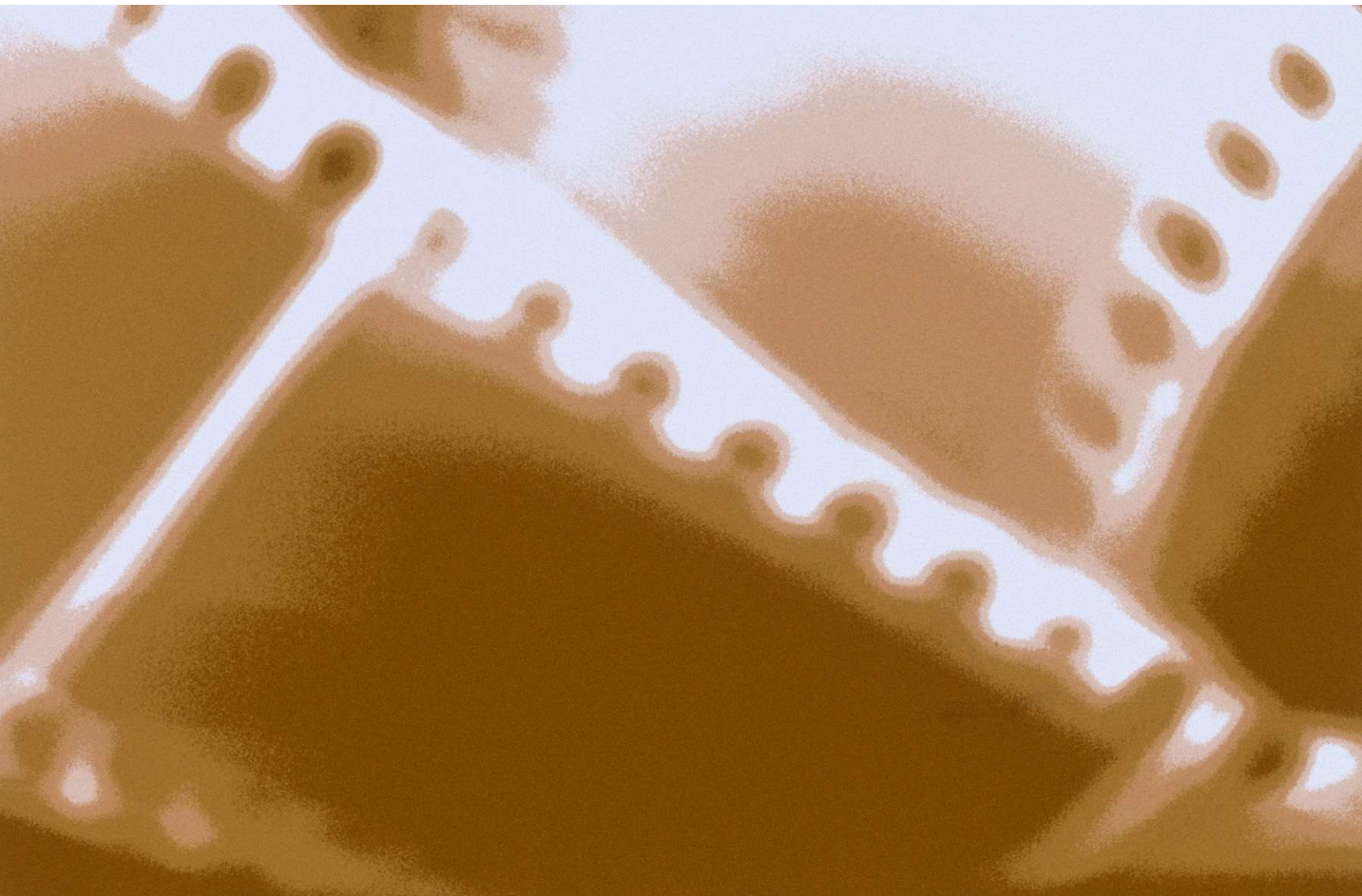
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# chasin' gus' ghost

a documentary film written + directed by todd kwait

jug-band timeline

early 1900's louisville

1920's louisville jug band



1920's memphis jug band



1950's

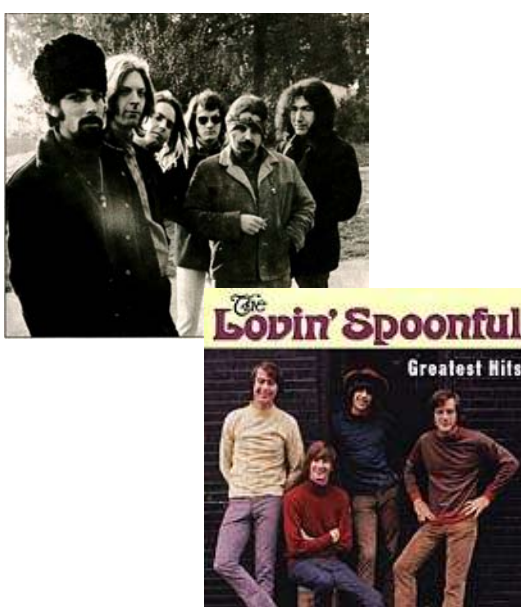


early 1960's



(c) john byrne cooke

mid 1960's



1970's



early 1990's



2000's





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PICTURE  
START



## 1.0 film synopsis

**Chasin' Gus' Ghost** is a documentary film on the history of Jug Band Music. It traces the roots of American music beginning with **Gus Cannon and Cannon's Jug Stompers, The Memphis Jug Band and the Dixieland Jug Blowers** from the 1920's, and weaves a tapestry through interviews, live performances, archival footage, and photographs showing their influence on the ever-popular folk and rock movements of the 1960's.

The movie is written and directed by independent filmmaker, **Todd Kwait**, and includes interviews and live performances by **John Sebastian** from the **Lovin' Spoonful**, **Jim Kweskin**, **Geoff Muldaur**, **Bill Keith**, **Maria Muldaur**, and the late **Fritz Richmond** from the influential **Jim Kweskin Jug Band**, **Bob Weir** from the **Grateful Dead**, **Charlie Musselwhite**, **Paul Rishell** and **Annie Raines** plus many more artists who were influenced by the great jug band musicians from our past.

This movie is a historical retrospective that spans the globe and honors many great talents from yesterday and today. Filming for **Chasin' Gus' Ghost** took the crew to Japan, Sweden, and Kingston, Ontario. Closer to home, filming took place in Northern California, Woodstock, New York, Portland, Oregon, Memphis and western Tennessee, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Louisville, Kentucky and Cleveland, Ohio.

## 2.0 filmmaker bio

**Todd Kwait** is a lawyer and businessman with a lifelong passion for film. This project, which he wrote, directed and produced, is his first film. Todd is on the board of Independent Pictures in Cleveland, Ohio and is active in many trade organizations relating to his manufacturing business.

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**Neveesa Production, Inc.**

Established in 1978 by Chris Anderson. Neveesa provides a diverse set of production services for the music and corporate industries and has a diverse client list.

**Neveesa Client & Credit List:**

Woodstock '94 • Pete Townsend • Stevie Nicks • Todd Rundgren • NRBO • HBO • BBC • Four Tops • Pennebaker-Hegedus Films • John Sebastian • Pete Seeger • Louisiana Red • Jimmy Vivino • Al Kooper • NPR • Catskill Mountain Festival • Arlo Guthrie • David Johansen • Warren Zevon • Spin Doctors • Crash Test Dummies • Utopia • Ziggy Marley • Ten Years After • Lou Reed • Joni Mitchell • Richie Havens • Blind Puff Daddy • Stevie Wonder • ABC-TV • Rory Block • Tom Chapin • Jorma Kaukonen • Roger McGuinn • Happy Traum • Joe Williams and the Count Basie Orchestra and many more.

**Chris Anderson:** President and engineer, Neveesa Production, Inc.

**Josh Telson:** Cameraman and video editor, Neveesa Production, Inc.

**Preston Repenning:** Shop foreman and logistics, Neveesa Production, Inc.

**Bernadette Gillota:**

Bernadette Gillotta is the co-founder, and Executive Director, of Independent Pictures in Cleveland, Ohio. She graduated from Ohio University, where she studied Geography and Spanish. After graduation and returning to Cleveland, Bernadette pursued studies in Art, Photography, Design and Dance. Since beginning her work in film, Bernadette has worked on several feature films and commercials. She has also been an invited guest speaker at several universities and libraries and has curated special film programs for the Akron Art Museum, the Twinsburg Library, and many other venues. She is a frequent guest on WCPN — a local affiliate of National Public Radio. Bernadette was a nominee for the 1999 Northern Ohio Live Artistic Achievement awarded in film, TV and Radio. Currently, she is writing for Clevelonian Glass Magazine on Art and Film. Bernadette's film projects include the Ohio Film Festival Trailer (1999 and 2003) that she wrote and directed and several 16mm short films (one that was shown at the Wexner Center in Columbus, Ohio). She was recently awarded a prestigious Ohio Arts Council Individual Artist Fellowship in Media Arts.

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### **Robert Banks:**

Robert Banks attended The Cleveland School of the Arts and has taught film at Cuyahoga Community College, the Cleveland Institute of Art, and Cleveland State University. His best known work is the 1992 film, *X: The Baby Cinema*, a 4.5 minute, 16 mm short film which chronicled the commercial appropriation of the image of Malcom X. The movie appeared on a compilation video, *The Best Of The New York Underground: Year One*. The 1994 feature documentary film, *You Can't Get A Piece Of Mind*, explores the world of Cleveland musician and Vietnam veteran, Dan "Supie T" Theman. Robert has had his films shown at the Sundance Film Festival, was named Filmmaker of the Year at the Midwest Filmmakers Conference, and in 2000, he was the honored guest filmmaker in London, England at the BBC British Short Film Festival.

### **Tom Common:**

Tom Common is an independent video artist whose 20 years in the business have formed a career of diverse experiences, from syndicated television and corporate/industrial video, documentary and independent film, to working in the Cleveland Arts and Non-Profit communities. Tom's corporate clients include Greyhound, American Medical Response, Laidlaw Transportation, Veolia Transportation, The Sally Beauty Company, and the Arras Group, for whom he has done projects for the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and Moen Faucets. Tom continues to work with area theatres, dance groups, musicians and filmmakers, promoting the arts and educating Cleveland's young people on the positive role the arts can play in their lives. Most recently, Tom has been working with the students of the new Cleveland School for the Arts, guiding them through the process of filmmaking.

### **Diana Bryan:**

Diana Bryan is an award-winning artist/illustrator/ animator whose paper-cutout work is currently on exhibit as steel sculptures and prints at the Colony Arts Center, Woodstock, NY. She has created 30 foot-long murals for Walden Books and the New York Public Library at Fifth Avenue. Her work has appeared in many galleries and museums including The Smithsonian, The Society of Illustrators in NYC and The Library of Congress. She has been a faculty member at Parsons School of Design for 20 years and of the Syracuse University Master of Arts Program. Diana is a researcher and Board of Directors member of the Arts, Crafts, Theater, Safety (A.C.T.S.) Organization. She has created videos for Rabbit Ears/Sony narrated by Raul Julia and Jodie Foster. In addition to a very large client list, Diana's work has appeared in children's books, magazines, Web Pages, packaging design etc.



ezzie films

4.0

cast



(c) catherine sebastian

**John Sebastian:**

John Sebastian has been thrilling audiences for nearly 40 years. He was the founding member and lead singer and songwriter for the Lovin' Spoonful and member of The Even Dozen Jug Band. Today John Sebastian is in-demand as a solo artist, studio musician, TV/film scorer and songwriter.

**Bob Weir:**

Bob Weir was just 17 years old when he began playing with the Grateful Dead. He joined Jerry Garcia in 1964 and formed Mother McCrees Uptown Jug Champions, and was co-founder of the Warlocks which then became the Grateful Dead. He is currently a member of the band RatDog.

**Taj Mahal:**

Taj Mahal, born Henry St. Claire Fredericks in New York's Harlem on May 17, 1942, grew up in Springfield, Mass., in a home filled with music. His father was a jazz pianist, composer and arranger of Caribbean descent, and his mother, a schoolteacher from South Carolina, was an accomplished gospel singer. His parents encouraged their children to develop pride in and respect for their heritage, yet his first formal study of music came in the form of classical piano lessons. Two years of that convinced him that "I had my own concept of how I wanted to play." He went on to learn clarinet, trombone and harmonica, and to sing. When an accomplished guitarist, Lynnwood Perry, moved next door, Taj Mahal borrowed his stepfather's guitar and took inspiration from Perry's mastery of a broad range of blues styles. Taj Mahal earned an associates degree in animal science in 1963 from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at UMass Amherst. While at UMass he played with a popular party band, the Elektras and began assuming the identity of "Taj Mahal." In 1964, he traveled to Los Angeles and became part of The Rising Sons, a group that opened for such acts as Otis Redding, The Temptations, and Martha and the Vandellas. He also met and played with such stellar bluesmen as Howlin' Wolf, Muddy Waters and Lightin' Hopkins. Taj Mahal went on to produce three seminal albums in a row: Taj Mahal (1967) The Natch'l Blues (1968) and Giant Steps/De Old Folks at Home (1969). They were marked by the restlessly expanding eclecticism that he has exercised ever since, including forays into movie soundtracks, children's recordings, and collaborations with a wide array of musicians from traditions the world over. Taj Mahal has earned nine Grammy Awards and has his own independent record label, Kandu Records. He was voted the official blues artist of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts earlier this year. On May 28th, 2006, Taj Mahal was awarded an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts Degree from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.



**Geoff Muldaur:**

Geoff Muldaur is one of the great voices and musical forces to emerge from the folk, blues and folk-rock scenes in Cambridge, MA and Woodstock, NY. During the 1960's and 1970's Geoff made a series of highly influential recordings as a founding member of the Jim Kweskin Jug Band and the Paul Butterfield's Better Days Group. Geoff has composed scores for film and television, becoming an Emmy winner along the way. Currently, Geoff is touring the world and thrilling audiences at home and abroad.

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**Bill Keith:**

Bill Keith is a master of bluegrass banjo and the inventor of the melodic picking technique widely referred to as "Keith Style." He was a founding member of the Jim Kweskin Jug Band and has toured and recorded with a wide variety of bluegrass bands and artists. Bill has written several banjo tuition books, has recorded instructional tapes and owns and operates the Beacon Banjo Company in Woodstock, NY.

**Jim Kweskin:**

The Jim Kweskin Jug Band formed in 1963 and was together for five years. It was the first of the jug bands formed in the 1960's folk revival and gained widespread popularity. Their musical influence can still be felt today. Jim Kweskin, the founding member, was first influenced by the folk group, The Hoppers. The Kweskin Band had a unique style of folk music and gained national attention through live performances and television appearances on the Roger Miller Show and the Al Hirt Show. After the band broke up, Jim Kweskin continued to perform as a soloist. Today, he performs and records with the Jim Kweskin Band.

**Fritz Richmond: 1939–2005**

Fritz Richmond was the champion of the jug and washtub bass. Fritz was a founding member of The Jim Kweskin Jug Band and it was with that band that he began playing the jug. After the Kweskin Band disbanded in 1968, Fritz moved to L.A. and continued his life as a musician and a recording engineer. He worked with Paul Rothchild at Elektra Studios. He engineered sessions for Jackson Browne, The Doors, Bonnie Raitt, Lonnie Mack, The Everly Brothers et al. As a musician during that time, he recorded with Ry Cooder, Brown, The Doors and many many more. Since the 1970's he lived in Portland, Oregon with his wife, where he performed locally with his jug band, The Barbecue Orchestra. During this time he played with Bonnie Raitt, Bob Dylan, Ramblin' Jack Elliott, John Sebastian, Geoff Muldaur and others, with recent tours of Europe and Japan. He also was a guest several times on Garrison Keillor's A Prairie Home Companion, where he once astounded the audience with his jug performances. Fritz Richmond lost a year-long battle with lung cancer on November 20th, 2005.

**Maria Muldaur:**

Singer Maria Muldaur was a member of the New York based Even Dozen Jug Band and later the Boston-based Jim Kweskin Jug Band. After the break-up of the Kweskin Band, Maria found solo success with her sultry single, "Midnight at the Oasis", which was featured on her debut solo album Maria Muldaur in 1973. Since the 1980's, Maria has successfully worked the club circuit while issuing records like 1994's Meet Me at Midnight and 1996's the Flames.

**Del Goldfarb:**

Del Goldfarb started playing banjo at age 13. Soon, he switched to the guitar and got heavily into bluegrass, jug band, and folk. Over the years, Del Goldfarb has explored various musical collaborations, taught music classes, and created exhibits at the Memphis Blues Museum and the Memphis Music Hall of Fame. Del lives in Oregon, where he founded the Waterfront Blues Festival 1987 and still remains involved in fundraising today.



(c) john byrne cooke

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4.2

cast



**David Grisman:**

David Grisman is an acclaimed mandolin player. As a teenager, David met and studied with mandolinist/folklorist, Ralph Rinzler. He learned to play the mandolin in the style of Bill Monroe, the father of bluegrass music. David studied English at NYU and became immersed in the proliferating folk music scene in Greenwich Village in the early 1960's.

**Charlie Musselwhite:**

Charlie Musselwhite is one of the most celebrated blues artists of our time. The late Big Joe Williams once said, "Charlie Musselwhite is one of the greatest living harp players of country blues. He is right up there with Sonny Boy Williams." The legendary Charlie Musselwhite is as blue as blues can get. In the past two years, Charlie received three W.C. Handy Awards, Contemporary Blues Album of the Year for his 2004 release Sanctuary, Contemporary Blues Artist of the Year, and Best Instrumentalist (Harmonica), bringing his total up to 18. After four decades in the business, Charlie Musselwhite continues to collaborate, record and perform. He remains at the top of his game.



**Paul Rishell & Annie Raines:**

Paul Rishell and Annie Raines have a loyal fan base that spans the globe. They continue to thrill audiences nationally and internationally at festivals, clubs, and concert halls, and playing and teaching at workshops. Their powerful ensemble playing style is based on close communication, listening keenly to the other players to support rather than overshadow them, and their duo work is marked by the sensitive interplay that has become so central to their performances. Their music has been featured on various TV soundtracks and radio shows including Americana, Folk, Triple A and Blues formats. They have performed on diverse radio and TV shows including A Prairie Home Companion, Late Night with Conan O'Brien, and PBS's Arthur. Paul and Annie have recorded with Susan Tedeschi, Pinetop Perkins and Rory Block, and continue to perform and record as members of John Sebastian's J-Band.



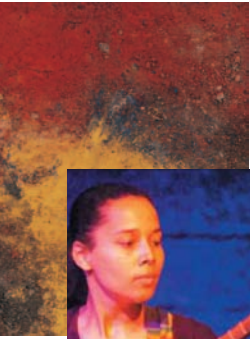
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**Erik Darling:**

Erik Darling will be remembered for his trend-setting recordings and the 12-string guitar craze he created with his band the Rooftop Singers. He formed the band to record "Walk Right In." The song hit number one in the nation. The band played major colleges and cities in the United States and Canada, toured New Zealand and Australia with Josh White, Judy Collins, Bud & Travis, and appeared at folk festivals, state fairs and on such television shows as the Tonight Show, Steve Allen, and American Bandstand. Erik Darling's latest solo CD is "Child, Child," which, he feels, represents the most complete composition he has ever recorded. In addition, Erik has been writing screenplays and completing an autobiography of his adventures in music, which began on the streets of New York and in Washington Square.



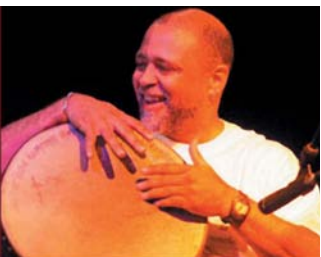
**Sankofa Strings:**

Sule Greg Wilson, Rhiannon Giddens and Dom Flemons makeup this trio of artists in love with self-made music. Armed with fiddles, and banjos, bones and drums, Sankofa Strings finds that "Old Time" sound, rejuvenates it, and makes it live again. Their repertoire explores the full breadth of the string and vocal traditions of the Americas, Africa and Europe: string band standards, classic and country blues, hokum and anonymous folk songs, Celtic ballads, West African melodies and more. "Sankofa" is an Akan (West African) concept of knowledge, spirit and history. Literally, it means to "Look back, and Retrieve." It is a reminder that true progress does not abandon the past, but constantly draws upon the works and wisdom of those who came before.



**Norman Greenbaum:**

Norman Greenbaum's musical career began with a move to Los Angeles in 1965. Shortly after arriving, he became the founder and the leader of the unique Dr. West's Medicine Show and Jugband. It was a psychedelic jug band. The band's one single that rose on the charts was titled, The Eggplant That Ate Chicago. The band broke up in 1968. One year later, after a move to northern California, Norman Greenbaum's first solo album, called Spirit in the Sky, was released. The single, Spirit, went as high as number 3 on the charts and sold two million copies. This one-hit wonder remains relevant for listeners today. In the 1980's Spirit was re-released as a single in Britain and went high on the charts. Spirit has been used as a song in many films, television shows, and commercials. Spirit has been used in such films as Miami Blues, Contact, Apollo 13 and Wayne's World 2.



**Sam Charters:**

Sam Charters was a central figure in the folk-revival of the 1950's and 1960's. His passion was country blues. His fieldwork, extensive liner notes, production efforts and books served as an introduction to many who had never heard of artists like, Lightnin' Hopkins and Robert Johnson. Throughout his prolific career, Sam Charters wrote inspiring books on the blues, collected music, rediscovered and promoted musicians like Sam Lightnin' Hopkins and he joined David Van Ronk's Ragtime Jug Stompers before starting his own band. Sam Charters was inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame and continues to write extensively about the blues.



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5.0

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completion of chasin' gus' ghost  
scheduled for february 2007.

coming soon . . .

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



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## A Tokyo gathering for a jug mate

by Susan Chaityn Lebovits  
Boston Sunday Globe  
Sunday, April 9, 2006

Newton's best-known musical claim to fame is Yo-Yo Ma, but a big party halfway around the world reminds us of another musical great: washtub bassist and jug player Fritz Richmond. Last week musicians, friends, and 800 fans paid tribute to Richmond, who died of lung cancer five months ago at the age of 66.

"Fritz Richmond Tribute in Tokyo — A Jug Band Extravaganza" featured Richmond's former mates in the Jim Kweskin Jug Band, including John Sebastian of Lovin' Spoonful fame, Geoff Muldaur, and Jim Kweskin himself. The band's heyday was in the 1960s when it recorded several albums and appeared frequently on national television.

The Tokyo tribute was filmed for a documentary on jug bands by Todd Kwait, an American independent film producer. The film was in the works before Richmond died; in fact, it was Kwait's urging that the band went to Japan, where the music that ignited Appalachia in the 1920s is catching fire today.

Fritz Richmond grew up as John B. Richmond Jr. and graduated from Newton High School in 1958. Shortly afterward, he and two friends, also named John, made their first washtub bass and launched the fold band The Hoppers.

Richmond became a regular on the Cambridge-Boston folk music scene. As word of his proficiency on the washtub bass spread, he was to play with The Charles River Valley Boys, Tom Rush, and Muldaur.

"When I was asked to record for Vanguard in 1963, Fritz was on the West Coast," Kweskin recalled in an e-mail from Japan. "I called him and asked him to please come back and play his washtub and learn to play the jug."

Richmond did just that and teamed up with Muldaur, Bob Siggins, and David Simon. They played gigs for three months and then hit the studio to make the first Jim Kweskin Jug Band album, "Unblushing Brassiness."

Over the years, the band featured Bill Keith on banjo, Mel Lyman on harmonica, Richard Greene on fiddle, Maria D'Amato on vocals and kazoo, Rex Rakish on percussion and vocals, and Bruno Wolfe on vocals.



Richmond played many types of jugs, including plastic, crockery, and stove pipe.

"His washtub playing remains the gold standard on that instrument," Kweskin said. "I have never heard anyone come close to his ability to play accurate notes. Almost everyone else who plays it just thumps."

Richmond is also known for his eyewear. He has been credited with popularizing granny glasses, the wire-rimmed spectacles that took off in the '60s.

"While playing the jug, he would often get dizzy from hyperventilating," Kwait said in a phone interview. "When he looked at the microphone, his eyes would appear cross-eyed, so he decided to create spectacles with cobalt blue glass that he'd found at a friend's apartment in California. Ultimately, John Sebastian and John Lennon picked it up."

Richmond later headed back West and worked as a sound engineer for such stars as Jackson Browne and Bonnie Raitt. He then moved up to Portland, Ore., where he taught recording classes and played with The Metropolitan Jug Band and Fritz Richmond's Barbecue Orchestra.

One of his washtub basses is in the collection of the Smithsonian Institution.

In Japan, Richmond enjoys even higher status.

"My last tour of Japan was with Fritz," Muldaur said in an e-mail from Japan. "He is revered in Japan; he is now a Jug Kami...a spirit deity."

To listen to Fritz Richmond with Jim Kweskin, Tom Rush, and Charles River Valley Boys, visit [www.artistdirect.com](http://www.artistdirect.com), enter Fritz Richmond, and click links. There will be a local tribute to Richmond April 16 at Club Passim in Cambridge featuring Kweskin, Muldaur, John Sebastian, the Charles River Valley Boys, and more.

For more information, visit [www.clubpassim.org](http://www.clubpassim.org) or call 617-492-7679.

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... a historical  
retrospective that  
spans the globe &  
honors many great  
talents from yesterday  
& today.



ezzie films

# chasin' gus' ghost

an **ezzie films production** todd + carol kwait  
in association with **nevesa productions + john sebastian**

john sebastian • bob weir • (the voice of) taj mahal • geoff muldaur •  
bill keith • jim kweskin • fritz richmond • maria muldaur • del goldfarb  
• david grisman • charlie musselwhite • paul rishell + annie raines

executive producer **john sebastian** producer **todd kwait**  
associate producer **carol kwait** editor **josh telson**  
written + directed by **todd kwait**

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