

FREE TO ROCK

HOW ROCK & ROLL HELPED END THE COLD WAR.

NARRATED BY KIEFER SUTHERLAND

DIRECTED BY JIM BROWN PRODUCED BY NICK BINKLEY, STAS NAMIN, JIM BROWN, DOUG YEAGER

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER FOR RUSSIA STAS NAMIN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS NICK BINKLEY, DOUG YEAGER, JOHN BEUG, BILL IVEY

CREATED BY STAS NAMIN, NICK BINKLEY, JIM BROWN ORIGINAL STORY BY NICK BINKLEY, VALERY SAIFUDINOV, DOUG YEAGER

**A PSB RECORDS FILM WITH JIM BROWN PRODUCTIONS IN ASSOCIATION WITH GRAMMY MUSEUM FOUNDATION,
ROCK AND ROLL HALL OF FAME, STAS NAMIN CENTER (MOSCOW)**

**WITH PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER, PRESIDENT MIKHAIL GORBACHEV, BEACH BOYS, BILLY JOEL,
ELTON JOHN, METALLICA, NITTY GRITTY DIRT BAND, SCORPIONS AND MORE**

**MADE POSSIBLE IN PART BY A MAJOR GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES: EXPLORING THE HUMAN ENDEAVOR
AND BY AN AWARD FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS**

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FREE TO ROCK



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FREE TO ROCK

Production Type.....Feature Documentary Film
Runtime.....60 min
Genre.....Documentary
Completion Date.....2017
Production Budget.....\$1,100,000
Language.....English
Country of Origin.....United States
Country of Filming.....United States
Latvia
Russia
Format1920x1080, 24fps, 1.66:1, Sound 5.1
Sales / Distribution.....Doug Zwick - dzwick@poptwist.com - 310.734.6655
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SYNOPSIS | SHORT

FREE TO ROCK is a documentary film directed by 4-time Emmy winning filmmaker Jim Brown and narrated by Kiefer Sutherland. Rock & Roll spread the sound of freedom across the Iron Curtain and throughout Eastern Europe and the USSR, despite Communist attempts to outlaw it and to crush what they perceived was a contamination of their youth. Over the next thirty years, thousands of underground bands and millions of young fans who yearned for Western values helped fuel the nonviolent implosion of the Soviet regime. FREE TO ROCK features Presidents, diplomats, spies and rock stars from the West, the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe who reveal how Rock & Roll music was a contributing factor in ending the Cold War.

SYNOPSIS | LONG

FREE TO ROCK is a 60-minute documentary film directed by 4 time Emmy winning filmmaker Jim Brown and narrated by Kiefer Sutherland. Ten years in the making, the film explores how the soft power of Rock & Roll affected social change behind the Iron Curtain between the years 1955 and 1991, while telling the story of how the power of the music contributed to the collapse of the Soviet Union and helped end the Cold War.

Rock & Roll inspired teenagers behind the Iron Curtain to rebel and to demand the rights to listen, play and record rock music, and to enjoy other forms of freedom. The story follows the key political, musical and activist players in this real-life drama as the KGB cracked down with arrests, beatings, death threats and imprisonment, while they tried to eradicate the rock virus. By 1958, the CIA directed Radio Free Europe to pump Rock & Roll across the Iron Curtain, resulting in the Kremlin erecting 2,500 radio jamming stations around the Curtain to block the music's message and its sound of freedom. The Iron Curtain teenagers questioned why their government would prohibit the music they loved and yearned for, and then began questioning other Kremlin propaganda and communism itself.

President Jimmy Carter realized that sending rock bands to the USSR would give the Soviet youth a feeling of freedom and be an effective tool of America's cultural diplomacy. When President Mikhail Gorbachev came to power in the USSR in 1985, he recognized that the youth wanted this music and the freedom of expression, and began instituting his Glasnost 'openness' reforms. By 1987, the Kremlin invited Western rockers like Billy Joel to perform uncensored in the USSR. And in 1989, Gorbachev allowed a joint Soviet-American heavy-metal concert, the Moscow Music Peace Festival, organized by Moscow's Stas Namin and America's Doc McGhee, to be staged in Moscow's Lenin Stadium, with 200,000 fans in celebration.

However, by 1989, the cracks in the communist system had grown too large to hold together. Outdoor rock concerts in West Berlin in 1987-88 --with the PA speakers aimed across the wall to East Berlin -- caused major riots between the East German youth and the police. After the Berlin Wall fell in November that year, Roger Waters staged the Wall Concert in Berlin for East and West Berliners, which signaled, for many, the demise of the Soviet communist system. Meanwhile, in the Baltics, a human chain of 2,000,000 people, stretching from Estonia, through Latvia and into Lithuania, held hands while singing rock songs of freedom to demand their independence from the USSR. And in December 1989, as the Czech communist system collapsed, the freely elected President Vaclav Havel, reminded everyone that, "Music was the enemy of totalitarianism."

Finally, in 1991, one of the largest rock concerts in history, sponsored by private U.S. funds (and featuring Metallica), took place at an airfield outside of Moscow before an estimated 1,500,000 – 3,000,000 million freedom loving fans. Eleven weeks later, the Soviet communist system and its military machine collapsed without bloodshed or a civil war.

As former KGB Major General Oleg Kalugin concludes in FREE TO ROCK:

“One of the best ways to topple an opposite system is through an ideological offensive... through a cultural offensive. This is precisely what happened during the Cold War. That’s what led to the collapse of the USSR.”

FREE TO ROCK features Presidents Carter and Gorbachev, who for the first time, discuss how Rock & Roll contributed to the end of the Cold War. It also highlights interviews and/or performances by those artists from the West who played behind the Iron Curtain – Bruce Springsteen, Metallica, Billy Joel, Beach Boys, Elton John, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, and the WALL Concert in Berlin, in addition to some of the prominent Iron Curtain rock pioneers who achieved popular followings and continue to perform today. These include Stas Namin (and The Flowers), Andrey Makarevich, Boris Grebenshikov, Yuri Shevchuk, Plastic People of the Universe, Valery Saifudinov, and the late Pete Anderson.

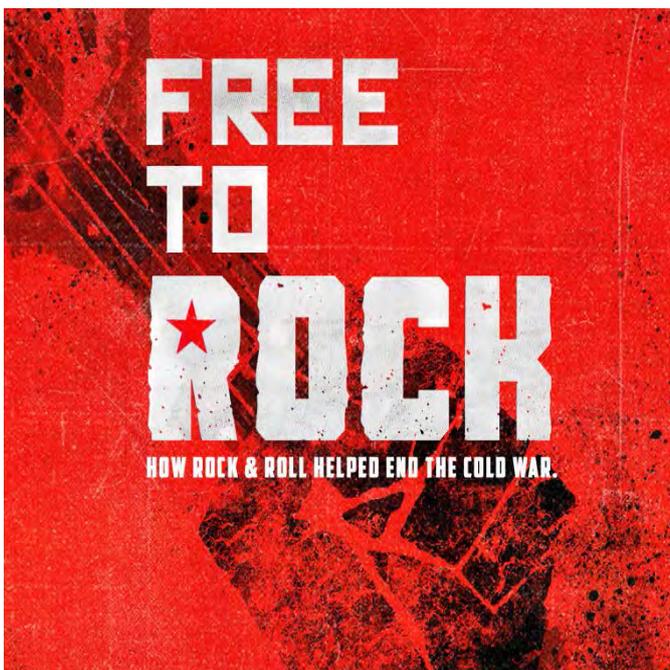
FREE TO ROCK is produced in collaboration with the Grammy Museum, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and the Stas Namin Center in Russia. FREE TO ROCK has been made possible, in part by, major grants from the National Endowment of the Humanities: Exploring Human Endeavor and the National Endowment for the Arts.

SOCIAL MEDIA | SAMPLE POSTS

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TWITTER: "Rock & Roll is freedom, and everyone wants to be #free" #Documentary reveals how #RockAndRoll helped end #ColdWar www.freetorockmovie.com



FACEBOOK and INSTAGRAM: Free To Rock explores the #SoftPower of #RockandRoll to open minds and plant dreams in the imagination of youth behind the #IronCurtain. The film features Presidents, diplomats, spies, and Rock Stars who reveal how Rock & Roll helped end the #ColdWar. More info here: www.freetorockmovie.com

CAST | THE PLAYERS

KIEFER SUTHERLAND

Narrator

Kiefer has been an internationally acclaimed and award winning dramatic actor for the past thirty years. Most recently, his long-running role as Jack Bauer, the brilliant, fearless, yet personally troubled counter-terrorist expert in 24, is a character and 'voice' now imbedded indelibly forever in our minds. Kiefer is a rock guitarist, a collector of Gibson Les Paul electric guitars, and has interest in Cold War history. His father, Donald Sutherland, portrayed the Latvian Head of KGB, in Paul Haggis' 1993 film Red Hot, which explored the story of how Rock & Roll first entered the Soviet Union through the port city of Riga, while igniting a youth cultural revolution that defied the communist totalitarian system.



JIMMY CARTER

Interview Subject

Jimmy Carter was the first Rock & Roll President. He not only was aided by rock stars in his political campaigns for governor and the presidency, but he became friends with the musicians, and then implemented rock music and its stars as a soft power tool of his foreign policy and cultural diplomacy programs. Amidst the height of the Cold War struggle with the Soviet Union, as missiles on both sides were armed and ready to fire on a moment's notice, Carter employed rock music as his new weapon. Once you open the door to freedom, it's difficult to close it. In the film, Carter speaks with pride in using American cultural diplomacy to weaken the Soviet communist system, and acknowledges that Rock & Roll was a contributing factor to the collapse of the USSR. Their 28 concert tour, exposed Soviet youth – many for the first time, to the liberation of freedom to express oneself. Once you open the door to freedom, it's difficult to stop it and keep it from spreading.

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV

Interview Subject

Mikhail Gorbachev was a new generation communist leader of the USSR. He worked with Soviet youth for years and had embraced Rock & Roll from Elvis to the Scorpions, and the emerging Soviet rock artists. Rock & Roll was no longer forbidden under his Glasnost reform. Mikhail Gorbachev was a new generation communist leader of the USSR. He worked with Soviet youth for years and had embraced Rock & Roll from Elvis to John Lennon, and from the Scorpions to the emerging Soviet rock artists. He made a bold decision to create 'openness' with his Glasnost and Perestroika reforms in 1986, which allowed the Soviet teenagers, for the first time, to feel liberated through their love for rock music. He also allowed the nation's beloved underground rock bands to move their performances from school gyms to large stadiums and their recordings to the radio airwaves, while permitting them – for the first time, to be paid for their concerts and record sales.



CAST | THE PLAYERS

THE BEACH BOYS

Interview Subjects, Performance

During the 1960s, the Beach Boys were the only American band to rival the Beatles. In 1969, supported by promotion from the Voice of America, they became the first American rock band to play behind the Iron Curtain in Czechoslovakia. The Czech youth were starved for Western music and celebrated wildly at The Beach Boys' concerts. Within a few months, the communist authorities once again banned rock music.



SCORPIONS

Interview Subjects, Performance

West Germany's pioneer rock band, Scorpions, were one of the most popular groups in the world during the last two decades of the Cold War. Their song, "Wind of Change", foretold the collapse of Communist rule in Europe, while becoming the bestselling record in the world, with virtually every album going Platinum or Gold. After Glasnost came into effect, they began touring the Soviet Union in 1988.

STAS NAMIN

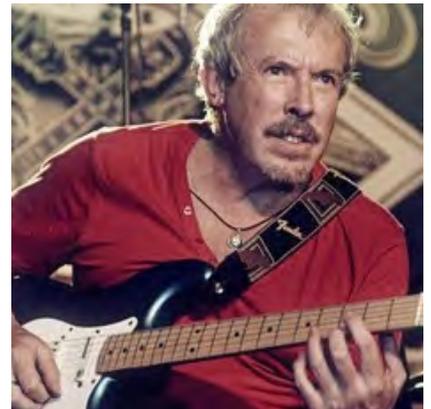
Interview Subject, Performance

Stas Namin, a brilliant lead guitarist, songwriter and producer, formed the Soviet rock band The Flowers in 1969. Four years later, they became the first unofficial Soviet group to release a record in the USSR for the government controlled label. For the next twelve years, The Flowers would go through short periods of being legal, followed by long periods of being blacklisted, yet eventually selling 60,000,000 albums. Meanwhile, Stas became the premier concert promoter and cultural leader in the USSR. As a key interview subject in the film, he not only speaks of his personal story, but makes astute observations on the entire Cold War era and of the decades-long struggle between Rock & Roll and the Kremlin over its citizens' rights to achieve personal freedoms in the Soviet Union.

ANDREY MAKAREVICH

Interview Subject, Performance

While in high school, Andrey's guitar teacher and mentor was Stas Namin. In 1965, he, like millions of other Russian youth, fell in love with the sound of The Beatles. He learned to play and sing every song from The Beatles' first albums. In 1969, Andrey, as lead singer and songwriter, formed his band TIME MACHINE. Beginning in 1975-76, the band's illegal homemade tapes, were duplicated by their fans, who then shared the tapes with their friends, until millions were distributed across the country. Andrey is an important voice in the film, he speaks passionately about his music, about The Beatles and Time Machine, and how Rock & Roll means Freedom to the youth of the world.



THE BEATLES

Performance

The Beatles, with their classical arrangements and complex harmony vocals, brought a sound familiar to the Russian ear. Their impact and influence was wide-spread, and every Iron Curtain rocker wanted to play like the Beatles, including the film's rock stars Namin, Makarevich and Grebenshikov.

NITTY GRITTY DIRT BAND

Interview Subjects, Performance

The band's lead singer/guitarist Jeff Hanna, and multi-instrumentalist John McEuen offer insightful and delightful commentary in the film of their historic experience, as the first American rock band to tour the Soviet Union. They also describe the secret friendship they formed with outlawed Latvian rocker Pete Anderson.

METALLICA

Performance, Feature Story

In the film, we see Metallica performing "Enter Sandman" before the millions of ecstatic and celebratory youth at the Tushina Airfield concert, which became one of the largest in audience history. After trillions of dollars of military armaments were expended between the U.S. and Soviets during the Cold War, just eleven weeks after this concert, the Soviet Empire imploded, without a military war.

DIRECTOR | THE TEAM



JIM BROWN Director/Producer/Creator

Jim Brown is a four-time Emmy Award-winning producer/director and heads Jim Brown Productions in New York. He is responsible for some of the most popular and critically acclaimed musical documentary programs of the last 35 years. He has made over 120 television documentaries and concerts. Four of his documentaries were released theatrically. His productions have been shown and distributed by MGM/United Artists, The Weinstein Company, PBS, Showtime, HBO, Discovery Networks, ABC, Fox Network, Sky Television, BBC, Sony Music Entertainment, Warner Brothers Music, Rhino Entertainment and others. He has partnered with The Grammy Museum Foundation, The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, The Experience Music Project, The Country Music Hall of Fame, The Library of Congress, AT&T Foundation, Woody Guthrie Publications and The Smithsonian Institution.

Jim Brown's work includes: The Highwaymen: Friends Till The End, Free To Rock, 50 Years with Peter, Paul and Mary, Pete Seeger: The Power of Song, Billy Joel: A Matter Of Trust-The Bridge to Russia, Don McLean: American Troubadour, The Weavers: Wasn't That A Time!, Woody Guthrie at 100! Live at the Kennedy Center, Alice's Restaurant 50th Anniversary Concert with Arlo Guthrie, Peter, Paul and Mary, Carry it On, Musical Passage (with The Soviet Émigré Orchestra), We Shall Overcome, A Vision Shared: A Tribute to Leadbelly and Woody Guthrie, American Roots Music (a 4 part series), Child of Mine, In the Hank Williams Tradition, Keeping America's Promise with Gen. Colin Powell, Songs of the Civil War, and An Evening with Harry Belafonte. He also produced, filmed, and did the interviewing on Harry Belafonte's documentary: Sing My Song. Roger Ebert cited The Weavers: Wasn't That A Time! as "one of the 10 best films of the year" and Pete Seeger: The Power of Song also as "one of the 10 best documentaries of the year."

Jim has been the recipient of multiple grants from The National Endowment for the Arts, The National Endowment for the Humanities and the Grammy Foundation.

In addition to 4 National Prime Time Emmy Awards, he has received an additional 4 Emmy nominations, A Christopher Award, The Cable Ace Award for The Best Music Special of the Year, A Gold Plaque (Biography/History) from The Hugo Awards, 4 Blue Ribbons and the Grand Prize (The Emily) from The American Film Festival, The Grand Jury Award from the Utah/US Film Festival (which became The Sundance Festival), 2 Grammy Nominations, First Place (Music Documentary) from US International Film and Video Festival, RIAA Gold Certified DVD, and Best Historical Recording- American Association for Independent Music. His films have also been showcased at The Tribeca Film Festival, Silver Docs, The Berlin Film Festival, The Cannes Festival and The London Film Festival.

When Brown produced and directed A Vision Shared: A Tribute to Woody Guthrie and Leadbelly (which was conceived by Bob Dylan as a means to fund the Smithsonian's purchase of Folkways Records) it was cited by TV Guide as "the best music special of the year" and was televised in over 25 countries and became a best selling home video and record which ultimately raised millions of dollars and secured the purchase of Folkways Records. In the US it aired on Showtime, PBS and The Disney Channel.

Brown has worked with countless musicians, including Bruce Springsteen, U2, Keith Richards, Little Richard, John Mellencamp, Robbie Robertson, B.B. King, Pete Seeger, Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, Kris Kristofferson, Waylon Jennings, Jessi Colter, Hank Williams Jr., Roseanne Cash, John Carter Cash, Jackson Browne, Bonnie Raitt Tom Morello, Buddy Guy, Keb Mo, Mary Chapin Carpenter, Carole King, Gloria Estefan, Emmylou Harris, Trisha Yearwood, Wynonna Judd, Doc Watson, Earl Scruggs, Ricky Skaggs, Marty Stuart, Don McLean, Harry Belafonte, Donovan, Peter, Paul & Mary, Holly Near, Judy Collins, Joan Baez, Arlo Guthrie and Odetta, Robert Plant and Alison Krauss, Billy Bragg, Steve Earle and The Klezmatics. He has also worked with notable public figures such as Presidents Clinton, Bush, Sr., Ford and Carter; Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, President Hugo Chavez, General Colin Powell, Danny Glover, Bill Cosby, Rosie O'Donnell, Whoopi Goldberg, John Travolta, and Oprah Winfrey.

Jim has also co-produced and/or collaborated with Norman Lear, Michael Cohl, Steve Bing, Ken Burns, Nora Guthrie/, Robert Santelli, Peter Yarrow, Jeff Rosen, and the late Alan Lomax and the late Harold Leventhal.

Brown is also a tenured professor at the Kanbar Institute of Film and Television at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. He is an outdoor enthusiast and gardener who lives in the Hudson Valley, New York and is a member of the Directors Guild of America.

PRODUCERS | THE TEAM



NICHOLAS BINKLEY

Producer/Executive Producer
Creator/Original Story

Nick Binkley's career includes banking, finance and international relations, and forty years in the music business as a musician, songwriter, recording artist and record executive. Over the past 12 years, Binkley conceived and co-authored the original story for the film FREE TO ROCK, and as an Executive Producer raised the seed financing. As a Producer, he made several trips to Russia and Eastern Europe, producing and shooting on-camera interviews. Nick befriended and supported the first wave of Soviet rock stars that were able to emigrate to America in the 1970s, including Russians Yuri Fokin and Serge Diujikov of the band Flowers, Yuri Valov of the Blue Guitars, and Latvians Valery Saifudinov and Grisha Dimant. Among these musicians, the first Soviet Rock Band in America Sasha & Yuri would form, and Binkley would later form his own band, The Street Dogs, that would record and tour in Russia and appear on Russian TV and radio with their popular Russian-American anthem "Novi Mir." For many years, Nick has been a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He also served on the Advisory Council of John Hopkin's School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington, where he received his MA in International Relations; and on the International Advisory Council for the University of California San Diego's Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies, where he served as its first Chairman.



STAS NAMIN

Producer/Executive Producer for
Russia/Creator/Advisor

Stas Namin is a musician, composer, producer, artist, photographer, theatre and film director, university professor, and the most acclaimed impresario of Russian Culture in his country. A founder and leader of the seminal Soviet rock band, The Flowers, in 1969, the band would become the first Soviet band to record and tour the USA. In 1987, Stas founded, organized and operated the first privately owned Soviet entertainment production complex. Located in the Moscow's Gorky Park, the Stas Namin Centre launched the careers of many super-star Russian performing artists, including the Gorky Park rock band, which he founded and produced, who would become the first Soviet rock band to score on America's record and video charts.

Stas, produced and promoted the first large rock music festivals ever held in the USSR, including the historic Moscow International Music Peace Festival, which he co-produced with American music manager and promoter, Doc McGhee. This two day festival, presented at Moscow's Lenin Stadium in 1989, drew 220,000 rock fans to celebrate their freedom of expression and their love for rock music. The festival starred Bon Jovi, Ozzy Osbourne, Motley Crue, Scorpions, Skid Row, Cinderella, Gorky Park, and other Soviet bands. This event was referred to in the press and Media as the "Russian Woodstock".



DOUGLAS YEAGER

Producer/Executive Producer
Original story

As CEO of Douglas A. Yeager Productions, Ltd. for more than 40 years, Yeager has worked as an international entertainment executive, film, television and record producer, concert promoter, special event producer, artist manager and government consultant, with projects on five continents. During the period of Glasnost, he was a consultant to the Soviet Ministry of Culture for American artists touring the USSR and Soviet artists touring America. From 1977 to 1996, Yeager was a consultant and independent producer in Germany and for ARD/WDR TV & Radio. His productions included "Deutschland Lied," whose story line explored the history of German socio-politics and culture in Germany from 1933 till the Fall of the Berlin Wall. Yeager co-authored the original story for the film FREE TO ROCK, while actively working as an Executive Producer and Producer on the road with the film project, including several trips to Russia and Eastern Europe. As the lead researcher for the film, he is also writing the film's companion book.

Yeager majored in International Relations at the University of Cincinnati and l'universite d'Aix-Marseille in France, where he first partnered with Nick Binkley. Yeager and Binkley are also developing a feature doc bio on the life and career of the civil rights icon and singer, ODETTA, "The Voice of the Civil Rights Movement" (New York Times). Yeager has received Special Achievement Awards from both VISTA and Peace Corps.

PRODUCERS | THE TEAM



BILL IVEY

Executive Producer/Advisor

Bill Ivey served as the seventh Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts from May 1998 through September 2001. Subsequently, he was Founding Director of the Curb Center for Art, Enterprise, and Public Policy at Vanderbilt University, an arts policy research center with offices in Nashville, Tennessee and Washington, D.C; while also directing the Center's Washington-based program for senior government career staff, the Arts Industries Policy Forum, and serves as Senior Consultant to Leadership Music, a professional development program serving Nashville's music community. Ivey is a trustee of the Center for American Progress, and served as Team Leader for Arts and Humanities in the Obama-Biden Presidential Transition. He holds degrees in History, Folklore, and Ethnomusicology, as well as honorary doctorates from the University of Michigan, Wayne State University, Michigan Technological University, and Indiana University. His book, *Arts, Inc.: How Greed and Neglect Have Destroyed Our Cultural Rights*, was published by the University of California Press in the summer of 2008.



JOHN BEUG

Executive Producer

John Beug's career spans more than 30 years in the music industry, including overseeing music video and long-form television production for Warner Music Group and its record labels. A four-time Emmy nominated producer, John's credits include an Emmy Award for Eric Clapton's *Crossroads Guitar Festival*; a Grammy Award for *When You're Strange: A Film About The Doors*; SXSW Audience Awards for *When You're Strange: A Film About The Doors*; and his recent film *Take Me To The River*. Other films or TV specials he has executive produced or produced include: *Eric Clapton and Stevie Winwood: Live from Madison Square Garden*; *Eric Clapton & Friends in Concert: A Benefit for the Crossroads Centre at Antigua*; *Eric Clapton: Nothing But the Blues*; *Cream Reunion Concert*; *A Tribute to James Taylor*; *Bee Gees: In Our Own Time*; *Too Tough to Die: A Tribute to Johnny Ramone*; *Don Henley: Live Inside Job*; *Steely Dan's Two Against Nature*; *Naked Songs: The Life and Times of Ricky Lee Jones*; *Michael Buble Meets Madison Square Garden*. and *Michael Buble: Caught in the Act*. Earlier in his career, John was associate producer of Cheech & Chong's hit feature film *Up In Smoke* as well associate producer of the *Rocky Horror Show* both in Los Angeles and New York on Broadway

BOARD OF ADVISORS

In addition to Stas Namin, and Bill Ivey, the board includes Bob Santelli, Executive Director of the Grammy Museum and of the National Music Museum Alliance, former Executive Director of the Experience Music Project, former Vice President of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, expert and published author of many books on the history of rock music; Dr. Terry Stewart, former President of Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and former President of the Marvel Entertainment Group; Ambassador Andras Simonyi, Managing Director of Transatlantic Relations for John Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, former Hungarian Ambassador to the U.S. during the George W. Bush Administration, rock guitarist and lecturer on the "soft power" of rock music; Dr. Timothy Ryback, Deputy-Secretary General of The Academie Diplomatique Internationale, former professor, authority on history of the rock movement behind the Iron Curtain and author of *Rock Around the Bloc: A History of Rock Music in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union*; Ambassador Ojars Kalnins, Member of the Latvian Parliament and Chairman of its Foreign Affairs Committee; former Latvian Ambassador to the U.S. 1991- 1999, and accomplished rock lyricist; Professor Mark Levine, University of California/Irvine, a rock guitarist, lecturer on the soft power of rock music, and author of *Heavy Metal Islam*; Dr. Nils Muiznieks, current Commissioner of Human Rights for the Council of Europe, former Latvian Cabinet Minister, and an expert on Soviet and Eastern European political history; and the late Dr. Gregory Guroff, President of The Foundation for International Arts & Education, a Soviet expert and former U.S. Cultural Attaché to the USSR in the 1970's.

REVIEWS



FREE TO ROCK

“ Rock & Roll music was instrumental in bringing down the Iron Curtain, Free To Rock Proves Rock Music Toppled Communism.

PUBLIC BROADCASTING OF LATVIA

“ Was the subculture's birth a CIA plot, as one Russian legislature recently claimed, or a genuine musical phenomena? The White House, in fact, played an on-hands role in this soft power strategy, when U.S. President Jimmy Carter's administration helped send the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band to the Soviet Union in 1977 for the first tour of an American rock band on Soviet soil.

THE ATLANTIC

“ Free to Rock, beyond telling the unheard story of the upheaval and real power of Soviet rock music, carries larger implications for today. Perhaps presidential candidates on both sides of the aisle could learn a thing or two from Free to Rock about how culture, ideology, and music are some of the most powerful weapons that one can wield.

Jackson Sinnenberg, ON TAP MAGAZINE

“ When you speak, you speak to the mind, but when you play Rock 'n' Roll music, you play to the heart. Rock 'n' Roll music became a part of my diplomatic work. You can talk big politics all day, but rock breaks stuff down. Rock 'n' Roll music was not soft. This film is a testament to the fact that it is as hard as nuclear weapons.”

Andras Simonyi, FORMER HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR

MEDIA | COVERAGE

FREE TO ROCK

FREE TO ROCK ASKS US TO RECONSIDER THE POWER OF CULTURE | [ON TAP MAGAZINE](#)

FILM PROVES ROCK MUSIC TOPPLED COMMUNISM | [PUBLIC BROADCASTING OF LATVIA](#)

SPIES, SPOOKS, and ROCK & ROLL AT THE TWILIGHT OF THE COLD WAR | [THE ATLANTIC](#)

ROCK 'N' REVOLUTION | [NEW YORK TIMES](#)

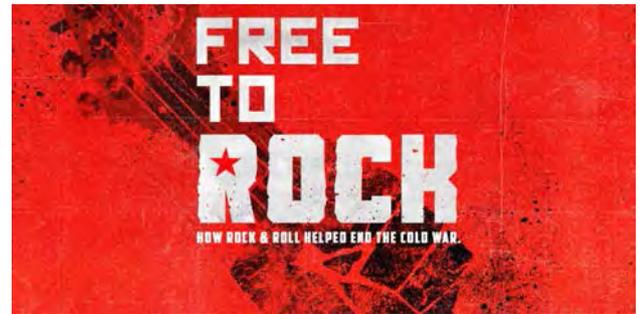
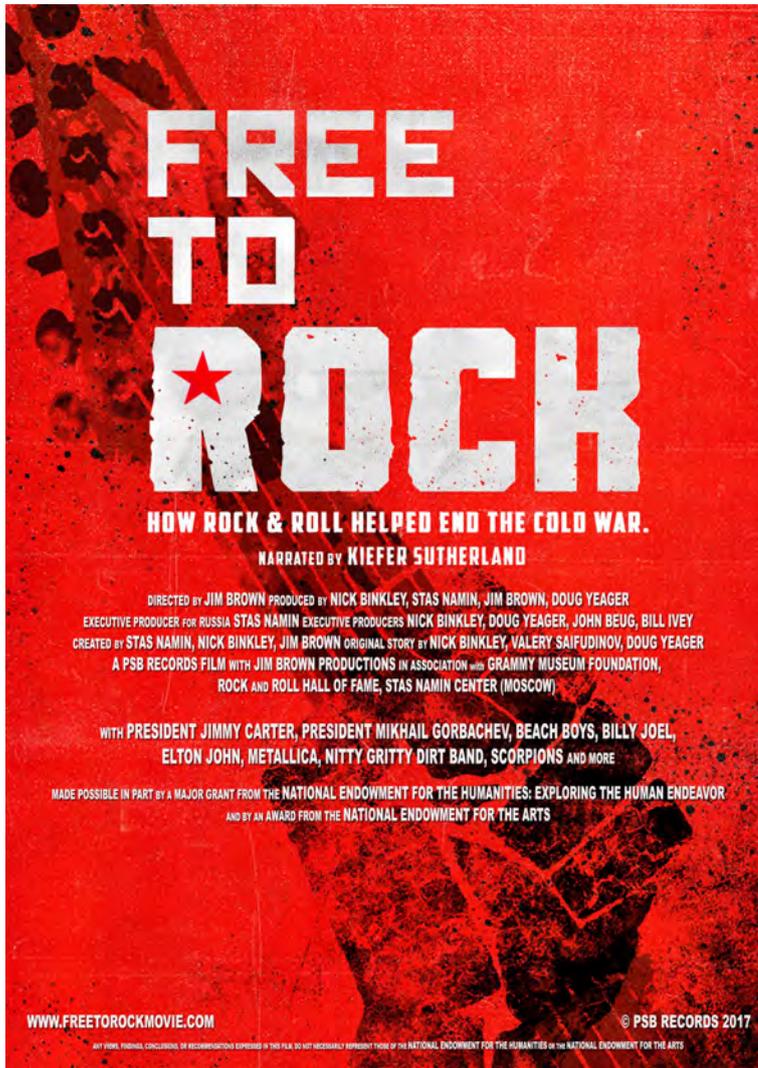
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RED WAVE: HOW SOVIET ROCK MADE IT TO THE US | [RUSSIA BEYOND THE HEADLINES](#)



PROMOTION

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FREE TO ROCK

FREE TO ROCK

QUOTES | FROM THE FILM

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**“Rock & Roll
is freedom, and
every young person
wants to be free!”
~Andrey Makarevich**

“Rock & Roll was certainly a contributing factor to ending the Cold War. President Jimmy Carter

“Rock is for young people. It’s an opportunity to open up a road into the future. President Mikhail Gorbachev

“One of the best ways to topple an opposite system is through ideological offensive, through cultural offensive. This is precisely what happened during the Cold War. That’s what led to the collapse of the system. KGB Major General Oleg Kalugin

“I didn’t know that (Rock & Roll) was going to end the Cold War...but I thought it might warm things up. Billy Joel

“America was like something close to heaven. Russia was an incredibly closed society. It was like a jail. And rock and roll was starting to open it. Yuri Valov (Soviet Rock Pioneer)

“We understood that communism was that regime which we all hated when we were kids. Stas Namin (Soviet Rock Pioneer)

“Rock & Roll is freedom, and every young person wants to be free! Andrey Makarevich (Soviet Rock Pioneer)

“They told me that if I don’t stop playing rock and roll music, my daughter’s health is in deep trouble. Pete Anderson (Soviet Rock Pioneer)

“The KGB followed us all the time. It looked just like Spy Vs. Spy in Mad Magazine! John McEuen (of Nitty Gritty Dirt Band)

“We felt this is our mission...to bring people the freedom of Rock & Roll. Herman Rarebell (of Scorpions)

“It was one of the most important cultural exchanges of the 20th century. Bob Santelli (Executive Director Grammy Museum)

CREDITS

CAST

KIEFER SUTHERLAND

Narrator

JIMMY CARTER

Former President of The US

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV

Former President of USSR

BILLY JOEL

American Rock Artist

MIKE LOVE

The Beach Boys

BRUCE JOHNSTON

The Beach Boys

ELTON JOHN

British Rock Artist

JEFF HANNA

Nitty Gritty Dirt Band

JOHN McEUEEN

Nitty Gritty Dirt Band

STAS NAMIN

Soviet Rock Artist

HERMAN RAREBELL

Scorpions

ANDREY MAKAREVICH

Soviet Rock Artist

VALERY SAIFUDINOV

Soviet Rock Artist

JOANNA STINGRAY

American Producer of Soviet Bands

PETE ANDERSON

Soviet Rock Artist

BORIS GREBENSHIKOV

Soviet Rock Artist

VRATISLAV BRABENEC

Czech Rock Artist

YURIY SHISHKOV

Master Builder of Fender Guitars

VAIRE VIKE-FREIBERGA

Former President of Latvia

OLEG KALUGIN

Former KGB Major General

ALEXANDER VERSHBOW

Deputy Secretary of NATO

ALEXANDER VERSHBOW

Deputy Secretary of NATO

DEAN REED

One of the biggest Soviet Rock Stars who was actually an American

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ANDRAS SIMONYI

Former Hungarian Ambassador

DAVE HESS

Former Cultural Attache to USSR-US State Department

YURI VALOV

Soviet Rock Artist

GRISHMA DIMANT

Soviet Rock Artist

PERFORMANCES BY

ELVIS PRESLEY

MELODY MAKERS

Soviet Rock Band

THE BEATLES

THE BEACH BOYS

PLASTIC PEOPLE OF THE UNIVERSE

Soviet Rock Band

STAS NAMIN & THE FLOWERS

Soviet Rock Band

TIME MACHINE (with Andrey Makarevich)

Soviet Rock Band

ALISA

Soviet Hard Rock Band

KINO(with Viktor Tsoi)

Soviet Punk Rock Band

NITTY GRITTY DIRT BAND

BILLY JOEL

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN

THE WALL CONCERT IN BERLIN

featuring Roger Waters & Cyndi Lauper

SCORPIONS

METALLICA

VALERY SAIFUDINOV & ELEKTRIK TANK

American Band of Former Soviet Rock Artists

DIRECTOR

Jim Brown

PRODUCERS

Nick Binkley

Stas Namin

Jim Brown

Doug Yeager

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER for RUSSIA

Stas Namin

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

Nick Binkley

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