



SIMPLY SYLVIO


the movie

# *INTRODUCTION*

We invite you to help us make  
SIMPLY SYLVIO, a new **independent  
feature film**.

Simply Sylvio is the story of a small town gorilla who joins a local TV program to showcase his experimental puppet show but a series of on-air mishaps send him on a journey of self-discovery.

The project is a collaboration between Albert Birney (THE BEAST PAGEANT), Kentucker Audley (actor, QUEEN OF EARTH, THE SACRAMENT), Meghan Doherty (author, HOW NOT TO BE A DICK), and Josh Polon (producer, ANIMALS, MANSON FAMILY VACATION): four artists with experience making low-budget movies that play at top festivals, in theaters, and online.



# Vine

- 505K Followers
- Over 114 million views
- Editor's Pick
- Vine Verified
- Armstrong Vine Award, 2014
- Armstrong Vine Judge, 2015
- 2014 Tribeca Film Festival Vine Award



5.4K Followers



5K Followers



## OUR AUDIENCE

# *DIRECTOR BIO*

Albert Birney is an award-winning independent filmmaker with a penchant for the wonderful and the fantastic. His short films and music videos have screened worldwide.

Albert's first feature film, *THE BEAST PAGEANT*, premiered at the 2011 Slamdance Film Festival and went on to play at the Lund Fantastic Film Festival, Maryland Film Festival, and Boston Underground Film Festival.

- “Nightmarish and delightful” - Peter Keough, *The Boston Phoenix*.
- “Perfect balance between dark polemic and dada-tinged wonder” - Paul Sbrizzi, *Hammer to Nail*
- WINNER, “Best Experimental Film” at the 2011 Arizona Underground Film Festival.

He started the Simply Sylvio vine account in April 2013, and since then has made nearly 900 videos and amassed over 411k Followers.

Albert's films and music videos highlight his do-it-yourself mantra and lo-fi sentiments, which are to be employed to great effect in Sylvio. He loves all aspects of filmmaking: from directing to editing, to model-making and beyond.

# *DIRECTOR STATEMENT*

How does a gorilla who can't speak express his humanity? This is the central question of the film.

SIMPLY SYLVIO is a visually inventive film about a gorilla who stars in his own TV show. Colorful sketches and slapstick meme humor, mixed with hilarious behind-the-scenes vignettes of the awkward host and incompetent crew. Think Wayne's World meets Between Two Ferns (Zach Galifianakis). The heart of Jim Henson combined with the cinematic flair of Wes Anderson and Michel Gondry.

I want to make a film that celebrates creativity and the importance of friendship and collaboration; a film that uplifts and amuses and acts as a vitamin. I want to create images that inspire viewers and evoke smiles long after they've left the theater.

I'm making SIMPLY SYLVIO with the help of a community of friends and filmmakers. I've amassed a crew of amazing, passionate collaborators hungry to make imaginative new films outside the Hollywood system. I see the themes and images in the film resonating deeply with the current generations of independent film fans and beyond. This is a film for people tired of the standard and bored of the morose.



# THE TEAM

## Albert Birney - Director / Lead Actor (SYLVIO BERNARDI)

Albert is an award winning independent filmmaker with a penchant for the wonderful and the fantastic. His short films and music videos have screened worldwide.

Albert's first feature film, THE BEAST PAGEANT, premiered at the 2011 Slamdance Film Festival and went on to play at the Lund Fantastic Film Festival, Maryland Film Festival, Boston Underground Film Festival. Albert created Sylvio in 2013.

## Kentucker Audley - Writer / Co-Director / Lead Actor (AL REYNOLDS)

Kentucker is a filmmaker & actor. "One of American independent cinema's most vital figures," says Paste Magazine. He stars in Amy Seimetz' SUN DON'T SHINE, Ti West's THE SACRAMENT, and Dustin Guy Defa's BAD FEVER. LA Weekly calls him "maybe the most fascinating actor in current American penny-budgeted cinema." He's directed films such as OPEN FIVE, called "One of the Top 25 Films of 2010" by The New Yorker, and OPEN FIVE 2. He also runs NoBudge, an online screening venue for new indie films.

## Meghan Doherty - Producer / Supporting Actor (MILLIE)

Meghan is an author, videographer, and music video director. Her book "How Not to Be a Dick: An Everyday Etiquette Guide" is an IPPY Gold Humor Award recipient. Her video work has appeared in Brooklyn galleries, Warehouse and Shoestring Press.



# THE CHARACTERS



SYLVIO BERNARDI is an ordinary gorilla just trying to live a simple life. He is stuck in his job as a debt collector. Deep down he just wants to express himself with his hand puppet, Herbet Herpels.



AL REYNOLDS hosts “The Afternoon Show” which broadcasts live to the web 5 days a week. He offers Sylvio a chance to perform his puppet show. Despite a rocky start, they became good friends. Al understands Sylvio more than anybody.



UNCLE OTIS is the host of a puppet show from the 1980’s that Sylvio watches every night on old VHS tapes. Otis is Sylvio’s hero and inspiration. A passionate man, slightly hippy, mixed in with the calmness of Jim Henson and Mr. Rogers. He loves animals.



HERBET HERPELS is Sylvio’s puppet. He is an everyman and a calm prescence throughout the film. He communicates Sylvio’s inner soul and deepest feelings. He will be played by both a puppet and an actor throughout the film.



THE BOSS runs Chester Collections, the debt agency where Sylvio works. He is hard on Sylvio for being bad at his job. He discovers that Sylvio is guest starring with Al Reynolds, the worst debt delinquent in town, and threatens to shut down “The Afternoon Show.”





# *SYLVIO EXCITEMENT*

Simply Sylvio has garnered a lot of attention from audiences and critics alike from winning TriBeca Film Festival's #6secondfilms, the Armstrong Vine Awards, as well as being nominated for a Shorty Award. Furthermore, Simply Sylvio has been listed in Mashable's Best Vines of 2014, and has been written up by many outlets such as BuzzFeed, Business Insider, as well as Canal+.



# PAST FILMS

Film	Filmmaker Involvement	Buyer/ Distributor / Notable Festivals/Outlets
THE BEAST PAGEANT	Albert Birney (director)	IndiePix, Slamdance, Maryland, SF Independent
QUEEN OF EARTH	Kentucker Audley (actor)	IFC, Berlin
SUN DON'T SHINE	Kentucker Audley (actor)	Factory 25, SXSW, Viennale, AFI Fest, Edinburgh
THE SACRAMENT	Kentucker Audley (actor)	Magnolia Pictures, Toronto, Venice
BAD FEVER	Kentucker Audley (actor)	Factory 25, SXSW, Maryland, Starz Denver
V/H/S	Kentucker Audley (actor)	Magnolia Pictures, Sundance, SXSW, Seattle International, BAMcinemaFest
AIN'T THEM BODIES SAINTS	Kentucker Audley (actor)	IFC, Sundance, Seattle International, BAMcinemaFest, Karlovy Vary, Los Angeles
FUNNY BUNNY	Kentucker Audley (actor)	SXSW, Maryland
CHRISTMAS, AGAIN	Kentucker Audley (actor)	Factory 25, Sundance, New Directors/ New Films, Locarno, Off Plus Camera, Maryland
BRETHREN ARISE	Meghan Doherty (actor)	Art Basel, Zero Film Festival, Signapore International
ANIMALS (TV)	Josh Polon (producer)	HBO, Sundance
MANSON FAMILY VACATION	Josh Polon (producer) Ali Sander (producer)	Netflix, SXSW, Los Angeles, Seattle International, Edinburgh
ONLY THE YOUNG	Josh Polon (producer)	Oscilloscope, True/False, Hot Docs, AFI Fest, Cinema Eye Honors
THE DO-DECA-PENTATHLON	Josh Polon (producer)	Fox Searchlight, SXSW, SF International
KEVIN	Josh Polon (producer)	FilmBuff, Wolphin, SXSW, Palm Springs International ShortFest
CROSSING OVER	Ali Sander (producer)	Univision
BOJACK HORSEMAN (TV)	Ali Sander (coordinator)	Netflix