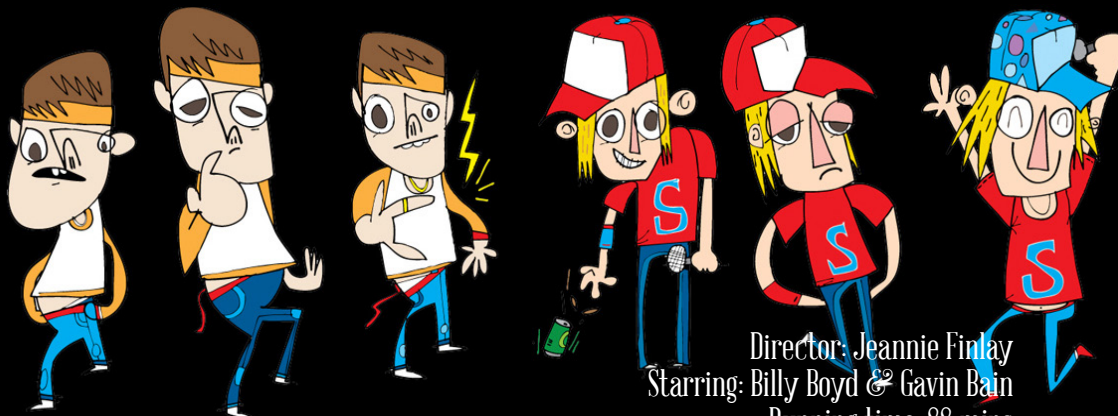


September Preview



The Great Hip Hop Hoax

Director: Jeannie Finlay
Starring: Billy Boyd & Gavin Bain
Running time: 88 mins
On limited release from Sep 6th

When does the relentless pursuit of a dream become insane, pointless or delusional? Scottish lads Gavin Bain and Billy Boyd tested the many grey areas within this question, managing to dupe the music industry out of hundreds of thousands of pounds when they played the part of Californian rap sensations, shortly after being laughed out of London for auditioning as themselves. New documentary *The Great Hip Hop Hoax* tells a raw, authentic and slightly disarming story of the lengths to which one can go to achieve your dreams.

Described as a 'comedy act' from the start, Bill and Gavin established a close, brother-like bond through making music and having magically compatible personalities. Refusing to be deterred from their dreams of becoming global superstars by a panel of judges who dubbed them as 'rapping Proclaimers', they created new, two-dimensional - and, most importantly, Californian - identities for themselves. Unbelievable success ensued, leading the duo (known as Silibil 'N Brains) to become many things: support act for D12, crashers of the Brit Awards and the object of unthinkable amounts of female affection, to name but a few. However, despite the whirlwind success these identities found them, the documentary sensitively identifies the detrimental effect they had on the real Bill and Gavin, turning their friendship toxic and their per-

'Two Scottish lads managed to dupe the music industry out of hundreds of thousands of pounds'

sonalities incompatible.

Director Jeannie Finlay has an undeniable flair for portraying the stories of misunderstood art. Her other inspirations have led her to explore the stories of the vinyl generation in *Sound It Out*, as well as the surviving British goth culture in *Goth Cruise*. An evident fan of the underdog, Finlay's documentary boasts a plethora of original video footage, bringing to life the incredible yet destructive journey of Silibil 'N Brains.

Personal and penetrative interviews are held with both Gavin and Bill, the authenticity of their answers and their story contrasting with the evasive and awkward answers they gave as their Californian selves at the height of their fame. Finlay aptly uses this to highlight the impact the necessity of being 'marketable' and being treated as commodities in corporate industries has on genuine talent and art. The sincerity of this truth - coupled with a portrayal of the crafted characters of Silibil 'N Brains through some fantastic cartoon animation - makes *The Great Hip Hop Hoax* a vibrant yet thought-provoking film. Both men argue that 'everyone lies, it's about what you're lying for' - yet this documentary causes one to consider such lies' capability of consuming artists and their dreams.

Charlotte Ross