

# TEAM HISTORY

After dropping out of film school and working odd jobs, Matt Porterfield used the money he saved to make *Hamilton*, which he wrote, directed, edited, and distributed over the course of five years. It was cast with non-actors, shot and printed on color 16mm with a lush, ambient sound design and relatively little dialogue. The film found a niche touring independent, art-house theatres, universities, and museums: the American Film Institute (AFI), Anthology Film Archives, Facets Cinematheque, UW-Madison Cinematheque, Centre Pompidou, Baltimore Museum of Art, Maryland Institute College of Art, the UK's National Media Museum, and the Swedish Film Institute, to name just a few.

In 2008, *Hamilton* continues to play venues, festivals, the internet, and on television throughout the world. Cinetic Media, in New York, has picked it up for digital rights management. And it's been critically acclaimed, dubbed "a minor miracle" by *The New Yorker*. Additionally, *Hamilton*'s garnered favorable reviews in *The New York Times*, *The New York Post*, *The Village Voice*, *Artforum International*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *Time Out Chicago*, *Newcity Chicago*, *Time Out New York*, *TV Guide*, and *The Baltimore Sun*. Certainly, some of the warmest, most affirmative responses have been from local audiences, folks from the neighborhood portrayed in the film, and young people.

Considering the scope of its distribution, *Hamilton* saw a decent box office return in the theatres that booked it, selling-out venues at AFI, Anthology Film Archives, the Maryland Film Festival, the Wisconsin Film Festival, the Viennale, and the Starz Denver Film Festival. At the Rotunda Cinematheque, independently owned and operated in Baltimore, where *Hamilton* played one theatre for three weeks, its total gross was over \$10,000.

MATTHEW PORTERFIELD / Born in 1977, Matt studied film at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. His first feature, *Hamilton*, made for \$50,000, was released in 2006. That year, *Hamilton* appeared on many year-end best lists, including John Water's 2006 Top Ten in *Artforum International*. A recipient of a media grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, Porterfield teaches Film & Media Studies at Johns Hopkins University.

JORDAN MINTZER / Matt and Jordan, the operating managers of The Hamilton Film Group, met their first year at NYU, in 1995, through the 16mm film series Jordan developed and operated out of his dorm room. Before producing *Hamilton*, Jordan assisted on projects by directors such as Hal Hartley, Amir Naderi, and Vojtech Jasny. Currently living in Paris, France, he works as an international tax specialist for Cabinet Simonard and writes as a film critic for *Variety* and *The Paris Times*.

DAN CAREY / A New York-based independent producer, Dan Carey is partner of Paul Giamatti and Elizabeth Giamatti at Touchy Feely Films. Recent productions include *Cold Souls*, written and directed by Sophie Barthes (*No Borders* 2007); *Pretty Bird*, written/directed by Paul Schneider (Sundance 2008); Christopher Zalla's *Sangre de Mi Sangre* (2007 Sundance Grand Jury Prize); and *Live Free or Die* (2006 SXSW Jury Prize). Projects in development include an adaptation of Peter Abrahams' novel *Oblivion*; a feature about French Canadian Christmas tree salesmen by playwright Melissa Gibson; and a film about unexplained phenomena involving cattle mutilations, by Rob Devor and Charles Mudede (*Zoo*).

JEREMY SAULNIER / Jeremy Saulnier, *Metal Gods*' Director of Photography, was also a classmate at NYU, though he and Matt first met at summer camp in junior high school. A recipient of the Undergraduate Cinematography Award, Jeremy trained at the International Film Workshops in Rockport, Maine, completing the Cinematographer's Master Class with John Toll, ASC. Jeremy's work on *Hamilton* proved a monumental asset. It won the film many admirers and an award for "Best Cinematography" at the 2007 Atlanta Film Festival. Since *Hamilton*, Jeremy's completed two shorts, numerous commercials, and another feature, his own directorial debut, *Murder Party* (2007), released by Magnolia Pictures.