



"An 80s twist on Jack Kerouac's myth of the open road."

—Caryn James, *The New York Times* 

"Morally brave, beautifully measured, funny, sad and powerful."

-Michael Wilmington, Los Angeles Times

**NEW 2K RESTORATION** 

# CANDY MOUNTAIN

A FILM BY ROBERT FRANK AND RUDY WURLITZER

WINNER - SILVER SEASHELL San Sebastián International Film Festival

WORLD PREMIERE
Locarno International Film Festival

Switzerland, Canada, France | 1987 | Rated R 91 minutes | 1.66:1 | Mono

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## **SYNOPSIS**

New York City, 1980s. A struggling, deadbeat musician named Julius has fallen on hard times. With no guitar, band or paying gigs, he cooks up a get-rich-quick scheme – to find the legendary, yet elusive guitar-maker Elmore Silk. Considered one of the greatest luthiers in the business, Silk's disappearance from the scene has only made his work more coveted by musicians and executives looking to make a buck off his name. Julius agrees to track the man down and sets out on the road. Meant to be a simple journey upstate, Julius stumbles down a long, winding road full of dead-ends and wrong turns towards an eventual revelatory conclusion in the Canadian wilderness.

One of the great cult classics of the 1980s and starring character actors Kevin J. O'Conner and Harris Yulin, the supporting cast features real-life music legends Tom Waits, Leon Redbone, Joe Strummer, Dr. John, David Johansen and more. "A wry, laid-back *Heart of Darkness*" (*Chicago Reader*), *Candy Mountain* combines the keen eye of legendary photographer Robert Frank with novelist/screenwriter Rudy Wurlitzer's mythic American prose to produce the quintessential road movie.



# ROBERT FRANK BIOGRAPHY

Robert Frank's restless, gritty, melancholic vision marked him as an astute documentarian of the postwar American landscape. Born into a German-Jewish family in Zurich in 1924, he developed an interest in photography at an early age and apprenticed with several photographers in his teens. In his early twenties his intrepid nature brought him to America, in 1947, where he found work as a commercial photographer, most notably at *Harper's Bazaar* under Alexey Brodovitch's highly influential editorial vision. He soon left this relatively stable position for an itinerant life. At one point he served as an assistant to Walker Evans, whose photobook *American Photographs* (1938) set a precedent for Frank's subsequent accomplishments.

The publication of Frank's photobook *The Americans*, first released in France in 1959 and subsequently printed stateside in 1960, caused nothing short of a revolution among photographers and documentarians.

In a country that was not his own, Frank assumed the unique position of an outsider and voyeur who unobtrusively captured the tensions of the geographic, economic, racial, and religious diversity of the U.S. After receiving a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1954, he made numerous crosscountry car trips over a period of 10 months, ultimately logging 10,000 miles. He used a handheld camera to present a picture of the U.S. that was provocatively out of sync with the insistent optimism that often characterized Americans' postwar sense of self. The 83 photographs comprising *The Americans* record cars, jukeboxes, bureaucracy, leisure, youth culture, high society, crowded urban streets, desolate open plains, politics, race, and religion. Frank captured the nation as a messy corpus, never privileging city or country, black or white, Jew or Christian, rich or poor.

From the late 1950s through the early 1970s, Frank dedicated himself almost exclusively to moving images. His cinematic achievements have been widely heralded since the release, in 1959, of his first film, *Pull My Daisy*, co-directed with Alfred Leslie and adapted by Jack Kerouac from his own play. The film visualizes the energy and syncopation of the Beat Generation by featuring literary figures such as Allen Ginsberg, Peter Orlovsky, and Gregory Corso, among many others. Its improvised, freewheeling structure set the tone for Frank's subsequent films, including *Me and My Brother* (1965-68), *Conversations in Vermont* (1969), *Cocksucker Blues* (1972) and *Candy Mountain* (1987).

# **CAST**

Julius Cornelia Elmore Silk Al Silk

Mario Alice Henry

Leon Archie Annie

Lucille Keith Burns Gunther Alston

Darlene

Kevin J. O'Connor

Bulle Ogier Harris Yulin Tom Waits Joe Strummer Laurie Metcalf

Dr. John

Leon Redbone Roberts Blossom Tantoo Cardinal Jayne Eastwood David Johansen Eric Mitchell Arto Lindsay

**Mary Margaret O'Hara** 

### **CREW**

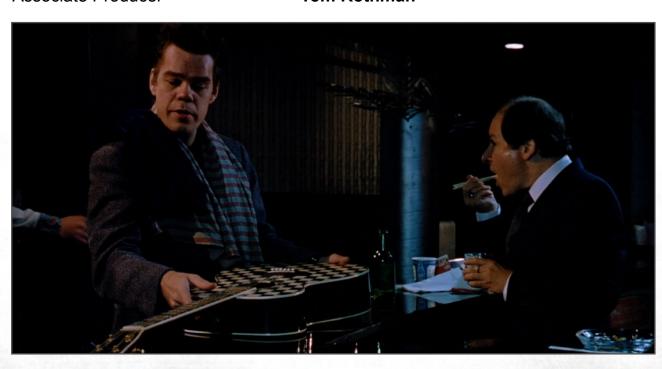
Directed by Written by

Director of Photography

Editor Producer

Executive Producer Associate Producer

Robert Frank and Rudy Wurlitzer
Rudy Wurlitzer
Pio Corradi
Jennifer Auge
Ruth Waldburger
Gerald Dearing
Tom Rothman



### **ABOUT FILM MOVEMENT**

Founded in 2002, Film Movement is a North American distributor of award-winning independent and foreign films based in New York City. It has released more than 300 feature films culled from prestigious film festivals worldwide including the Oscar-nominated films Theeb (2016) and Corpus Christi (2020). Film Movement's theatrical releases include American independent films, documentaries, and foreign-language arthouse titles. Its catalog includes works by directors such as Ryusuke Hamaguchi, Lee Isaac Chung, Hirokazu Kore-eda, Maren Ade, Jessica Hausner, Ciro Guerra, Bertrand Bonello and Mélanie Laurent.

In 2015, Film Movement launched its reissue label Film Movement Classics, featuring new restorations released theatrically as well as on digital platforms, Bluray and DVD, including films by such noted directors as Ang Lee, Chen Kaige, Luchino Visconti, Stanley Kwan, Peter Greenaway, Bille August, Marleen Gorris, Takeshi Kitano, Arturo Ripstein, King Hu, Lee Chang Dong, Hideo Gosha and Sergio Corbucci.

For more information, please visit www.filmmovement.com.

