

'The Wrecking Crew' film - a labor of love, sweat and a few tears

THE WRECKING! CREW

Award-winning filmmaker Denny Tedesco will share his inspiring story of bringing 'The Wrecking Crew' to theaters after 19 years of hard work and determination

THERE WAS ONLY ONE BAND BEHIND THEM ALL

THE BEACH BOYS
FRANK SINATRA
ELVIS
NAT "KING" COLE
SIMON & GARFUNKEL
THE RIGHTEOUS BROTHERS
PHIL SPECTOR

THE BYRDS
THE MAMAS & THE PAPAS
DEAN MARTIN
SONNY & CHER
THE MONKEES
GLEN CAMPBELL



The critics agree:

One of the top 50 of all time music documentaries released in theaters

93% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes

86% on Apple TV with 5 stars

5 stars on Netflix

"Their story has taken 19 years to reach the screen. IT HAS BEEN WORTH THE WAIT. An invaluable record of a kind of rock golden age" - Kenneth Turan, *Los Angeles Times*

"BREEZY, INTRIGUING, TUNEFUL, JOYOUS STUFF FOR ANYONE. For rock and pop fans, though, IT'S ABSOLUTE CATNIP" - Steve Rebello, *Playboy*

"A treasure trove of witness-at-creation anecdotes and enduringly potent '60s pop classics. A WELL-NIGH IRRESISTIBLE TREAT FOR AFICIONADOS OF MUSIC" - Joe Leydon, *Variety*

The Wrecking Crew was a group of studio musicians in Los Angeles in the 1960s who played on hits for the Beach Boys, Elvis, Frank Sinatra, Byrds, Nancy Sinatra, Sonny and Cher, Jan & Dean, The Monkees, Gary Lewis and the Playboys, Mamas and Papas, Tijuana Brass, Ricky Nelson, Johnny Rivers and Phil Spector's Wall of Sound. The amount of work that they were involved in was tremendous.

In 1996, guitarist and Wrecking Crew member, Tommy Tedesco was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Tommy's son and film maker, Denny Tedesco, quickly set forth to tell the story of his father and the other musicians known as the Wrecking Crew. That was the beginning of Denny's 19-year odyssey to share 'The Wrecking Crew' movie with the world.

[For more reviews and information on The Wrecking Crew, click here.](#)

The Pitch

Film Maker Denny Tedesco is booking screenings and speaking engagements at Universities, Museums, Libraries, and private homes to not only share the story about these amazing musicians but how he came up with ideas on spreading the word, raising the money and staying focused on his goal.

In his conversations, he talks about the film making process, the challenges of music licensing and how, over the course of 19 years, he overcame obstacles in creating the film, funding it and acquiring worldwide distribution.

The Challenge

After winning over a dozen awards in 2008 film festival season and amazing reviews, the film couldn't find any interest with distributors due to the cost of the music. Instead of walking away Tedesco continued to think outside the box to raise awareness and donations.

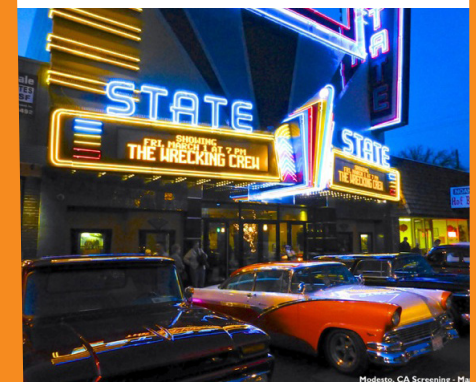
Some of his strategies:

- Started Facebook Fan page featuring trivia and news updates of WC members and artists. Today it has over 70,000 fans
- Collected over 30K emails on Wrecking Crew website by creating out-takes to attract fans to sign on.
- Hooked up with the International Documentary Association who became the film's fiscal sponsor.
- Created levels for folks to donate in exchange for a song dedication. The donor was included on the song credits of the movie and a written dedication on the DVD.
- Found Sponsors for screenings.

The Pay Off

After two years, Tedesco raised over \$200,000 in donations and then raised another \$312,000 on Kickstarter to help pay for the AFM costs. It was the third largest successful Kickstarter campaign in documentaries.

In 2015, Magnolia Pictures picked up the film for distribution. It was scheduled to open in 5 theaters around the country but it found a home in over 175 theaters around the world. Great Britain, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, France, Germany, Mexico, Italy and other countries now have it in distribution. Currently it has become a popular rental and download in the VOD market and it is a top doc on Netflix, iTunes, Amazon, VUDU and on airlines..



The Bio

Denny Tedesco grew up in Los Angeles and graduated from Loyola Marymount University. He started as a set decorator on feature films such as "Eating Raoul" and then went on to working on films, commercials and music videos during the MTV Years as a grip.

In 1984-1990, Denny owned and ran Metropolis Studios a film stage on the world famous corner of Hollywood & Vine. Soon he began to travel the world as a lighting technician and location producer for IMAX films. From the shark-infested waters of Australia to the plains of Africa, he has filmed under the most challenging conditions. He was sent as a location producer to cover the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo as well as the catastrophic earthquake of Kobe, Japan.

From 1992-2000, Denny and his brother, Damon Tedesco opened a record label called, "CD Promo" where they specialized in creating promotional music CDs for clients who needed promotional gifts for customers. Creating something that no other companies were doing at the time, Denny and Damon believed that small orders were as important as the big orders.

During the 1990s and 2000s, Denny worked as a freelance producer and director and conducted interviews for A&E, TV-Land, and was a producer on Comedy Central's Pulp Comics. Most notably in 2000, he produced the Academy Awards "opening" starring Billy Crystal and also the award-winning music video for Elton John's song, "I Want Love" starring Robert Downey Jr.

In 1996, Denny set out on the labor of love of all loves. His father, famed session guitarist Tommy Tedesco, was diagnosed with terminal cancer. With a year left in his father's life, Denny quickly started filming his father and his cohorts and other musicians fondly known as the Wrecking Crew.

The making of the film became a story in itself. Featured on Entertainment Tonight, Marc Maron's WTF Podcast, NPR, CBS Morning News, Wall Street Journal, Rolling Stone, and other media outlets around the world. Tedesco toiled for years raising enough money to finally pay off the 110 songs that needed to tell the story. His unique marketing ideas brought the movie to the success it achieved.

Magnolia Pictures picked up the film and as a theatrical release, it played in over 170 cities. He is currently available to speak around the country about the film and his experiences making the film.



More reviews:

"WOW! What a great turn-out. Thank you for bringing The Wrecking Crew to the Eiteljorg Museum. It was great to have a full house of enthusiastic fans and first time visitors attend the screening. The day exceeded expectations and the Q&A was so much fun with behind the scenes stories. Thank you for creating this amazing film and sharing the story of the musicians who helped to create the legacy of the sounds of the sixties. We look forward to release of the DVD and wish you all the best."

- Linda Montag-Olson, Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art

"Thank you for allowing us, at the Museum of Idaho, to share The Wrecking Crew with people of Idaho Falls. Thank you for telling a remarkable story with such humor, heart, and class. Everyone who attended left the theatre having learned something important, shared a laugh (or a tear), and humming an old familiar tune."

-Rod Hansen, Director of Exhibitions, Museum of Idaho

"Working with Denny Tedesco to do a screening of the 'The Wrecking Crew' documentary film in our House Concert setting was a joy. It's a film worth seeing any time, anywhere... and a small, intimate showing with the producer of the film is something not to miss."

-Russ & Julie's House Concerts

**To book an entertaining and insightful event
with Denny Tedesco, email info@mccartney.com**