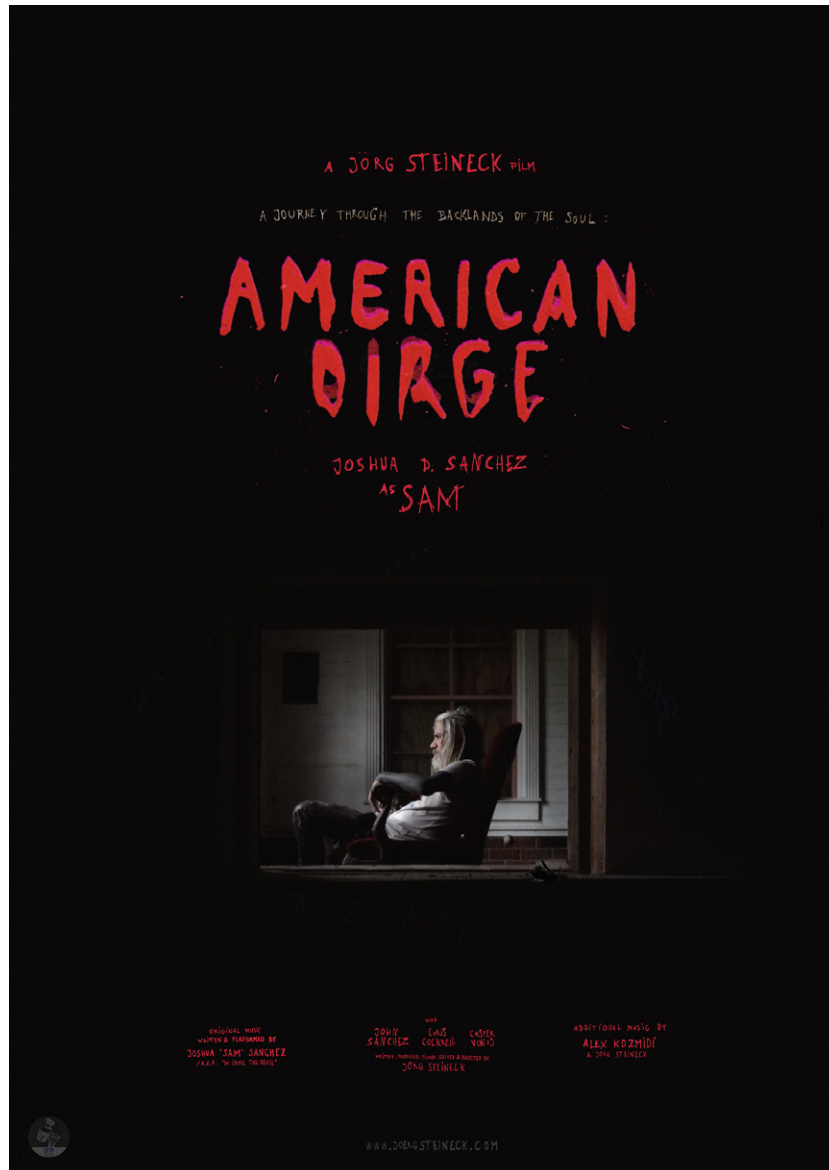


AMERICAN DIRGE





A Jörg Steineck film

AMERICAN DIRGE

A journey through the backlands of the soul.

Produced, directed, filmed, edited by: Joerg Steineck
Production company: Steineck Films
Music: Sam Sanchez / In Come The Devil (original music),
Alex Kozmidi / Jörg Steineck (score)

Starring: Joshua "Sam" D. Sanchez, Christopher Cockrell,
Casper VonDJ, John Sanchez

American Dirge:
Drama, documentary, arthouse, essay / 83 mins / 2023

Release date: TBA (2023)

[American Dirge - official trailer](#)



LOGLINE

A journey through the backlands of the soul.

SYNOPSIS

Sam, a sick and struggling country/folk musician leaves Los Angeles behind to revisit his past and his estranged father in Louisiana for the last time. His journey leads him through the fading soul of a country that lived through better days. Like himself it carries an overwhelming emptiness of non-recognition, loss and failure, entailed by an imposed heritage of country and family.

With the coarseness of a gritty street poem *American Dirge* depicts the inner conflict of sensitivity and self-destructiveness as the origin of overdriven masculinity.

American Dirge is a so-called fictionalised documentary. It uses fictionalised elements to reflect the delusional mind of the main protagonist and to make the invisible visible and the inaudible audible.

THE STORY OF SAM

American Dirge's associative, non-linear story is loosely based on the metaphorical meanings of Sam's lyrics, which are mainly inspired by traditional country & folk songs. All his songs embody the tragedy of the refused, isolated and ordinary man.

But Sam is not an ordinary person.

He's an uncompromised artist on a mission to sacrifice himself. For many hard-shelled, soft-cored souls and a susceptibility for addiction, Los Angeles is the place where it all goes downhill.

Born and raised in Louisiana by an American mother and a Mexican father with a strong conservative and religious background, Sam experienced duality, ambivalence and alterity since early on.

The decision to move to Los Angeles to make a living there as a free spirit was also accompanied by the hope to escape the demons of his past.

Being aware of his lethal, alcohol-induced sickness and that time is slipping away, Sam decides to return to his place of origin - by foot:

Not because it's easy, but because it's hard.



THE STORY OF AMERICAN DIRGE

The first chapter "*California*" was shot in Los Angeles and Barstow, as well as on the scenic shores of Highway 1 in 2014. The second chapter "*Louisiana*" was filmed in New Orleans, La Fayette and its surroundings in 2017. Because of a variety of problems the script that was originally written for the project was realised only partially. This subsequently effected the editing process. In late 2022 the film was finally finished.

"I've stumbled upon Sam's music during the prime time of Myspace, where he uploaded a few of his songs. They stood with me for a couple of years, and I always thought about using his tunes in one of my projects, or even collaborate with him on an own project at some point. Although it was a challenging task to conduct a project like this with a guy like Sam, who is not just one of the most self-determined individuals I've ever met but also one who was stuck in a very bad life phase during that time, it needed that authenticity that would elevate the story to a believable level. Today Sam is doing much better, and accompanying him for a short time through this self-destructive phase of his was not just a benefit for my personal catharsis but also to his own recovery, as he told me." (Joerg Steineck)





SAM SANCHEZ SINGER, SONGWRITER, MUSICIAN

Joshua "Sam" Sanchez is a real person. He goes by many different monikers, *Sam Sanchez*, *Sam Suicide* and lately *In Come The Devil*.

Sam writes and plays his own music. Many of his songs deal with loss, disappointment, anger and combine an "I don't give a fuck" punk attitude with vulnerability and fragility. As he truly went all the way, like Bukowski would say, he became a disregarded relict in todays world of music. A relict with full upright authenticity.

www.incomethedevil.com



JOERG STEINECK FILMMAKER

Joerg Steineck is a German filmmaker, producer, cinematographer, editor, writer, audio-visual artist and painter.

His films have been well-received and awarded at international film festivals.

Isolated, marginalized groups and individuals are often subject of his works, as well as the importance of cultural and social commitment to society.

There is a distinctive, unconventional tonality in his rather unpretentious, unsentimental way of storytelling.

Steineck often contrasts naturalistic and stylized elements to emphasize each others significance to the subject's reality.

American Dirge is his fifth self-produced feature-length film.

www.joergsteineck.com



LINKS

Trailer

[American Dirge - official trailer](#)

Website (soon)

www.americandirge.com

RELEASE

The film will be released in 2023 (TBA) - as official digital cinema release (VOD+bonus footage) on Vimeo <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/americandirge> and as VOD on various platforms (TBA)

CREDITS

Written, directed, produced, filmed, edited by: Joerg Steineck
Graphic and audio design, animations: Joerg Steineck

Starring: Joshua D. Sanchez, Christopher Cockrell, Casper
VonDJ, John Sanchez
Original music by Joshua Sanchez / In come The Devil
Additional music by Alex Kozmidi, Joerg Steineck

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