

# B O O N E

A FILM BY CHRISTOPHER LAMARCA



2016 // USA // ENGLISH // 75 MINUTES// HD 16x9  
A CHEMICAL SHED PRODUCTION



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## LOGLINE

A unique sensory and unsentimental peek behind the veil of the Utopian dream of farming.

## SHORT SUMMARY

Haunting and deeply human, BOONE tells the story of three young goat farmers as they transition with the seasons and come to terms with the physical and emotional grit required to live in deep relationship with the land. Stripped of interviews with farmers or agricultural experts, this experiential film is a visceral meditation on the sacrifice and struggle of a lifestyle born of self reliance; a sensual homage to the heart and soul of a farmer.

## SYNOPSIS

BOONE captures the daily lives of farm founder Mookie Moss and fellow farmers Dana and Zac and as they work relentlessly, sunrise to sundown in order to sustain the fragile balance needed to support the land and animals they care deeply for. Mookie and his crew strive to continue their lifestyle of sustainability and self-reliance, but their passionate dedication is hindered by strict government laws.

There have been many experiential films that have come out over the past few years that prioritize sensory accuracy over conventional storytelling; films that rely on an emotional experience rather than information to guide viewers. In the plethora of farm films structured around advocacy, BOONE stands out; it's cinematic and sensory approach explores this forgotten rural landscape and the harsh reality of a small farm trying to survive.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I have been covering environmental issues as a photojournalist for over 10 years. In 2004, over the course of four summers I was photographing a group of forest activists fighting to save old-growth forests in southern Oregon. One of these activists was Mookie Moss, the owner of Boone's Farm. I had been photographing him for 2 years when he told me about his farm and invited me to visit. I accepted an invitation to spend a week at Boone's farm in hopes to get away from my stressful urban existence of deadlines and pressure.

The minute I stepped foot on that land I knew I had found something special. I felt like I'd stepped back in time and knew I had to make a film about this lost way of life. Farming always seemed so romantic: working outside, the rolling pastures, the quaint feeling of strolling through farmers markets on weekends, the word "organic" plastered everywhere. Clearly these farmers must be living a charmed life.

But shortly after my arrival my romanticized vision of farm life was crushed. It was pouring rain, 35 degrees and in the middle of birthing season. Goats were wailing, kidding at all hours of the day and night while the farmers were scrambling as wind squalls were ripping apart pieces of the barn. The competence in which these farmers moved through their days was impressive. They were completely self-reliant assisting in goat births, tying sutures, felling trees for firewood, milking, making cheese, digging up the failing septic system- the work never ended.

After a week of living with these farmers and enduring 15-hour work days, I realized it wasn't so much the hard work that moved me, but the relationships they had with their animals. A way of life where one's survival is deeply intertwined with the animals they depend on for food and the daily experience of dealing with the elements of nature- inevitably, the cycles of life and death.

One of the reasons I made this documentary was because of how inspired I was by these people; their life choices and daily actions. It's no secret we are living in a time of deep environmental and spiritual crisis. I think certain people have the

'calling' or the will to live their lives in alignment with their heart and belief systems; these are some of those people. They carry a deep sense of pride for the food they produce and the animals they care for. Their relentless efforts are not signaling desperation, but rather the deep commitment to taking responsibility for ones' sustenance. They move through the world with clear conviction, even if it pushes them to their emotional, physical and financial edge. During the two years that I lived on the farm I realized the most authentic and engaging portrait of this existence should not be centered around advocacy or the struggles of a small farm but instead through an experiential journey constructed around the inevitable threshold between intimacy and chaos. The result is a film that rides the line of being both quiet and savage in the same breath; a haunting portrayal of the heart, soul and grit of a farmer's journey.

-Christopher LaMarca

## RUNNING TIME

75 minutes

## TRAILER

<https://vimeo.com/156208596>

## STYLE AND APPROACH

BOONE is an immersive documentary with no voice-over, minimal explanatory text and no one speaking directly to the camera. The film's structure is based around the unforgiving schedule the farmers endure throughout the farming season. The day and night merge into what feels like a 24 hour work day, a cacophony of babies being born, milking goats, blood and brief moments of resolve; a place where one must confront their own relationship to food and place in nature without the comfort boundaries of urban society. The sensual and sometimes turbulent relationships between human, animal, and nature become their own soundtrack. This is illustrated by the screeching sounds of birth, the creaking of 100-year-old barns, and the unspoken but confrontational dialogue between human and animal which is dictated by the sensory experience unavoidable when living close to the land.

## PRESS QUOTES

"A poetical, verite feature...beautiful if bone-wearying that will appeal to fans of enigmatic, lyrical documentaries like the recent 'Rich Hill' or Frederick Wiseman's oeuvre."

-Dennis Harvey, Variety

"It's one of the most unique documentaries you have ever laid your eyes on, bringing to mind what might happen if Terrance Malick turned his efforts toward non-fiction storytelling."

-James Shotwell, Substream

"Represents a daring exercise in direct cinema filmmaking."

-Erik Luers, Filmmaker Magazine

## SUBJECTS



**Michael 'Mookie' Moss** left college and became a farmer at the age of 20. A child of the the family who founded Greenpeace, Michael has always moved through the world with conviction. He began his 20 year organic farming career in Upstate New York. After his first season, Michael moved to Northern California and learned from some of the finest farmers in the Bay Area. Eventually ready to start his own operation, he moved to Southern Oregon and settled on Boone's Farm in 2001. There he started Siskiyou Crest Goat Dairy, a Grade A goat dairy that became the first in the state to relinquish its Grade A status in favor for a raw milk herdshare program. Michael traveled around the state of Oregon representing the organization

*Friends of Family Farmers*, interviewing small farmers all over the state to implement a new bill entitled "The Agricultural Reclamation Act. Finding passion on the crossroads of agricultural and social justice, Michael has been involved in causes ranging from cougar conservation to police brutality and many points in-between. He currently splits his time between the West Coast and Bolivia representing the Bonfire Collective which aims to create a global network of communities non-reliant on industrial systems.



**Zachary Jasper-Miller** started farming at a coastal California Zen Center at the age of 16. Since then he has been instrumental in numerous rural and urban farm projects and educational programs across the United States and in South America. Zac earned an undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies and Horticulture from Naropa University in Boulder, and a Graduate degree in Philosophy, Cosmology and Consciousness from CIIS in San Francisco. In 2009 Zac moved to southern Oregon to co-found the Turning Tables Project and to co-manage the Siskiyou Crest Goat Dairy. He went on to help form the Bonfire Collective, an agricultural organization dedicated to strengthening communities

through increased self-reliance and autonomy. At present, he splits his time between projects in the San Francisco Bay Area, the Pacific Northwest, and Bolivia.



**Dana Kristal** is a teacher and farm educator from the Bay Area. She left California to attend NYU, majoring in Urban Studies and returned to the west coast to work as a public educator in Oakland and San Francisco before specializing in environmental and agricultural education. Dana went on to coordinate school garden programs and urban farms, focusing on food sovereignty, nutrition and ecology. In 2009, Dana moved to Southern Oregon to learn to farm on a larger scale. She spent the next four seasons living and working on Boone's Farm and co-managing the Siskiyou Crest Goat Dairy.

## FILMMAKERS



**Christopher LaMarca** (DIRECTOR/CINEMATOGRAPHER) had his directorial debut with two documentary films in 2016. His film *Boone* premiered at SXSW in the Visions section and *The Pearl* premiered at TRUE/FALSE and won Grand Jury Prize at Dallas International Film Festival. He was named one of the 25 New Faces of Independent Film by Filmmaker Magazine in 2014 and is a Sundance Institute Edit and Story lab film fellow. His monograph *Forest Defenders: The Confrontational American Landscape* was published by pOwerhouse books. His work has been exhibited at the International Center of Photography's Triennial Exhibition *Ecotopia* and included in publications such as *Aperture* and *American Photography*. Christopher contributes to *Rollingstone* magazine, *GQ* and *Mother Jones* among others.



**Katrina Taylor** (EDITOR/PRODUCER) is an award-winning editor and producer who has worked in the field of documentary film production and distribution for over twelve years. Most recently she served as the editor for *Boone* and as the assistant editor for the documentary feature *The Pearl*, which premiered at TRUE/FALSE. Katrina was an AE with the Academy Award® winning *The Empowerment Project* and an Associate producer for the Discovery Channel Global Education Project. She acted as Director of Acquisitions for the distribution company *Collective Eye*, spearheading the acquisitions, marketing, and digital delivery of documentary films to the educational market.

## LINKS

WEB

[www.boonethefilm.com](http://www.boonethefilm.com)



[www.facebook.com.boonemovie](http://www.facebook.com.boonemovie)



<https://twitter.com/Boonethefilm>

STILLS







# CREDITS

## Opening credits:

CHEMICAL SHED PRODUCTIONS

In Association with  
PULSE FILMS

edited by  
Katrina Taylor

a film by  
CHRISTOPHER LAMARCA

## Ending credits:

Featuring  
Dana Kristal  
Zachary Jasper-Miller  
Michael Moss

### Also featuring

Begonia	Noname
Blue	Pumpkin
Boone	Ramona
Charlie	Rhonda
Dumptruck	Roe
Ferguson	Rosa
Frida	Sammy
Hennessy	Scarlet
Katia	Tiny Town
Little-Lighting	Trouble
Lolita	Viva
Mogwai	Wanda
Nikita	Zelda

Directed by  
Christopher LaMarca

Edited by  
Katrina Taylor

Cinematography by  
Christopher LaMarca

Produced by  
Katrina Taylor

In Memory of  
Roger Moss

Associated Produced by  
Katherine Gorringe  
Jeffrey Star

Additional Location Sound Recording  
Christopher LaMarca  
Gordon Hempton

Location sound consultant  
Jason Anderson

Graphic Design by  
Pace Taylor

Intern  
Robert Brooks

Post-Production Services by  
Final Frame

Digital Intermediate Colorist  
Stewart Griffin

Digital Intermediate Online Editor  
Gil Litver and Ben Kiviat

Digital Intermediate Producer  
Caitlin Tartaro

Post-Production Sound Services by  
Soundspace

Supervising Sound Editor and Re-recording mixer  
Matthew Polis

Sound design by  
Cody Ball  
Matthew Polis

Music  
Steve Waitt

Legal Counsel  
Austin Law Group

Special Thanks to

Southern Oregon Community  
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Jessica Dimmock  
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Sundance Institute  
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Hannah James

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Gregory & Blake LaMarca  
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Reid Leslie  
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Zach Martin  
Chelesa & Ian Meyer  
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Kaye Moss  
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Ellie Speare  
Laurel Sutherlin  
Milton Tabbot  
Kristen Taylor  
Mary Lynn & Kent Taylor

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Mike Day	Jay McMerty	Nanfu Wang
Amy Dotson	Hilla Medilia	Rachel Wagner
Friends of Family Farmers	Shevaun Mizrahi	Josh Welsh
Megan Fuhrman	Carmen Osteryle	Jeffrey Winters
	Redux Pictures	

Additional Support Provided by  
Independent Filmmaker Project

“Dragging the Streets - First Heart Tone”  
Written & Performed by Elizabeth Harris  
Courtesy of Yellowelectric

“Song for a Mermaid”  
Written and Performed by Erika Freas  
Courtesy of Rumbletown Records

“Tell Him It’s Alright”  
Written and Performed by Steve Waitt  
Courtesy of Heathouse Records

“Made My Heart A Hammock”  
Written and Performed by Steve Waitt  
Courtesy of Heathouse Records

"Stranger"

Written and Performed by Steve Waitt

Courtesy of Heathouse Records

[SUPPORTER LOGOS]

IFP

FINAL FRAME

SOUNDSPACE

KICKSTARTER

FILM INDEPENDENT

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