**Searching for Terry Productions, LLC.**

Presents

**The Terry Kath Experience**

**A Documentary by Michelle Kath Sinclair**



Produced by Michelle Sinclair, Jordan Levy and Tony Papa

**TRT: 89 MINS**

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**THE TERRY KATH EXPERIENCE**

**A DOCUMENTARY BY MICHELLE KATH SINCLAIR**

**SYNOPSIS**

**THE TERRY KATH EXPERIENCE** is a documentary about a daughter discovering the legacy of her father, the late Terry Kath. Kath was one of the founding members of the band Chicago whose powerful guitar playing and husky, melodic voice has been praised by such icons as Jimi Hendrix, Joe Walsh and Eric Clapton. Before discovering his full potential as a guitar icon, Kath’s life ended tragically at age 32.

Terry's daughter Michelle was only two years old when he passed only knowing him through his music and stories from her mother. After discovering a box of memorabilia Michelle sets out on a journey to get to know her father and to search for his iconic lost guitar. In this documentary, Michelle interviews her dad's family, bandmates, and good friends, as well as prominent musicians, to piece together the life of her father, one of the great unsung rock legends on the 1970’s.

**THE TERRY KATH EXPERIENCE** is directed and produced by Michelle Kath Sinclair. The film is produced by Jordan Levy and Tony Papa together with Sinclair.

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**FILMMAKER STATEMENT**

The idea to make a film about my father came to me many years ago when, in looking through old photos of him, I realized that I didn't know his full story. I've since learned that his is the quintessential story of an all-American boy raised in the midwest, who, at a young age, picks up a guitar, falls in love with it, and goes on to become a famous 70's rock star. With all the highs and lows that come along with success, my father's life ended suddenly before my 3rd birthday.

My journey of discovery began with the first interview. I could only have dreamed that making this film would bring me this much closer to my father and would help me better understand the man he was and the decisions he made. Meeting these people and hearing their stories are memories that will stay with me forever. I am forever grateful to all that have helped me to take this journey and to discover this man.

**Michelle Kath Sinclair**

**Director/ Producer THE TERRY KATH EXPERIENCE**

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**WHO IS TERRY KATH?**

Simply, he was an original member of the pioneering rock group Chicago who played guitar, sang and wrote songs. He was in a league with Jimi Hendrix - this according to no less an authority than Hendrix. After hearing the band in 1968 at the Whisky A Go-Go in Los Angeles, Hendrix told Chicago saxophone player Walter Parazaider "Your guitar player is better than me." That may be the highest praise Kath received. Unfortunately, rock critics didn't offer much for Kath. Pop music critics seemed to lambast Chicago with regularity during the band's heyday in the 1960s and 1970s.

But Kath deserved recognition, even if he didn't seek it. He was an integral part of a seven, and sometimes eight, person band. While even four-piece rock bands often use two guitarists, Kath held down both rhythm and lead guitar parts by himself. On top of this, he sang lead vocals on many of the band's songs, and did backing vocals on most of the others. He also was the band's on-stage leader.

Born Jan. 31, 1946 Terrance Allan Kath, his all-too short life ended Jan. 23, 1978 in a freak accident involving a handgun. His death ended one chapter of the long-running Chicago saga. Chicago keyboardist-vocalist-songwriter Robert Lamm has said that Kath's death shifted the balance of power within the band. Chicago was already headed toward its "ballad" phase at the time of Kath's death, soaring on the success of "If You Leave Me Now" from the tenth album and "Baby What a Big Surprise" from Chicago 11.

The ballads returned in force on Chicago 16 and 17. The band's hit songs of the 1980s and 1990s are a sharp contrast from the aggressive sound featured on its debut album Chicago Transit Authority. Think Chicago is just a pop ballad band? Check out their debut album in which Kath's blazing guitar work is featured throughout. He mixes blues, jazz and rock riffs throughout the double-album set. Also present are his soulful vocals.

Running a Stratocaster and an SG through a Bogen pre-amp and into a Dual Showman amplifier, Kath produced an array of crunchy, tube amp sounds that most of today's guitar players would die for. The tour de force was "Free Form Guitar," which grew out of Kath playing around during a lunch break. Engineer Fred Catero decided to roll tape, and the result is perhaps the wildest seven minutes of music Chicago ever put out.

The band's second album featured more innovative Kath songwriting, ranging from the rocking "In the Country" to the classically-influenced "Prelude," "AM Mourning," "PM Mournng" and "Memories of Love." But the highlight of the album was Kath's solo on the Lamm-penned "25 or 6 to 4," which ranks as one of the best guitar solos ever recorded. This song would become Chicago's main concert closer, often featuring 10-minute Kath solos that kept the audience on its feet.

Kath did not read music, but rather played and composed totally by ear. Being an "untrained" musician in a group of college-trained musicians was not a handicap. If anything, his bandmates were in awe of him. His education was playing which began in his early teen years. He played in a "fun" group which did covers of Ventures songs and other popular acts of the time. In 1961, he joined Jimmy Rice and the Gentlemen, a band which also included Parazaider. In 1965, both joined the group Jimmy Ford and the Executives which was the back-up band on Dick Clark's Caravan of Stars. Kath also was an accomplished bass player, and that was his instrument in many of his early groups.

While Kath seldom rates mention in guitar magazines, a couple of books have at least ranked him in the best 1,000 guitar players of all time - not a bad accomplishment. But in this fan's eyes, Kath is easily in the top 10 of guitar players, if not at the top. The records Kath played on still sell hundreds of thousands of copies a year and knowledgeable musicians nod knowingly at the mention of Kath.

Kath was born Jan. 31, 1946 in Chicago to Ray and Evelyn Kath. He died Jan. 23, 1978

He left this world too soon, but his music lives on.

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**Q&A WITH MICHELLE KATH SINCLAIR**

**How did this film come about?**

About 9 years ago I started playing with the idea of making a documentary about my Dad. I was approaching the age my Dad was when he died and I began to realize how much life he missed. From all of the stories I had heard, it seemed that he was such a great character and I was curious to know more about him. What actually motivated me to get the film made was sitting at my friend Adam’s (DJ AM) memorial and listening to everyone’s stories about him. AM had passed away in a drug-related accident like my Dad and I couldn't help but imagine that all of my Dad’s friends felt the same way as we did sitting in that room. At that moment I knew I had to make this film. Not only for the fans or for my own curiosity about my dad, but also for the people who are left behind when someone dies in such a tragic way.

**How long did it take to make the film? From concept to finish.**

From concept to finish it took 6 years to make

**Why did you make this film?**

I had two reasons for making this film. The first was to get to know my father, someone who had left me at a young age and whom I had a lot of question for. The second was to expose his talents as a musician. I felt that he was not getting the recognition he deserved as an artist and wanted to tell his story.

**Share a story about filming**

Once we started developing the film I knew that I wanted to go to Caribou Ranch in Colorado. Caribou Ranch was a recording studio set in the middle of the Rockie mountains that Chicago's then manager and producer, James William Guercio, built and opened for recording artists. By the time we finally got our budget to get our crew out there, Guercio informed me that they had sold the ranch and if I wanted to film I had a week to get up there before they hand over the keys. We scrambled to make this work. Luckily the whole crew had the same three days off that week and we jumped on a plane. The experience of being the last crew to film there was truly special. We met and spent the day with all the people that had worked on the ranch since the 70's and they all knew my Dad. Once of they guys had given my Dad his dog Alaska, who passed away three months after my dad of heartache. I feel so lucky that we got to capture that moment and I got to visit a place that meant so much to my Dad.

**Did the film change from your original idea for the film as you were filming or in edit or in post?**

Originally I didn’t intend on putting myself in the story, but as development on the project progressed we realized that there was a need to have me be a part of the story as, in reality, I was on this journey of discovery. This changed the storyline a lot as it added another layer that is very relatable to an audience.

**What were the challenges in making this film?**

One of the biggest challenges in making this film is the fact that we don't have any footage of the main character. There is a ton of live footage of the band Chicago but not a lot of home footage of my Dad. We used a ton of photos, motion graphics, and animations to tell his story . What was great, however, was my Dad had a super 8 camera and took a lot of videos. Therefore we are able to see the world through his eyes. This really adds to the experience of getting into Terry's world. In the end, I feel we made great use of the still images to enhance people's stories.

**What were the successes that you had in making this film?**

One of the successes of this film was that the whole project was 100% funded by the fans and friends of Terry. We had two Kickstarter campaigns in which we went beyond our goal. The exciting thing about this was that we built a community around the film and the people that donated were allowed to be a part of the journey. And now that we are finished we get to share with them something they helped to make.

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**FUN FILM FACTS**

* Terry's [famous fender telecaster](http://www.premierguitar.com/articles/Forgotten_Heroes_Terry_Kath) with the Pignose stickers has become a character in the film. It has been replicated many times by fans who have even gone so far as to remake the stickers. The question every interviewee has asked is "Where is the guitar?" Michelle and Fender would like to know as well. So far, the guitar has not been found but Michelle's journey is not over and we are excited to locate the priceless piece.
* [Joe Walsh](http://www.joewalsh.com/) would like to know exactly what '25 or 6 to 4' means. Other famous musicians interviewed for the film are [Jeff Lynn](http://www.elo.biz/), [Steve Lukather](http://www.stevelukather.com/),[Mike Campbell](http://www.tompetty.com/blog/category/Mike%20Campbell%20-%20The%20Guitars) and [Dean DeLeo](http://www.ultimate-guitar.com/interviews/interviews/stone_temple_pilots_dean_deleo_one_day_i_just_said_chester_is_the_person_to_do_this.html?no_takeover).
* Michelle and her crew were the last visitors to [Caribou Ranch](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caribou_Ranch) on the very last day before the keys were handed over to the new owners. Michelle's mom, who had not visited the ranch in over thirty years, was also part of the crew that day. Both of these events made the day very emotional for all.

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**FILMMAKER BIOS**

**DIRECTOR/ PRODUCER MICHELLE KATH SINCLAIR**

Michelle Kath Sinclair is a first-time documentary film director and producer whose passion for film and music lies deep in her family roots. Her father was late musician Terry Kath, her mother was an actress and her stepfather is actor Kiefer Sutherland. She works as a prominent DJ and owns her own event company, Haute Mobile Disco, based out of Los Angeles. After catching the film bug, she is currently working on developing her next documentary.

**PRODUCER TONY PAPA**

Native Angeleno Anthony “Tony” Papa brings more than his producing, editing and visual credits to his entertainment projects. He brings a roster that includes MTV, Sony Music, Italian Vogue and American Express. He started his career as a web producer in the late 1990’s and transitioned into producing & editing digital content for internet media in the 2000’s. Independently, he collaborated as producer on the advertising campaign *Mind Games* for Oliver Peoples featuring the legendary Hollywood producer, Robert Evans. Tony was an editor on the short film *The Cycle* starring Justin Chatwin and Addison Timlin. He won recognition as editor for the fashion campaign *Sea of Cotton* for Supima Cotton at the 2006 Textile Awards where it boasted “Best Campaign of the Year.” In 2016, he was the editor on UPROXX / Honda’s branded mini-documentary series *Uncharted: The Power of Dreams*. The premiere episode *A.F.R.O*. was viewed over 11 million times, was a 2016 Webby Honoree and a CLIO nominee.

As producer and editor on *The Terry Kath Experience* Tony brings 15+ years of production and digital-media experience in the film, fashion, music and advertising industries. Tony’s approach to production is consistently equal parts artistic and analytical. He can speak fluently to creative challenges as well as the technical and budgetary aspects of production. His final work possesses the unmistakable mark of authenticity that resonates with tastemakers inside and outside the industry.

**PRODUCER JORDAN LEVY**

Jordan Levy is a versatile filmmaker and veteran cinematographer who has lensed over 600 commercials, numerous television series and countless music videos.

Jordan began studying art and photography at an early age and went on to assist some of the most influential directors and cinematographers of the time, including Harris Savides, Tony Kaye, Samuel Bayer and Albert Watson. Jordan led off his career as a cinematographer by shooting for such notable directors as Fernando Meirelles, Davis Guggenheim and Jean-Marc Piche. You can see a mixture of their influences in Jordan's work, and he is called upon for his expertise in a wide-range of specialty areas, from comedy to visual fx.

This year in addition to multiple national commercial campaigns, he has shot multiple television series for Comedy Central and MTV, and music videos for Katy Perry and Edward Sharpe. He is a first time documentary filmmaker and is looking forward to his next project. Jordan is a member of The International Cinematographers Guild and represented by APA.

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**TIMELINE**

● Jan 3rd, 1946 Born Terry Alan Kath Chicago Ill

● 1963 ­ As a teen, Terry picks up bass and guitar and plays in high school bands for town dance halls

● 1964 ­ first official band ‘The Mystics’ in which they recorded four songs at Balkan studios.

● Mid 60’s Terry joins the Missing Links who are playing bars and lounges around Illinois. Walt Parazaider and Danny Seraphine, whom Terry knew from the high school band scene, are also in this band.

● Late 60’s ­ Walt, Danny and Terry decide to form a band with other musicians they have been hanging around. They call this band ‘The Big Thing’ and it included Robert Lamm, Jim Pankow, and Lee Loughnane

● 1969 ­ Chicago is formed and released their first album called ‘The Chicago Transit Authority’ with hits such as ‘I’m a man’. Terry’s claim to fame on this album was “Introduction” and “Free Form Guitar.” As CTA they toured with Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin

● By the time their second album (Chicago II) was released in 1970 they were headlining tours all over the world. This album showcases Terry’s guitar work on “25 or 6 to 4” and his voice on “color my world”

● 1972 manager and producer James William Guercio purchase Caribou Ranch in Colorado, in which Terry lived for a bit. Chicago records every album here after 1972.

● 1974 Terry meets Camelia and they begin a romance in which Terry sends her love letters and poems every day until she moved in with him.

● 1976 Michelle Kath is born to Terry and Camelia

● Between 1969 and 1978 Chicago released 11 albums, including two greatest hits and live at Carnegie Hall, and tours for each album. They headlined major concert arenas and played along other rock legends of the time included the Beach Boys and Sanatana. Their success was huge at the time ranking them as one of the top bands of the time.

● 1978 Terry dies from a gunshot wound to the head.

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**SONGS IN THE FILM**

“25 or 6 to 4”

Written By Robert Lamm

Performed By Chicago

Courtesy of BMG

“Hour in the Shower: A Hard Risn’n Morning Without Breakfast...etc”

Written By Terry Kath

Performed by Chicago

Courtesy of Cook County Music

“Alma Mater”

Written By Terry Kath

Performed by Chicago

Courtesy of Cook County Music

“Am Mourning”

Written By Terry Kath

Performed by Chicago

Courtesy of Cook County Music

“Beginnings”

Written By Robert Lamm

Performed By Chicago

Courtesy of BMG

“Byblos”

Written By Terry Kath

Performed by Chicago

Courtesy of Cook County Music

“Colour My World”

Written By James Pankow

Performed by Chicago Courtesy of BMG

“Delta City Blues”

Performed by CTA (live)

Courtesy of Mikey Sax

“Dialogue”

Written By Robert Lamm

Performed By Chicago

Courtesy of BMG

“Free”

Written By Robert Lamm

Performed By Chicago

Courtesy of BMG

“Hope For Love”

Written By Terry Kath

Performed by Chicago

Courtesy of Cook County Music

“How Could I be Such A Fool”

Written By Frank Zappa

Performed by Frank Zappa

Courtesy of Universal

“I’m a Man”

Written By James Miller & Stephen Winwood

Performed by CTA

Courtesy of Kobalt /MCA

“If You Leave Me Know”

Written By Peter Cetera

Performed by Chicago

Courtesy of MCA

“In the Country”

Written By Terry Kath

Performed by Chicago

Courtesy of Cook County Music

“Introduction”

Written By Terry Kath

Performed by Chicago

Courtesy of Cook County Music

“It’s Not Unusual”

Written By Gordan Mills & Les Reed

Performed by CTA

Courtesy of Mickey Sax

“Johnny B Goode”

Written By Peter Jackson & Bobby Konders

Performed by CTA

Courtesy of Mickey Sax

“Liberation”

Written By James Pankow

Performed by Chicago

Courtesy of BMG

“Listen”

Written By Robert Lamm

Performed By Chicago

Courtesy of BMG

“Little One”

Written By Daniel Seraphine

Performed by Chicago

Courtesy of Spirit

“Man Vs Man”

Written By James Pankow

Performed by Chicago

Courtesy of BMG

“Misty”

Written By Erroll Garner

Performed by Julie London

Courtesy of Universal

“Oh Thank You Great Spirit”

Written By Terry Kath

Performed by Chicago

Courtesy of Cook County Music

“Once or Twice”

Written By Terry Kath

Performed by Chicago

Courtesy of Cook County Music

“Poem 58”

Written By Robert Lamm

Performed By Chicago

Courtesy of BMG

“Sign a Mean Tune”

Written By Robert Lamm

Performed By Chicago

Courtesy of BMG

“Sixth Sense”

Written By Terry Kath

Performed by Chicago

Courtesy of Cook County Music

“South California Purples”

Written By Robert Lamm

Performed By Chicago

Courtesy of BMG

“Tell Me”

Written By James Guercio

Performed by Terry Kath

Film sound track ‘Electra Glide in Blue’

Courtesy of Sony/EMI

“Terry’s Blues”

Performed by CTA

Courtesy of Mickey Sax

“Wishing You Were Here”

Written By Peter Cetera

Performed by Chicago & The Beach Boys

Live performance from Dick Clarks New Years Eve Special 1975

Courtesy of Dick Clark Productions & MCA

**THE TERRY KATH EXPERIENCE**

**A DOCUMENTARY BY MICHELLE KATH SINCLAIR**

**CREDITS**

Directed by

Michelle Kath Sinclair

Produced by

Michelle Sinclair

Jordan Levy

Tony Papa

Director of Photography

Jordan Levy

Edited by

Micah Levin & Tony Papa

Featuring

Walter Parazaider

Danny Seraphine

Robert Lamm

Lee Loughnane

James Pankow

Peter Cetera

James William Guercio

Rodney Kath

Hamish Sinclair

Camelia Kath

Jeff Lynne

Joe Walsh

Steve Lukather

Mike Campbell

Dean DeLeo

Jerry Vaccarino

Mario Maglieri

George Buetow

Dennis Polkow

Mickey Saxe

Matt Campbell

Tom Vienna

John Carsello

Will Guercio

Mark Guercio

Tim Johnson

Alicia Kath

Kiefer Sutherland

Crew list

Associate Producer

Adam Sinclair

Ari Loannides

Elizabeth Kempski

Mark Ryder

Michael Cucka

Production Sound Mixer

Jason Meadows

Audio Post­ Production

killthemess/enger

Re­Recording Mixer

Mike Sak

Digital Intermediate

Framestore

DI Colorist

Beau Leon

DI Assistant Colorist

Jonah Braun

Color Producer

Andrew McLintock

Animation

Sky Shields

Animation / Graphic Assistant

Aaron D. Halevy

Nick Snyder

Motion Graphics

Sky Shields

Additional Motion Graphics

Micah Levin & Khoi Nguyen

DIT / Camera Operator

Tony Papa

Chicago Crew:

Additional Camera Operator

James Reid

Horn Interview:

Additional Camera Operator

Drew Bachrach

Additional Camera Operator

Hussein Katz

Music Supervision

Michelle Sinclair

Rights and Clearances

Joel Weinstein

Abigail Kende

Production Supervisor

Jen Chatham

Production Assistant

Meghan Hemelt

Production Assistant

Thomas Redding

Music Consultant

Adam Moseley

Assistant Editor

Josh Kadish

VO Recording Engineer

Ian Sloane

Voice Over

Adam Sinclair & Naoko Mori

Original Music

Written & Performed by Hamish Sinclair

Archival Footage

Dick Clark Productions

Historic Films

MGM Films

Myron Lee

NBC

Ray Morris

Tanglewood

Chicago Live 1972

Rock & n

Special Thanks

B.B.D.

Simon Alovisi

Kat Baril

Gregory Berg

Vladimir Borges

Matt Carmody

Christina & David Conway

Joyce Carter

Bruce P. Clark

Fiona & Stewart Copeland

Laudir De Oliveria

Greg Finton

Craig Fruin

Aubrey Henderson

Brian Higgins

Olivia Harrison

Nanette Haynes

Kouks Cafe

Sven Kamm

Brian Kehew

Howard Kofman

Steven Krejci

Chuck Madden

Nick Marrone

Richard McDonald

Shirley Moyer

Keith Nelms

Deborah Owen

Peter Schivarelli

Pam Solomon

Fred Stodolak

Dave Tyler

Jim Vallance

Doyle Varner

Tom Vienna

Faro Vitale

Buff Walker

Marjorie & Joe Walsh

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Du Paul University & The Terry Kath Scholarship Fund

Post Production Facility Movie Magic Media

Sound Mix Facility Kill The Mes

Color Correction facility The Frame Shop

Studio Service Facility The Forge

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