



# LONG(SHOT) *Road to the Derby*

**CAST OF THE MINE THAT BIRD MOVIE "50 TO 1" TOURS THE REGION**

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THE STORY OF LONGSHOT KENTUCKY  
DERBY WINNER MINE THAT BIRD HAS BEEN  
MADE INTO A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE THAT  
IS BEING GRADUALLY RELEASED ACROSS THE REGION.



FROM LEFT, CHRISTIAN KANE AS OWNER MARK ALLEN, SKEET ULRICH AS TRAINER BENNIE "CHIP" WOOLLEY JR. AND JOCKEY CALVIN BOREL AS HIMSELF.

The cast and filmmakers of "50 to 1" hit the road on March 17 in a rock-star style cross-country tour to promote the major motion picture's release. The film, which was produced, directed and co-written by Jim Wilson, Academy Award-winning producer of "Dances with Wolves," chronicles the story of New Mexico-based Mine That Bird, who won the Kentucky Derby as a 50-1 longshot.

"We're bringing '50 to 1' to the people of America," Wilson said. "The group will travel in a tour bus from New Mexico to Kentucky, making stops in cities and towns along the way, mirroring the trip racehorse Mine That Bird took on his way to the 2009 Kentucky Derby."

Cast members joining the tour include Skeet Ulrich ("Jericho" and "Scream"), Christian Kane ("Leverage" and "Friday Night Lights"), Todd Lowe ("True Blood" and "The Princess Diaries") and Hugo Perez ("Machete" and "The Longshots"). Wilson and co-producer and co-writer Faith Conroy also will be on the tour, and the real Mine That Bird will make several special appearances.

"When was the last time Hollywood's leading men hopped on a bus and toured the country from town to town, introducing their film to the people of America?" Wilson asked. "It's unprecedented."

"I'm extremely excited to hit the road with a film I'm very proud to be a part of," Ulrich said. "It seems fitting we'd be selling our wares from a gypsy-like caravan, given the underdog nature of our story, and I'm hoping this journey answers three burning questions. One, are audiences tired of the blockbuster and ready to be uplifted by the values of hard work and integrity? Two, can we inspire our audiences to stick to their guns and do what they love at all costs? And three, does Christian snore louder than Todd?"

"I've done tours before. I'm excited!" said Kane, an Oklahoma native and also a successful recording artist. "It's old hat for me in the sense that when you love something so much, you will put 18 wheels and lives in motion just to bring it into town and say, 'I hope you like this. I made this for you.'"

Inspiration for the tour came during a brainstorming session by Wilson and Conroy.

"I thought, why not meet the audience this movie is intended for, introduce them to the stars and shake their hands," Wilson said. "It's the audience that matters the most. It's why we make these stories, to share them with the world."

"50 to 1" is based on the inspiring true story of Mine That Bird and the cowboy trainer and owners who became the ultimate underdogs in a showdown with the world's racing elite at the Kentucky Derby. The film was shot in 40 locations across New Mexico, Kentucky and

California and will open theatrically in roll-out fashion beginning in New Mexico on March 21, followed by Texas and Louisiana on April 4, Oklahoma and Arkansas on April 11, Tennessee and Kentucky on April 18, and then future dates as the tour expands across the country.

The tour mirrors not only the true story, but also the movie's release, and will weave its way from town to town through the initial seven states.

"This is just for starters," Wilson said. "We have every intention of crisscrossing America, but it's dependent on demand. If you want us to come visit your city, let us know."

Wilson won the Academy Award for Best Picture for "Dances with Wolves," which he produced. Other producing credits include "The Bodyguard," "Wyatt Earp," "Swing Vote," "Mr. Brooks" and "Message in a Bottle." Wilson's previous directing credits include "Head Above Water," "Whirlygirl" and the critically acclaimed documentary about Hall of Fame jockey Laffit Pincay Jr., "Laffit—All About Winning."

Mine That Bird, a Kentucky-bred gelding by Birdstone, began his racing career in Canada, where he earned three stakes wins as a 2-year-old. After he was purchased by Mark Allen in the fall of that year, he finished last in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1) to end his season. As a 3-year-old, he finished second in the Borderland Derby and fourth in the Sunland Derby in New Mexico for trainer Bennie "Chip" Woolley Jr. before heading to Churchill Downs.

The horse made headlines before the Kentucky Derby, but mostly for Woolley's decision to eschew air travel and haul the horse in a trailer for the 1,700-mile trip from New Mexico to Louisville, rather than for his race record. Running for Allen's Double Eagle Ranch Inc. and Dr. Leonard Blach's Buena Suerte Equine, Mine That Bird was 19th and last early in the 1 1/4-mile classic before storming home to a 6 3/4-length win under Calvin Borel, who is also featured in the movie. Mine That Bird continued his run for the Triple Crown that year, finishing second in the Preakness Stakes and third in the Belmont Stakes. He amassed \$2,228,637 in earnings but never won another race in nine starts after his Derby win. Mine That Bird was retired from racing in November 2010 and currently lives with his owners in Roswell, New Mexico.

To view the complete tour schedule and get more information about the movie, go to [50to1themovie.com](http://50to1themovie.com). ★

**MINE THAT BIRD NEVER WON ANOTHER RACE AFTER THE KENTUCKY DERBY, BUT HIS STORY STILL RESONATES WITH OWNERS AND TRAINERS AND PROVES THAT JUST ABOUT ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN IN HORSE RACING.**

