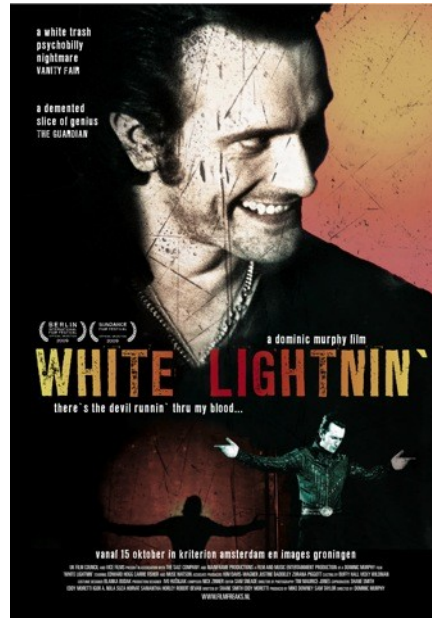




PRESENTEERT



een film van Dominic Murphy

RELEASEDATUM: 15 OKTOBER 2009

Gebaseerd op het levensverhaal van 'dancing outlaw' Jesco White



Script van Shane Smith (VICE) en Eddy Moretti (Heavy Metal in Baghdad)  
Geselecteerd voor het Sundance Film Festival (2009), Berlin International Film  
Festival (2009) en Edinburgh Film Festival (2009)



Met muziek van Hasil Adkins

# PRAKTISCH

## RELEASEDATUM

15 oktober 2009

## PERSVOORSTELLINGEN

Vroege persvoorstelling : 25 augustus 11.00 in Het Ketelhuis te Amsterdam

Landelijke persvoorstelling: 8 oktober 13.00 in Het Ketelhuis te Amsterdam

## PREMIERETHEATERS

Kriterion (Amsterdam) en Images (Groningen)

## DISTRIBUTIE

Filmfreak Distributie

Schippersstraat 7

1011 AZ Amsterdam

[www.filmfreaks.nl](http://www.filmfreaks.nl)

## BOEKINGEN EN PERSINFO

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06-41378138

## STILLS

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# SYNOPSIS



De Appalachen, West-Virginia. Jesco White wordt geboren als zoon van de befaamde 'mountain dancer' D Ray White. De streng gelovige D Ray probeert zijn benzinesnuivende zoon op het rechte pad te houden door hem de traditionele tapdans bij te brengen. Tevergeefs, de jonge Jesco brengt zijn jeugd door in het ene heropvoedingskamp na het andere, wordt zijn vader tragisch slachtoffer van een laffe moord. Eenmaal volwassen trekt Jesco dansend van bar naar bar, als eerbetoon aan zijn vader, en om zijn demonen onder controle te houden. Zo ontmoet hij de veel oudere Cilla, de liefde van zijn leven. Maar zijn zucht naar wraak en verlossing blijven hem parten spelen en hij zal ijsingwekkend ver gaan om beide te verkrijgen.

'White Lightnin'' neemt je mee naar de krochten van verslaving, genialiteit en waanzin; een nachtmerrie begeleid door een bijpassende bizarre soundtrack van Hasil Adkins. Met een scenario dat werd gebaseerd op het leven van de echte Jesco White creëerde regisseur Dominic Murphy een intens en ontegenzeggelijk sensationeel portret van de getormenteerde 'dancing outlaw'.

# SPECIFICATIES

ORIGINELE TITEL: White Lightnin'

LAND: Verenigd Koninkrijk

JAAR: 2009

DUUR: 90 minuten

ORIGINEEL FORMAAT: Super 16

BIOSCOOPFORMAAT: 35 mm 2.35:1

GELUID: Dolby

OORSPRONKELIJKE TAAL: Engels gesproken

ONDERTITELING: Nederlands

# SELECTIES/PRIJZEN

Fant-Asia Film Festival (Montreal)

*Prijs voor het beste debuut*

Sundance Film Festival (2009)

Berlin International Film Festival (2009)

Edinburgh Film Festival (2009)

# CAST & CREW



**Edward Hogg - Jesco White**

**Carrie Fisher - Cilla White**

**Muse Watson - D-Ray White**



Regisseur - Dominic Murphy

Scenario - Shane Smith, Eddy Moretti

Camera - Tim Maurice-Jones

Montage - Sam Sneade

Originele muziek - Nick Zinner

Songs - Hasel Adkins



Producers - Mike Downey en Sam Taylor

Coproducers - Eddy Moretti, Shane Smith, Suza Horvat, Igor A. Nola,

Robert Bevan en Samantha Horley

# OVER DE REGISSEUR



Straight after film school, Dominic won the Network 7 Young Director's Competition and was immediately given a directing job. He spent eight years directing a wide range of material for television including documentaries, arts programs, and short dramas. During this time Dominic attended regular workshops in acting technique taught by master Jack Walter, a colleague of Sandy Meisner, Stella Adler, and Lee Strasburg at the Actor's Studio. This training played a very important role in Dominic's signature style: performance-driven filmmaking.

In 1997, Dominic moved into commercials. He took the advertising world by storm by employing the improvised acting technique and radically emphasizing character and performance over flashy visuals. All his early campaigns won multiple awards. They included work for Sony Playstation, a Use Your Vote campaign, and the VW Passat Obsession campaign. Further work for Sony, Smirnoff, Virgin, Heinz, Southwest Airlines, Peugeot, Cellnet, Vodaphone, Orange, VW, and many others won top awards both in the UK and abroad, most notably Golds at Cannes for VW Passat and Heinz.

Dominic's more recent work, including his latest Jack-knife spot for Land Rover's Freelander, has become notable for combining very cinematic visuals with the kind of characterization and performance rarely seen in commercials. White Lightnin' is his first feature film.

# OVER DE CAST

## Edward Hogg

Edward Hogg has been steadily building a name as the new British actor to watch. He studied acting at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, and since graduating in 2002 has been performing steadily in theatre, film, and television in the UK. His lead role in *Woyzcek* (directed by Daniel Kramer at the Gate Theatre in London) received rave reviews and won him an Ian Charleson Award nomination. Further credits include *The Dybbuk*, directed by Eve Leigh, and *Jesus in The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, directed by Rupert Gould at the Almeida Theatre. Film credits include *Brothers of the Head*, directed by Louis Pepe, *Nicholas Nickleby*, directed by Douglas Wrath, and Paul King's comedy *Bunny and the Bull for Warp X* to be released in 2009.

## Carrie Fisher

Carrie Fisher is an actress, screenwriter, and novelist. She studied acting in London's Central School of Speech and Drama. She made her film debut in the Columbia comedy *Shampoo*, directed by Hal Ashby and starring Warren Beatty, Julie Christie, and Goldie Hawn. Her most iconic role to date is that of Princess Leia in George Lucas's sci-fi film *Star Wars* opposite Mark Hamill and Harrison Ford, a role she reprised in *Star Wars Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back* and *Star Wars Episode VI: Return of the Jedi*.

In 1987, Fisher published her first novel, *Postcards from the Edge*, for which she received the Los Angeles Pen Award for Best First Novel. The novel was adapted for the screen by Fisher and starred Meryl Streep, Dennis Quaid, and Shirley Maclaine. Fisher published three further novels: *Surrender the Pink*, *Delusions of Grandma*, and *The Best Awful There Is*.

## Muse Watson

Muse began his acting career at university where he appeared onstage for the first time as Petruchio in Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*. After gaining extensive theatre credits he began to pursue roles in feature films. By 2005, he had appeared in 43 feature films, such as *Sommersby*, directed by Jon Amiel; *Something To Talk About*, directed by Lasse Hallström, starring Julia Roberts, and Dennis Quaid; *Assassins*, written by Andy and Larry Wachowski; Gregory Poirier's *Rosewood*; *I Know What You Did Last Summer*, directed by Jim Gillespie; *Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me*, directed by Jay Roach; and *Songcatcher*, directed by Maggie Greenwald.

His television credits include eight made-for-television movies, including *Blind Vengeance*, directed by Lee Philips, and numerous television series, including *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*, *American Gothic*, *Matlock*, *The Lazarus Man*, *JAG*, *Walker Texas Ranger*, *Criminal Minds*, and *NCIS*. In 2005, Watson joined the cast of the television series *Prison Break* as Charles Westmoreland, a long-time inmate who may be the legendary airplane hijacker D.B. Cooper.

# OVER JESCO WHITE

Jesco White is the last of the Appalachian Mountain dancers. He is the son of D Ray White, the greatest mountain dancer of all time. Ever since he was a child, D Ray tried to keep Jesco on a straight path—one that would put him on the right hand of the Lord. Dancing was just one way to keep Jesco from losing his soul. But from a young age, there was temptation drawing him away from D Ray, away from the dancing. There were the voices in his head, tormenting him. Maybe that's why Jesco loved to get high. Hooked on sniffing gas, glue, lighter fluid, and airplane cement, Jesco was constantly finding himself in trouble with the law. He landed in the West Virginia School for Boys in Purney

Town more than once, and it was here that he spent most of his adolescence, left to endure the horror of the voices. While incarcerated, Jesco had to endure the brutal and senseless murder of D Ray. It was the most painful time of his life. Years after his time in reform school, Jesco had made the best of staying true to his daddy's word. He tried to stay as straight as he could, and used the dancing to do so. But the devil has his ways too, and soon Jesco was back to his old vices. On his way around the South, dancing and performing in whatever local dives he could, Jesco met the woman of his dreams—the much older and much smaller Enid Carter. Enid liked to be called Percilla. An offbeat pair, the two managed to keep all their wickedness inside the family. Life was good in this little family until one logging season brought two visitors to town: Long and Davie, the two men responsible for killing D Ray years earlier. It was as though God had decided to test Jesco again, tempting him with the taste of revenge. And so this temptation was satisfied, and Jesco got the revenge he craved. Running from the police, Jesco hid himself in a small cabin deep in the West Virginia hills. It was here that Jesco reached a dead end. If it were not for that one last bloody act of salvation, Jesco's soul would have been lost forever.



Jesco is a living legend. Born on July 30, 1956, he spent the early part of his life huffing gasoline, lighter fluid, and airplane glue amid the feuds, poverty, and violence of Boone County, West Virginia. According to Norma Jean, Jesco's wife ("Cilla" in the movie), Jesco is capable of being three different people: Jesse (the "good" Jesco), Jesco (the devil himself), and Elvis. He met Norma on Christmas Eve in 1974 while hitchhiking to a party with his cousin. Jesco had originally intended on robbing her, but instead he fell in love.

Besides Elvis, Jesco's passion in life is literally following in his father's footsteps. Donte Vixen Ray (D Ray) White (1927-1985), Jesco's father, was known as one of the greatest Mountain Dancers in the United States. His style, along with Jesco's, is native to the Appalachian Mountains.

"His jewels of wisdom are downright profound," says Julie Coggins on her Jesco fansite ([www.juliescoggins.com/dancing\\_outlaw\\_page.htm](http://www.juliescoggins.com/dancing_outlaw_page.htm)). Jesco has a large cult following, which began after being featured as the subject of PBS's 1991 documentary *The Dancing Outlaw*, directed by Jacob Young. In the documentary, Jesco discusses the death of his father as a result of a shootout in the "holler" (down in the mountain valley), his passion for Elvis, his dancing, and his turbulent marriage: "An' I took tha butcher knife an' put it up ta ha neck. I said, If you wanna live ta see tomorrow, you better start fryin' 'em eggs a little bit better than what you a fryin' 'em. I'm tired of eatin' sloppy, slimy eggs!" Jesco has appeared on the TV show *Rose-anne* and the independent sci-fi/horror film *It Came from Trafalgar*. Various performers have also mentioned him in numerous songs, including Hank Williams III, Live, and the metal group Mastodon. Jesco has stated to the media numerous times that all references to him in these songs have been without his authorization and that he has received no monetary compensation after numerous requests.

In 2006 Jesco's friends organized JescoFest 2006 ([www.youtube.com/user/jescofest](http://www.youtube.com/user/jescofest)), a fundraiser to help him purchase water and firewood for the winter of 2006-2007, as well as to celebrate his 50th birthday and the 15th anniversary of *The Dancing Outlaw*. The festival, which was held in Hinton, West Virginia, featured artists from all over the United States performing pro bono for the living legend. More recently, Jesco has been featured in the *Vice Guide to Travel* and his new

whereabouts will come to the screen in the upcoming documentary *The Wild and Wonderful Whites of West Virginia*. Johnny Knoxville is currently shooting a documentary about Jesco White and his extraordinary family.

Jesco has long been a muse and hero for American bands across the country. A few years ago, Hank Williams III wrote the song “Legend of D Ray White,” which honors the cultural significance of Jesco’s father. It also mentions Jesco, as well as another legendary Boone County artist, Hasil Adkins. Tribute songs include “Jessico” by The Kentucky Headhunters, “Jesco (The Dancing Outlaw)” by Sam Black Church, “Jesco” by Trailer Bride, “Jesco White” by Jim Shelley, and “Dancin’ Outlaw” by Ekoostik Hookah. The rock group Live included the line “...we’ll lay flowers at the grave of Jesco White, the sinner’s saint” in the song “Rattlesnake” on their album *Secret Samadhi*. Also, a short clip of Jesco dancing can be seen in Beck’s music video for the song “Loser”. The stoner metal band Atomic Bitchwax used a Jesco quote in the track “Shitkicker” on their first album. The track begins with the Jesco’s rumination: “Man, I got a double super-buzz. Here I was huffing, uh, li-, uh, airplane glue in a sandwich bag. Ya know, just all I could I breathed it on into my lungs and gettin’ high. And then I’d take me a hit of that gas. Right after I’d hit it, man. You talk about a warped mind, I got one. And lighter fluid, ya know, I’d sniff it by the can. I mean I was Superman.”

Jesco White currently resides in Madison (Boone County, WV) with his terrier Patches. Norma Jean lives about an hour away in a low-income high rise in downtown Charleston. She moved there to be closer to needed medical attention.



# OVER HASIL ADKINS

White Lightnin's soundtrack consists mainly of tracks by Hasil Adkins. He was an Appalachian-born one-man band, playing guitar and drums, singing, and playing a mind-blowing mixture of psychobilly, country, rock 'n' roll, and blues. His music can be sad, humorous, or frantic. He was well known for shrieking certain catchphrases, such as "commodity meat," "I want your head," and "Aaaaaaaaaaaaaa-Heeeeeeeeeeee-Wooo!!!!"

Hasil was born in Boone County, West Virginia, where he lived his entire life. Growing up in a tarpaper shack on property rented from the local coal company, Hasil attended six days of school in total and never really worked at anything other than being a musician. His neighbor and friend was Jesco White.

Nicknamed "The Haze," Adkins claimed a repertoire of over 9,000 songs (including over 7,000 original compositions), recorded scores of small, micro-label 45s, and is responsible for the birth of Norton Records, psychobilly, and a dance called the Hunch. He had a strong influence on the band The Cramps, as well as the Flat Duo Jets.

Recurring themes in Adkins's work include love, heartbreak, "hunchin'" (making out), police, death, decapitation, aliens, chickens, and commodity meat (the army-surplus canned meat that was distributed as welfare after World War II). Adkins often noted in interviews that his primary heroes and influences were Hank Williams, Sr., Jimmie Rodgers, Little Richard, and Col. Harlan Sanders of Kentucky Fried Chicken fame.

On April 16, 2005, a teenager on an ATV deliberately ran over Hasil in his front yard, and ten days later he was found dead in his home. To get an idea of his peculiar madness, type "Hasil Adkins on Ghoul A Go-Go + You Tube" into Google and watch him live.

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

# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Jesco is a real guy. In the early 90s, West Virginia PBS made a documentary called *The Dancing Outlaw* that was supposed to be about Jesco's father D Ray, a local folk hero and "mountain dancer." When the crew turned up to film D Ray he was dead, shot in a drug-fueled feud of sorts. So they filmed Jesco instead.

The documentary garnered a cult following, and it was the start of Jesco's "good life." Shane was mesmerized by the man and wrote a short story that became the basis for the script. We met Jesco more than five years ago and have spent a lot of time with him in NY, West Virginia, and Texas. Jesco White, who describes himself as the "last of the great Mountain Dancers," is a complex character—violent and abusive but also caring and sensitive. He has an innocent, childlike inability to cope with the world while also being quick witted and street smart.

In *White Lightnin'*, Jesco is not the same as the real Jesco. For a start, the real Jesco is very much alive. In the film the whole thing The narrator speaks in an intimate voice with a resigned, sarcastic, and (at times) nostalgic tone, which often stands in sharp contrast to many of the events we see in the story. It is Jesco taking a final look back over his life as he leaves it all behind. *White Lightnin'*'s Jesco is confronted by his biggest nightmares. The "devil" rushes through his veins while he seeks "redemption."

Jesco goes in and out of himself, losing track of reality and literally "blacking out." I use the blackouts as an aesthetic formal device in the film, which accentuates Jesco's internal movement and lets the audience experience his delusions. When there is a "blackout", we hear the voice of Hudd (Jesco's father's former banjo player). Hudd's voice narrates the chapter headings. Through his words and his tone we discover a strict, crazy, illiterate, and fundamentalist man that dictates life with a religious style.

When Jesco meets Hudd in the cabin towards the end of the film we recognize Hudd's voice from those chapter headings. After a moment of interaction between Jesco and Hudd, we realize that Hudd is dead and come to the conclusion that the voice-over we have heard throughout the film is in fact Jesco's own inner voice, his own conscience—one of his schizophrenic personalities, a dark, powerful, and vengeful one.

# INTERNATIONALE PERS



"A demented slice of genius"  
- The Guardian

"A rollicking terrifying trip"  
- LA Times

"A white-trash psychobilly  
nightmare"  
- Vanity Fair