

# BURNING EMBER

THE STEVE BELL JOURNEY  
A FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

WINNER  
BEST FEATURE  
DOCUMENTARY  
REAL TO REEL  
FILM FESTIVAL  
2015

AWARD OF  
EXCELLENCE  
FEATURE DOCUMENTARY  
ACCOLADE GLOBAL  
FILM COMPETITION  
2015

NOMINATED  
WMIFF AWARD  
WORLD MUSIC  
& INDEPENDANT  
FILM FESTIVAL  
2015

AWARD OF  
MERIT  
FEATURE DOCUMENTARY  
INDIEFEST  
FILM AWARDS  
2014

NOMINATED  
REMI AWARD  
HOUSTON WORLDPEST  
INTERNATIONAL FILM  
FESTIVAL  
2015



## OFFICIAL PRESS KIT

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# BURNING EMBER: THE STEVE BELL JOURNEY

## LOGLINE

After decades of pouring his heart and faith into his music with modest success, Canadian singer-songwriter Steve Bell gets the chance to play a private concert at the request of CBS Studios President Michael Klausman that could change his career forever.

## SYNOPSIS

Canadian singer-songwriter Steve Bell has been on the road for over twenty-five years pouring his heart and faith into his music. After thousands of concerts, two Canadian JUNO Awards and seventeen albums, he's still touring from church to church playing wherever he can.

Despite a faithful fan-base, including many powerful supporters, the man once considered "Canada's best kept musical secret" and "the next Michael W. Smith" has never achieved the elusive "breakout" in the United States market – a breakout that would mean financial freedom to keep doing what he does.

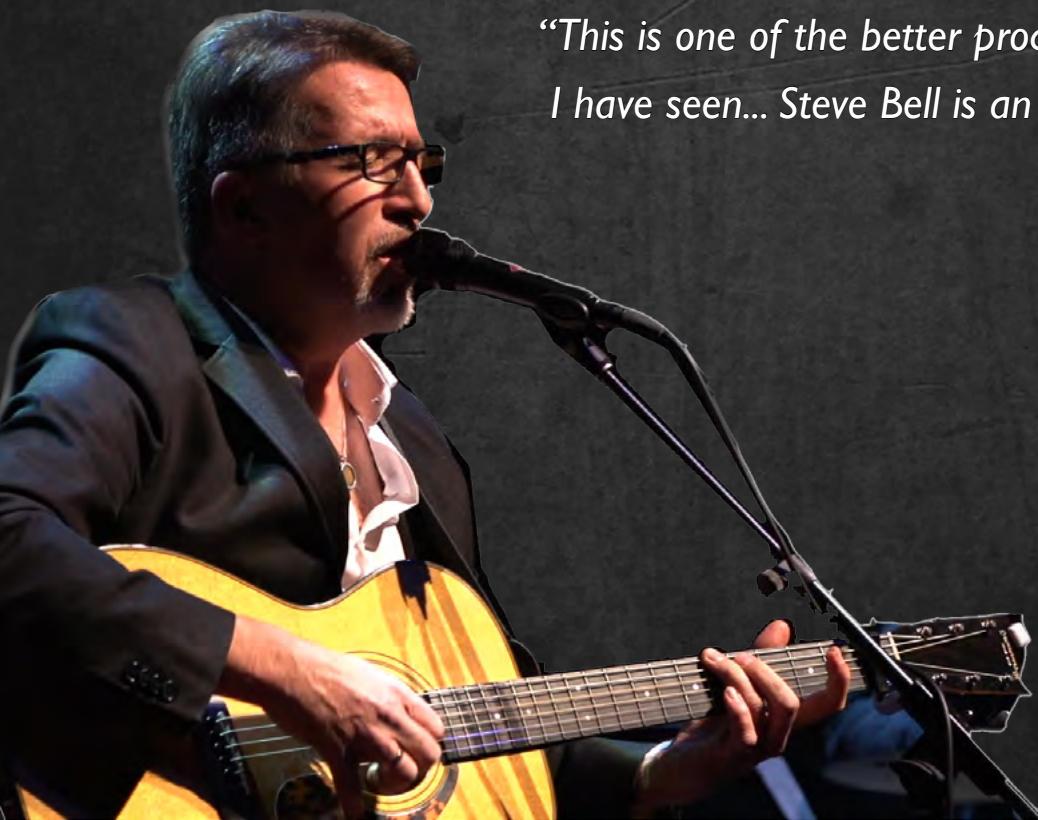
Now, at the age of 54, after years of physical, financial and emotional struggles, Steve Bell has been given a rare opportunity to play a private concert at CBS Studios in Hollywood that could change it all...

**OFFICIAL TRAILER** <https://vimeo.com/98581896>

*"This is one of the better produced documentaries I have seen... Steve Bell is an inspiration to us all."*

**Michael Klausman**

President of CBS Studios



## TECHNICAL INFO

Name:	Burning Ember: The Steve Bell Journey
Year of Production:	2013 - 2014
Duration:	98 minutes
Country of Origin:	Canada
Genre:	Feature Documentary
Format:	HD Cam, Digi Beta, Quicktime, H264, DVD, Bluray or DCP
Ratio:	16:9
Audio:	Stereo 48k 24bit
Speed:	23.98 (29.97 available)
Language:	English
Production Company:	Refuge 31 Films Inc.
Locations Shot:	Canada and United States: (Texas, California, Washington and New York City.)

## KEY CONTRIBUTORS

Writer / Director / Editor - Andrew Wall  
 Producer - Kyle Bornais  
 Cinematographer - Paul Kroeker  
 Compositor - Markus Henkel



A journey across North America

## DIRECTOR / WRITER / EDITOR BIO

Canadian film director Andrew Wall started making local television commercials and corporate video fourteen years ago as a creative distraction from finishing his university studies. Working out of his apartment, with an aptitude for editing and an ability to tell a story, he eventually found himself gainfully employed working for Kyle Bornais at Farpoing Films as an editor on documentaries and reality series.

As Andrew's resume and experience grew he started directing his own documentary projects. It's been an incredible journey that has taken him around the world telling meaningful and engaging stories ranging from docs on global hunger and the rise of fascism to forgiveness amidst tragedy. The result has been many awards and too many festival screenings to count.

Refuge 31 Films Inc, which he started with producer Kyle Bornais in 2013, is an extension of Andrew's vision — A production company that gives the world refuge, hope and inspiration.

From CBS Studios California to NYC





## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

BEST FEATURE DOCUMENTARY  
Real to Real Film Festival 2015



BEST INTERNATIONAL FEATURE  
Fort Worth Indie Film Showcase 2016



AWARD OF EXCELLENCE  
Feature Documentary  
Accolade Global Film Competition 2015



AWARD OF MERIT  
Feature Documentary and Christian Film categories  
IndieFest Awards 2014



REMI AWARD NOMINATION  
Feature Documentary  
Houston Worldfest 2015



WMIF AWARD NOMINATION  
Best Feature Documentary in Music  
World Music & Independent Film Festival 2015

GLCFF NOMINATION  
Best Documentary  
Great Lakes Christian Film Festival 2015

## OTHER NOTABLE FESTIVALS AND BROADCASTERS

DOCfeed Festival - Eindhoven, Netherlands - 2016  
Global Vision Film Festival – Edmonton, Alberta – 2015  
Iron Pointe Film Festival - Online Film Festival - 2015  
Bare Bones Independent Film, Arts & Music Festival – Oklahoma – 2015  
Missionfest Vancouver International Film Festival – Vancouver, BC – 2015  
Kingdomwood Film Festival - Atlanta, Georgia - 2015

UCBUK - UK, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia.  
CBC - Documentary Channel - Canada



## SOME NOTABLE QUOTES

*"This is one of the better produced documentaries I have seen... Steve Bell is an inspiration to us all."*

**Michael Klausman - President of CBS Studios**

*"A journey of unwavering commitment to deliver a message of love... I feel blessed to have seen it."*

**Tom Jackson - Actor / Musician**

*"In a word the documentary is brilliant. Steve Bell has always been a Manitoba treasure and, as the film emphasizes, Canada's best-kept secret... Secret no more."*

**John Einarson - Author**

**Neil Young: Don't Be Denied: The Canadian Years**

## REVIEWS AND MEDIA LINKS

[Phantom Tollbooth Review - "4 out of 5"](#)

[Winnipeg Free Press - "Film Follows Bell's Musical Path"](#)

[CJOB AM Radio - Andrew Wall and Steve Bell Interview](#)

[Christian Week - "Filmmaker Redefining Success"](#)





## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I began my own journey with this documentary in 2012 with a simple Facebook message sent to a local musician whom I had never met personally but wondered whether there might be a story. His name was Steve Bell, a Christian singer-songwriter, and an album of his had mysteriously found its way into my CD collection. I had no idea how it got in the pile between Led Zeppelin and the Garth Brooks.

Although I had seen Steve perform at my high school in 1993, I had no idea that his career had taken so many subsequent twists and turns. A google search revealed he had been very busy since then and was even considered "Canada's best kept musical secret." I waited for Steve to reply to my Facebook message... He never did.

Finally, thanks to a mutual friend who finally sent a direct text, I was sitting across from Steve Bell having coffee. Chatting with him I realized that he was an enigma — an artist with no bounds who found himself travelling between genres: Christian, secular, folk and even symphony. Steve also defined success differently than the others. He was phenomenally talented, had been taught guitar by prison inmates and was considered by many as one of the world's finest acoustic guitarists. Add to this seventeen albums adorned in deeply spiritual and gorgeously framed lyrics... Steve was a musical giant.

Between the songs, while live on stage, Steve was also a brilliant storyteller. Part theologian, part comedian, and the kind of person you want to hang with and be your best friend.

Yet somehow Steve still languished between the cracks of the larger music industry, never really achieving the "break out" that so many of his devoted fans prayed for him. I felt there was a documentary swirling around somewhere amidst this all. But where to start?

When Steve and his longtime manager Dave Zeglinski mentioned that they were heading down to California to do a private concert for the President of CBS Studios, Michael Klausman, my producer Kyle Bornais and I knew we had to be there. California would be the perfect start!

For over a year I would follow Steve Bell at home and on the road where I found a deeply genuine, talented and soulful artist. After 25 years as a solo artist he was still grinding it out playing virtually anywhere and everywhere. Luckily his manager Dave is a bit of a hoarder. I had boxes of stills and video footage to work with.

From Hollywood to Prince Edward Island and from a monastery in Texas to Wall Street in NYC, I followed Steve. His career was full of awards, devoted fans and symphony performances but he was now a physically breaking down musician riding the financial roller coaster of an ever brutal music industry.

Continued on next page...

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT CONTINUED...

The film began to emerge: A twisting and winding journey that moved through time and back. The story was of an artist, a 54 year old who had been grinding away at his art since he was a kid, but who still didn't know what the future had in store. Steve's faith pressed him to keep doing what he had been doing all these years. It was also the fertile source of his inspiration and creativity.

The most fascinating thing about Steve Bell was that bills still needed to be paid and gigs still needed to be found. The crux of the documentary, the question that pulled all the bits of footage and music together on the timeline when it was finally locked, was clear: How is it possible that Steve Bell, such a world class talent, still hasn't broken out?

The festivals, awards and notes of love from audiences that have followed the completion of Burning Ember have been wonderful. This is a film about an artist who carries his loving faith with him wherever he goes and pours it into his art. At the same time Steve can engage a wide audience regardless of their beliefs or their own personal journeys.

Steve is one of the finest examples of someone who fosters beauty in our world. Along with most everyone who meets him, you will consider him a close friend from the moment you see him smile. Steve will make you laugh with his stories, then bring tears with his music. He is brilliant, he is humble, and he is a treasure that needs to be shared with the world.

I am deeply grateful to Steve and his manager Dave Zeglinski for letting me tell this story. I sincerely hope other people's lives will be as enriched as mine has been as they are introduced to Steve, his music and his stories through my film.

Andrew Wall - Writer / Director / Editor





## SOME BASIC Q&A for the FILMMAKER

### Who is Steve Bell?

A singer-songwriter and brilliant guitarist from Winnipeg, Canada. Sometimes he plays with a band, sometimes with a symphony, but mostly it's just him with a guitar and a stool playing in small venues and churches. He's paying the bills for now, but by no means has "broken out". The lucrative US market is as elusive as ever to this brilliant and world class musician.

Steve has fans throughout Canada, the USA and the world. He is considered one of the worlds finest acoustic guitarists and he's a brilliant storyteller and song-writer.

### What has Steve Bell done?

He's released eighteen albums and counting, won two Canadian JUNO Awards and when he's not travelling around the world he teaches music and theology. Steve also co-owns Signpost Music with Dave Zeglinski, his longtime friend, manager and everything else that an artist needs to stay alive.

### Who is Andrew Wall?

I took Economics and Theology in college and ended up designing kitchens in Calgary after that. The crazy new home building industry of the late 90's was quite the ride. Too much money, lots of stress and not always much fun. So in a complete career shift and under the guise of finishing my degree, I headed back to Winnipeg to start making local television commercials and corporate video. It just seemed more fun than designing kitchen islands and selling people lazy susan's for their corner cabinets.

Eventually I had the chance to make a half-hour documentary for CTV Manitoba on Manitoba and the Cold War entitled Frostbites: Manitoba and the Cold War. That's where I met my producer Kyle Bornais. From there I worked under him at Farpoint Films and managed to edit a variety of television series and documentaries (was able to even direct a few too) where I managed to fill my resume with some pretty cool stuff.

### Why Watch Burning Ember?

Good question! It's about the underdog. The everyday musician grinding it out trying to follow his heart in a music industry that is getting more and more brutal. Steve's work also reflects his deep Christian faith but interestingly enough he's never been accepted by the Christian music industry for a variety of reasons that are explored in the doc. We've been delighted to have Burning Ember screened throughout North America in all kinds of festivals. From music festivals in Oklahoma to faith oriented film fests in the heart of Texas and now to a European documentary fest in the Netherlands, this doc is proving to be capable of screening to a very broad audience. The awards and nominations reinforce this.





## FOR MORE INFORMATION



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