

Losing Our Religion

PRESS KIT

FILM INFORMATION

Feature Length Documentary

Film Title: Losing Our Religion

Logline: What do you do if you're a preacher but you don't believe in god?

Contact Info

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Running Time: 86 minutes

Broadcast edition: 52 minutes

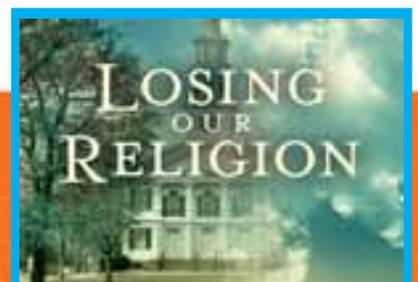
Exhibition Format: 16 x 9 HD

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The Film

Shot across North America and the UK over two years, *Losing Our Religion* provides a first look inside The Clergy Project, a safe, anonymous online space for preachers who no longer believe in god. The site has grown from sixty to over six hundred members in just two years. Now, for the first time, a documentary crew has been allowed access to the members of The Clergy Project. Many members find themselves trapped, facing the dilemma of either living a lie, or losing their job, community and even home and family.

Filmmaker Leslea Mair interviewed clergy across North America, including the Deep South, who are still undercover and know they would lose their jobs and their friends should anyone find out. Leslea also talked to former clergy, Clergy Project members who are “out,” who give open and personal explanations of why they became preachers, what happened, the cost of being honest, and why they are still working to help others trapped in the pulpit.

Hundreds, perhaps thousands of clergy are in this difficult position. Stan is a preacher in the Deep South who lives in a manse. If anyone knew he is an atheist he would be out on the street. Andy hasn't believed for a long time, but only three people in the world know his secret.

Brendan is a pastor in a small, evangelical church, who doesn't believe in God anymore. His wife Jenn is still a true believer – and she just told the wrong person. As the pressure mounts Brendan sees his career and community about to vanish, while Jenn struggles with her own faith, hearing her preacher husband explain why belief in a supernatural god just doesn't work any more. As events escalate, the pull between community, faith and love give an honest and gripping insight into a relationship in crisis.

The Clergy Project stories also connect with a new wave of secular communities that are growing in surprising places, experimenting with ways to have something like church but without a god. An out atheist in the pulpit in Toronto, the Oasis Sunday morning gatherings now expanding beyond Houston, Texas, and the explosion of Sunday Assemblies around the world show the very beginnings of a new form of community.

Commissioned by Bruce Cowley, senior director of documentary Channel, *Losing Our Religion* will have its world broadcast premiere on documentary Channel in the fall of 2017.

Losing Our Religion Links:

Website: www.losingourreligion.ca

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LosingOurReligionMovie/>

Losing Our Religion is produced by Manitoba based Zoot Pictures Inc, in association with the documentary Channel, the financial assistance of the Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit, the participation of the Canadian Media Fund, and the participation the Government of Manitoba - Manitoba Film and Video Production Tax Credit and financial investment from the Manitoba Film and Music Feature Film Production Fund.

Losing Our Religion

Log Line

What do you do when you're still a preacher – but you don't believe in god?

A feature documentary about preachers who are not believers and what atheists do when they miss church.

Synopsis

Brendan is a pastor in a small, evangelical church, and he has a secret.

He doesn't believe in God anymore. His wife is still a true believer - and she just told the wrong person.

Losing Our Religion is a feature length documentary about preachers who are not believers, and what atheists do when they miss church. Allowed access to the 600 members of The Clergy Project – a safe haven for preachers from all faiths who no longer believe – the documentary follows ex-members and clergy who are still undercover.

They are not just losing their religion, for many they are losing their friends, community and even family. As well as their job.

As events unfold that change lives forever, their stories also connect with secular communities that are growing in surprising places. New groups are experimenting in ways to have church without god, and asking the same question as unbelieving clergy - "what's next?"

Losing Our Religion is a documentary about community, acceptance, and a view inside the complicated lives of clergy who are stranded in the rising tide of non-believers.



The Filmmakers

Leslea Mair



Leslea Mair is a writer and producer based in Winnipeg, Manitoba. She has been the President and CEO of Zoot Pictures Inc. since 1998.

From a background writing and directing experimental films Leslea moved into writing and producing documentary. She co-directed *The Path to Shaolin* in 2009, and has written and produced Zoot Pictures' many award-winning documentaries as well as series television. Leslea is the co-director, writer and producer of "Losing Our Religion" her first feature documentary.

Leif Kaldor



Leif Kaldor is a writer, director and producer of award-winning television and cross-platform projects. Eschewing professional motocross for business, Leif has been running small and medium sized businesses since 1980, in emerging technology, music (independent Label and touring), interactive media, and film and television.

Leif has directed drama, written and directed documentaries, written for radio, produced music CDs and videos, and been the creative force behind a range of interactive projects. In addition to his television awards Leif is a Juno award winning music producer and a Gemini award winning multimedia producer. Leif is the co-director, writer and producer of "Losing Our Religion", his first feature documentary.

The Contributors

Brendan and Jenn

Brendan and Jenn are a married couple in the northwestern U.S. Brendan has been a pastor for over a decade. The church has been an anchor in Jenn's life, helping her out of a difficult childhood and providing community.

When Brendan cannot believe in god any more, it puts them both in a difficult position, dealing with the pull between their love for each other, church and community.



"Stan"

Stan is a pseudonym for an evangelical preacher in the southern United States who no longer believes in god, but cannot tell anyone. He finally told his wife and children, but no one else. The stress of leading his double life is affecting his health, and his counsellor has told him he needs to make a change. But with few options, he cannot find a way out of his predicament, and he is reaching the breaking point.

"Stan" is played by an actor recreating his interview in a way that he cannot be identified.



"Andy"

"Andy" is a pseudonym for a preacher in the deep south, who has only told three people about his loss of faith. He has a different take on being a closeted atheist. He thinks it makes him a better pastor, but he too struggles with not being truthful to those around him.

"Andy" is played by an actor recreating his interview in a way that he cannot be identified.



Richard Dawkins

Richard Dawkins is an icon in science and the secular movement. It was The Richard Dawkins Foundation for Science and Reason that provided the funding to create the clergy project, offering help to pastors who have moved beyond religion.



About Zoot Pictures Inc:



From the Pentagon to the Shaolin temple in China, Zoot Pictures has pursued a commitment to finding stories that fire the imagination of their creative team and audiences alike.

Zoot Pictures was formed in 1995, the two principals are the creative team of Leif Storm Kaldor and R. Leslea Mair. They share writing and research and both produce and direct projects. The company has grown steadily from award-winning documentaries to series and feature documentaries. Zoot Pictures Inc. is based in Winnipeg Manitoba.

For more info, request screener for review purposes, set up an interview: Avi Federgreen | info@indiecanent.com | 416-898-3456

Indiecan Entertainment Links:

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