

LOGLINE

DOUG AND THE SLUGS & ME is a POV documentary following filmmaker Teresa Alfeld's journey uncovering the story of her childhood best friend's dad, Doug Bennett, leader of the legendary 1980s Canadian party band Doug and the Slugs.

LONG SYNOPSIS

Teresa practically grew up at her best friend and next-door-neighbour Shea Bennett's lively house in East Vancouver in the 1990s. She knew that Shea's father Doug was in a band, but to Teresa, he was just Shea's goofy dad. When Teresa and Shea's friendship came to an abrupt end in high school, Teresa completely lost touch with the Bennett family. She was shocked to learn of Doug's sudden death in 2004 at age 52, attributed to a long-standing yet unnamed illness.

Decades later, and now a documentary filmmaker, Teresa rediscovers Doug's incredible catalogue of songs, so much more complex than the cheesy but fun radio singles that made Doug and the Slugs famous in their 1980s heyday. She sets out to make a documentary about Doug and his irreverent and genre-defying band the Slugs. Through interviews with Doug's band mates, his family, and his friends, Teresa pieces together just how Doug and the Slugs shot from Vancouver cult sensation to national fame in the early 1980s, with multiple number one singles, gold records, and rabid media attention proclaiming the band the next big thing. A who's who of international and Canadian musicians and industry insiders, including Sir Bob Geldof, Bif Naked, Steven Page, Ron Sexsmith, Ed the Sock, and Terry David Mulligan all help describe just how incomparable the Slugs' music, videos, and stage show were, and why the cards were ultimately stacked against them.

Doug's bandmates Simon Kendall and John Burton describe how, despite some very unique drama behind the scenes, the Slugs came excruciatingly close to an international breakthrough, until things eventually fell apart. But when Teresa gets her hands on Doug's personal diaries, she finally gets a hint at what went so right, and ultimately so wrong, for her old neighbour.

As Teresa learns more about the band's rollercoaster career, she also revisits her own memories of Doug and his family - including Shea. She realizes there was more going on next door than she could understand as a child, and through making the film, she comes to a profound sense of closure she never knew she needed.

A nostalgia-packed ride down the backroads of Canadian rock history, DOUG AND THE SLUGS & ME is a bittersweet, emotional and entertaining film about the pivotal friendships that shape us, break us, and ultimately help us grow