

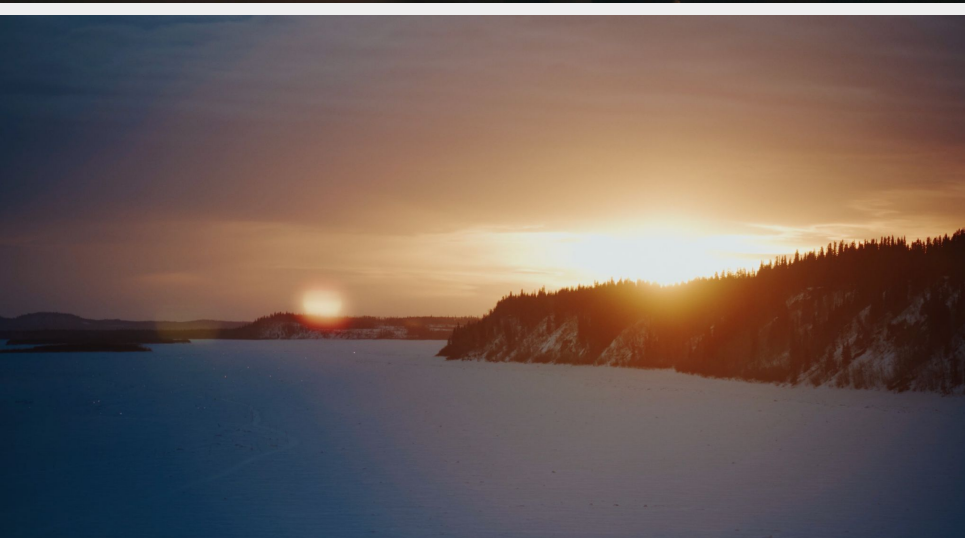


A FILM BY **RYAN WALSH**  
FEATURING the star of Discovery Channel's "Yukon Men" **STAN ZURAY**

# The Stan Project



EMIKO FILMS PRESENTS RYAN WALSH PRODUCTIONS PRODUCTION OF THE STAN PROJECT STARRING STAN ZURAY AND KATHLEEN ZURAY-PETERS  
SOUND MIX BY JAKE ROBINSON EDITED BY RYAN WALSH DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY RYAN WALSH EXECUTIVE PRODUCER BILL PICKERING ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS BRIAN O'TOOLE AND JOHN REILY  
PRODUCED BY DAN REISSER AND KARI PICKERING DIRECTED BY RYAN WALSH



# Film Information

## Film Title

The Stan Project

## Link to Trailer

[The Stan Project Trailer](#)

## Technical Info

Runtime: 68 min 19 secs  
Aspect Ratio: 16:9  
Shooting Format: UHD 4K

## Contact info

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Director // Ryan Walsh

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  @TheStanProject



## **LOGLINE //**

A documentary by Ryan Walsh that follows former Discovery Channel star, Stan Zuray as he navigates his subsistence lifestyle in the interior of Alaska.

## **SYNOPSIS //**

In order to escape a life of crime and drug abuse, Stan Zuray decided to leave his life in Boston behind and found his way to the remote interior of Alaska. This documentary follows the life he's built for the last 40+ years while processing the trauma that brought him to homestead in the middle of nowhere. We follow Stan through his day to day activities, showcasing a beautiful yet brutal relationship with nature. In doing so, we come to grasp the effort and sacrifices required to live a life in harmony with the land.

## CAST // STAN ZURAY

Stan Zuray is not your stereotypical Alaskan mountain man. A former cityslicker with a hippie disposition and a McGyver-like resourcefulness, he's the ever helpful guy you'd find at the local hardware store. He's a caring father and husband and an experienced hunter and trapper.

Despite his thick Boston accent and tumultuous past, Stan has built a peaceful life in the isolated native village of Tanana, Alaska. His openness to learn from the locals and his ability to assimilate into their community has kept him rooted there for over four decades, a testament to his deep connection to subsistence living. His story is one of resilience, perseverance, and patience as he navigates an intimate relationship with the beauty and brutality of nature.



## DIRECTOR // Ryan Walsh

Growing up, I was the “nature kid.” I spent my weekends roaming around the woods of my Michigan backyard studying animal tracks. After school I’d wait for hours up in the trees, hoping to sneak a peak of an animal searching for their next meal or a place to rest. The fact that we coexisted with these creatures was fascinating to me, and I was happy just to catch a glimpse of them going about their daily life.

I moved to Los Angeles to become a filmmaker but a big part of me missed the connection to nature I had back home. So I started working on nature documentaries and found a niche for myself filming all over remote Alaska. During my time on the Discovery Channel show, “Yukon Men,” I met Stan Zuray. I instantly connected with him as he shared my love and respect for nature. The show missed an opportunity to capture the beauty and tranquility of a subsistence lifestyle and it is my goal with this film to showcase that way of living in an honest way.

Stan is an inspiring subject to follow, always leading with his heart and taking nothing for granted. He demonstrates what it means to persevere through hardships and build a life with meaning and purpose. I’ve always been impressed with his ability to adapt and overcome the obstacles of life by working with, not in spite of, nature. A refreshing point of view, Stan’s story is a needed one, especially at this moment of time, with so many people fed up with the inequity of society and desperately seeking an alternative way of living.

I believe an audience will identify with Stan, if not in the specifics than in the pursuit of a meaningful life. I hope this film is somewhat of a palate cleanser, giving the audience a chance to take stock and see if there is a way to find and embrace their own path towards a fulfilling existence.



## PRODUCER // Dan Riesser

Dan is a filmmaker, Emmy nominated TV producer, post producer and dad. He's directed, produced and post produced content for Netflix, NBC-Universal, FOX, National Geographic, BET, Youtube Red and more. He has also produced films that have gone on to festivals such as Sundance, Maryland Film Fest, Dances With Films and more. He is pretty confident that if he had to live on his own in Alaska...he would die.



## PRODUCER // Kari Pickering

Kari is a filmmaker, producer, writer, and actor. Her film credits included writing and directing BLIND DATE, and TUESDAY. She has also written LIVE AT THE PURPLE LOUNGE which premiered at the Beverly Hills Playhouse. She attended the American Musical and Dramatic Academy before receiving a BFA in musical theatre from The New School. She has acted in numerous sketches for THE SOUP and CONAN.



# YUKON MEN

Discovery  
CHANNEL™

During his time as the star of the Discovery Channel show “Yukon Men,” Stan held audiences in thrall with his unwavering integrity and deep authenticity. With nightly viewership surpassing 2 million, Stan boasts a substantial fan base that stretches across the nation. These devoted followers are well-informed about the upcoming documentary and are brimming with anticipation for its debut. The prospect of their attendance to lend their support at the film’s screenings is highly promising, regardless of the location.

# CREDITS //

Directed, Shot, and Edited by:  
Ryan Walsh

Produced by:  
Dan Riesser  
Kari Pickering

Associate Producers:  
Brian V. O'Toole

Sound Mix by:  
Jake Robinson

Color  
Duran Castro

Online Editor and Titles  
Dan Riesser



# FAQ //

## ***How did you find Stan?***

I met him during my time working on the Discovery Channel show “Yukon Men.” We embarked on extended dog sled journeys to remote trapping cabins. As we huddled around the fire at night for warmth, he’d share captivating stories from his past. His experiences and actions intrigued me and I felt a strong desire to delve deeper into understanding who he is. Creating a documentary seemed like the perfect means to achieve that goal.

## ***How were you able to fund the project?***

We had a crowdfunding campaign and Stan’s fans were at the forefront of pitching in to see that this documentary was made. People from all over the world contributed. It was amazing.

## ***How long did the project take to complete?***

It took almost 5 years to complete. Remote Alaska is not an easy place to get to and even more difficult to film in. Especially during Covid. We had to pause production for a long time in order to not run the risk of bringing Covid into the tiny village where Stan lives.

## ***What was the most difficult part of the filming process?***

Filming by myself in -50 degree temperatures. The majority of the documentary takes place in the dead of winter, in the interior of Alaska. It’s always very extremely cold there. Drones had trouble flying and cameras had trouble working. My hands will never be the same.

## ***What was your favorite part of the documentary process?***

Showing Stan the final cut of the documentary. About 20 minutes into the film he yelled “Stop! Pause it!” I was caught off guard and didn’t know what to expect him to say. I thought the worst. He said “This...this movie is my life. It’s, like, exactly my life.” He was blown away at how accurate it was to his life. I’m not sure what he was expecting but it was such a wholesome response that it was really nice to hear as a filmmaker.

## ***What was the crew size like?***

Out in the field for principal photography, it was just me. I did everything from producing, shooting, flying the drone, to all production support. I also cut the film together. My two producers, Dan and Kari, came in once post started on the film.

## ***What is your goal for the film?***

I hope this film is somewhat of a palate cleanser, giving the audience a chance to take stock and see if there is a way to find and embrace their own path towards a fulfilling existence.

## ***What are your hopes for distribution?***

Film festivals first. I want as many people to see it as possible. From there, landing on a streaming platform like Netflix, Hulu, or Discovery Plus would be great. Discovery Plus seems like a great fit because people know Stan from the Discovery Channel.

