



**THE
BIG JOHNSON**

THE WILD LIFE AND BIZARRE DEATH OF LGBTQ DRAG LEGEND DEAN JOHNSON



THE BIG JOHNSON

Sex, Drag, Drugs, and Rock'n'Roll

The unbelievable life and mysterious death
of LGBTQI nightlife legend
Dean Johnson

A feature length documentary
by Lola Rocknrolla

GAYS FROM AWAY FILMS – THE BIG JOHNSON 2023

It's the 80s in New York's Lower East Side.

A car burns in the distance as rock music comes blasting in off of a boom box. Dean and the Weenies screams out of the speakers "FUCK YOU!" It was punk, it was sex, it was queer, it was a gawddamn revolution.

It was **Dean Johnson.**

Dean Johnson, drag queen, rock star, LGBTQI activist, junkie, genius, escort then...John Doe.
How does someone so famous in New York die as an unknown in DC?

"The Big Johnson"
explores the incredible highs and the crushing lows of Dean Johnson's life and untimely death.
Was it murder? Was it an accident?

We may never know, but what is for sure is that Dean and "the Big Johnson" changed New York City and everyone who knew him forever.



DEAN'S LEGACY

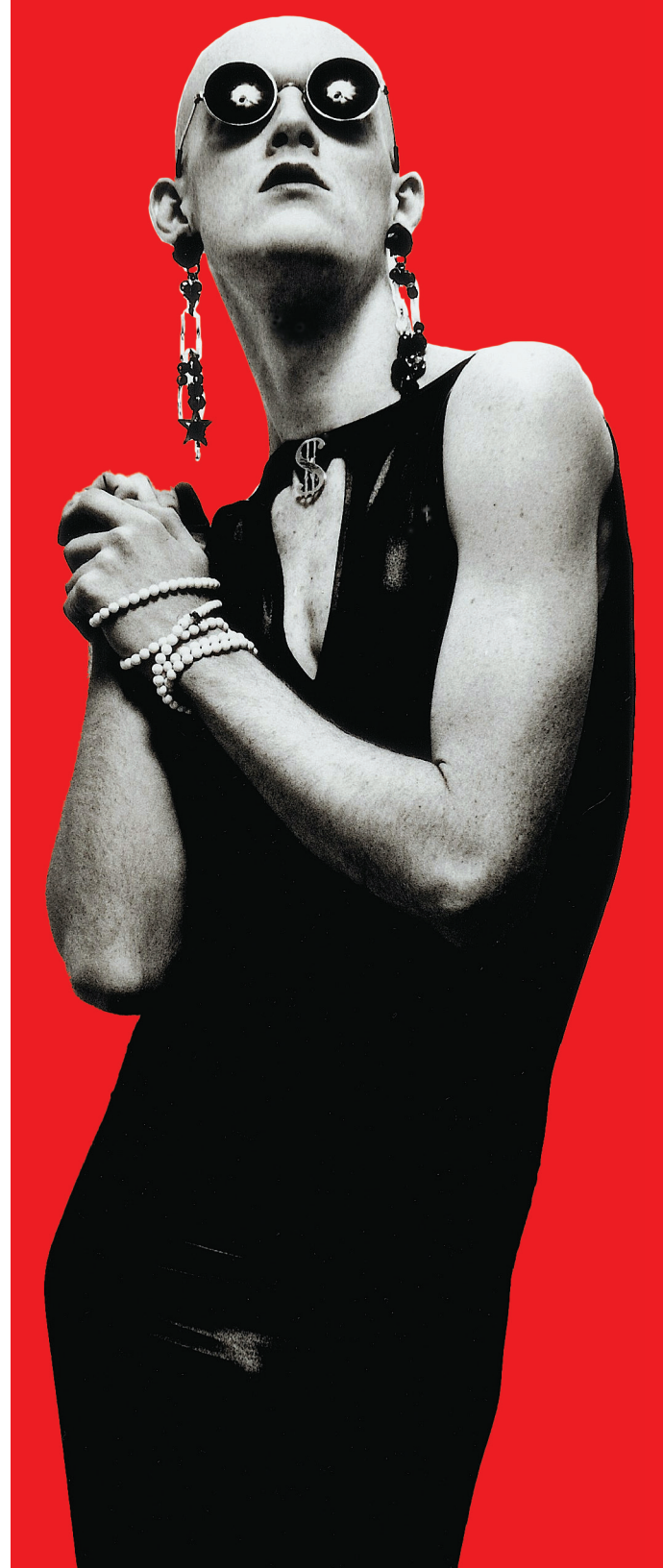
This new feature length documentary explores what it was like to be unabashedly gay in NYC's East Village during the middle of the AIDS crisis. Dean flew naked... literally... into the face of homophobia, police, drug addiction, and that cruel mistress fame. Throwing parties that celebrated queerness, community and gay sexuality.

Dean brought people together, normalizing LGBTQI rock music and telling the world... FUCK YOU if you don't like it. His song Fuck you with the band "Dean and the Weenies" topped the college charts and landed him a record deal with Island Records. As he realized that he too was HIV positive Dean also realized they wanted him in the closet. Heartbreak, drug addiction, then rebirth.

Dean's journey has it all, through the backdrop of an ever changing and quickly gentrifying New York City. Dean did drag at every Wigstock, his bands toured the world, his parties were filled with sex and celebrities, his songs inspired a new generation of Queer rockers, yet he had to escort to pay the bills. Leading to his life ending in a lonely apartment in D.C. only four days after another escort had died in that same apartment.

A dramatic end to an unbelievable life. The man, the myth, The Big Johnson.

Starring: JACKIE BEAT, SHERRY VINE, TAYLOR MAC, MARIO DIAZ, JONNY MCGOVERN, DIRTY MARTINI, WORLD FAMOUS BOB, MICHAEL MUSTO, GREG G-SPOT SIEBEL, HEATHER LITTEER, CHI-CHI VALENTI) and many many more.



THE TEAM



Lola Rocknrolla

DIRECTOR

Lola Rocknrolla is an award winning filmmaker, playwright, comedian and musician known for “Gaysploitation” films like Dragzilla, Nefertitty, Night of the living Gay, Bloodbath of Terror, and Homo the Musical just to name just a few.

She was in Dean Johnson’s second band “The Velvet Mafia” as a saxophone playing flying nun. Dean was a dear friend. This is Lola’s first feature.

Beth Johnson, Producer and Dean’s sister.
This is her first film but she has an eye witness account of Dean Johnson’s life.

Ray Hubley, Editor
Award winning editor,
Ray has worked with Sidney Lumet, Brian De Palma, Tim Robbins, Bruno Barreto and John Turturro.
Hubley has also edited non-fiction films: Billy Strayhorn / Lush Life (Emmy and Peabody Awards for Best Documentary) and the theatrically-released portrait Who is Norman Lloyd? among others.

Samantha Schutz, Cinematography
Award winning producer, cinematographer and editor, Eden Eats (Cooking Channel) Kitchen Conundrums, Martha Stewart Facebook Live, Biz Kids (PBS) The Magnolia Network, ABC as well as top end live stream and VR projects.

Lance Tooks, Illustration
Marvel Comics. Books: 'Danger Funnies' (co-published with Cry For Dawn), 'Divided by Infinity' and 'Muthafucka'.

Rob Yulfo, Animator
Late Night with Steven Colbert, Our Cartoon President (ShowTime) Shadow Machine, MTV, Cartuna, Octopie

Curtis Heath, Score
Ain’t Them Bodies Saints, Hellion, Lost in the Sun and All Roads to Pearla. Heath’s latest releases include The Carnivores and I Used To Go Here.

Gina Volpe, Score
(Lunachicks, Bantam & solo artist)
In between touring and recording Volpe also composes for film and television including music for all of Lola’s films.

**"I NEVER REALLY THOUGHT
OF MYSELF AS A PROMOTER.
JUST A PERFORMER
THAT LIKES TO
PUT ON SHOWS
AND OCCASIONALLY
GET A GOOD
ORGY GOING."**

-DEAN JOHNSON

