

Hello to all the festival programmers checking out *Swing 46: The Last Swingin Supper Club*! Thank you for taking the time to inquire about the first of several documentaries focusing on one of the most unexpected periods in modern music and cultural history. Like a wildfire, the (retro or neo) swing movement spread across the United States starting in the early 90's and even two decades later, it still lingers to this day globally! The modern swing movement began as a grassroots in clubs and in halls out on the west coast infused jazz with punk, rockabilly, and ska roots in cities like Los Angeles and San Francisco. Within a couple of years, it found new fans, musicians, and dancers who reignited the love and passion of a forgotten musician, cultural, and dance movement going back to the 1920's. It grew to an epic level that finally spread east in the late 90's.

It hit the east coast in the form of dances and schools, finally laying roots in the city that never sleeps! The swing movement took over New York City creating a never ending society of dance, music, and a stylized lifestyle that took over people's lives. With so many bands, fans, and venues to be a part of the movement, one of the key places came to prominence in 1997. Located near Times Square, a former music club turned supper club located on the famed Restaurant Row became Swing 46! This was the place, balancing elegance, style, and palpable electricity that brought live music, dancing, and dining seven nights a week and welcomed a global audience!

Before we go any further, let me introduce myself. I am the creator of this short documentary *Swing 46: The Last Swingin Supper Club*, Jay Kay. A lifelong fan of swing and jazz, a collector of retro swing music, memorabilia, and two tone shoes as well as a retro swing music DJ and radio show host, journalist, and filmmaker. That's a lot, I know. Most of those items listed above have been in focus for the last two plus decades of the modern swing movement including mostly on my own the last two plus years working on this doc. Why I always have loved that retro swing era, it was not until I decided to return to Montclair State University (NJ) and joined the film program during the pandemic. A challenge to produce, film, and create this project, I made the choice during my Documentary Workshop class (conducted by acclaimed Filmmaker Beth B) to revisit the modern swing movement as the focus of my final student doc project. With only five minutes to work with at that time, I chose to focus on a micro aspect of the larger movement in the life cycle of Swing 46.

As luck would have it, they were experiencing the challenges of the pandemic and decided to have a telethon which opened the door for me to get involved with coverage of the event, interviews, tech assistance, and building a bridge that would evolve my final doc into a snapshot of not only the magic of Swing 46, but the retro swing movement on a much larger level and impact. From there, I took to the road and did a total of 16 interviews across the east coast with musicians, promoters, writers, dancers, and some of those who helped to build, performed, and were a part of Swing 46. It followed with more research, amassing resources and media, music rights, editing, follow up, and more...

What you see now is a student project grown into something we could not be more proud of. This love letter “sandwich documentary,” has gone through so many stages (from a 5 to 8 to a 17 minute run time). *Swing 46: The Last Swingin Supper Club* began to play film festivals last September with its World Premiere at the incredible Shawna Shea Memorial Film Festival. It has been selected to five festivals in 2023 with four awards including *Best Student Film*, two *Best Short Documentary*, and *Best Editing*. We have submitted it to many more in 2024 with more selections to come! Ultimately, it will be the next step to the next chapter of this story focusing on the larger east coast scene, the roots, the west coast impact, and the after effect.

Overall, this film is about a special place that impacted so many on a variety of levels and an unprecedented music movement. At the core, it is a human story about those who invested their lives in something that meant everything and engulfed so many giving them purpose, hope, and a return to an era before technology, the internet, and a sort of innocence lost. Filled with vintage videos, photos, memorabilia, and music against the backdrop of Swing 46 and New York City, it is a can't miss snapshot filled with an infectious music culture, style, community, and more!

I hope you enjoy our student short doc that has impacted so many people beyond the voices, videos, and memories that make up this incredible story! Thank you for taking the time and consideration for *Swing 46: The Last Swingin Supper Club*. I look forward to hearing from your festival! Keep swingin and enjoy!!!

Sincerely,

Jay Kay - Filmmaker and Producer

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[Swing 46: The Last Swingin Supper Club doc IMDB](#)

What is Being Said About “Swing 46: The Last Swingin Supper Club...”

"It drew me in right away, and celebrated a diverse world!" - Award Winning Filmmaker Jeremiah Kipp (Slapface)

"Swing 46 introduced me to a subculture that I didn't know existed. By the time it was done, I was sorry I missed it." - Festival Founder/Filmmaker Skip Shea (Shawna Shea Film Fest)

"Fantastic job! It really zapped me back to another lifetime - a very fun and exciting (and somewhat blurry) time in my life." - Eldon Daetweiler (Bandleader of the Alien Fashion Show)