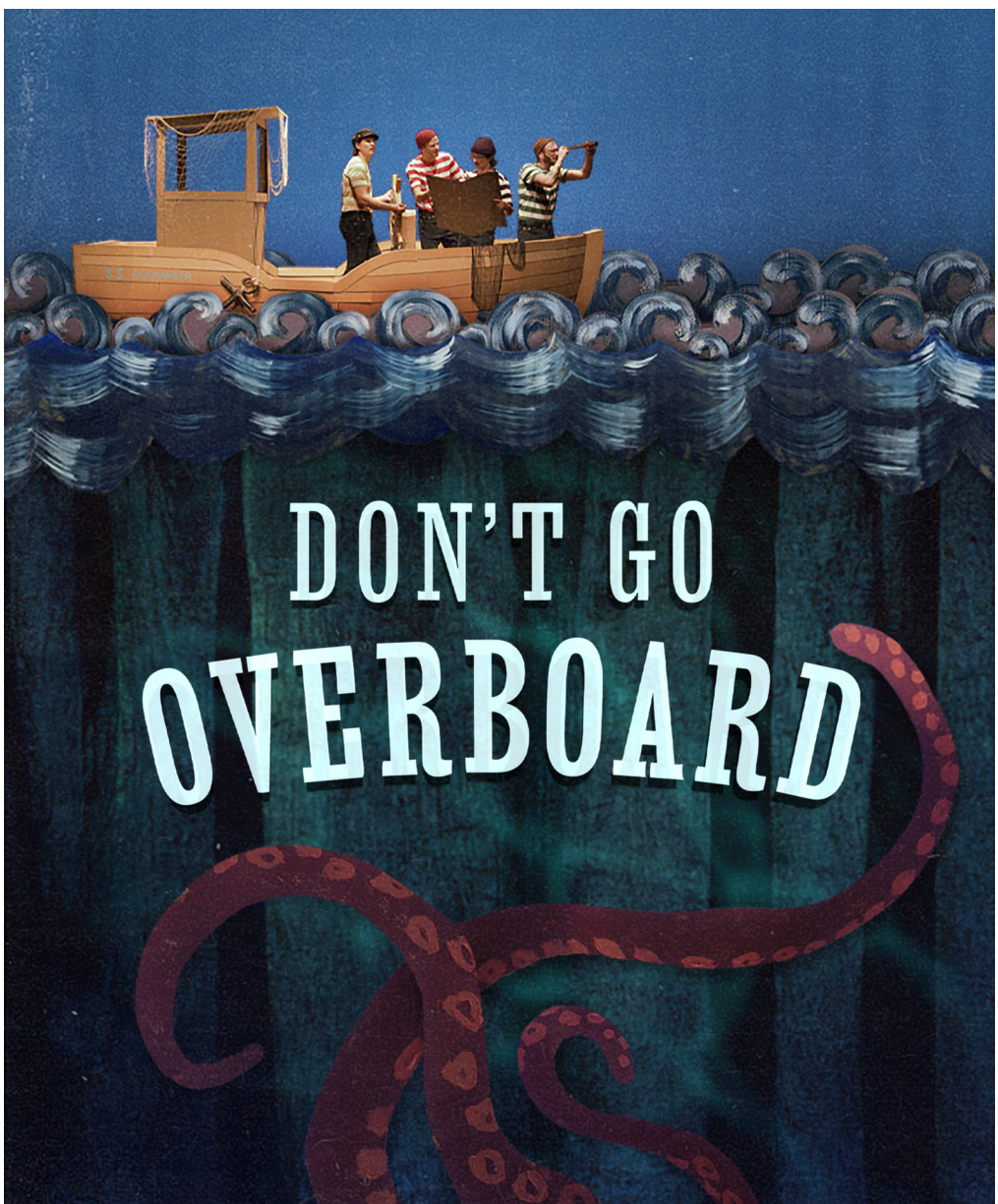


FUZZYSURF

PRESENTS A SIMWIG STUDIOS PRODUCTION



DON'T GO
OVERBOARD



Anchors aweigh!

Just ignore the seasick and keep moving forward... Fuzzysurf's musical short, "Don't Go Overboard," sees the indie rockers sail away on an oceanic odyssey. Fresh off their Double LP, "Chameleons," the lyrics of this nautical shanty croon about a relationship navigating troubled waters, while the film's visuals cast the narrative on the literal high seas. The band wanted to stage a live theatrical production with this voyage, keeping everything as practical as possible in order to capture as much as we could on camera. The on-stage performance was filmed over the course of a single stormy weekend thanks to the generosity of Marquette University's Helfaer Theatre. All of the cardboard sets are designed and crafted to appear as if they were handmade by a humble thespian troupe. Given their various functional elements, it took all hands on deck to get the set pieces moving. In addition to the puppeteering, stop-motion animation is utilized to aid and expand the scale of the on-stage antics, especially after the band is forced to disregard the advice they've been singing about. Every animated character was physically manipulated frame by frame to appear as if they were theatrical cut-out puppets interacting with the actors. The tangibility of these stop-motion visuals helped us maintain the illusion of a live production. From shark attacks to siren songs, Fuzzysurf stays the course through all of their seafaring escapades, delivering a maritime matinee that's a true whale of a tale.

Tommy Simms
Director, Fuzzysurf's "Don't Go Overboard"

*Fuzzysurf's "Don't Go Overboard" will be performed without an intermission.
No sea creatures were harmed in the making of this production.*

FUZZYSURF'S
**DON'T GO
OVERBOARD**

SIMWIG STUDIOS MMXXV

Set sail on a musical voyage filled with theatrics, thrills, and aquatic adventure!

Starring Fuzzysurf:

Captain.....Sean Lehner
First Mate.....Joe Ludwig
Second Mate.....Colin O'Day
Deckhand.....Corey Murphy

Directed by
Tommy Simms

Set and Props
Ann Vollrath

Stage Crew

Iris DeWeerdt Jon Henry Franki Ludwig
Sean McGibany Ann Vollrath Jill Westplate

Stop-Motion Animation
Tommy Simms

Original Score by
Fuzzysurf

Filmed on Location at
Marquette University's Helfaer Theatre

Special Thanks
Stephen Hudson-Mairet John Schneider
Kevin Simms Donna Simms Ray Vollrath





@fuzzysurfmusic

Fuzzysurf is a Milwaukee-based indie alternative rock band built on constant innovation, and a genuine love of engaging performances. Known for blending surfy and fuzzy textures with sharp-edged alternative songwriting, the band draws from a wide palette of influences - from '90s alt rock to offbeat pop. Formed in 2017, Fuzzysurf quickly made a name for themselves in the Milwaukee music scene, taking pride in representing the city with professionalism and enthusiasm. Their albums feature radio friendly songs like "Hometown Feeling," "Denny," "She Was Crying Sugar," "Surfana," and "Don't Go Overboard." The catchy hooks and witty lyrics explore themes of modern life, love, satire, and the occasional societal critique without taking anything too seriously. Fuzzysurf has been recognized with several honors, including a nomination for *Best Pop Rock Band* at the WAMI Awards as well as making it onto several *Best of the Year* lists for their albums, "Fuzzy & The Surfs," "Sweet Tooth," and "Chameleons." Their music has been featured in various media outlets such as The Shepherd Express, and Milwaukee Record to name a few, while their music videos have been screened at countless film festivals worldwide, receiving various awards including *Best Wisconsin Film* at the 2023 Milwaukee Short Film Festival and *Best Music Video* at the 2022 Cannes Shorts Film Festival. Tune in to hear the latest from Fuzzysurf and discover why they are one of the most exciting acts in indie rock today.



@simwigstudios

Simwig Studios is an independent film studio helmed by Tommy Simms and Joe Ludwig, specializing in narrative music videos and short films. From carefree dairymen to sugar-coated fantasies and kaiju chaos, Simwig's stories incorporate various filmmaking techniques. Stop-motion animation, puppetry, live action, and beyond! With an added boost from propmaster Ann Vollrath, Simwig Studios can be found frequently collaborating with the band Fuzzysurf. Their music videos include "Killing Time," "She Was Crying Sugar," "Sheep Shed," and "Sucky." These shorts have been featured in film festivals worldwide, and have achieved numerous honors including multiple *Best Music Video* awards from various European film festivals, and a few *Best Wisconsin Film* awards from Milwaukee's International Short Film Festival. Simwig's venture into the Western genre, Lovely Socialite's "Top Secret Jazz," won the 2024 *Ruth Buzzi Music Award* and was screened in Spain at the still-standing Spaghetti Western film set of "The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly." While Simwig Studios' projects tend to explore narratives that contain enough story to fill a feature film, the filmmakers never feel limited by what can be achieved within their allotted runtimes. With an eye for cinematic storytelling and a flair for hands-on visual effects, they're always expanding the scale of what they're able to accomplish. "Don't Go Overboard" continues this trend, as their largest production to date. Not even a kraken could stop this voyage. With the completion of this seafaring odyssey, who knows what filmmaking adventures lie beyond the horizon!

FILMMAKERS



TOMMY SIMMS

Director, Animator, Cinematography, Editing, Post Production
@TommysToons | Tommystoons.com

Tommy Simms is what he is and that's all what he is - an interdisciplinary artist and award-winning filmmaker, specializing in stop-motion animation. While pursuing his Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Tommy discovered that filmmaking combines his passions for a variety of art forms. Animation is his main focus, but his work also ventures into puppetry and live action. No matter the artistic style, the narratives of Tommy's films are executed with an animated approach. Capping off his time at UWM, Tommy single-handedly animated his senior stop-motion, "The Legend of Leatherface Larry," which earned the honor of being showcased at the 67th Festival de Cannes. His subsequent works have been featured in film festivals around the world, on PBS, in theatre productions, and even at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Tommy's work on the candy-coated animated short, "She Was Crying Sugar" granted him a *Best Director* award from Milwaukee's International Short Film Fest, and won *Best Mixed Media* at the Los Angeles Animation Festival, among other notable accolades. In addition to filmmaking, Tommy shares his creative knowledge with aspiring artists. For years, he taught puppetry and stop-motion courses online and at art camps across the nation alongside public television's Emmy Award-winning cartoonist, Mark Kistler. Now a frequent collaborator with the indie rock band, Fuzzysurf, and one half of the storytelling duo at Simwig Studios, Tommy's animated adventures continue with the production of independent films and music videos.



ANN VOLLRATH

Set Design, Props, Graphic Design, Post Production
annvollrath.com

Ann Vollrath is a designer and maker who loves turning ideas into something you can feel. Her background includes a BFA in technical theatre and a BA in art. With a fellowship at Berkeley Rep in her repertoire, Ann returned to Milwaukee to pursue freelance design. She has since worked with a few Milwaukee-based theatres, designed logos, murals, merchandise, and advertisements, and built a few delightfully weird props along the way. Frequently collaborating on projects with Fuzzysurf and Simwig Studios has allowed her to continue crafting creations with a tactile, story-driven edge - where color, texture, and curiosity take the lead. When Sean Lehner approached the team about visualizing Fuzzysurf's "Don't Go Overboard" as a stage production, Ann was thrilled to get back to her theatrical roots. She designed and built all of the set pieces out of cardboard in order to give the performance an overall handcrafted feeling. Transforming her dining room into a temporary studio, she constructed Fuzzysurf's boat in multiple pieces in order for it to easily come apart as needed. The boat ended up being so large that it took up the entire length of the workspace. Stepladders had to be placed over the boat's walls in order to maneuver from room to room. Because of the boat's size, the first time it was fully assembled was the day it was installed in the theatre. Everything fit together perfectly. With all the set pieces functioning flawlessly, the illusion of being immersed into this seafaring adventure took hold. Ann likes to create design with a little magic in it.

CAST



SEAN LEHNER
*Fuzzysurf Singer / Guitar
Captain of The S.S. Alamander*

Sean Lehner is the singer and guitarist behind Fuzzysurf, whose songs balance melodic hooks with wit, tension, and emotional undercurrents. Sean also extends that same creativity into Fuzzysurf's music videos, favoring striking imagery and narrative concepts to craft their creations. The initial inspiration for "Don't Go Overboard" came when Sean was revisiting a childhood favorite with his daughter - the classic "20,000 Leagues Under The Sea." Working with longtime filmmaking collaborators, Tommy Simms and Joe Ludwig, Sean is always looking to do something new with their music videos. The choice to perform "Overboard" as a stage play was an intentional effort to force them to create physical props and scenery to enhance the visual storytelling. Sean recalls the wonder he felt seeing his nautical vision come to life on stage for the very first time. The cardboard set pieces came together perfectly and looked fantastic! Sean is always excited to produce new audio visual creations with meaning, thought, and innovation behind them. "Don't Go Overboard" isn't just a song they finished—it's a moment where everything clicks: the sound, the visuals, the identity of Fuzzysurf and Simwig Studios. It's a piece that represents the band and production at full strength and raises the bar for what is yet to come.



JOE LUDWIG
*Fuzzysurf Bassist
First Mate / Cinematography
@joefilmco*

Joe Ludwig plays bass in Fuzzysurf and is a filmmaker in Milwaukee alongside frequent collaborators Tommy Simms and Ann Vollrath, and represents one-half of Simwig Studios' namesake. Before joining the band in 2024, Joe helped create various Fuzzysurf music videos, starting with 2019's "Denny." Reflecting on "Don't Go Overboard," Joe thinks it's amazing to see how far this filmmaking unit has come since "Denny." This was their largest project to date, and he notes it wouldn't have been possible without Tommy and Ann steering the production ship. Their design and construction of the set and props really made everything seaworthy. The shoot itself was a marathon, and at the end of our first day of filming, a record-setting rainfall hit Milwaukee that may have flooded some basements of the cast and crew. The theatre's scene shop even took on some water. Mother Nature was just getting into character by bringing the stormy seas to us.

CAST



COLIN O'DAY
*Fuzzysurf Drums
Second Mate*

Colin plays drums in Fuzzysurf, and when he's not with the fuzzy broskis, he can be found drinking fizzy brewskis. Happy to be involved with Fuzzysurf's first stage production, Colin loves the way this maritime world feels alive and vibrant with its many colors. Especially the red and yellow and green and brown and scarlet and black and ochre and peach and ruby and olive and violet and fawn and lilac and gold and chocolate and mauve and cream and crimson and silver and rose and azure and lemon and russet and grey and purple and white and pink and orange and blue. In addition to performing with Fuzzysurf, Colin spends time sharing his talent with various orchestras across the Midwest. Living his dream, Colin encourages you to follow your own. Any dream. Any dream will do.



COREY MURPHY
*Fuzzysurf Keys
Deckhand*

Corey Murphy plays keys for Fuzzysurf. An expert at tickling the ivories of up to three keyboards at once, he is a multi-time Grammy viewer with a staggering zero nominations to his name. Unburdened by formal acting training or the guidance of masters, Corey has carved out a niche for himself through an impressively static stage presence and a total lack of vocal inflection. Pantomiming his way through troubled waters, Corey kept Fuzzysurf's "Overboard" ship afloat. A true filmmaking trooper through and through. He remains a trailblazer for those who wish to step in front of a camera with nothing but a dream and a complete lack of shame.



"Don't Go Overboard" featured on Fuzzysurf's **"CHAMELEONS"**

Album available on Bubbler Records

After a period of creative hibernation, Sean Lehner presented a vast assortment of new songs to the band. It was clear that they marked a departure from Fuzzysurf's previous work. The structures and styles varied widely. The instrumentation expanded. The lyrics were more reflective. These songs threw everything at the wall. But the question the band had was how would so many seemingly disparate pieces all fit together? That's where "Chameleons" comes in. The inspirational lizard, able to change appearance when its surroundings necessitated, provided Fuzzysurf with a clear direction and vision for this project. They decided to undertake a double album, becoming the chameleons that adapted to these ambitious endeavors. The recording sessions pushed the band to their creative and technical limits, incorporating a wide array of sounds beyond their usual instruments. Despite the challenges, the sessions resulted in a rich and diverse collection of 20 tracks. Fuzzysurf's journey to record "Chameleons" is a testament to their dedication, creativity, and willingness to push boundaries. As they share this ambitious double album with the world, the band looks forward to the next chapter in their musical evolution.

Experience all the
Fuzzysurf & Simwig Studios
music video collaborations at
[youtube.com/@fuzzysurfmusic](https://www.youtube.com/@fuzzysurfmusic)

For everything fuzzy, surf the web at

fuzzysurf.com

Follow the filmmaking journey

[@dontgooverboardfilm](https://www.instagram.com/dontgooverboardfilm)

