

## = The Naked Brothers Band : The Movie =

The Naked Brothers Band is a 2005 American musical comedy film written and directed by Polly Draper which stars her sons , Nat Wolff and Alex Wolff , who portray members of a fictional rock group . It tells of the boys ' struggles with their fame and an internal dispute that causes the band to split before reuniting in the end . The film was emboldened by Nat 's genuine band , The Silver Boulders , which he created in preschool with his friends who all portray themselves alongside Nat 's faux female interest , the siblings ' real life cousin as the babysitter , and their real life father as their inept accordion @-@ playing dad .

Draper shot the film in the style of a mockumentary ? a parody in documentary format ? that depicts the daily activities of the characters . Nat composed and performed the music , though one song had been written by Alex . Principal photography took place in mid @-@ 2004 on location in New York City , and the interior scenes were vastly filmed in the family 's Manhattan apartment . Draper 's brother , Tim , a venture capitalist , provided financial incentives for the shoot .

In late 2005 , Polly Draper , star of Thirtysomething , and her jazz musician husband Michael Wolff , entered the film in the Hamptons International Film Festival , where it won the audience award for a family feature film . Albie Hecht , former Nickelodeon president and founder of Spike TV , was in the audience and commissioned the movie , in affiliation with his Worldwide Biggies label . It became the pilot for the potential Nickelodeon show of the same name , airing in the United States on January 27 , 2007 . The series was created and produced by Draper and premiered in February 2007 , to the channel 's highest ratings in seven years for viewers in the 6 ? 11 age group .

## = = Plot = =

The film begins with an introduction to the documentary from the boys . Nat and Alex Wolff , aged nine and six respectively , are members of the fictional band The Silver Boulders which also consists of Thomas , David , Josh , and their manager Cooper . The band found success after a music executive ( John B. Williams ) signed them to his label , Who 's the Man Records . The band performs their new song " Motormouth " at a concert in the Hammerstein Ballroom . After the show , the band members describe how their group started and a clip from their music video " Crazy Car " is shown .

The bandmates get along well until Thomas composes the song " Boys Rule , Girls Drool " , which Nat dislikes . Nat writes a song called " Rosalina " that is about Josh 's elder half @-@ sister . Thomas and Josh ridicule Nat because the song shows his feelings for her . Moreover , Josh composes another song that Nat also dislikes , titled " I 'm the God of Rock and Roll " , set to the tune of " Twinkle , Twinkle , Little Star " . The band has a food fight in a restaurant , prompting Thomas , David , and Josh to leave and form a new group , The Gold Boulders , managed by the scornful Mort Needleman ( Jonathan Pillot ) .

After watching media reports of the band 's split on television , Nat and Alex go into a state of depression . Alex begins to binge on lemon @-@ lime soda and falls asleep , while he lies curled in the midst of aluminum cans . Nat simultaneously writes a song by the piano titled " If There Was a Place to Hide " as the band 's fans gather outside his apartment , pleading for them to reunite . Despite the absence of the formers , Alex persuades a reluctant Nat to revive the band , and subsequently , they change the band 's title to its original , The Naked Brothers Band . Through a line @-@ up of auditions , Nat , Alex , and Cooper select Rosalina as their cellist and Cole Hawkins ? a member of the original Naked Brothers Band ? as the guitarist .

The newly established band embark on a tour to Chicago , though Nat discovers that The Gold Boulders is their opening act . The Gold Boulders start the show with " Boys Rule , Girls Drool " and are immediately booed off the stage . After their performance , The Naked Brothers Band perform " Hardcore Wrestlers ( with Inner Feelings ) " and " Rosalina " , which are greeted with a loud applause from the audience . After the concert , Nat hosts a party for the band in his apartment . In the midst of the party , David , Thomas , and Josh arrive at his front door , asking to join the reconstructed band . Forgivingly , a surprised Nat welcomes them to join the celebration . The film

concludes with the outfit performing " Crazy Car " on the roof of the Wolffs ' apartment while fireworks detonate in the background .

= = Characters = =

Adults over the age of 18 are nonsensical , and therefore , the children are responsible for undertaking challenging circumstances . Nat is the lead singer @-@ songwriter and keyboardist , while his younger brother Alex is the flamboyant drummer . Alex invented a distinctive outfit : a red , white , and blue do @-@ rag with socks tied around his ankles . He has a crush on the band 's nanny and tutor , the 19 @-@ year @-@ old Jesse Cook ( Jesse Draper ) . Nat is called " The Girl Magnet " and tends to speak with an English accent in front of 11 @-@ year @-@ old Rosalina ( Allie DiMeco ) . The group also features Nat 's preschool friends ? David ( David Levi ) as the keyboardist , Thomas ( Thomas Batuello ) as the cellist , Josh ( Joshua Kaye ) as the guitarist ? and Cooper ( Cooper Pillot ) is the band 's manager . The brothers ' father ( Michael Wolff ) is an inept accordionist .

Principal Schmoke ( Tim Draper ) leads Amigo Elementary School . The Timmerman Brothers is a band consisting of brothers Donnie ( Adam Draper ) , Johnny ( Coulter Mulligan ) , and Billy ( Billy Draper ) . They had a hit single titled " Splishy Splashy Soap Bubble " , but their careers ended when their voices changed during puberty . Music critic ( Barbara eda @-@ Young ) describes The Silver Boulders ' music as " nostalgic " . The romantic couple ( James Badge @-@ Dale and Gretchen Egolf ) recall the group performing " Crazy Car " at their wedding ceremony .

= = Production = =

= = = Development = = =

Through their father , Nat and Alex were exposed to music from birth . As a four @-@ year @-@ old , Nat showed musical gifts that astounded his father . He easily taught himself piano chords , which he called " ' my proud chords ' " . As a five @-@ year @-@ old , he began to compose songs after listening to music by The Beatles and Alex began playing the saxophone when he was two . Nat and his brother once shouted , " We 're the naked brothers band ! " after having a bath , which inspired the name of the movie . As a pre @-@ schooler , Nat and his friends formed a band called The Silver Boulders .

Following the September 11 terrorist attacks , Nat wrote a song titled " Firefighters " when he was six years old , which he performed with his band for charity . The benefit concert was staged behind his family 's apartment and raised over US \$ 45 @,@ 000 , which was donated to the children of the personnel from New York City Fire Department 's Squad 18 who were killed as a result of the attacks . After the successful concert , the band began to perform at gay and lesbian Christmas celebrations , one @-@ year @-@ old birthday parties , and restaurants . Then Alex , emboldened by Ringo Starr , chose to play drums in the band .

After the break @-@ up of The Silver Boulders , the siblings decided to revive The Naked Brothers Band . Draper did not want her children to be actors ; she explained , " Nat kept putting signs on his door : ' I want to be a child actor ! ' I said , ' No , it 's too brutal . ' " However , Nat wrote and directed a sitcom called Don 't Eat Off My Plate , which Draper presented in documentary style by interviewing his friends .

Michael Wolff set up a recording session in the music studio along with Nat , Alex , and himself . Draper was impressed by the recording and contemplated making a mockumentary about the band , presenting the boys as music icons akin to The Beatles . In a TV Guide interview in early 2007 , Draper explained , " What originally happened was that Nat and Alex had a band , and the idea evolved based on that . Spinal Tap meets The Little Rascals was my concept ... I wanted to have that Help ! or A Hard Day 's Night kind of feeling . "

### === Filming ===

The film was originally intended as an extended family project , and was shot over five weeks in mid @-@ 2004 for less than US \$ 1 million . Filming took place on location in New York City ? where , according to Draper , the crew " would sneak into locations and run " ? and at the Draper @-@ Wolff family apartment in Manhattan . Draper wrote and directed the film , which was produced by Ken H. Keller , Caron Rudner , Jonathan Pillot , Michael Wolff and Draper herself . The film was co @-@ produced by Fotene Trigonis and edited by Craig Cobb , who also served as the associate producer . The executive producers were Draper , Wolff , and Draper 's brother , Tim , who oversaw the budget . Keller used a color framing , high @-@ definition video camera . Rudner served as the line producer , while John M. Davis was the music editor . Rick Butler served as the production designer , Frederick Howard was the supervising sound editor , and Deb Temco oversaw the casting . Moreover , David Levi 's father , Robert , provided footage of the real @-@ life preschool band 's daily antics ; they sang and played instruments in the Wolffs ' apartment , and Nat wrote the music .

When Polly Draper told her friend Julianne Moore and her husband , writer and director Bart Freundlich , about the film , Freundlich responded , " Julia would love to be in your movie . " Moore changed her schedule at late notice to participate in filming , and Draper wrote Moore 's scene as it was being filmed ; Draper quickly created a set that depicted the backstage green room of the talk show , Late Night with Conan O 'Brien . Moore and Nat filmed the scene in one take , and Draper was impressed with her son 's performance , while saying that Moore 's presence added credibility to the project .

### === Casting ===

Most of the cast were friends or relatives of the Draper @-@ Wolff clan . Tim Draper is Polly 's brother and John B. Williams is the cellist for Michael Wolff 's band Impure Thoughts . Barbara eda @-@ Young , James Badge @-@ Dale , Gretchen Egolf , and Cooper Pillot had previously performed with Draper in her playwriting Getting Into Heaven in 2003 . Jesse Draper is Tim 's daughter and thus Polly 's niece , and Nat and Alex 's cousin . Billy and Adam Draper are Tim 's sons , and Coulter Mulligan is Jesse 's cousin and Polly 's nephew .

Many of Wolff and Draper 's show business friends appeared in the film . Wolff had been the music director for jazz singer Nancy Wilson and she introduced him to Arsenio Hall , who later chose Wolff as the bandleader of his talk show . Tony Shalhoub portrayed Phil in Draper 's screenwriting debut The Tic Code , which was emboldened by Wolff 's difficulties with Tourette syndrome as well as his exploits as a jazz pianist . Draper guest starred in the first season of Shalhoub 's hit sitcom Monk . Other guest stars in the movie include Cyndi Lauper , David Thornton , Brent Popolizio , Cindy Blackman , and Ricki Lake . In addition , Draper had also made a cameo alongside her Thirtysomething co @-@ stars Tim Busfield , Mel Harris , Peter Horton , Melanie Mayron , Ken Olin , and Patricia Wettig .

David Levi , Thomas Batuello , and Joshua Kaye were preschool friends of Nat . Moore 's son , Cal , has been a classmate of Alex since preschool , while Uma Thurman 's daughter was also a preschool friend of Alex . Ann Curry 's son Walker , an original member of The Silver Boulders , was Nat 's friend in preschool . Cole Hawkins , an actor who also starred as Leonard in the 2003 musical comedy film School of Rock , had no previous involvement with the band . The actress Allie DiMeco was also not a member of the group ; she auditioned for her role .

### === Music ===

Nat wrote most of the songs performed in the film . As a six @-@ year @-@ old , he composed a melody without lyrics , which he later used as the basis for the bubblegum pop piece " Crazy Car " . The song was meant to emulate the music of The Beach Boys . " Firefighters " , the song written by Nat for a local 9 / 11 fundraiser , was later retitled to " Rosalina " for the movie . Nat wrote " Motormouth " while he was angry at Alex . Another song , " That 's How It Is " , was written by Alex

after an unsuccessful dating attempt with a teenager ten years his senior . Additional songs Nat performed in the film include " Got No Mojo " , " Hardcore Wrestlers ( with Inner Feelings ) " , " I Need You " , " Sorry Girl " , and " If There Was a Place to Hide " .

Michael Wolff contributed the underscore and produced the music with Michael A. Levine . In the film , Wolff performed the songs " Rathskeller Polka " , " Rathskeller Waltz " , " Naked Party Polka " , and " Naked Tango " . He played the underscore for " Shakey Shakey " ( lyrics by Alex ) , and " Boys Rule , Girls Drool " and " Splishy Splashy ( Timmerman Song ) " , both written by Draper . The elder Wolff was once the musical director for jazz artist Nancy Wilson ; in the movie , Wilson sang a rendition of the song " Crazy Car " .

= = Releases and debuts = =

= = = Television spin @-@ off = = =

According to Michael Wolff , the family made the film without expecting a television series spin @-@ off . Their agent believed the film would be lucrative and market research showed a positive reaction with a young audience . After the film was shown at the Hamptons International Film Festival , Nickelodeon bought it . Moreover , " Albie Hecht had an independent production deal with Nickelodeon " and believed the film suited the network and that a television show was feasible . Draper and Wolff did not want their children in show business at such a young age but agreed when Hecht 's agent promised to work within the boy 's schedule , so that they would not miss school . This meant a summer shooting schedule in New York and short , 13 @-@ episode seasons . Nonetheless , after three seasons , despite the extremely high ratings , network executives urged the family to lengthen the 13 episode season to 60 . Draper and Wolff refused , and as a result , the series was cancelled without any public announcement made by the network .

Tom Ashiem , the executive vice president and general manager of Nickelodeon explained , " At first , we were intrigued by the idea , but we weren 't sure kids would get the vague tongue @-@ and @-@ cheek @-@ of @-@ it . Then a bunch of us took it home to our own children and they loved it . " The Naked Brothers Band television series ran from 2007 to 2009 . Draper was the creator , head writer , executive producer , and director , while Hecht was the other executive producer and his production company Worldwide Biggies produced the series . Later , made @-@ for @-@ TV movies were created and aired as the series continued ? a total of eight have been screened on Nickelodeon . The latter films often consisted of an extended , two @-@ part episode ? Nickelodeon usually uses the " movie " definition for these hour @-@ long episodes ? and were usually broadcast as part of a holiday event or on weekends .

= = = International debuts = = =

The film aired worldwide , debuting in the Uniin Canada on September 10 , 2007 on YTV and in Germany on October 20 , 2007 . The film received a Region 1 DVD release on April 3 , 2007 through Nickelodeon and Paramount Home Entertainment .

= = Reception = =

The film won the audience award for a family feature film at the Hamptons International Film Festival in 2005 . It also received a nomination at the Young Artist Awards in 2008 for Best Television Movie or Special . When it premiered on the network , it was seen by an average of 2 @. @ 7 million viewers . The movie was also broadcast four times , producing a total viewership of 14 million ; it was placed on the top 10 spot of Nielsen VideoScan children 's non @-@ theatrical DVD charts . The song " Crazy Car " was downloaded more than 100 @, @ 000 times on iTunes ; and it peaked at number eighty @-@ three on the Billboard Hot 100 for one week and the track was featured on the Nickelodeon 's Kids ' Choice , Vol 3 .

Ronnie Sheib , of Variety , wrote : " Convincingly faithful to kids ' rhythms and speech patterns , and featuring several catchy if one @-@ chorus numbers , this bouncy , feel @-@ good kidpic , with targeted release strategy , could rock peers and parents alike . " Felicia R. Lee from The New York Times called the film " an ebullient mock documentary " . Tami Horiuchi of Amazon.com said that this " funny spoof of the Hollywood rockumentary genre is so over @-@ done that some viewers might find it distasteful , offensive , and / or inappropriate for children " and recommended an age group between the ages of 9 and 13 .