

*Greetings from*

A Film by Joselito Seldera

# SCREW CITY

*Illinois*

A young woman with blonde, curly hair is playing a red electric guitar on a stage. She is wearing a black tank top and fishnet stockings. A microphone on a stand is positioned to her left. In the background, there are stage lights in various colors (red, blue, purple, green) and a Marshall amplifier is visible in the lower right corner. A semi-transparent dark blue box with white text is overlaid on the center of the image.

**SCREW CITY:** a feature film about Janie Turner, a teenager trying to escape her potentially unfulfilling life through her punk rock band.



## ROCKFORD FUCKING ILLINOIS

“For many people, Rockford, Illinois remains merely a rest stop on a flat toll road stretching from Chicago to Madison, Wisconsin. For others, it is the home of porn queen Ginger Lynn, soaring FM rockers Cheap Trick, and the fast food joint Beef-A-Roo...it has also spawned a history of locals going against the grain, including a bevy of young people trying to fulfill the promise of punk to build an underground, do-it-yourself community..

Writing about this city is like peeling back a second skin. On the surface of the city in the 1980s, one might see family-time vistas overflowing with churches, bake sales galore, and energetic youth sports leagues...yet, beneath that cosmic sheen, most of it enabled by local machine tool manufacturers, existed a mess-heap of history ready to implode – a place of inequality, dissent, rancor, and frustration – which rose to the surface as the Cold War began to wind down, foreign competition for contracts kicked into high gear, and long-term salaried jobs began drying up.

Rockford was not just another bummed out Midwest town; it became one of the worst, replete with a withering economy and a moral austerity as well. Asking for help was no more than panhandling; one was supposed to be stoic, pull your life up by the bootstraps, even if those straps were haplessly frayed.

So, some eagerly glommed onto punk’s sense of caustic rebellion with a cause. They wanted to reshape and retool their lives, if only for the duration of a song in which they could screech until their throats were scorched.”

– OUT OF THE BASEMENT by David A. Ensminger

# THE STORY

The summer after graduating high school, JANIE still has no desire other than to play punk rock. Problem is, her bandmates (and best friends) are moving away, and Janie tries to do everything she can to keep them together so they can face what life hurls at them together. When an opportunity to tour arises, Janie finds a chance that can not only make her music dreams come true, but keep her band – and her friends – together.

But when Janie befriends disillusioned high school guidance counselor KATE at a show, the two find in each other someone they can actually confide in, be vulnerable with. Despite the age gap, they share the same loves, fears, and anxieties, and learn that the most rebellious, punk rock thing they can do is to take a chance and face those fears alone if they have to.

# CHARACTERS





## JANIE TURNER

Born and raised in Rockford, Janie is just out of high school. Resolute in not ending up working some line job and being stuck in town, she feels the pressure more than ever to make it with her band, Stick Figure, and to get the Hell out of town. Her mother having recently passed away, her older brother, Larry, has come back home to live with her and their father, and is constantly on her case to wake up, get a job, and pull her weight. When she meets 40 year old Kate at a show, Janie sees a future she fears, but also finds a friend in which together, they can learn to move through life on their terms.

## KATE STENZEL

Raised in the Northern suburbs of Chicago where country club dinners and outings to Neiman Marcus were the norm, Kate rebelled and found her place in the city's punk scene. Today, she is at a crossroads in her life: she feels she's an ineffectual guidance counselor, her parents still treat her like she's twelve, she's sick of seeing the same Goddamn people at the same Goddamn shows, and she's weeks away from getting married to her fiancé, Darren. She feels it's the right thing to do, but still finds herself resistant to the things marriage has to offer...and the things it will take away. When she meets 19 year-old Janie at a show, she sees her younger self in her, and tries to quietly guide her into not making the same mistakes she did.



# THE MUSIC

Partially through our partnership with Downwrite – a music publishing platform created by artists for artists to bring value back to songwriting – we already have some killer bands and artists locked in and ready to rock, and this is just the start:







**Josh Caterer**

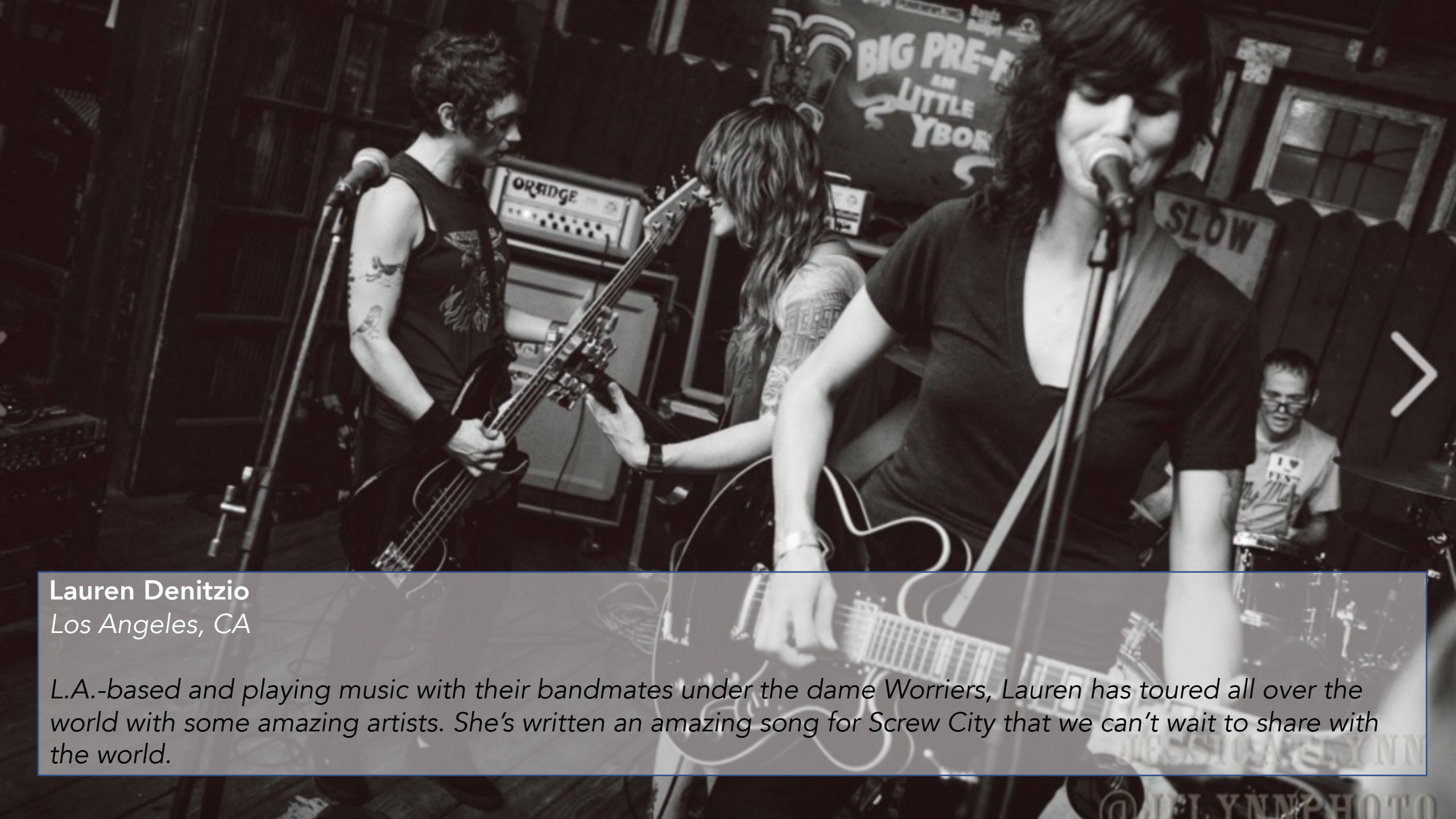
*Chicago, Illinois*

*Best known as the lead singer, lead guitarist, and principal songwriter of pop-punk band Smoking Popes, which he founded in 1991 with his older brother Matt and younger brother Eli, Josh wrote Never Gonna Break, the pivotal song for Screw City.*



**Mono in Stereo**  
*Rockford, Illinois*

*From the ashes of long time Pop Punk stalwarts Mulligan Stu comes Mono In Stereo. With an honest approach and eclectic influences, MIS take a no holds barred approach to their song craft. From Springsteen to Mould, Earle to Costello, MIS merge a variety of divergent musical interests into their own special blend of Midwest Punk.*



**Lauren Denitzio**  
*Los Angeles, CA*

*L.A.-based and playing music with their bandmates under the name Worriers, Lauren has toured all over the world with some amazing artists. She's written an amazing song for Screw City that we can't wait to share with the world.*



**Naked Raygun**  
*Chicago, Illinois*

*If you don't know them already, then get on it, asap. Raygun's been an influence on just about everyone, from YOUR punk rock band to Dave Grohl. LEGENDS.*

# The Team





***Joselito Seldera: Writer, Director, Producer***

Joselito films have been featured on TV, online, and in film festivals across the world. His recent directing work includes the feature film **END OF FALL** (2015), the short films **HEY** (2016 - featured on HelloGiggles.com), **NO LOVE SONG** (2013 - starring Rosanna Arquette), **UNSETTLED** (2012), and the short documentary **LINES** (2011). Joselito is currently in post-production for the feature **THAT ONE GIRL**, and in the development/financing stages of several other projects.

Joselito received his MFA in film production from the University of Southern California, an MFA in Creative Writing from Emerson College in Boston, and a BA in English from Illinois Wesleyan University. He also studied sketch comedy writing and improv at Second City Chicago and I.O. He is an Adjunct Associate Professor at USC's school of Cinematic Arts.



***Chris Pratola: Producer***

Chris boasts over 9 years of production experience in almost every area of the business. Chris studied Business at Arizona State University, which provided the backbone that propelled him to the University of Southern California. He honed his skills as a producer in the Graduate Film Production program while interning with companies such as Sander/Moses Productions and Sony Pictures.

Chris's work has been featured in numerous festivals, including the Vail Film Festival, Philadelphia Independent Film Festival, L.A Comedy Fest, Sundance Film Festival, as well as featured on the Documentary Channel for producing Joselito Seldera's documentary short "Lines."



### ***Adam Goral: Cinematographer***

Adam is an intrepid cinematographer working in Los Angeles. While earning his B.A. from Georgetown University in Washington D.C., he was the Station Manager at the university television station, GUTV which ignited his passion for filmmaking. This led him to Los Angeles and the USC's School of Cinematic Arts where he earned an M.F.A. in Cinematography. Having worked in almost every department on set, Adam fully believes in the power of collaboration and brings an open mind to each project he joins. Never one to be idle, when he is not on set Adam can be found practicing Shaolin Kung Fu in his backyard or chasing his dogs around.



### ***Billy Maynard: Music Supervisor and Original Music***

A Rockford corridor local, Billy is the main inspiration behind SCREW CITY. Deeply entrenched in the Rockford-Beloit-Madison punk rock scene since the early nineties, Billy was part of it all with his band MULLIGAN STU, and, more recently, with MONO IN STEREO, a local supergroup comprised of members of MULLIGAN STU and THE SHAKES.

Currently a recording engineer, nobody has their finger on the pulse of the Rockford corridor punk rock scene better than Billy. He is our connection to the up-and-coming bands, the kids, the venues, and, more importantly, has lived through the scene's heyday and its death throes. He is also well connected in the Chicago scene, where a number of scenes in SCREW CITY take place. We are lucky to have Billy on board to help us bring this movie to life.