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## **“NOT BLACK, NOT WHITE, NOT FOREIGN—JUST DIFFERENT IN THE MIND”: ZEITGEIST BOWS ACCLAIMED COMING-OF-AGE DOCUMENTARY “BILLY THE KID” ON DVD**

New York (August 12, 2008) — After wowing audiences at festivals (awards include **Best Documentary prizes at the SXSW and LA Film Festivals**) as well as a U.S. theatrical run, Jennifer Venditti’s hard-rocking, heartbreaking documentary of outsider adolescence, **BILLY THE KID**, comes to DVD on October 28, 2008.

Venditti’s acclaimed debut is a provocative coming-of-age tale—an odyssey into the soul of an American teenager. It tells the story of Billy, an articulate but isolated fifteen-year-old boy trying to figure out life and death, first love and rock ‘n’ roll. One of the most unique teens in film history, Billy wanders through the quiet streets of small-town Maine, trying to traverse the frustrating gap between imagination and reality. By turns exhilarating and affecting, **BILLY THE KID** captures an intimate view of an expressive and seemingly fearless outsider.

With a killer soundtrack comprised of classic hits by **KISS** (Billy’s favorite band) and a collection of hot indie acts including **The Virgins** (frontman Donald Cumming is the director of photography), **BILLY THE KID** is a hauntingly real and lovingly made portrait of a hero. It’s impossible to watch Billy wade his way through the murky waters of adolescence and not swell with remembrance, nor resist envying him for his exquisite confidence in the face of it all.

The DVD edition of **BILLY THE KID** boasts an exclusive, **feature-length audio commentary by Oscar-nominated actor Ryan Gosling** (*Half Nelson*, *The Notebook*) with director Venditti. The disc is packaged in a stunning foil-stamped O-card, and features an 8-page booklet with a **new essay by filmmaker/artist Miranda July** (*Me and You and Everyone We Know*) and commentary by *Look Me in the Eye: My Life with Asperger’s* author **John Elder Robison** (brother of *Running with Scissors* memoirist Augusten Burroughs).

This disc also features a new anamorphic master, enhanced for widescreen TVs; optional English subtitles for the deaf and hearing impaired; “Pieces That Don’t Fit” (2008), a **new short film by Venditti**; a video interview with Venditti; audio gallery with soundtrack selections from the film including the **exclusive Virgins’ track** “Fight to Survive” + bonus songs by Lissy Trullie, and composers Christian Zucconi and Guy Blakeslee (The Entrance Band); and the U.S. theatrical trailer.

**BILLY THE KID Film/DVD info:** 2007 • 85 minutes • USA • Color • In English • 1.85:1 original theatrical aspect ratio • Not Rated • Cat. No. Z1110 • UPC 795975111034 • SRP \$29.99

Celebrating its 20th Anniversary as one of America’s preeminent independent distributors, New York-based Zeitgeist Films has built an impressively diverse catalogue of foreign, documentary and arthouse titles by such renowned directors as Todd Haynes, Jan Svankmajer, Peter Greenaway, Abbas Kiarostami, Guy Maddin, Kirby Dick, Atom Egoyan, Agnès Varda, François Ozon, Derek Jarman, Yvonne Rainer, Olivier Assayas, Philippe Garrel and the Quay Brothers. Recent releases include Oscar winner *Nowhere in Africa*; blockbuster doc *The Corporation*; dance doc hit *Ballets Russes*; Oscar nominee *Sophie Scholl—The Final Days*; Oscar nominee *My Country, My Country*; Sundance winner *Into Great Silence*; Caméra d’Or winner *Jellyfish*; and 2008 Golden Gate Award winner *Up the Yangtze*. Launched in 2001, Zeitgeist Video has released dozens of highly praised DVDs, including the recently-released remastered Two-Disc Collector’s Edition of Quay Brothers shorts, entitled PHANTOM MUSEUMS; and a Four-Disc Box Set of Derek Jarman masterworks entitled GLITTERBOX, starring Oscar Winner Tilda Swinton (*Michael Clayton*).



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## CRITICAL ACCLAIM FOR *BILLY THE KID*

“★★★★★! The film floods with a dignity that will have you both rooting for him and recognizing your own nervous first dates. Do not miss this.” — *Time Out New York*

“The best antidote to *Juno*... Watching Billy try to orient himself in a world that makes no sense makes you wonder how any of us ever did.” — David Edelstein, *New York Magazine*

“Many memorable dramatic films about adolescence have been made over the decades, but few of them can match the impact of *Billy the Kid*, a striking, heartfelt documentary that deserves to have a long shelf life.”  
— Stephen Farber, *The Hollywood Reporter*

“Charming, moving and utterly involving, Venditti’s film showcases her singular talent for not only finding exceptional people but allowing them to reveal themselves completely on screen.” — *Filmmaker Magazine*

“The transcendent empathy of *Billy the Kid* leaves almost every other documentary on the block behind.”  
— *Slant Magazine*

“Remarkable.... Utterly original!” — *The Village Voice*

“Presenting neither an argument for medication nor its rejection, *Billy the Kid* is a deceptively simple portrait of a shockingly self-aware and articulate young man.” — *The New York Times* (Critics’ Pick)

“Genuinely haunting.... *Billy the Kid* refreshingly reminds us what a big, fat lie most depictions of teenagers are in American movies and TV.” — Ty Burr, *Boston Globe*

“Riveting...a movie about adolescence unlike any other; an intimate portrait of a singular personality in the making and a stark look at our culture of suspicion and conformity.” — *Los Angeles Times*

“★★★★★! Truly something special.... Extraordinary.... Billy emerges as someone truly unique and someone who we feel privileged to know.” — *TV Guide*

“[A] near-perfect directorial debut.” — *Austin Chronicle*

“I don’t imagine any adult could watch *Billy the Kid* without sharp pangs of recognition; everyone who passes through the crucible of teenage-ness feels at least momentarily as awkward as Billy, and endures the same painful struggle for love and acceptance.” — Andrew O’Hehir, *Salon.com*

“As quietly inspiring as it is genuinely heartbreaking, *Billy the Kid* is an act of passionate empathy.”  
— *Toronto Star*

“★★★★★! A deceptively simple slice of life that will resonate in the soul of everyone who miraculously survived adolescence.” — *Minneapolis Star Tribune*