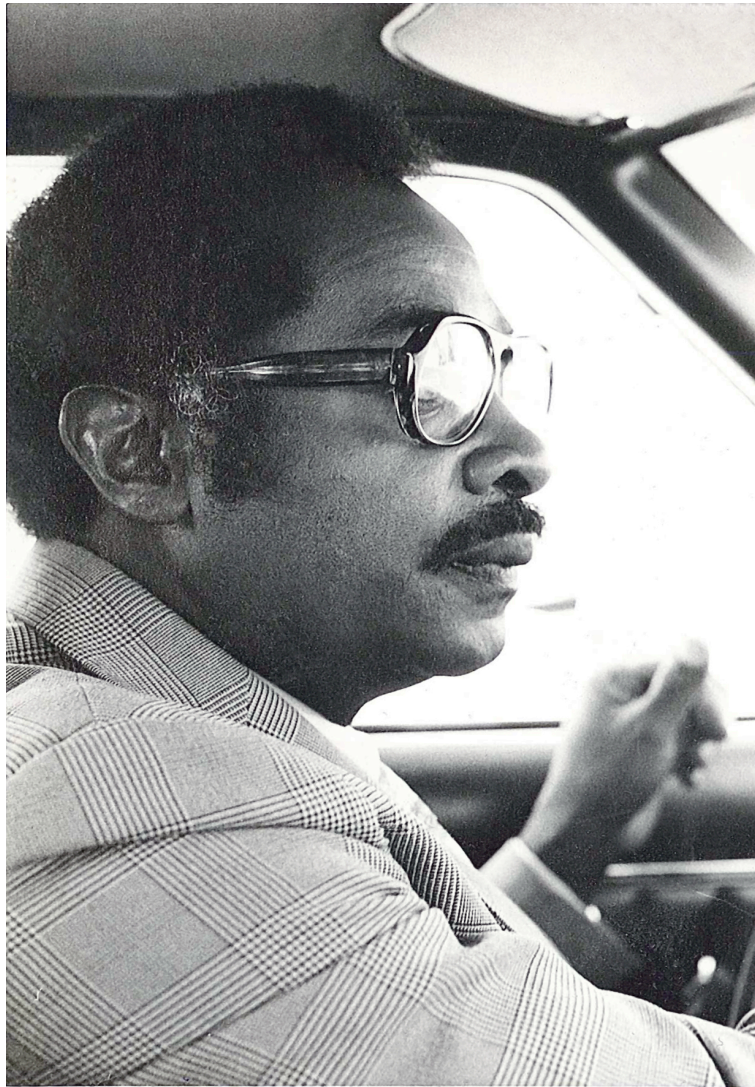


EYESTEELFILM

Presents

DEPROGRAMMED



A film by **Mia Donovan**
84' | Canada | 2015 | HD

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Deprogrammed is a feature-documentary about the rise of Ted 'Black Lightning' Patrick's deprogramming technique and anti-cult crusade. Deprogramming, as a form of cult intervention, started in 1971 and quickly snowballed into a vast underground movement composed of concerned parents, ex-cultist-turned-deprogrammers and some sympathetic law-enforcers whose mission was to physically and mentally remove individuals from groups referred to as 'cults'. Inspired by her stepbrother's deprogramming by Patrick in 1991, Mia Donovan meets the infamous 'Father of Deprogramming' himself and begins to unravel his notorious legacy.

DETAILED SYNOPSIS

Deprogrammed chronicles Ted Patrick's controversial deprogramming career. The practice of 'deprogramming', also known as 'reverse brainwashing', started in 1971 and quickly snowballed into a vast underground movement composed of concerned parents, ex-cultist-turned-deprogrammers and some sympathetic law-enforcers whose mission was to physically and mentally remove individuals from 'cults'.

My stepbrother Matthew's love of heavy-metal-music, juvenile delinquent tendencies and fixation on the *Satanic Bible* led his father to hire Patrick to abduct and deprogram Matthew while confining him to a motel room for 8 days. In 2011, after 18 years of estrangement, I sought Matthew out and discovered that he continues to suffer from post-traumatic-stress disorder as a result of that deprogramming. This led me to a deeper inquiry into Ted Patrick's methods, resulting in a 2 year journey to track down others who'd been deprogrammed. Through interviews and the never-before-seen archives of the actual deprogrammings of those individuals, the film will begin to unravel what it might mean to be in a high-control group under a form of 'thought-control', the line where free will begins to blur and eventually fades away.

Ted Patrick started documenting his cases during the late 1970s. What these tapes reveal are complex issues that faced a generation of idealistic young people who came of age during the 1960s and 1970s. Many of these alleged 'cultists' witnessed such civil unrest such as the civil rights riots and atrocities related to Vietnam and many were exposed to psychedelic drugs as well as an influx of Eastern philosophy and religions. As it progresses the film will start to unravel the 'cult menace' as a symptom of something bigger and more complex than the 'black and white' or 'us versus them mentality' that the anti-cult movement advocated. Along with extensive interviews with the now 84 year-old 'Father of Deprogramming' himself as he reflects on his career, news archives will also reveal the changing attitude that the public and law enforcement agencies developed towards Ted Patrick's controversial approach to deprogramming. By the mid-1980s, Ted 'Black Lighting' Patrick and other well-known deprogrammers' efforts were effectively halted, the result of mounting lawsuits and felony convictions including kidnapping and unlawful imprisonment. Yet Patrick was clearly still active, despite being bankrupt as a consequence, when he attempted to deprogram my stepbrother Matthew in 1991. Matthew was one of Ted Patrick's last cases and the effort was misguided at best - resulting in broken family ties rather than broken convictions. Looking back at the deprogramming era this documentary questions how much the practice was a result of moral panic and how much of it was in fact a matter of cultic mind-control?

ABOUT THE FLMMAKER

Mia Donovan is an award-winning filmmaker and photographer from Montreal. As an artist Mia's work focuses on humanizing people who have often been misrepresented by the media. Her first documentary film, *Inside Lara Roxx* (2011), follows ex-porn star Lara Roxx over a tumultuous 5-year-period as she struggles to build a new identity and find hope in the wake of her past. *Inside Lara Roxx* was nominated for a Jutra in 2012 and also won Best Documentary on Society and Humanity from the Guangzhou International Documentary Film Festival, 2011. She was the recipient of the Don Haig Award in 2012. Her latest documentary, *Deprogrammed* (2015), is inspired by a family event that has plagued her mind for the last 20 years: her stepbrother's deprogramming from an alleged Satanic cult back in the early '90s. Looking into his story, she meets the infamous 'Father of Deprogramming' himself, Ted 'Black Lightning' Patrick - and begins to unravel his notorious legacy.

ABOUT THE PRODUCER

Bob Moore is a film, television and digital media producer based in Montreal. Together with his partners and collaborators at production studio EyeSteelFilm, his films have been shown on all sorts of platforms around the world and won a number of awards. Before producing, he obtained degrees in law, philosophy and printmaking, managed artists, consulted for record labels, worked with social and political organizations, founded an art collective, and for a strange couple of years, was mandated to throw parties around the world. In the end, Bob has found that documentary film provides the greatest thrill.

CREDITS

Director	Mia Donovan
Producer	Bob Moore
Executive Producers	Daniel Cross, Mila Aung-Thwin
DOP	Mia Donovan & Nathan Truesdell
Editor	Hannele Halm
Production company	EyeSteelFilm

For sales enquiries please contact

Bob Moore
bob@eyesteelfilm.com