

TUNE FOR THE BLOOD

**A film by Cantilupe Projects
Anne Cottringer & Richard Branczik
2012**

99 mins/16:9/Stereo/English language/Not Rated

www.tunefortheblood.co.uk



Short Synopsis

Shot in the county of Herefordshire, Tune for the Blood is a down-to-earth yet lyrical documentary which chronicles the dramas, big and small, of young farmers in their journeys through the farming year.

Press Contact

Anne Cottringer

projects@cantilupe.co.uk

Tel: +44 (0)1432 355 460

Longer Synopsis

Breeding the perfect dairy cow, coping with volatile global markets, developing sustainable practices, laying a good hedge are all part of the rich texture of this intimate, lyrical and often gritty portrait of a new generation of young Herefordshire farmers. Their personal stories breathe life into the issues of the countryside at a time when food security is high on the agenda.

Jono Rogers is a dairy farmer who relishes building the genetics of his herd. When he gets it right, 'it's a bit of buzz and a bit of a bonus', but he faces a constant threat from Bovine TB. Jenny Layton loves the atmosphere of a livestock market, and is one of the few female livestock auctioneers in the UK, although weekends will normally find her helping her father on his farm. Russell Carrington has pursued a career as an engineer because the family farm can't support two generations, but he doesn't want to lose his connection to farming. Sustainable agriculture is central to his concerns. Graham Richards' family farms one of Herefordshire's most isolated farms in the breathtaking landscape under the Black Hill. Richard Thomas shares responsibilities with his father on a traditional mixed farm, trying to work a balance between environmental and financial considerations. He would love to see the consumer connecting more with the source of the food they eat. They are joined by Ben Pritchard, Christine Hope, and Fay Thomas.

All are members of the Herefordshire Federation of Young Farmers Clubs whose activities and competitions provide a counterpoint to the daily dramas of the farming year. ,

With a score composed by acclaimed bassist Danny Thompson, founder member of 'Pentangle' and Neil McArthur, and with songs by three additional bands, 'Tune for the Blood' celebrates the connection of these young farmers to the Herefordshire countryside and to the rhythms of the seasons in a 'tune for the blood' -- to echo the words of the Ledbury born poet John Masefield, in his poem 'Tewkesbury Road.'

Tune for the Blood – Statistics of Interest

The average of the UK farmer is 58 years old.

Only 3% of farmholders are under the age of 35. (*New Blood report-Alan Spedding, 2009*)

A capital input of at least £250,000 is needed to set up a 350 acre farm. (This is without a farmhouse – just land, stock, machinery, inputs etc and probably very conservative)

The price of farmland in England had more than doubled in the last decade to over £6,000 per acre. (*From RICS rural land market survey 2011*)

Between 1996 and 2009 (*Agristats using Defra data*) total farmworkers have dropped from 246,00 to 187,100. and full time farmers have declined from 170,000 to 147,000. (*Agristats using Defra Data*)

Local councils tenant farms are valuable first step for new entrants to farming. However, since 1966 the total number of holdings has fallen from 12,882 to 2,907. (*Quoted by Rona Amiss in 'new Entrants and Opportunities in Farming' July 2011*)

The Production Company

Cantilupe Projects was set up by experienced director/ camerawoman, Anne Cottringer and Richard Branczik, a professional cameraman. It is based in Hereford and is a not-for-profit Community Interest Company. This is Cantilupe Projects' first documentary as a company, but Anne and Richard have both worked for many years in broadcast, and in the corporate field.

ANNE COTTRINGER Producer/director/camerawoman

A graduate of the Royal College of Art, Anne has worked as a lighting/camerawoman for many broadcast programmes,. She has travelled to many countries around the world. Her first documentary, made with Alex Anderson for Channel 4 was 'Hell to Pay', a film about the human cost of Bolivia's foreign debt. It was shown at many international film festivals and won two awards: The Journalist Prize for Best Documentary at Creteil Film

Festival and Best Documentary at the Montreal Woman's Film & Video Festival. It is still shown widely in the USA.

"An unqualified gem. It tackles the complex issue of the international debt and makes it not only understandable, but very real...The video is powerful and its effects linger on after it ends." Global Pages

"...puts a human face on a charged and seemingly esoteric political issue: Third World government debt." All Movie Guide

Her next film, 'Survival of the Fittest', also made for Channel 4 with cinematography by Richard Branczik provided a quirky and insightful look into fitness culture.

"genuinely stretched the mind rather than feeding it junk-food." The Independent

"Smart camerawork brings a robotic quality to gym freaks..." Sunday Times

One of Anne's more recent broadcast documentaries (made for al Jazeera English) was 'Mother Courage', about a group of genocide survivors in Rwanda who have struggled together to find a new life. It was a pick of the day in the Observer.

"Moving...life-affirming film and well worth catching." The Observer

RICHARD BRANCZIK Cinematographer

Richard Branczik became a cameraman in 1981 with the Channel 4 current affairs series '20/20 Vision'. Since then he has worked on numerous documentaries, dramas and corporates. His broadcast work for the BBC, Channel 4 and for ITV has taken him around the world many times filming such diverse subjects as torture in Namibia by the apartheid South Africa regime, the work of Colombia's Public Prosecutor in his fight against the cocaine cartels, and the global sourcing of resources for the Haramain Expansion Project in Saudi Arabia.

His pop videos and music films have included working with Ray Davies, and on what was his favourite documentary, 'Songs From the Golden City', about South African jazz legends, Joe Mogotsi and the Manhattan Brothers.

He thought he had retired in 2002, but in spite of the early starts is very pleased to have been put back into harness again in 2009 to work on what has now become his favourite piece of work, 'Tune for the Blood'.

CREDITS

Director & Additional Photography
Anne Cottringer

Cinematography
Richard Branczik

Producers
Richard Branczik
Anne Cottringer

Editor and Sound Editor
Richard Urbanski

Music composed arranged and performed by
Danny Thompson and Neil McArthur

'Tune for the Blood' sung by
Madeleine Worrall

Recorded at
Resident Studios London

Sound Engineer
Mark Tucker

Young Farmers Opening Music
Composed and performed by Riot Riot

Young Farmers Club Fencing and Hedgelaying Music
Composed and performed by
Jonathan Donahoe
Pete Doe

Young Farmer Club Stockjudging and Drama Competition Music
Composed and performed by
Leisure

HD Post Production
VET Facilities

Colourist
Ben Scott

Dubbing Mixer
Steve Chase

Special Thanks to
Herefordshire Federation of Young Farmers Clubs
The Families of all Young Farmers in film

Grateful Thanks to our donors and supporters:

Alex Anderson
Alison Allen-Gray
Jill Cassidy
The Clive Richards Charity
The Duchy of Cornwall estates through the Duke of Cornwall's Benevolent Fund
Dr. Jill Hardman
Lloyd's (Animal) Feeds Ltd
Jesse Norman
Penny Wick
Wiggly Wigglers

Further Thanks to

Abergavenny Market
Amey
Barrs Court
Jo Comino
The Courtyard Arts Centre
David Curtis
Olwen Fletcher
Richard Griffiths MRCVS
Hereford Market
Jane Jackson
Kington Show
Christine Lawson
Tony Lawson
Joan Leese at VET
McCartneys Knighton Market
Tim Mckendrick
Richard Mills
John Mills
Simon Nichols
Matt Price
Edward Robinson
Andrew Spicer, Holstein UK
Derek Stoakes MRCVS
Poundstretchers Dairy Group
Steven Rowberry
Royal Welsh Show Builth Wells
Lily Urbanski
Naomi Vera-Sanso
Christine Watkins
Sarah Wells
Lesley Whistance
Willis Butchers Cwbran

© 2012 Cantilupe Projects All Rights Reserved

cantilupe projects