

The Immediate Family
Director's Statement
By Denny Tedesco

In 1996 I started my first documentary, "The Wrecking Crew". It was the story of the Session players of the 1960s in Los Angeles. It was a personal journey for me because one of those musicians, Tommy Tedesco and guitarist was my father who was passing away at the time when we started filming.

I had been hesitant to make a follow up to "The Wrecking Crew". But when I was approached with the idea of "The Immediate Family", I didn't think twice. "The Immediate Family consists of; Danny 'Kootch' Kortchmar on Guitar, Leland Sklar on Bass, Russ Kunkel on Drums, Waddy Wachtel on Guitar and Steve Postel on Guitar. They were at the genesis of the 'Singer Songwriter Era' in the 1970s.

The opening line in the Wrecking Crew states, "This is the story of my father and his extended family, The Wrecking Crew"

Well, Immediate Family proved my point. The musicians in these films have reached a success that only many of us could only dream of. But what they have with all musicians is their brotherhood and sisterhood. A bond that can only be united over 50 years together. They become family.

There is a similarity between the generations of musicians. But where they differ is why the Immediate Family story needed to be told. These are guys in their mid 70s recording and playing and loving it like they were in their 20s.

In many documentaries, you have to wait for interviews to be booked so that the artists and management can decide if they want to participate in a project. Not with this project. Within five days of taking the project on, we had Carole King, James Taylor, Linda Rondstadt, Jackson Browne, Phil Collins, Don Henley, Stevie Nicks and David Crosby booked.

Each one of these legends always felt the same way as the band. They were all family on a musical journey that continues today.