BYOTA FILM FESTIVAL

Films + Events

powered by

Beyond Films

BFF Opening Night

Reception

Opening Night Film: Simulant

Director in Attendance: April Mullen

Live Q&A: Immediately following the screening

Sunday, June 1, 2025 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM EDT

The Exchange - Cultural Hub & Market

5943 Sylvia Place, Niagara Falls, ON

Don't miss this exciting kickoff to the festival with a local success story and an edge-of-your-seat film!

BFF's Niagara T.V. & Film Forum Opening Night

Canadian Tiger (Niagara Film)

Director: **Kenneth Gerard**

Reception, Showing & Forum Discussion

with **Mark Drysdale**

Thursday May 29th, 2025 **6:00 PM to 9:00 PM**

THE SHERMAN ZAVITZ THEATRE

NIAGARA FALLS HISTORY MUSEUM

5810 Ferry Street, Niagara Falls

"In a tale of exotic animals, legal battles, and larger-than-life ambition, Mark Drysdale—Canada's Tiger King—fights to reclaim his lost kingdom and expose the truth behind the closures."

Satirical Documentary

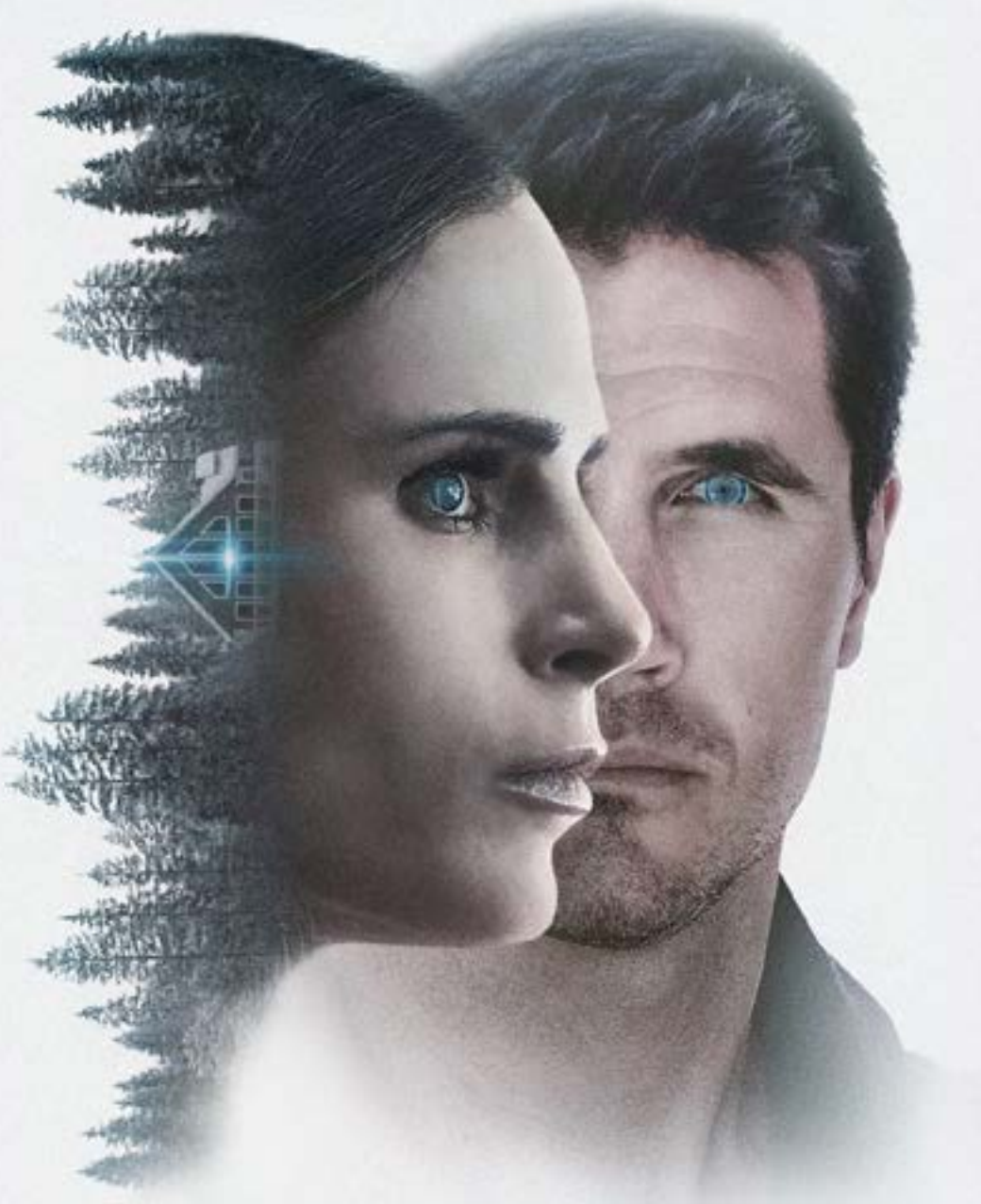
"In a saga of exotic pets, public outrage, and jungle-sized egos, Canada's Tiger King, Mark Drysdale, claws to reclaim his lost zoo kingdom—and maybe his reputation."

ROBBIE AMELL

JORDANA BREWSTER

SIMU LIU

SAM WORTHINGTON



SIMULANT

DIRECTED BY APRIL MULLEN

Director: APRIL MULLEN

Born & Raised in Niagara Falls April Mullen is a visionary director celebrated for her bold visual style, emotionally charged storytelling, and fearless approach to filmmaking. A true maverick, she has directed nine feature films (five of which filmed in Niagara Falls) and over twenty episodes of television. Her acclaimed film Below Her Mouth (2016), an unapologetic love story shot with an all-female crew, premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival and sparked international conversation. Her feature Wander (2020), a mind-bending conspiracy thriller, stars Aaron Eckhart, Tommy Lee Jones, Heather Graham, and Katheryn Winnick. Most recently, she helmed the sci-fi thriller Simulant (2023), featuring Sam Worthington, Simu Liu, Robbie Amell, and Jordana Brewster. Mullen's work is defined by its emotional depth, innovative technique, and unflinching point of view.

BFF's Niagara T.V. & Film Forum Open Mic Jam Nights

Presented by 295 Studios And our Community Partners the Niagara Cyber Lions - A unique club that serves the community through the arts, communication and entertainment.

Friday May 30th, 2025

Saturday May 31st, 2025 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

The Cafe @ The Exchange - Cultural Hub & Market

5943 Sylvia Place, Niagara Falls, ON

Calling All Local Musicians!

Join us for an unforgettable Open Mic Jam Night — a night full of music, creativity, and community! Whether you're a seasoned performer or just love to play, this is your chance to share your sound, meet fellow artists, and jam in a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere.

Bring your instrument, your voice, and your passion All genres and skill levels welcome
Come to perform, collaborate, or simply enjoy the vibes
Let's make some noise together — see you there!

BFF - Beyond Films
295 Studios & Northern Tributes Radio
Open House

Free Admission.....

Monday June 2th, 2025 **6:00 PM to 9:00 PM**

3970 Welland St, Chippawa, Ontario

L2E 6V8

1/2 & 1/2 tickets for Niagara Cyber Lions

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IS **MYSTERY**,
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DISTINCTIVE
& SOPHISTICATED.

BFF Official Selection Screening Night!

Join us for an unforgettable evening celebrating the art of filmmaking at the **BFF - BYOTA International Film Festival** Official Selection Screening Night. This exclusive event showcases a curated selection of the most compelling and innovative films from around the globe.

Tuesday June 3rd, 2025 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM
THE SHERMAN ZAVITZ THEATRE
NIAGARA FALLS HISTORY MUSEUM
5810 Ferry Street, Niagara Falls

Tickets: 10$

Don't miss the chance to be part of this cinematic celebration. Secure your tickets now and immerse yourself in the world of independent cinema at its finest.

Get Your Tickets Here
https://byota.ca/bff/

Apples, Oranges, Lemons & Limes

Cal Waldau

Skye Marie Sena

Juan Rodriguez

Valeria Di Babbo

Matt Campbell

Jim Barbour

Writer/Director
Pat Mitchell

Calvin Waldau

portrays Henry "Hen" Boyd

Calvin Waldau was born in Connecticut, lived in Michigan and grew up in Southwest Florida. He has a curious mind and a playful wit. Calvin played competitive soccer until he was 12, where he found theatre. Calvin instantly fell in love with theater and decided he wanted to pursue it to a high degree.

In eighth grade, starring as Flick in the Florida Repertory Theatre professional production of A Christmas Story, this only furthered Calvin's love for theatre. Calvin decided that this was how he wanted to spend his days, on the stage or in front of the camera. He believes that committing himself to the Arts is the best way for him to serve others, as an entertainer. Making people laugh, cry, or just lose themselves in a story for a little bit (but mostly laugh) is his purpose in life.

Skye Marie Sena

portrays Natalie Newman

I'm a New Yorker, born and raised in Brooklyn. It was a moment in Brooklyn that led me to my decision to pursue a career in musical theatre. I was five years old. My parents (they're amazing) had a tradition where they introduced both my sister and me to the theatre with a trip to see *Beauty and the Beast* when we turned five. I loved every moment of it. Later that year, my sister was given the role of Maria in her school's rendition of *The Sound of Music*. The moment I saw her grace the stage, it took my breath away. I didn't know that this was something she could do and yet there she was doing it. It wasn't long before I realized that I could do it too.

I relocated with my family to Naples, Florida right before I began high school and I brought my love for the arts with me. It was there that I became a member of the International Thespian Society (troupe 5876 forever!), and I eventually made the decision to pursue my passion at Florida Southern College in Lakeland. I now have my Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in musical theatre and I'm looking forward to exploring the world and telling its stories! My experience on Apples, Oranges, Lemons & Limes is my first venture in performing on film. I absolutely loved it. I look forward to exploring more into that world in the near future.

Juan Rodriguez Leon

portrays Ryan

Proud to be Hispanic, I am an Actor born and raised in Fort Myers, FL. I have worked on a music video project for Grammy-winning Artist Roddy Ricch. My goals are to aim high, from earning recognition and awards by major Hollywood associations including the Oscars, Golden Globes, and the Emmys to becoming a filmmaker of my own.

My overall goal shares both ambitions, I want to inspire people to become something amazing or help their communities through the art of film and acting.

SHORT+SWEET FILM MALAYSIA
2023 Final Selection

LINCOLN SIM JOYCE NG

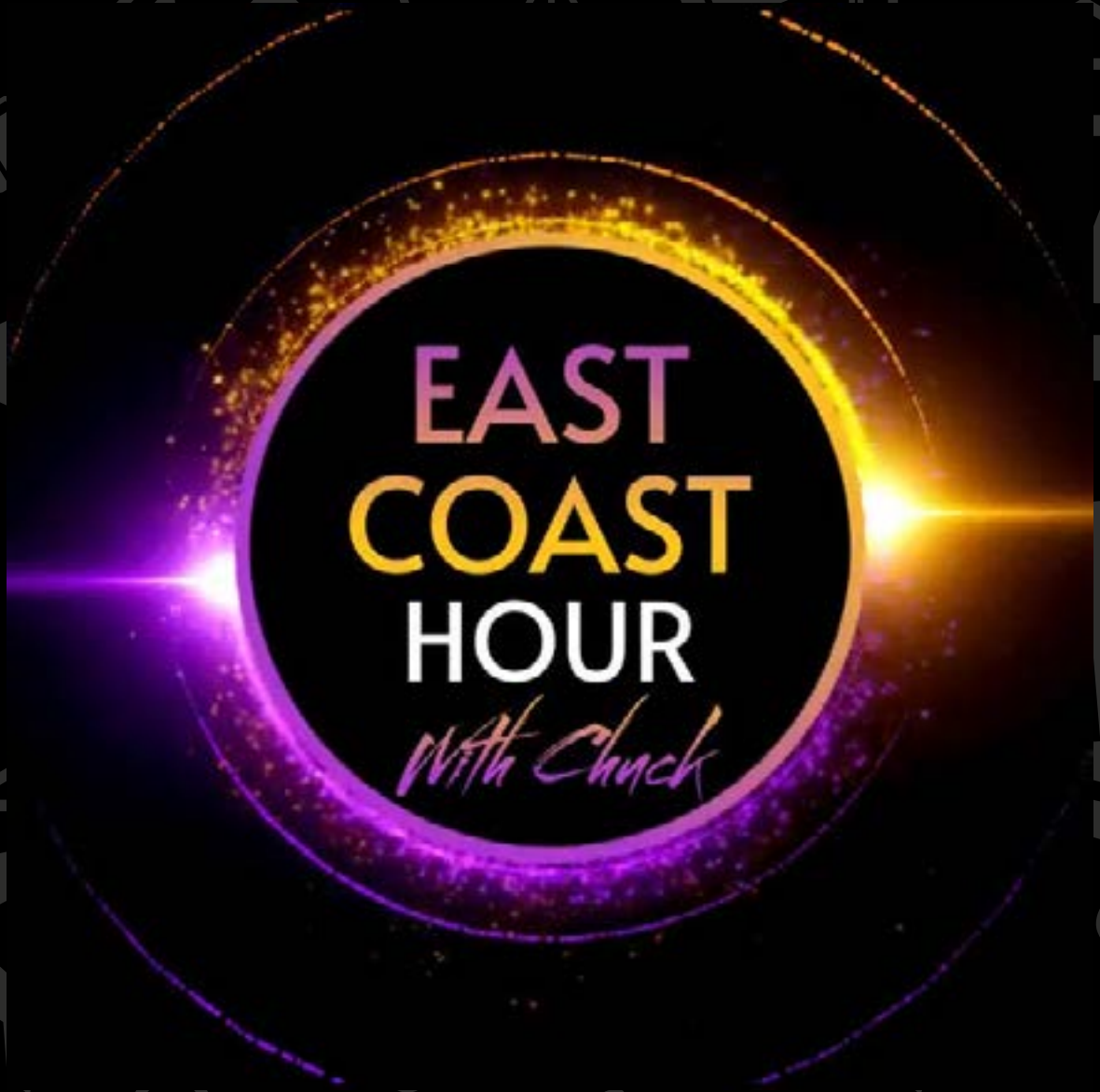
HOW CAN YOU TELL
IF SOMEONE IS A NICE PERSON?

AN ALAN HAW FILM

NICE GUY

EMILY ANDREWS BENJAMIN BLAIS STEVEN McCARTHY CORTEON MOORE
MIRROR FINISH
ACTIONCAN FILMS AND THE ARTCRAFTZOO PRESENT A DANIEL AM ROSENBERG FILM "MIRROR FINISH"
WRITTEN BY YUSUF GAD AND DANIEL AM ROSENBERG
PRODUCTION DESIGN ELIZABETH JOHNSON
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY DAVID SUDDABY
MUSIC BY DANIEL BRIERE
STUNT COORDINATOR JEFF HANSON
EDITED BY MICAH RIX-HAYES
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JOHN FLEMING DANIEL AM ROSENBERG BENJAMIN BLAIS JEFF HANSON JASON KENNEDY
ACTIONCAN FILMS
WWW.ACTIONCANFILMS.COM
WWW.THEARTCRAFTZOO.COM

JACKIE'S LEAP OF FAITH
THE PHOENIX
Director Kenneth Gerard
Writer/Co-director Ahmad Marouf
Produced by BYOTA



East Coast Hour is a weekly video show featuring east coast artist videos, news about the artists and industry, and a look into the activities and accomplishments of the individuals or groups.

Email: eastcoasthour@gmail.com

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Northern Tributes Radio.ca is a non profit radio station powered by the **Niagara Cyber Lions & 295 Studios.** Where Canadiana Lives!

3970 Welland Avenue Chippawa, Ontario, Canada

https://northerntributesradio.ca/

Join The Lions

Want to give back to your community through the arts or other means? Join the Niagara Cyber Lions and make a difference today!

BFF "VIP" Screening Night!

Join us for an unforgettable evening celebrating the art of filmmaking at the **BFF - BYOTA International Film Festival** "VIP" Screening Night.

Be among the first to witness groundbreaking narratives, captivating documentaries, and thought-provoking shorts that push the boundaries of storytelling.

Wednesday June 4th, 2025 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM
THE SHERMAN ZAVITZ THEATRE
NIAGARA FALLS HISTORY MUSEUM
5810 Ferry Street, Niagara Falls

Tickets: 10$

Don't miss the chance to be part of this cinematic celebration. Secure your tickets now and immerse yourself in the world of independent cinema at its finest.

Get Your Tickets Here
https://byota.ca/bff/

We extend our deepest gratitude to the City of Niagara Falls for your unwavering support and belief in the power of storytelling.

Your commitment to arts funding has made a lasting impact on our mission. Thank you for helping bring BFF – Beyond Films to life!

Through your generosity, you've helped foster a global platform for bold, independent voices.

To our incredible partners, we couldn't have done this without you.

Special thanks to:

- City of Niagara Falls – for your vision and support
- The Exchange – for creating space where culture thrives
- Niagara Falls History Museum – for preserving stories that inspire new ones

Together, you've empowered BYOTA International Film Festival to grow and reach new audiences.

Your belief in creativity and community is transformative.

Every frame, every voice, every story—we owe it to your belief in what art can do.
Niagara Falls, you are not just a backdrop—you are part of the narrative.
Thank you for walking with us beyond the films.
We are endlessly grateful.

BFF - Beyond Films Team

BYOTA.TV Academy

BFF - Beyond Films - Closing Night

BYOTA.TV Academy Awards on the big screen @ The Exchange Market Hall

Thursday June 5th, 2025
The Exchange - Cultural Hub & Market
5943 Sylvia Place, Niagara Falls, ON

Reception

The Cafe @ The Exchange

6:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Musical Artist
Cash Bar

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

BYOTA.TV Academy Awards on the big screen @ The Exchange Market Hall

7:00 PM to 8:15 PM

After Hour Party
Musical Artist
Cash Bar

8:15 PM to 9:00 PM

Tickets Sold on eventbrite
$10 Per Person for Closing Night

BYOTA TV Academy Awards
SHOW HOST - Jeff Mallysh
Actor - Producer

Biography

Jeff's acting credits include:

- **"Fight!"**: Played Charlie in this intense drama with a 9.2 rating.
- **"A Farewell to Youth"**: Portrayed the winery host, adding charm to the narrative.
- **"Wildfire"**: Played Eric in this film currently in post-production.
- **"Cry of Silence"(2024)**: Cast as Larry Tilton in the multiple award winning film
- **"The Wolves of Queen Street"**: Appeared as the manager in this short film.
- **"The Coppolas"**: Played Jackie in this short film.
- **"The Wid"**: Portrayed Marshal in this well-reviewed project.

In addition to acting, Jeff is an up-and-coming producer. His 2025 projects, **"Corruption"** and **"Believe It or Shock"**, will premiere on BYOTA TV, showcasing fresh, global narratives.

Jeff's versatility and creativity make him a rising star in both acting and production.

BYOTA TV - WATCH LIVE

"VIP" Film Screening

Hell or Tidewater

action/sci-fi film

Director: Scott C. Newman

Hamilton, Ontario

Turns out the Russians view the Canadian enterprise as a threat to their energy hegemony in the east and they dispatch their submarine fleet to reign the Canadians in. Not only that but they have infected the mostly automated S.U.L.C.C.s Artificial Intelligence robots with a virus called "Subroutine Menshevik", making them malfunction and go completely rogue.

Thank You, Merci, Gracias, Obrigado

To Our Partners, Customers and Team Members

Niagara Falls CANADA

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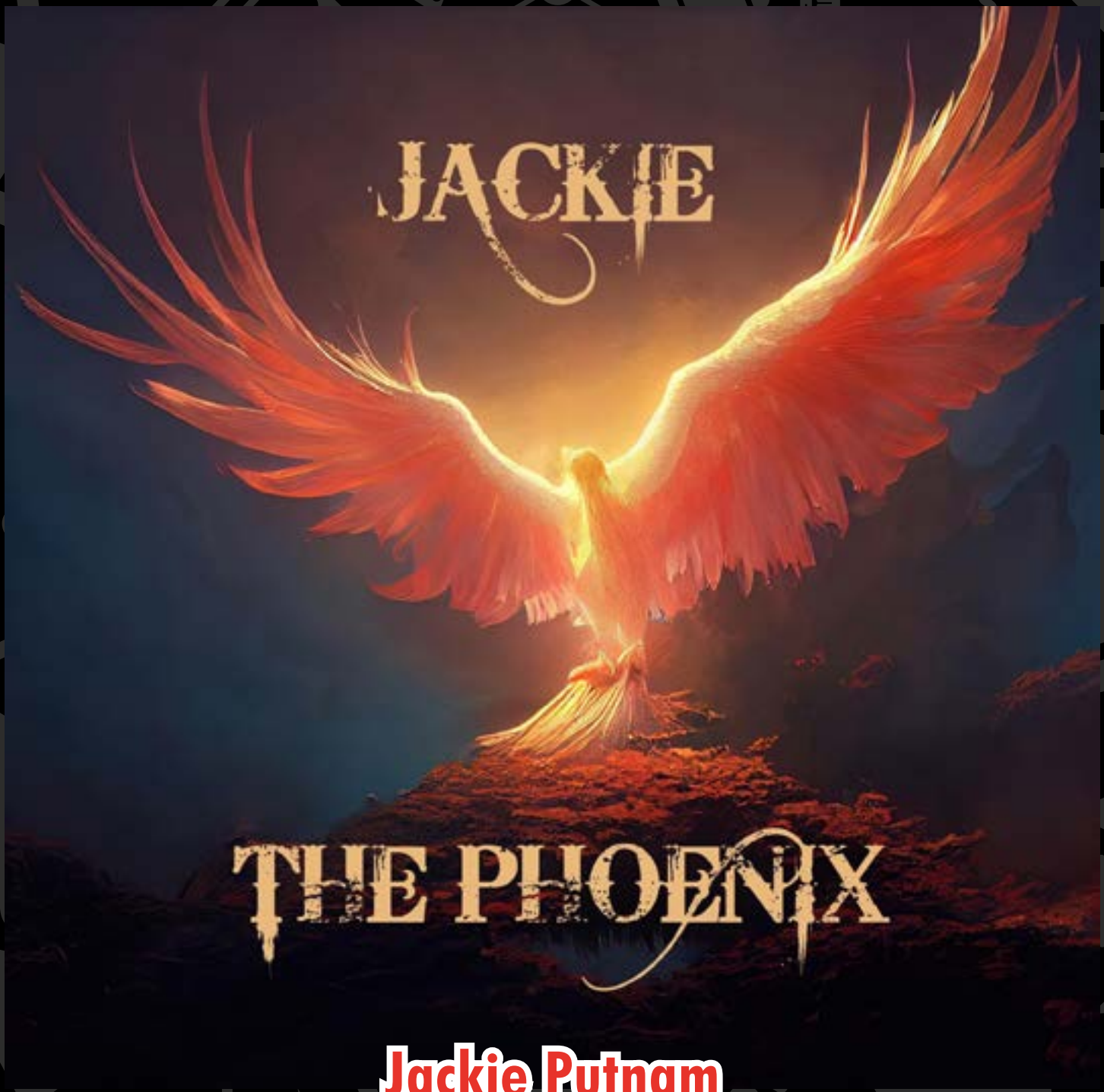

Jackie Putnam

Canadian Country-Pop Artist

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