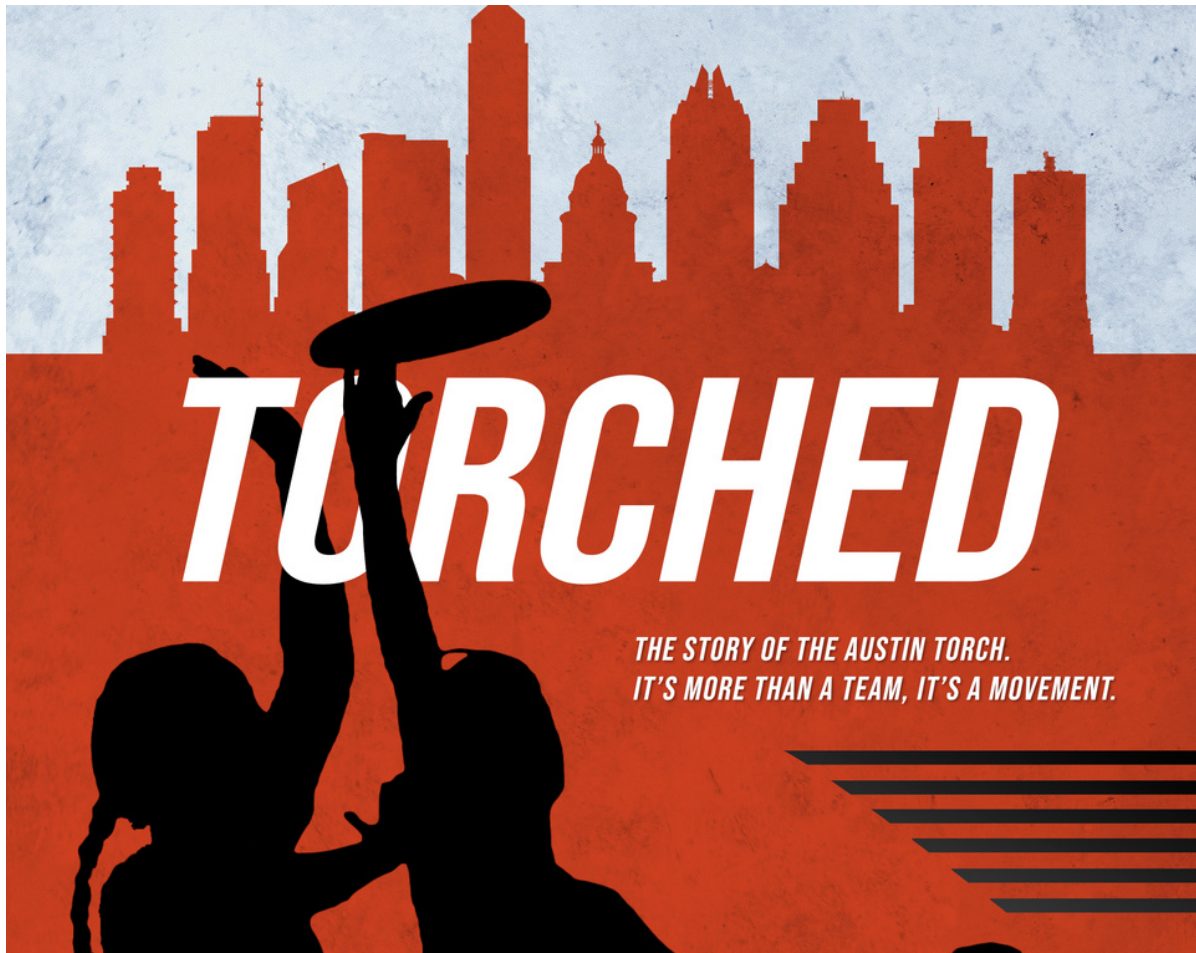


MEDIA KIT



A DOCUMENTARY FILM BY **HOAG KEPNER**



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2023

ABOUT THE FILM

Torched tells the story the Austin Torch, a wild and fiery group of women/non-binary athletes in Austin who are trying to legitimize and professionalize their fringe sport of Ultimate Frisbee in a historically male-dominated sports industry.

As we follow the Torch on the road and at home during their 2022 “comeback” season, we come to realize that though the Torch might not always win, they somehow never really lose, because it's more than a team; it's a movement.



The film follows several key members of the Austin Torch during their comeback season in 2022; a new mother in search of the missing piece to her elite athletic accomplishments; an overextended team president/player struggling to balance the demands of her dream with her new marriage; a corporate sales manager frustrated with her mundane job who seeks thrills in the DIY nature of growing a team and a sport; a fourth grade teacher who sets out to popularize the Torch with her theatrical, brash playing style; an aspiring musician with almost too much talent to focus on just one pursuit; and finally, an unlikely male ally named "Bonesaw" whose past career as the frontman of a touring band positioned him perfectly for a role as Torch co-founder and operations manager, and an advocate for women's/non-binary sports.

DIRECTOR BIO



After graduating Yale University in 2003, I moved to Austin, TX to start a band with my brother Tim (aka “Bonesaw”) and two others. Full Service toured nationally for 15 years until we amicably disbanded in 2018.

For Bonesaw, the disbanding of Full Service meant using the managerial and business chops he honed over those heady band years in new ways. In 2018, he and two others (Rachel Yeager and Andrea Esparza) founded the first-ever professional women’s/non-binary Ultimate Frisbee team in Texas; the Austin Torch. He followed that up by co-founding (along with Maddy Frey, Angela Lin and many others) the first-ever women’s/non-binary professional international Ultimate Frisbee league; the Premier Ultimate League.

As for me, I built my second act around my other passion: filmmaking and film editing. Back when brother Bonesaw launched the Austin Torch in 2018, I began filming their journey, as I suspected there was a story there. As the years went by and the life of the team and league survived financial woes, a global pandemic, and myriad DIY growing pains, I found my film.

It is my directorial feature length debut, funded for \$40,000 via a Kickstarted campaign. In addition to directing, I was the primary cinematographer, editor, colorist, sound designer, and web designer.

While I'm excited to see where *Torched* goes, I already have my next documentary planned. It will tell the story of a professional Rwandan cyclist born in the middle of the 1994 genocide who, against all odds and after a devastating leg injury, became the first Rwandan to win the Tour de Rwanda. A national hero, he has recently moved to Austin, TX to start a new life for himself, learn new skills, and lay the foundation for his new dream; starting a cycling academy for Rwandan youth.

FILM INFO

RUN TIME / **1 hr. 5 min. 46 sec.**

SPECS / **4k - 10bit - 422**

FUNDING / **\$40,000 (Kickstarter campain + private funding)**

DIRECTOR, EDITOR, COLORIST, SOUND MIX, MUSIC /**HOAG KEPNER**



FEATURED CHARACTERS

DRE ESPARZA (co-founder)

RACHEL YEAGER (co-founder)

TIM "BONESAW" KEPNER (co-founder)

ANNIE ORTIZ

CARA CROUCH

ELISE BJORK

LILY WHITE

JAIME ESTES

EMMA BERRIGAN

PERTINENT WEBSITES

PREMIERULTIMATELEAGUE.COM

ATXTORCH.COM

OFFICIAL POSTER



TORCHED

*THE STORY OF THE AUSTIN TORCH.
IT'S MORE THAN A TEAM, IT'S A MOVEMENT.*

FEATURING

RACHEL YEAGER DRE ESPARZA ANNIE ORTIZ ELISE BJORK
LILLY WHITE CARA CROUCH JAIME ESTES & MORE

A DOCUMENTARY FILM BY
HOAG

PRESENTED BY

