

Signs of Life in Music, Film & Culture



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Published at 4:00 PM on December 2, 2009

By **Justin Jacobs**

Wesley Willis DVD Coming Out Next Week

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Wesley Willis wrote songs to fight off his demons.

And not in the typical, heart-on-sleeve, singer-songwriter sort of way. No, these demons weren't ex-lovers or repressed memories. They were *actual* demons. With horns. The diagnosed paranoid schizophrenic wrote purposefully [outlandish tunes](#) ("Casper the Homosexual Friendly Ghost," "My Mother Smokes Crack Rocks") as an escape from what he described as "torturous hell rides." Willis spent much of his life selling detailed ink drawings on the streets of Chicago and furiously recording albums; he once recorded four in 36 days. He liked to greet people with a friendly head butt.

It's no surprise, then, that someone wanted to tell Willis' story. *Wesley Willis's Joy Rides*, presented by Eyeosaur and MDV Visual, premiered at the Slamdance Film Festival in January of 2008 and went on to win the Gold Hugo for at the 2008 Chicago International Film Festival. Now, the movie is coming to your home.

On Dec. 8, *Wesley Willis's Joy Rides* will be released on DVD, coinciding with free screenings in Chicago and New York. Screening info and trailer below:

Chicago

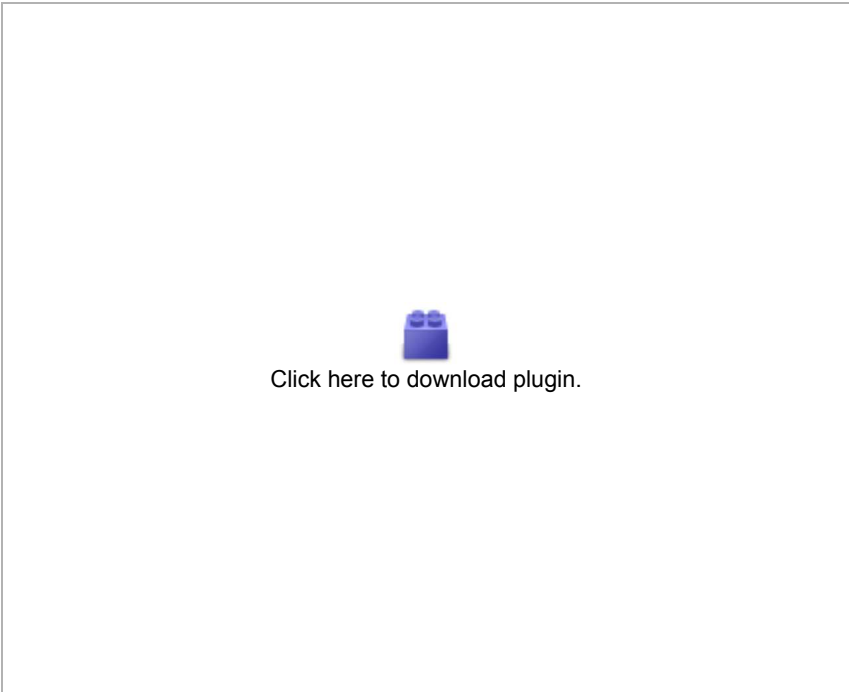
Dec. 6, free

7 p.m., The Empty Bottle

Brooklyn

Dec. 7, free





8 p.m., Glasslands Gallery



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An advertisement for Full Sail University. The central image shows a man in a suit playing a blue electric guitar, with a crowd of people in the background. The text 'ROCK the BOARDROOM' is prominently displayed. Below the image, it says 'ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS BACHELOR'S DEGREE - Online' and 'FULL SAIL UNIVERSITY Online'. There is a 'GET INFO' button in the bottom right corner.

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