

On with **MUSIC**

DVD REVIEW

By Andrew Kim

**The Jesus Guy -
what's with the robe?**

3-11

Just who is that Jesus Guy? Who is the guy wandering America, from town to town dressed like Jesus, preaching as he goes, and why does he do it? The new documentary by Sean Tracey, takes a look at the Jesus Guy as he travels the country - barefoot, no less--preaching the word of God.

Released by Cinevolve Studios and MVD Visual, the film opens slowly with footage of what looks like a drug addict wandering various city streetscapes. Of course, we learn that it is Jesus Guy. The Jesus Guy has been walking the country for years. He wears a white robe, has long brown hair and thick brown beard. He looks just like Jesus. The man refuses to give out his real name. When asked his name, he always replies "What's your name."

The Jesus Guy says he doesn't use money or own any type of possession besides the robe on his back. He says that he doesn't accept any kind of donations or offerings. He only eats when people offer meals together and/or lodgings. When people offer money to him, we see him reply, "I don't use money." No further explanation. The person he's talking to is always dumbfounded.

And yes, somehow, the Jesus Guy walks around barefoot.

Discussing the practice, Jesus Guy says, "When

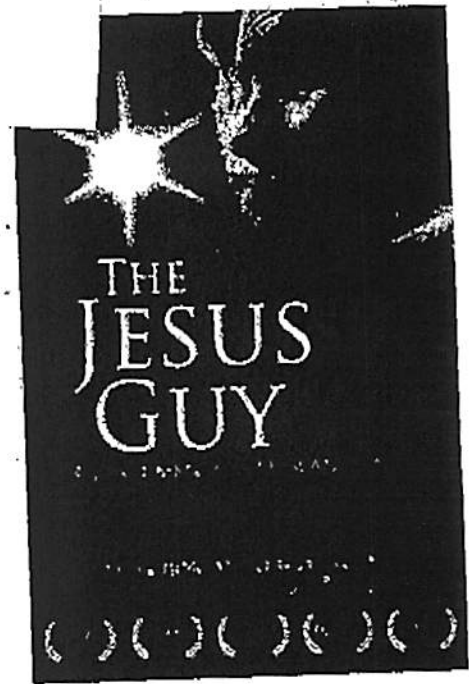
you go barefoot, you have be conscious of every step you take. It becomes second nature."

The film doesn't seek to answer any questions about Jesus Guy. It's just a look at what he's doing and interviews with people who've met him. It is interesting to see this Jesus Guy and here him talk.

But there are some scenes in the movie that need some kind of explanation, because they come out of nowhere, and yet none is given. For instance, Jesus Guy is suddenly on a stool at a biker bar. A tattooed tough guy is asking him his name and getting agitated, especially with the whole, "What's your name, comeback. Why is Jesus Guy in a biker bar? We are never told.

And then for about two seconds we see Jesus Guy talking on a cell phone. Jesus Guy said he doesn't own anything, so who's cell phone is that? All valid questions, none addressed.

The cameras are rolling when the Jesus Guy walks into Wild-wood, New Jersey to speak at a conference, invited by a local deacon. During his visit, he gets into a sermon on the sidewalk with a bunch of people listening. We see the police roll up and give him a hard time, demanding to see a permit. The sight of Jesus Christ asserting his constitutional rights is quite entertaining.



The Jesus Guy has gotten loads of media attention. In the film, strangers are always saying to him, "I saw you on such-and-such news program." Some people want to meet him so they can feel touched. Some people, actually many people in the film, want to meet him so they can question his motives for wandering around preaching, looking like Jesus.

The question that is never asked in the film, not even by his many questioners--even though it's apparent it's what they're thinking--is, why dress like Jesus Christ? And Jesus Guy, does not once among the many times speaking to the camera ever address that question. Two thousand years ago, everybody on the Mediterranean wore robes and had long hair. Jesus Christ didn't wear a costume. Jesus Guy does.

Overall it's an interesting film. Whether the Jesus Guy is for real or not is besides the point. It's all about seeing this guy's affect on the world. Judge for yourself. Ye will of course, be judged.