

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF WILLIE SUTTON



A DOCUMENTARY FILM FOLLOWING THE ESCAPADES
OF THE NOTORIOUS GENTLEMAN BANDIT

SNOUTY PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS "IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF WILLIE SUTTON"
A FILM BY RICH GOLD NARRATED BY MATT BOSSO MUSIC BY CHRISTOPHER L. FOX RAY SQUILLACOTE
EDITED BY STEVEN DICASA EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS NICK ANTONELLI RICH GOLD
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY STEVEN DICASA PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY RICH GOLD
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LOGLINE

America's most famous bank robber of the twentieth century doesn't fancy prison accommodations. When he gets caught and confined, he escapes - three times. In the Footsteps of Willie Sutton is a documentary film that follows this gentleman bandit's criminal career that spanned over four decades.

SYNOPSIS

In the Footsteps of Willie Sutton is a documentary film based on the life of the most colorful and famous bank robber in history. Once dubbed "The Babe Ruth of Bank Robbers" by a NYPD Police Commissioner, Sutton learned his trade in the early 1920s with a career that took him into the early 1950s. Although bank robbery is classified as a violent crime, Sutton did not rely on the use of violence during his heists. A master of disguise, he used finesse to gain entry into a bank by posing, at times, as a messenger or a policeman. This eventually earned him the nickname "Willie the Actor." Using his charm, wits, and smooth talking, Sutton never had to fire a shot from his gun.

Although he was never caught in the act of a robbery or leaving the scene, circumstances usually led the authorities to his whereabouts. As a result he spent half of his adult life in prison. But it was not an easy task keeping Willie locked up. He successfully broke out of three prisons, all of which were considered "escape-proof." The film takes us through each of these three prisons today and walks us through his masterful escapes.

Through the use of licensed stock footage and photographs the film depicts the eras when Sutton was robbing banks, busting out of prison, and on the lam as a fugitive. We go back to actual locations where events in the life of Willie Sutton took place and see what they look like today as the related story is told. Period music, along with narration by a NYC radio personality adds authenticity to the story told on film.

Newsreel footage is used to revisit Willie's final arrest in 1952, followed weeks later by the ruthless murder of the young man who identified him while riding the NYC subway. A murder case that remains unsolved to this day.

Deep research has led to locating individuals (some in their eighties) who have played significant roles in the life of Willie Sutton and agreed to be interviewed on film. Information and photographs never before published have been made available with permission for use in the work. Public records such as court documents, prison reports, FBI flyers, and mug shots are cleverly used to enhance this true story.

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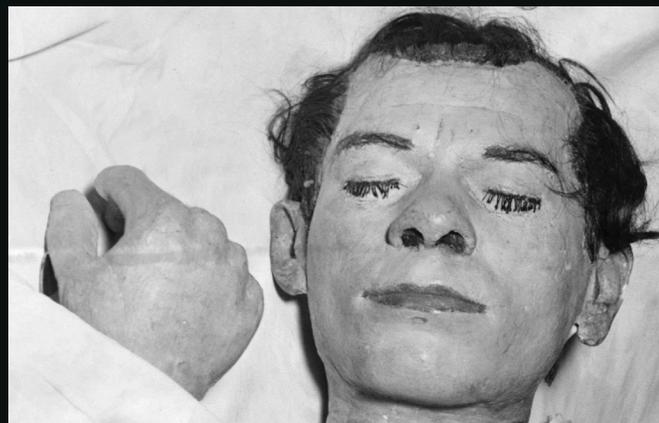
Documentary • 54 Mins • 16X9 • Stereo • English

WANTED BY THE FBI



WILLIAM FRANCIS SUTTON, with aliases: William Bowles, James Clayton, Richard Courtney, Leo Holland, Julian Loring, Edward Lynch, "Slick Willie," "Willie the Actor," and others.

BANK ROBBERY



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

My passion for writing about true crime led me to write a screenplay titled *The Gentleman Bandit*, based on the life of notorious bank robber Willie Sutton, who also managed to escape from three prisons. Once dubbed "The Babe Ruth of Bank Robbers" by a NYPD Police Commissioner, I was surprised that neither a feature nor documentary film has been produced about this colorful criminal. Yet right on the desk in front of me sat a wealth of material from my research thus far. I was looking at copies of court documents, news articles, FBI flyers, and police records dating as far back as the 1920s. This inspired me to look into what it would take to make a documentary film on the life of Willie Sutton. Once I sorted out the technical and financial needs, I went back to what I do best: researching, writing, and organizing.

I needed to locate persons from Sutton's life, and hope they'd agree to be interviewed for the project. Using my acquired skills from genealogy research, I was able to track down some individuals who were kind enough to participate. While looking at photographs and news articles are key elements to a project, there is no substitute to hearing a story told by someone who was actually there. Listening to the police officer tell about when he arrested Sutton in 1952, I felt as though I was right there witnessing the actual event. The interviews conducted at the three prisons Sutton escaped from will really take the viewer walking in the footsteps of Willie Sutton. Photographs of Sutton's wife and daughter have never before been made public. Compliments of his granddaughter, we have the privilege of including these images in the film.

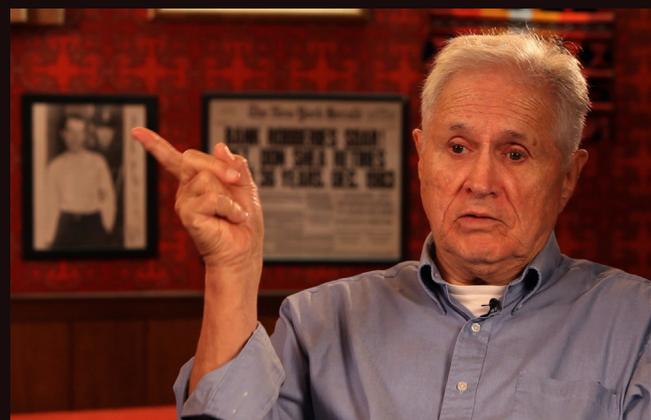
As a stickler for accuracy, my goal is to entertain viewers with a fascinating film where they can be assured the facts have been verified.

It is only natural after watching the film and hearing the stories, that a viewer forms opinions. You may find yourself influenced by the fact that he never harmed anyone or even fired his gun. You may end up rooting for him to get out of prison by either escape or parole.

Should you believe the sincerity demonstrated in his later years as he preaches to the youth of America that crime doesn't pay?

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DIRECTOR'S BIO

In the Footsteps of Willie Sutton is Rich Gold's first documentary film project as producer/director.

After taking early retirement from the corporate world in 2008, Rich's ambition led him back to an area he studied some years earlier, screenplay writing. Fueled with a fascination for true crime films, Rich wrote his first screenplay, Gallo, based on the true story of mobster Joey Gallo. Midway working on his second screenplay, The Gentleman Bandit, about bank robber Willie Sutton, Rich felt compelled to try his hand at producing a documentary film about Sutton.

His possession of natural investigative skills results in Rich finding people in addition to materials that can undoubtedly add value to a documentary film project. Determined to help others searching for authenticity in their works, Rich offers his historical and biographical research services to other filmmakers.

After catching the bug for documentary filmmaking, Rich has a continuous thirst for knowledge. This newly discovered passion will undoubtedly bring more exciting projects from him.



Rich Gold, Producer/Director

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