



**It's on Like  
Popcorn**

**THE BIG STATION**  
DJS AND NOSEY NEIGHBORS IN MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

# THE BIG STATION

## A FILM BY TYLER BELL

In October of 1948, WDIA, in Memphis, Tennessee, became the first radio station in the United States programmed by African Americans for African Americans. Today, in Montgomery, Alabama - the birthplace of the Civil Rights Movement - a small black-owned and operated radio station carries on WDIA's cultural legacy. Known to its listeners as "The Big Station," WKXN provides the local African American community with call-in shows, local news, and plenty of soulful music. Director Tyler Bell adopted a direct approach to filming in order to create a cinematic environment where the film's viewers are treated as an extension of the radio station's listening audience. THE BIG STATION illustrates what radio is like when it is not only for the people, but by the people. As WKXN owner and DJ "Killer Diller" Roscoe Miller would say..."it's on like popcorn!"

# THE BIG STATION

## SYNOPSIS

THE BIG STATION tells a story about an African American owned and operated radio station in Montgomery, Alabama. Through intimate footage of call-in shows, portraits of listeners, music programming, and live remote broadcasts, THE BIG STATION seeks to explore the relationship between a radio station and its listeners. The purpose of the film is to show what radio is like when it is not only for the people, but also by the people.

Every Saturday, thousands of residents of Montgomery, Alabama's African American community turn on their radios to WKXN FM for the local radio call-in shows "Nosey Neighbor" and "Down in the Hood." From front porches to barbershops, listeners tune in to hear WKXN DJs "Killer Diller" Roscoe Miller, "The Iceman" Jerry Jackson, and James "Doctor Funk" Smith take calls from listeners and discuss local gossip and news over a soundtrack of new school and old school R&B music. The popularity of both of these radio programs is due to station owner "Killer Diller" Roscoe Miller's vision of offering his listeners community-based radio programming reminiscent of the radio days of old.

Known to its listeners as "The Big Station," the DJs of WKXN carry on the tradition of African American radio pioneers such as Nat D. Williams, Jack "The Rapper" Gibson, and Martha Jean "The Queen" Steinberg. The filming of THE BIG STATION offers a unique opportunity to explore why radio is still a relevant platform in today's media environment.

# THE BIG STATION

## **Tyler Bell**

Director, Producer, Camera, Sound, Editor

An Alabama native, Tyler Bell has worked as a production assistant and computer animator on several films and commercials during the 1980's -1990's. In 1991, Bell became a percussionist for the popular college band Blues Old Stand. During that time he co-produced and recorded the band's first and second albums with producers Jim Marrer and John Keane. After five years of touring and recording, Bell returned to his hometown of Montgomery, AL and opened four restaurants between 1996-2001. He began making short films about the South in 2001 with guidance from his mentors, Joel DeMott and Jeff Kreines. THE BIG STATION is his first full length documentary. Currently, Bell is finishing two films for CaseQuarter Records; QUESTIONS FOR PERRY TILLIS and ISIAH OWENS - PRAY AND GET READY. A film about Guitarist Hermon Hitson is also in production.

## **Michael Chromey**

Producer

Michael Chromey was born in Phillipsburg, NJ in 1975. He received his BA in Anthropology from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. In 1996, Chromey traveled to Ghana, West Africa to participate in West Virginia University's Second Annual African Music Studies Seminar. The following year, he returned to Ghana and conducted independent field research in Ghana and Burkina Faso. During this research trip, Chromey compiled a series of photographs depicting the role of music within various ethnic communities throughout Ghana. An inherent love of music and a scholastic interest in the relationship between music and culture led him to the University of London where he completed his MMus in Ethnomusicology in 2001. After returning from London, Chromey entered the University of Alabama's School of Library and Information Studies where he earned an MLIS in the fall of 2003. He currently lives in Cairo, Egypt where he works as a subject specialist in literature and performing/visual arts at the Main Library of The American University in Cairo.

# THE BIG STATION

## CREDITS and CONTACTS

Featuring "Killer Diller" Roscoe Miller  
"The Iceman" Jerry Jackson  
James "Dr Funk" Smith

Directed and Produced Tyler Bell  
Produced Michael Chromey  
Assistant Producer Sara Philpott  
Assistant Producer Harvi Sahota  
Assistant Producer Jerome Upshaw

Camera, Sound, Edited Tyler Bell

The Big Station  
Running Time: 55 minutes  
USA - 2006 - DV - 1:33:1 - B&W - NTSC - Dolby Stereo 2.0

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[www.thebigstationmovie.com](http://www.thebigstationmovie.com)  
<http://audience.withoutabox.com/films/thebigstation>  
<http://www.myspace.com/thebigstation>

# THE BIG STATION

## MUSIC

### Nine Pound Steel

Written by Dan Pennington and Wayne Thompson  
Performed by Joe Simon  
Budde Songs Inc - BMI Screen Gems - EMI Music Inc - BMI

### I'm Coming Home

Written by Luther W Lackey  
Performed by Vick Allen  
Lulack Publishing - ASCAP

### Until You Come Back To Me

Written by Morris Broadney, Paul Clarence and Stevie Wonder  
Performed by Aretha Franklin  
Sawandi Music - BMI / Stone Agate Music - BMI  
Black Bull Music, Inc - ASCAP / Jobete Music Co - EMI Music

### Cheatin' On Me

Written by Floyd Hamberlin, Jr  
Performed by Johnnie Taylor  
Malaco Music Co - BMI

### Walk Away With Me

Written by George Jackson  
Performed by Johnnie Taylor  
Malaco Music Co - BMI

### Mind Your Own Business

Written by Robert A Johnson and Sam Mosely  
Performed by Bobby Blue Bland  
Koke Moke and Noke Music - BMI / SABO Music - BMI

### Ain't Gonna Bump No More

Written by Buddy Killen and Bennie Lee McGinty  
Performed by Kurt Carr (?)  
Sony/ATV Tree Publishing - BMI

### Standing In The Background

Written by Charles Richard Cason and Carl Sims  
Performed by Carl Sims  
Deltaboy Music - BMI / Malaco Music Co - BMI

### Still Here

Written by Douglas L Williams  
Performed by Williams Brothers  
Dalf Music Co - ASCAP

### Down In The Hood

Written by Sidney Bailey and John Ward  
Performed by Lee "Shot" Williams  
Ecko South Publishing - BMI / Yendis Yeliab Music - BMI

### Play At Your Own Risk

Written by Arthur Henry Baker and John Robie  
Performed by Planet Patrol  
Shakin Baker Music - BMI  
T Girl Music LLC - BMI

### Meet Me At The Spot

Written by Terry Kimble  
Performed by TK Soul  
RAW Entertainment

### Two Way Love Affair

Written by David Brinston and Carl Marshall  
Performed by David Brinston  
Carl Marshall Music - BMI

### Check To Check

Written by Cunningham, Omar Hall, Austin La Priest  
Performed by Omar Cunningham  
On Top Records - BMI

### Dance Party

Written by Raymond Moore and John Ward  
Performed by Quinn Golden  
Ecko South Publishing Co - BMI / Hattie Ray Music - BMI

### The Same Thing Medley (Running Out Of Lies)

Written by Frank L Johnson  
Performed by Da' Problemsovas  
EMI Longitude Music - BMI

### My Wife

Written and Performed by David Brinston

### Yeah!

Written by Christopher Bridges, Garrett R Hamler, La Marquis Jefferson,  
James Elbert Phillips, Jonathan H Smith and Patrick M Smith  
Performed by Usher, Lil' John, Ludacris  
Christopher Matthew Music - BMI / Hitco Music - BMI / Lil Jon 00017  
Music - BMI / Songs of TVT - BMI / Air Control Music  
EMI April Music - BMI / Basajamba Music/EMI April  
Me And Marq Music/Bughouse - ASCAP

### I Found Love

Written by Paul Lavon Davis  
Performed by Jeff Floyd  
Malaco Music Co - BMI

### Man Next Door

Written by Bigg Robb and Bart Thomas  
Performed by Da' Problemsovas  
Over 25 Sound

### Shame

Written by Reuben Fitch Cross and John Henry, Jr  
Performed by Evelyn Champagne King  
Unichappell Music Inc - BMI / Six Conzella Music - BMI

### Set It Off

Written by Steven W Standard  
Performed by Strafe  
S T D Music Publishing Co - ASCAP

### No Parking On The Dancefloor

Written by Vincent L Calloway, Bobby Lovelace and William B Simmons  
Performed by Midnight Starr  
Calloco Music Inc - BMI / Midstar Music Inc - BMI  
Songs of Lastrada - BMI / Sony/ATV Songs LLC (Epic Solar) - BMI