



luckyburden songs + film

luckyburden songs + film is a collaboration between Kim Barlow and filmmaker Andrew Connors. It combines the live presentation of a documentary film and music about Keno City, a former silver mining town 500 km north of Whitehorse. The songs of *luckyburden* revolve around work, love, and mixed blessings, in what most of us would consider extreme circumstances. The songs and film sprung from the stories of Yukoners who are tough, adaptable, and a little wild. As Canadians, these stories resonate because a large part of our shared history grew out of towns much like Keno.

The *luckyburden* film combines invaluable and rarely-seen footage taken by various residents of the Keno Hill mining area between 1935 and 1980, and contemporary images of the towns and derelict mines. It also tells the story of long time resident and champion of the unique culture of the Keno Hill area, Mike Mancini. Mike was born in Italy, but moved to Keno at the age of two and though he's tried to move away many times, has never been successful in doing so. Miner, carpenter, historian, mining museum director and café proprietor, Mike keeps the stories of Keno alive with his generous hospitality at the Keno City Snack Bar.

The combination of Barlow and Connors' storytelling has proven itself a moving experience for audiences from Rue St. Laurent to Gastown, and offers a rare glimpse into the surprising lives of these rugged Canadians.

Kim Barlow

Kim Barlow is an international touring and recording artist, based in the Yukon. Her second CD, *Gingerbread*, was nominated for a Juno award in 2003 in the roots/traditional category. *luckyburden* was released in Canada and then in Australia in 2005 and she toured there in March of that year. Barlow plays guitar and banjo to create complex and unexpected settings for her fables of lost children, allegories for love and loss, and songs of protest. Kim also writes and performs music for theatre, dance, storytelling and film.

Andrew Connors

A film and media artist living in Whitehorse, Yukon, Andrew finished his first fiction film this year, a novella history/mystery of sorts. A distillation of his fascination with the Keno Hill mining region, *Artifacts* is a fictional companion piece to **luckyburden: songs + film**. He has produced and directed several documentaries for television.

Praise for *luckyburden*

"This is an example of a shared vision by both Kim and Andrew where the images from words, music and film just wash over the audience in delight. Kim, Justin (Haynes) and Andrew earned every second of the standing ovation when the closing credits flickered out. The folks in this town will be talking about this night for a long, long time."

~ Bill Usher, *Kicking Horse Culture*, Golden, BC

"It's only a slight exaggeration to say that Barlow's *luckyburden* disc is one of the best folk concept albums since Bruce Springsteen's *Nebraska*." ~ Straight Picks, *The Georgia Straight*, Vancouver, BC

For information about luckyburden songs + film, contact:

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Photos courtesy of Nathanael Sapara (*NextFest*), Mike Mancini, Guiniveve Lalena