Jonathan Demme, the Academy award nominated director behind the Talking Heads' *Stop Making Sense* told the *New York Times* "I've seen everything and this is brand new. If anybody can bring cinema narrative out of the bog it's in, it's David Byrne."

Demme was talking about Byrne's film **True Stories** a movie about people living out their modest lives in innocent dignity, a movie that glorifies the elegance of the ordinary.

The idea for **True Stories** came to Byrne in 1983 when he began collecting human interest articles. Says Byrne "Eventually they started to get connected with these visual ideas I had and ideas I had for songs." The ideas turned into people and became the basis for the film **True Stories**.

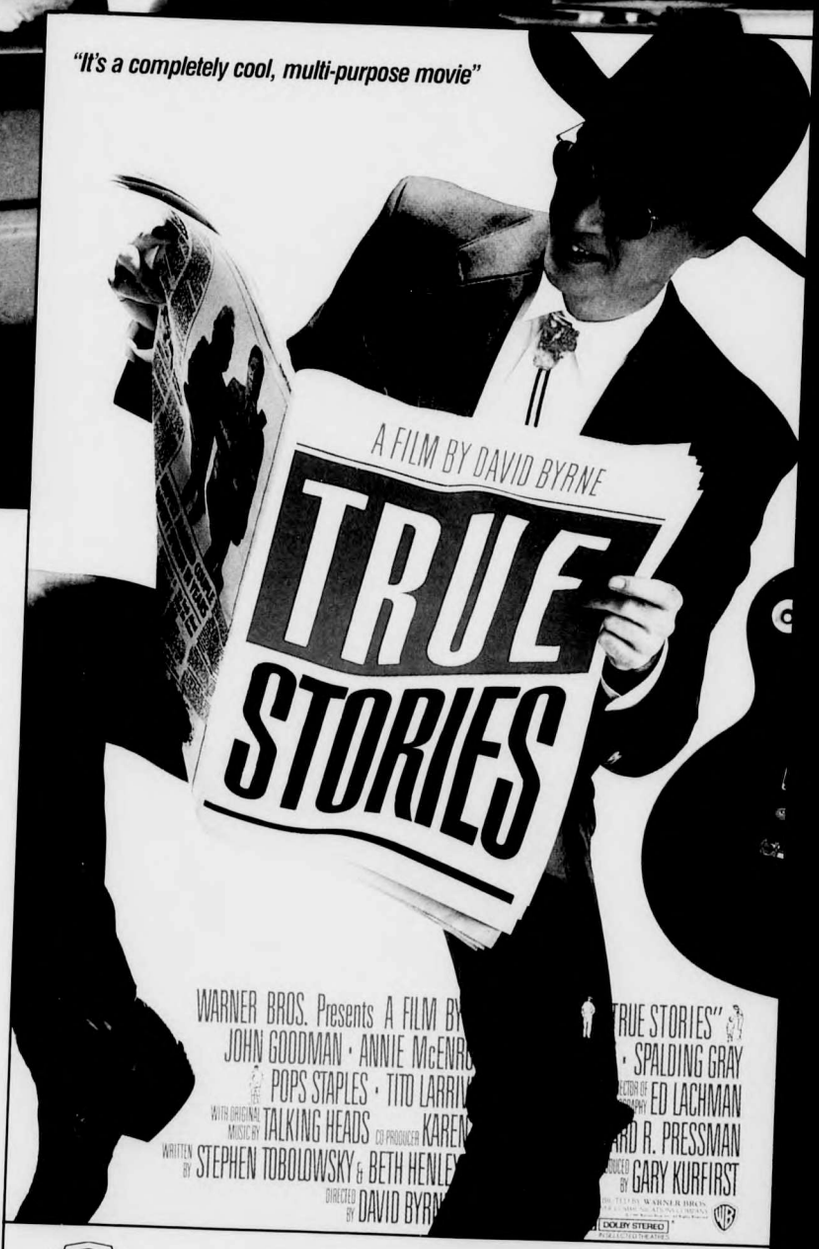
Byrne says these characters appealed to him because "they had their own eccentricities but they weren't ashamed of them. It was like they were saying 'This is what I am and I'm going to be proud of it.' "

Though the film **True Stories** is David Byrne's vision, the soundtrack album is a true Talking Heads collaboration. Says Tina Weymouth "David came to us with sketchy demos. He wanted the participation of us all. All four of us worked the arrangements — we kept redoing and redefining, simplifying or elaborating or strengthening until we decided it worked."

The end result is *True Stories Music by Talking Heads,* one of the most varied albums Talking Heads have ever made. As Heads drummer and co-founder Chris Frantz says "It's vivacious, spunky and incorporates several different ethnic styles." Adds Heads guitarist/keyboardist Jerry Harrison "The album is filled with music where we took risks."

True Stories Music by Talking Heads is more than random juxtaposition. It is a deliberate celebration of the extraordinary in what we often consider mundane, a celebration in which sometimes dusty regional styles are treated as a precious raw material. That is the spirit of the film for which these songs have been crafted. That is the spirit of **True Stories**.

— Peter Neil



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