



**HANK'S**

**SALOON**

**THE TRUE STORY OF A BROOKLYN BAR**

DIRECTED BY LEON CHASE

# HANK'S SALOON

Director: Leon Chase  
Producer: Ashlie Atkinson  
Production Company: Ham Planet, Inc.  
Filmed and Edited by: Leon Chase

Genre: Documentary  
Country: USA  
Production Year: 2025  
Language: English  
Rating: NR  
Content Advisory: Alcohol, Smoking, Drug References,  
Strong Language, Paper Genitalia

Run Time: 117 minutes  
Aspect Ratio: 16:9  
Frame Rate: 24 fps  
Exhibition Format: 2K DCP, 1080 ProRes  
Sound: Stereo

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# HANK'S SALOON

## LOGLINE

A gritty, beer-soaked peek at fabled Brooklyn dive bar Hank's Saloon—and the people who loved it—in its final months before closing down forever.

## SYNOPSIS

For over 100 years, Hank's Saloon existed, under various names and owners, as a beloved local Brooklyn dive bar.

In 2018, after nearly a decade of speculation and uncertainty, the rickety little flame-painted building on the corner of Third Avenue and Atlantic announced they would finally be closing their doors for good.

This feature documentary follows Hank's—along with its colorful staff and rotating cast of oddball patrons—through the bar's stressful and celebratory final months. It also takes a deep-dive into the fascinating history of the building, from its roots as a working-class Irish saloon, through its various roles as a Prohibition speakeasy, First Nations ironworker hangout, and crack-era safe haven, up to its final incarnation as a quintessential "old man bar" turned legendary indie music venue, all pitted against the backdrop of a rapidly changing New York City.

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Local News Anytime Anywhere



CBSN NEW YORK

POWELL ST

WNYM SKF

Budweiser

BEE

SMELLER



Sticker-covered wall and door

Hand icon (pedestrian signal)

Time Out NEW YORK

The best things to do in NYC

MUHLENB



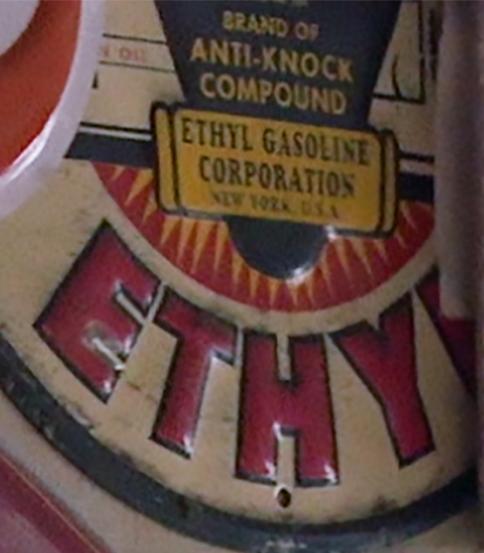




OTOR CO.



VISIT:





## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In 2018, I was invited to film the Brooklyn, New York, bar Hank's Saloon in the final months before it closed down forever

For me, Hank's wasn't just another quirky, dilapidated dive bar. It was where I met some of my oldest and closest friends. It was where, in the early 2000s, my band started, and where we played our first shows. And it was the place where, on a fateful night in 2008, a hot, slightly inebriated roller derby player gave me her phone number. Years later, she would become my wife.

Beyond all that, Hank's was the kind of old-school Brooklyn joint that—if you were willing to brave a few mentally unstable characters and some questionable smells—still valued personality and freedom over status or wealth. It was a refuge, both onstage and off, to people who, for whatever social, financial, or artistic reasons, didn't feel like they fit in anywhere else. And throughout its wild 114-year history, it stood strong—if not exactly sturdy—as an unlikely oasis of fun and friendship amidst the ever-shifting landscape of downtown Brooklyn.

There was nothing else in the world quite like Hank's Saloon. It was an honor for me to drink there, and an honor to film it while I had the chance.

- Leon Chase



**“Anything good,  
they want to  
take it away.”**

**- Dennis**

# CAST

A few of the characters (and we do mean characters) you'll meet in "Hank's Saloon"



## Jeannie

Bartender

Ask anyone about Hank's Saloon, and you're bound to hear the name Jeannie. This tough-talking Bensonhurst babe has been working the bar since it was the Doray Tavern back in 1993 and, at age 70-something, is still going strong. She makes a killer Bloody Mary, and she's got a heart of gold, but don't ever get on her bad side.



## Julie

Owner

Julie grew up a block away from the bar, and may or may not have visited it during her teenage years. Running a business is no joke—especially when you've spent the last decade waiting to get evicted. Luckily, Julie's Chaotic Good personality (and love of tequila) makes her perfectly suited to be at the helm of a hot mess like Hank's.



## Lauren

Manager

Poor Lauren. When she's not busy fielding annoying drink orders or disciplining drunk idiots, she's trying to keep a decrepit 150-year-old building from falling in on itself. She also saved a guy's life once, but she'll never tell you that. As the bar's end date looms, so too does the list of headaches Lauren has to deal with. Will she make it to the final night?

THE  
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NYC  
A digital display screen showing text and graphics.





RAMA

THE MORE I DRINK THE BETTER YOU LOOK

NEW YORK  
IRONWORKERS 4

PROUD  
UNION  
CARPENTER

High Life 5  
Guinness 7  
Pilsner 7 8  
Coco 7  
Hank's R.I.P.A 7  
Sweet Action 7  
Orchard LIDER  
Holiday Cheer 7

DEM

Flaming cocktail

Bottle labels: Tito's Handmade Vodka, Smirnoff, Amaretto, Campari, etc.

UNCLE LEON  
AND L... 5

LEMONS + LIMES

# CAST

A few more of the characters you'll find in "Hank's Saloon"



## Dennis

Regular

Dennis devotes each day to the two true loves in his life: little airplane bottles of liquor, and Jeannie. No one is sure what exactly Dennis' backstory is, but he's been a regular fixture at the bar for as long as anyone can remember. He's always the first to lend a hand, and if you catch him before he gets too wasted, he can be downright brilliant.



## Kipp

Sound Guy

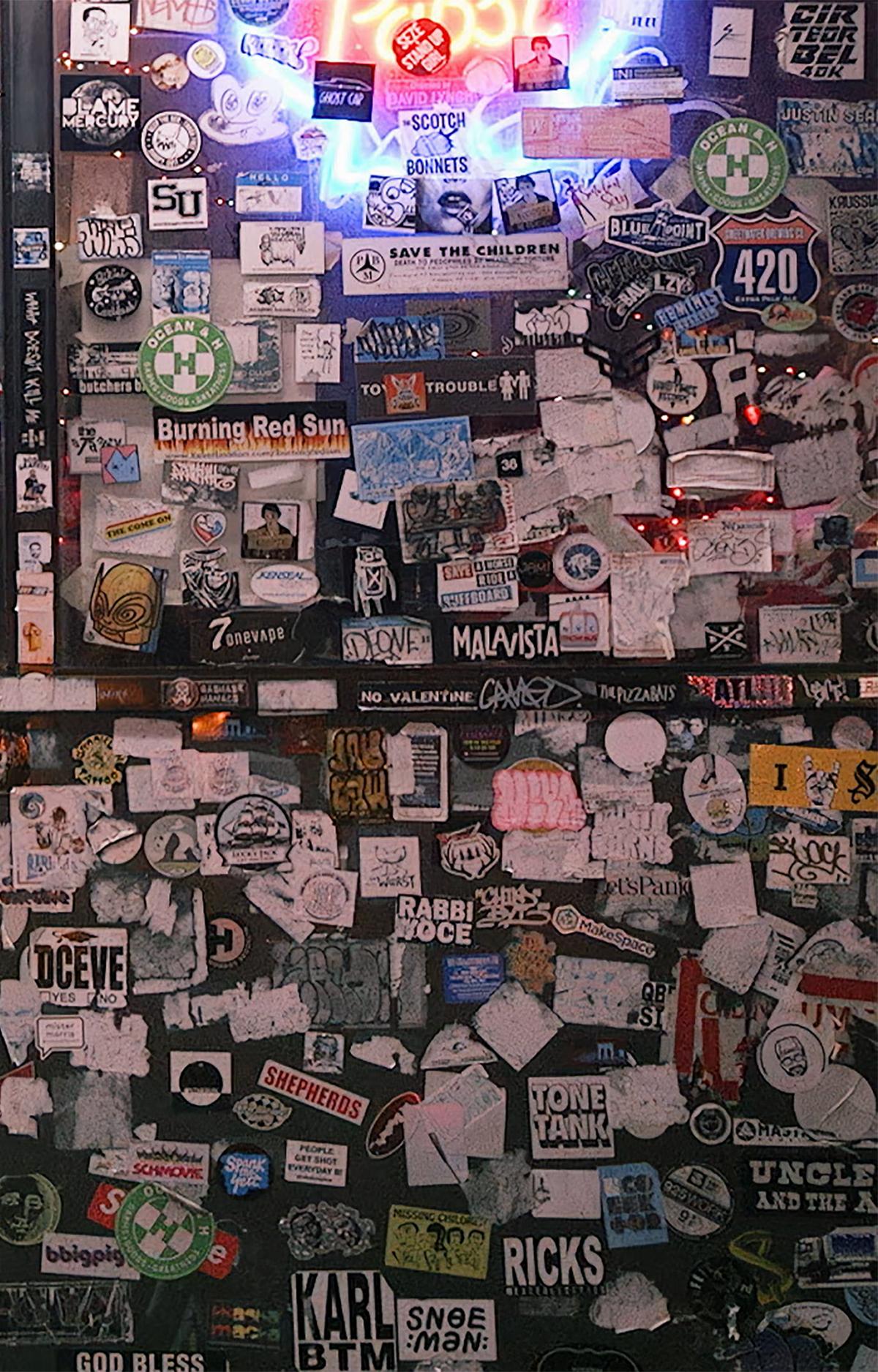
A veteran of the music scene since the 1970s, Kipp has seen it all, and probably tried most of it. An old-school punk at heart, Kipp loves music almost as much as he hates greedy real-estate developers. He's also one of the few people who knows how to step into a scrappy little music venue like Hank's and make it sound great.



## William

Regular

William has been coming to this bar since the mid '90s, and has the stories to prove it. The days of slot machines and recliners in the bar may be over, but Hank's remains, in his words, "the most original Benetton ad of New York." Like a lot of regulars, William isn't sure where he'll go next, but he knows it will never be as good as Hank's.





# LEON CHASE

Director

Leon Chase grew up in the industrial suburbs south of Detroit, but has called Brooklyn home for the past 25 years.

Hank's Saloon regulars remember him best as the frontman for **Uncle Leon and the Alibis**, a cowpunk band that was born in Hank's and played there regularly throughout the 2000s.

At the age of 40, Leon got interested in video and, for better or for worse, taught himself how to make movies. Alarmed by the ongoing billionaire takeover of New York City—and the cultural whitewashing that came with it—he decided to dedicate himself to documenting what he calls “the vanishing New York weirdo”.

His first documentary, **Character**, about the burlesque performer Fancy Feast, screened at Anthology Film Archives, the Center for Sex and Culture in San Francisco, and the 2017 Coney Island Film Festival. The second, **Suzy Hotrod: Roller Derby Star**, appeared at Berlin's Too Drunk to Watch festival, and at the 2019 Art of Brooklyn Film Festival, where it won the Audience Choice Award.

In 2015, he married his favorite roller derby player, Ashlie Atkinson.

# ASHLIE ATKINSON

Producer

Born in Little Rock, Arkansas, Ashlie Atkinson grew up fantasizing about New York City, and has been living the dream here since 2001.

When she's not producing important bar movies, Ashlie works as an acclaimed film, television, and theater actor. Winner of the 2004 Theatre World Award for her New York theater debut in Neil LaBute's **Fat Pig**, she has since amassed a pile of over 100 credits, and shows no sign of slowing down.

Most recently, she has appeared as Miss Dot on the NBC comedy series **Stumble**, and as dispatcher Ruby Bishop in the Paul Greengrass film **The Lost Bus**. Next year she will return to HBO's period drama **The Gilded Age**, where she plays the eccentric and chaotic real-life society woman Mamie Fish.

Other notable appearances include the white-supremacist wife Connie in Spike Lee's **BlacKkKlansman**, the publisher Amanda on HBO's **And Just Like That**, and the psychotic villain Janice in the television drama series **Mr. Robot**.

She also co-produced the theater/charity event **24 Hour Plays: Little Rock** and is a member of the actors' activist group **Room Tone**.

In 2015, she married her favorite singer, Leon Chase.



## CREDITS

Directed by Leon Chase  
Produced by Ashlie Atkinson  
Filmed and Edited by Leon Chase

### EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS:

John N. Ray  
David T. Smith  
Mike White

### ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS:

Lauren Billings  
Chris Schuessler

### RESEARCH ASSISTANT:

Nancy Williams

### HANK'S 2003 FOOTAGE:

Robert Jimison

### HANK'S 2005 FOOTAGE:

Chris Schuessler  
Antony Klugman  
Linda Fiorella  
Doug Karr  
Cassie Cosgrove

### ADDITIONAL HANK'S FOOTAGE:

Lauren Billings

## CAST

Jeannie Taliercio  
Lauren Billings  
Julie Ipcar  
Neil Magnuson  
Jon Glazer  
Elaine McMahon  
Darryl Sweeney  
Jeffrey Clemmons  
Lee Greenfeld  
Sean Kershaw  
Izzy Zaidman  
William Ferrens  
Daria Grace  
Bobby Lesko  
Linda Hill  
Nelson Christopher Ala  
Molly O'Gorman  
Meghan O'Gorman  
Jay Boogie  
Urbie Cooper  
Natasa Kokonezi  
Chuck Montgomery  
Sue Scarlett Montgomery  
Mike Cunningham  
Patty  
Alison Harvey  
Althea Graham  
Aleck Curtin

Dennis Chipell  
Kipp Elbaum  
Eric Davidson  
Aaron Jaffe  
Brooklyn Babydoll  
Cullen Gallagher  
Laurin Paradise  
Alex Battles

### THE IRONWORKERS

Chris "Sal" Beauvais  
David "Chappy" Charles  
Pat "Hotrod" Goodleaf  
Darren "Squirrel" Hannet  
Elliott "Wathias" Hemlock  
Floyd "Sarge" LaHache  
Pete "Guddygoo" Marquis

### BANDS

Uncle Fucker  
Sean Kershaw and the  
New Jack Ramblers  
The Serpentones  
Creatures

The Apache Brown Band  
The Livids  
Chuck & Sue  
Caterwaul of Sound  
Mr. Airplane Man  
The Nuclears  
Chesty Malone and the Slice 'em Ups  
The Lonesome Prairie Dogs  
Mighty High  
The Cameramen  
Elefantkiller  
Kaylor Otwell  
The New York Fowl Harmonic  
The Jack Grace Band  
Reign of Zaius  
The Opera Cowgirls  
Mongrel Bitch  
GLTR PNCH  
Ronnie Lake  
SuperFunFacePunch!!!!  
The Brought Low  
David Hillyard and the Rocksteady 7  
The Get It  
The Mimsey Mack Band  
David Haught  
Uncle Leon and the Alibis  
Laura Rebel Angel  
Acorn Slim



SIERRA NEVADA

CASH ONLY

Bottles  
Bud, Bud 71  
Corona 5

Miller High Life 5  
Coney Island  
Sly Fox  
Crown Cider  
Brewery  
BROOKLYN LAGER  
SANGRIA

BOWHEAD

9/11



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3473



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C I N E M A

"HANK'S SALOON"

**WORLD  
PREMIERE**

NITEHAWK CINEMA  
PROSPECT PARK

BROOKLYN, NY

**JAN. 26, 2026**

**7PM**

[MORE INFO](#)

COMING SOON!

# HANK'S SALOON

NEW YORK CITY

## BAR TOUR

If you've got a screen, a sound system, and a willing audience, we'll show our movie there.

**CONTACT:**

Leon Chase

[hanksmovie@gmail.com](mailto:hanksmovie@gmail.com)



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[All Press Materials](#)

[hankssaloonmovie.com](http://hankssaloonmovie.com)