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America's Barefoot Evangelist

Sunday April 20 2:07 PM ET

Exhibiting the same kind of tabula rasa wisdom as the characters in *Being There* and *Forrest Gump*, Carl J. Joseph now has his own movie to add to the miniscule sub-genre.

By *FilmStew Staff*, *FilmStew.com*

Though the Los Angeles United Film Festival is only three days long (April 18th – 20th), it has managed to pack in a number of noteworthy films. Among them are *Wiener Takes All*, the wonderful documentary about wiener dogs we wrote about last fall ("*Wiener Takes All*") and another doc, *The Jesus Guy*, a profile of the anonymous Christ-like figure who over the past decade and a half has crisscrossed 47 states and 13 countries.

It's almost inconceivable: a bearded man dressed in a robe, roaming the globe to preach the message of God and passing on all donations to the parishes of the locality he happens to find himself in. The Jesus Guy's profile previously spiked in the year 2000, when *Time Magazine* ran an article entitled "Appalachian Apostle," precipitating a mountain of further media coverage."

The subject of the film, the now 47-year-old Carl James Joseph, for a long time liked to be known only as "What's Your Name?", which he says was a nod to the words the Bible says Moses uttered when he encountered God by the burning bush. More recently, however, he has decided to go by the abbreviated name of James Joseph.

The Detroit native has paid the price for his wanderings; in 2006 for example, he had (donated) arthroscopic surgery performed on both of his knees. Joseph is necessarily not nearly as much on the road anymore, having settled in 2004 in the small town of Cullman, Alabama.

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