



# SUFJAN STEVENS

## CREATES RODEO DOCUMENTARY ON PENDLETON ROUND-UP

BY NATHAN SPICER

IN ADDITION TO COMPOSING BAROQUE-INDIE-folk songs that generate considerable praise within musichead and critic circles, Sufjan Stevens also indulges a surprisingly broad spectrum of supplementary interests. A while ago, he posted an entire [blog entry skewering Savages' album art](#) by delving into the intricacies of the Helvetica Narrow typeface, then referencing Buddhism and E.E. Cummings's penchant for forgoing capitalization. So while it's rather strange that Sufjan Stevens co-created a documentary on \*clears throat\* a *rodeo*, it's not completely shocking.

[The Pendleton Round-Up](#) is an annual rodeo that takes place in Pendleton, Oregon, on the second full week of September. After developing a mysterious fascination with the event's inherent culture while attending it as an "outsider", as he put it, Stevens decided to create a documentary. So he enlisted the help of sibling filmmakers and founders of We Are Films: [Aaron and Alex Craig](#). He also composed original music for the film.

According to [The Playlist](#), Stevens and the Craig brothers recorded roughly 60 hours of footage throughout 2013 with the intention of cutting and sculpting it into a five-minute short they'd release online. But "the Craig brothers told Stevens that their shortest edit was thirty minutes, and even that left good footage on the cutting room floor," says The Playlist.

So now, after a yearlong production process, the film lasts just over an hour and features exclusively slow-motion cinematography. The debut will take place from January 20th to the 25th at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's (BAM's) Harvey Theater. As the documentary plays, Stevens will perform the score's electronic elements alongside the group Yarn/Wire, who'll handle piano and percussion. Tickets are available at the [BAM website](#).

You can watch the trailer for Round-Up below.

