

RICKY ROUSE HAS A GUN

PRESS RELEASE



“I loved [*Ricky Rouse Has A Gun*]. It’s a comic filled with deaths and yet full of life.”

—Alejandro Jodorowsky

Ricky Rouse Has A Gun follows the story of Rick Rouse, a US army deserter who takes a job at Fengxian Amusement Park, a family destination heavily “inspired” by Western culture, featuring Rambi (the deer with the red headband), Ratman (the caped crusader with a rat’s tail), Bumbo (small ears, big behind), and other original characters. But when American terrorists take the entire park hostage, only Ricky Rouse can save the day—in a furry costume.

A satire on US-China relations and a comment on attitudes towards intellectual property, this inventive graphic novel comes out with all its action comedy guns blazing.

Written by London-based screenwriter, director and producer Jörg Tittel and drawn by comics artist John Aggs, *Ricky Rouse Has A Gun* combines the brash cinematic scope of Verhoeven’s Hollywood movies with the energetic action of *Die Hard* and *Lethal Weapon*. Wearing both its social and political hats, it explores the current nature of international property rights taking pot shots at Western global corporate brand expansion and legally enforced protection in the West, and looking at Chinese attitudes to imitation and assimilation.

The foreword is written by intellectual property law expert Christopher Sprigman, Professor of Law at NYU and author of *The Knockoff Economy*.

A limited-run gold-plated hardback edition was published in June with a hugely successful guerrilla marketing campaign. This included a specially shot Ricky Rouse music video directed by Jörg Tittel, featuring an original soundtrack composed by UNKLE’s James Lavelle, curator of this year’s Meltdown Festival. The video was released as part of a BitTorrent Bundle, along with 33 pages of the graphic novel. The Bundle has received well over 250,000 downloads to date. Further info can be found at: www.rickyleaks.org

A life-size Ricky Rouse costume was crafted at Shepperton Studios by the creators of costumes for *Captain America* and *Guardians of the Galaxy*. After turning up in London, Angoulême and New York City, Ricky himself is expected to be putting in further appearances at UK events throughout the Autumn.

About the creators

Jörg Tittel writes, produces, and directs plays, films and video games. His passion and long-term mission is to create beautifully crafted stories and character-driven projects that transcend media. He lives in London.

John Aggs is a London-based comic book artist whose work for adults and children has been published by *The Guardian*, Random House, Hachette and many others.

Notes to editors

SelfMadeHero aims to publish works that provoke, entertain, inspire, and inform through visual narratives. We are proud to publish ground-breaking and beautiful work by authors and artists from across the globe, from the quirky and humorous to the political and profound. Releases this Autumn include Bryan Lee O’Malley’s *Seconds*, Martin’s Rowson’s *The Coalition Book*, Rob Davis’ *The Motherless Oven*, Jean-Pierre Filiu & David B.’s *Best Of Enemies, Vol. 2*, INJ Culbard’s *The Dream-Quest of Unknown Kadath*, and Frederik Peeters’ *Aama, Vol 2: The Invisible Throng*

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