

ROOTS & RELICS

WITH JD HART

TRUE STORIES.
REAL FAMILIES.
RARE TREASURES.

DWF  NY
2026 OFFICIAL SELECTION



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Run Time: 23:00

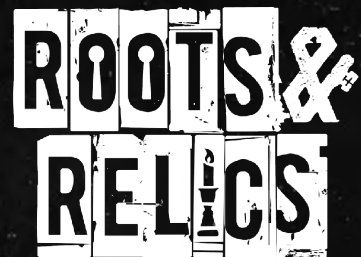
Created & Written by:
Matthew Avant

Host:
JD Hart

Executive Producers:
Matthew & Katie Avant

Production Company:
Media Savant LLC

mediasavantllc.com



SYNOPSIS

ROOTS & RELICS™ is a documentary adventure series that digs beneath the surface of family heirlooms to uncover the surprising and inspiring stories they hold.

Each episode follows HOST JD HART as he travels across America meeting families who possess unique artifacts that carry echoes of ancestors, lost homesteads and long-buried chapters of American history.

Through interviews, on-location exploration, archival research, cinematic dramatizations and hands-on discovery, the series reveals how even the simplest relic can open a doorway to the past.

More than a show about antiques, Roots & Relics™ celebrates personal history, family identity and the timeless connection between people and the objects they preserve.



**CINEMATIC
DRAMATIZATIONS**



**HISTORICAL
& ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE**



JD Hart is a rare triple threat - an accomplished actor, a masterful voice talent and a charismatic on-camera presence.

His signature vocals and on-screen performances captivate audiences with authenticity and charm.

**INTERVIEWS
& TESTIMONIALS**



UNLIKE TYPICAL NON-FICTION SERIES, OUR HOST DOESN'T JUST NARRATE - HE STEPS INTO THE STORY, PERFORMING SCENES THAT BRING EACH RELIC TO LIFE.

THIS ORIGINAL APPROACH BLENDS STORYTELLING AND PERFORMANCE, MAKING THE PAST FEEL IMMEDIATE AND PERSONAL.

**RELICS &
HEIRLOOMS**



**ROOTS &
RELICS**

PILOT EPISODE

WOLF CREEK,
MONTANA

WILL RITTEL &
SANDRA RENNER

A CAVE OF SECRETS



"July 1881. Jo Baker. Griz Kilt Me. God Help. I hurt bad. Leg chewed and is rot. Bear may come back. My rifle is broke. I hear dam Griz. She come back."

In 1946, Tag Rittel made an amazing discovery on his family's Montana ranch: a rock carved with the last words of a man attacked by a bear and left for dead in 1881.

This led to a cave filled with artifacts dating back to the ice age. Deep inside, a mysterious ALTAR with the image of a bear was left intact. Origins unknown.

Today, grandson Will Rittel preserves these rare treasures; Representing 5 generations of family and thousands of years of wildlife & human civilization.

ROOTS &
RELIQS

Thousands of artifacts are on display in the original homestead, now part of the Rittel family private collection at Blacktail Ranch.



Equal parts Indiana Jones, Unsolved Mystery's Robert Stack and Josh Gates of 'Expedition Unknown', JD Hart is our guide to adventure, intrigue and truth through the lens of history.

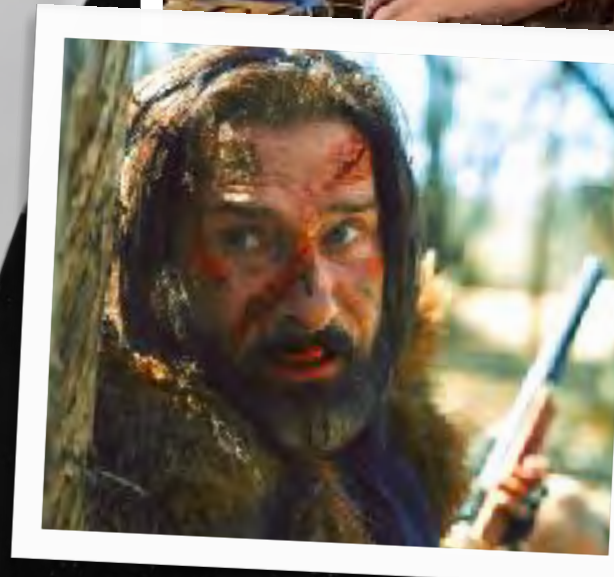
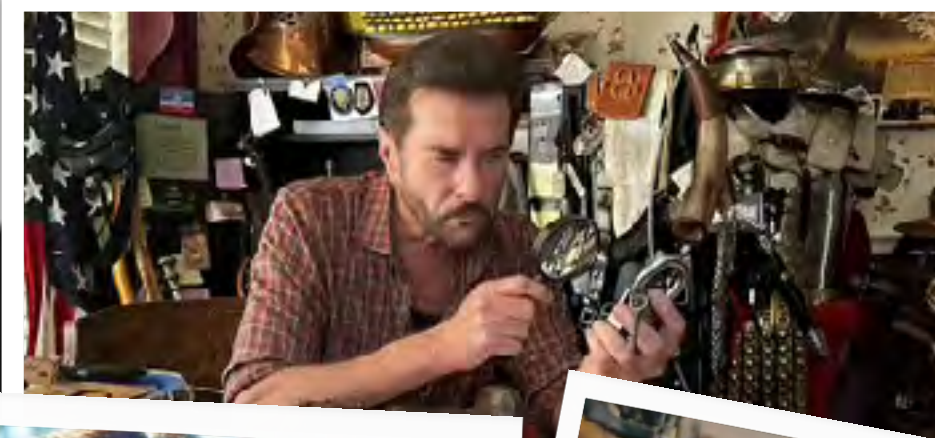
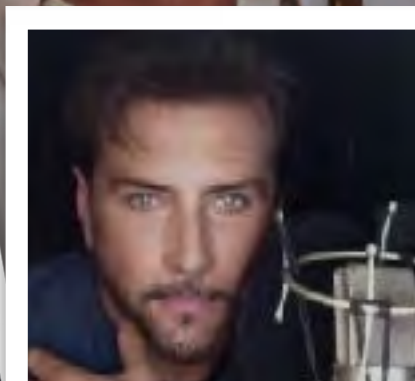
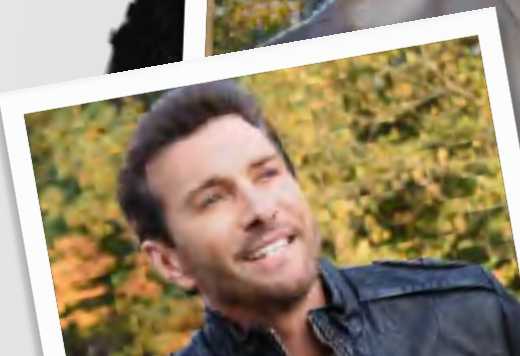


OUR HOST: J.D. HART

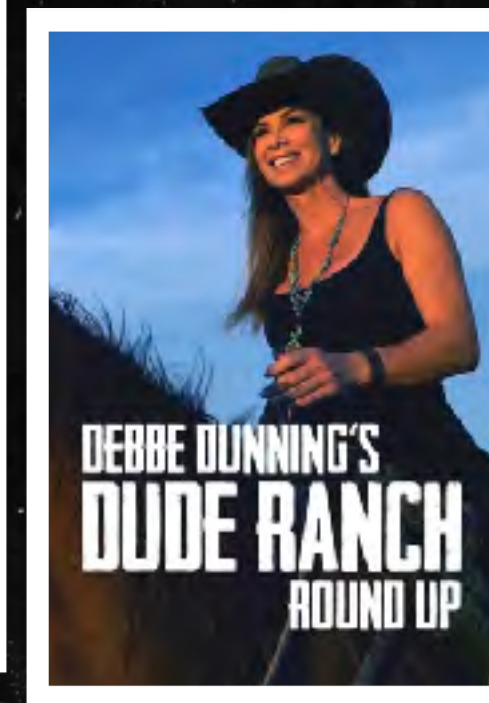
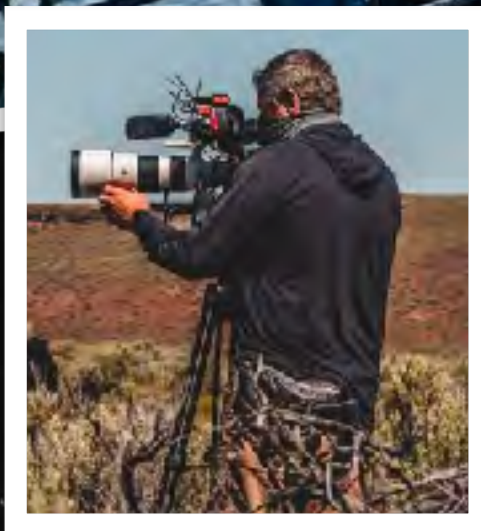
JD Hart is a celebrated storyteller, actor, and voice artist whose warm presence and genuine curiosity bring Roots & Relics™ to life. Known for his distinctive voice heard on television, film and audiobook projects, JD's career spans decades of performance grounded in authenticity and heart.

As host of Roots & Relics™, he guides families and viewers alike through emotional, historical and often surprising discoveries and approaches each artifact with respect and wonder.

With a lifelong passion for American history and a gift for making people feel seen and heard, JD creates a welcoming space for families to open up about their personal legacies. His ability to connect past and present gives the series its emotional foundation, transforming objects into stories and stories into lasting memories.



PRODUCER | CREATOR MATTHEW AVANT



Matthew J. Avant is an award-winning director, producer and storyteller known for blending documentary authenticity with cinematic craft. His work spans feature films, television and long-form documentary storytelling through his production company Media Savant LLC. Avant's cult-favorite film *Lunopolis* introduced audiences to his signature mix of mystery, history and human emotion - a blend that continues in *Roots & Relics*™.

Driven by a lifelong love of artifacts, genealogy and American history, Avant created *Roots & Relics*™ to explore the personal stories hidden inside family heirlooms. His approach emphasizes intimacy, humanity and immersive locations - allowing viewers to experience each relic not just as an object, but as a living chapter of someone's life. Avant's mission is to preserve the stories that might otherwise disappear, one relic at a time.

**ROOTS &
RELICS**

ORDER BOTTLES AND LIVER.
ENDORSED BY THE BEST PHYSICIANS
NOT GENUINE UNLESS CUT OF **SAFE** IS ON LABEL
AND WRAPPER.
I KEEP CORKED AND IN A COOL PLACE.

KICKAPOO INDIAN MEDICINE CO.
INCORPORATED
NEW YORK OFFICES ST. LOUIS
Formerly Clintonville, Ohio.

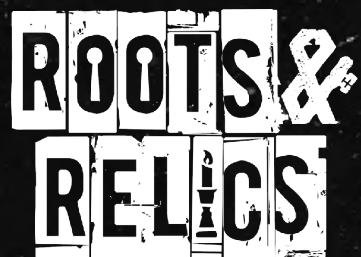
We have such confidence in its merits, and are
sure it will do all we claim for it, that we offer
\$1,000 Reward
If the SICILIAN HAIR RENEWER does not give
satisfaction in all cases when used in strict accordance
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CREATOR STATEMENT

ROOTS & RELICS™ was born from a simple idea: every object that survives a generation has a story worth hearing. In a world moving faster every day, we forget how much our identities are shaped by the people who came before us. Their struggles, adventures and epic life stories are often hidden in the keepsakes they leave behind.

I want to create a show where families can see their own history treated with dignity, curiosity, and cinematic beauty. The smallest heirloom can hold the biggest emotional impact and with our increasing digital landscape, tactile items become a tether to the real world. These totems are more than objects, but connections, legacies and sometimes mysteries waiting to be solved.

My hope is that viewers will be inspired to look at their own family treasures differently. To open the old boxes, ask new questions and rediscover the stories that shaped them. Because when we share our relics with the world, we preserve our families, our stories and ourselves.



ROOTS & RELIQS

MATTHEW AVANT

matt@mediasavantllc.com

337-349-4657

KATIE AVANT

katie@mediasavantllc.com

308-880-0091



**média
savânt**
MEDIASAVANTLLC.COM

