

The **CAROLINA BROGUE**

Language and Life on the North Carolina Coast

Produced and Directed by NEAL HUTCHESON

Executive Producer WALT WOLFRAM

A production of
THE NORTH CAROLINA LANGUAGE AND LIFE PROJECT

www.carolinabrogue.com

DESCRIPTION

A contemporary portrait of the culture and distinctive 'hoi toide' dialect of North Carolina's coastal communities.

BRIEF SYNOPSIS

Some features of early British and Scots-Irish English have been retained in the distinctive regional speech of the Carolina Outer Banks, though the language of the early European settlers evolved to take on its present-day character. Once derided as "bad English," this fading dialect has now been recognized as a national treasure. The Carolina Brogue is a revealing look at the 'hoi toide' speech and distinctive regional culture.

SYNOPSIS

The character and spirit of the Carolina Outer Banks resonates in the rich local dialect known as a 'hoi toide brogue.' Most of the early European settlers came from Southwest England or the Ulster province of Ireland, by way of Tidewater Virginia, and some features of earlier British and Scots-Irish English have been retained in coastal speech. The regional vernacular evolved in relative isolation to take on its distinctive present-day character. Long derided as "bad English" outside of the area, the dialect has recently been elevated by the BBC's assessment of Ocracoke as 'the Galapagos of language,' and books like *Hoi Toide on the Outer Banks*. At the same time, increased contact with outsiders has brought rapid change, and today locals strive to hang on to their heritage and traditions, including the dialect. Rooted in twenty years of fieldwork, research and community relations, *The Carolina Brogue* is a candid portrait of contemporary life on the Carolina Coast, and a revealing look at one of the most unique dialects in the world.

CREW & CREDITS

Walt Wolfram – *Executive Producer*

Neal Hutcheson – *Producer & Director, Videography, Audio, Editing*

Charlotte Vaughn – *Production & Graphic Design*

Gary Mitchell – *Additional Audio Recording*

Christian Nonino – *Production Assistance*

David Hill – *Production Assistance*

Music by Jule Garrish, Edgar Howard, & Maurice Ballance

Narrated by Eric Hodge

FUNDED BY

The College of Humanities & Social Sciences, NC State University
The William C. Friday Endowment
The National Science Foundation

SCREENINGS

In 2008, *The Carolina Brogue* screened as a work-in-progress by special invitation at the Center for Documentary Studies, Duke University, Durham, NC, and the Reynolda Film Festival, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC. The completed film premiered in October, 2008, at the NC Humanities Council Caldwell Laureate Award presentation at NC State University, Raleigh, NC.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

NEAL HUTCHESON (Producer / Director) is an award-winning documentary producer, whose work has appeared on PBS, The Sundance Channel, History, The Documentary Channel and A & E. His producer/director credits include the acclaimed *The Last One* (2008), *The Carolina Brogue* (2008), *The Outlaw Lewis Redmond* (2008), *The Prince of Dark Corners* (2007), *The Queen Family – Appalachian Tradition and Back Porch Music* (2006), *Voices of North Carolina* (2005), *Mountain Talk* (2003), and *Indian By Birth: The Lumbee Dialect* (2001). Hutcheson received the Bill Arnold North Carolina Film Award from the Carolina Film and Video Festival in 2008, a Visual Artist Fellowship from the North Carolina Arts Council in 2004, and project grants from United Arts in 1997 and 2002. Three of his documentary films were honored in a special showing at an annual film festival in Berlin, Germany, in 2006.

WALT WOLFRAM (Executive Producer) has pioneered the study of dialect and culture for more than three decades. Wolfram has published more than 20 books and more than 250 articles on American English dialects, and has served on the Advisory Board of the Children's Television Workshop. A prominent concern of Professor Wolfram involves the application of basic research findings to social and educational problems, and the effective dissemination of information on language variation and cultural diversity to the American public. This interest has included work on a number of TV documentaries, including the award-winning *American Tongues* (1986) and *Do you Speak American* (2005), as well as serving as Executive Producer for *The Ocracoke Brogue* (1997), *Indian by Birth: The Lumbee Dialect* (2001), *Mountain Talk* (2003), *Voices of North Carolina* (2005), *The Queen Family - Appalachian Tradition & Back Porch Music* (2006), *This Side of the River* (2007), *The Carolina Brogue* (2008), and *Spanish Voices* (forthcoming). Among numerous other honors, Wolfram received the Extension Excellence Award from North Carolina State University and the prestigious John Tyler Caldwell Award for the Humanities from the North Carolina Humanities Council, both in 2008.

FILMOGRAPHY

NEAL HUTCHESON and WALT WOLFRAM in collaboration

The Carolina Brogue. 2008.

The Queen Family - Appalachian Tradition & Back Porch Music. 2006.

Voices of North Carolina. 2005.

Mountain Talk. 2003.

Indian By Birth: The Lumbee Dialect. 2001.

MORE ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

- Walt Wolfram on WUNC's hour-long NPR show "The State of Things," 7/28/2008:
<http://wunc.org/tsot/archive/soto728abc08.mp3/view>
- Profile of Executive Producer Walt Wolfram in North Carolina's *Independent Weekly*:
<http://www.indyweek.com/gyrobase/Content?oid=oid%3A38278>
- Reviews of Hutcheson's *The Last One*, released in November, 2008:
 - <http://blogs.newsobserver.com/tv/the-last-one-popcorn-and-moonshine-in-north-carolina>
 - <http://gulahi.blogspot.com/2008/11/last-one.html>
- Neal Hutcheson and Walt Wolfram chosen as "Tarheels of the Week" by the *Raleigh News and Observer*: <http://www.newsobserver.com/692/story/396765.html>
- Neal Hutcheson, Walt Wolfram, and Mary Jane Queen interviewed on WUNC's hour-long NPR show "The State of Things," 1/23/2006. Archived broadcast available:
http://www.ibiblio.org/wunc_archives/sot/index.php?p=544
- Profile of director Neal Hutcheson in North Carolina's *Independent Weekly*:
<http://www.indyweek.com/gyrobase/Content?oid=oid%3A20124>

ABOUT THE NORTH CAROLINA LANGUAGE AND LIFE PROJECT

The North Carolina Language and Life Project (NCLLP) is a part of NC State University's Humanities Extension, and is an umbrella organization for regional research, cultural preservation, and the production of educational documentary media for television and classroom.

The goals of the NCLLP are:

- To preserve the rich heritage of language variety in North Carolina as it reflects the different cultural traditions of its residents.
- To gather basic research information about language variety in order to understand the nature of language variation and change.
- To provide information about language differences and language change for public and educational interests.
- To use the material collected in research projects for the improvement of educational programs about language and culture.

The **CAROLINA BROGUE – DVD DETAILS**



Distributed by
The North Carolina Language & Life Project

USA • 2008 • 27 minutes • Color • Letterbox Format

SPECIAL DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

- *The Ocracoke Brogue* (1994)
- Celebrating Muzel Bryant
- Remembering Roy Parsons
- Conversations with Dave Esham

CONTACT INFORMATION

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press photos & video trailer available at <http://www.carolinabrogue.com>

video excerpt & trailer:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgigwYsR5fo>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WfsxPCqkxog>

NC Language & Life Project YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/NCLLP>