

# James “Bud” Gregson

## Title / Role

Founder, Executive Producer, Director - HellVault | Creative Freak Studios

## Overview

James “Bud” Gregson is an award-winning filmmaker, producer, and creative entrepreneur with over two decades of experience across film, television, and immersive entertainment. As founder of **Creative Freak Studios LLC**, Bud has led projects that merge storytelling, practical effects, and business strategy into unified creative ventures. He is the creator and executive producer behind **HellVault**, a large-scale horror attraction and cinematic universe currently in development in Colorado.

Bud’s expertise spans film production, post-production, live events, branded entertainment, and experiential design. His leadership style fuses creative vision with real-world logistics, building teams, systems, and IP-driven businesses that bridge the gap between independent film, themed attractions, and product innovation.

## Career Highlights

- Founder and Executive Producer of **HellVault**, a hybrid horror film and immersive attraction launching in 2026.
- Co-founder of multiple creative divisions including **Extinction Labs**, **Blackstone Audio**, and **Denver Prop Masters**, specializing in scenic fabrication, sound, and prop innovation for the haunt and film industries.
- Award-winning Director and Producer with multiple international film festival honors, including *Best Short Film* and *Best of Show* at NAB for his early works.
- Creator of the cult-favorite children’s series **Sockville**, winner at the St. Louis Film Festival; and producer of the retro sci-fi spoof **Galactic Squad**.
- Former agency owner and senior creative at **Gregson Studios**, producing TV commercials, corporate films, and live broadcast events for national clients across St. Louis, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, and New York.
- Experienced camera operator, DP, and post-production supervisor; skilled in lighting design, editing, animation, compositing, and audio engineering.
- Official Member of the [Graphic Artists Guild](#)

## Industry Background

Bud began his career in audio and electronics, working with his family's engineering and manufacturing company before transitioning into film and visual effects. His early exposure to technology and storytelling shaped a career that blends cinematic creativity with hands-on production expertise.

He has worked as an art director, production manager, and technical consultant for studios and agencies nationwide, leading teams in visual design, branding, and entertainment production. His extensive technical background includes advanced work in practical effects, scenic construction, and creative audio systems.

## HellVault & Current Focus

At HellVault, Bud oversees creative direction, brand development, and investor relations. His focus is to expand the HellVault universe into a transmedia ecosystem combining film, immersive attractions, and merchandise, all while developing sustainable creative infrastructure that supports year-round content creation and live experiences.

Bud also serves as producer and creative lead across **Extinction Labs**, **Blackstone Audio**, and **VFXcreates.com** collaborations, pioneering next-generation animatronic puppets, actor tools, and sound systems for professional haunted attractions.

## Selected Achievements

- Winner: *Fastival International Film Festival* (Adobe, Pinnacle, Fast Electronics) - *Best Comedy Action Trailer* and *Best Short Film* for **Youngblood Super Spy**
- Winner: *St. Louis Film Festival* - *Best Children's Show* for **Sockville**
- Developed national-level agency **Gregson Studios**, producing campaigns for entertainment, retail, and live event clients
- Recognized for pioneering independent visual effects production in the Midwest
- Creator of multiple independent film and TV pilots, including **Total Control Television** and **Galactic Squad**

## Expertise

- Film & Television Production
- Audio & Visual Effects Engineering
- Branding & Creative Direction
- Haunt & Immersive Experience Design
- Investor & Business Development
- Leadership & Team Building

## Links / References

- [Catnip Productions Bio](#)
- [AI Decoded Bio](#)
- [Gregson Studios](#)
- [Graphic Artists Guild Membership](#)