

RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

***So Glad I Made It* follows musician's off-key career**

BY MICHAEL JANUSONIS
JOURNAL ARTS WRITER

So Glad I Made It: The Saga of Roger Salloom, America's Best Unknown Songwriter documents the a man who lost his moment of fame and now, 20 years later, hopes to recapture it.

Director Chris Sautter's feature-length documentary film is an ode to persistence, missed opportunities and foolishness.

In the '60s and early '70s Salloom was climbing the rungs of the fame ladder, finding a welcome audience among the hippies and the hip with his folk, rhythm and blues, and bluegrass tunes when those song styles were popular.

Influenced by the music of Bob Dylan, Salloom flirted with the Big Time. He was billed

third, behind Procol Harum and Santana, at San Francisco's famed Fillmore auditorium. But he passed up what could have been a big-chance record deal (second-choice Creedence Clearwater Revival was signed instead) in favor of an iffier label which gave him little support.

Eventually he fell out of the music and, 20 years after he stopped playing, here attempts to rekindle the fire that once was.

Sautter documents Salloom's dogged persistence in restarting his career, following him around his hometown of Northampton, Mass. But although Salloom seems very talented, he discovers that his style of music is passe, something he doesn't want to admit. Worse, not only have the



A scene from *So Glad I Made It*, a film about songwriter Roger Salloom.

times changed, so has the music business and the way songs are marketed. In the end, Salloom and his dreams only lead to frustration.

So Glad I Made It: The Saga of Roger Salloom, America's

Best Unknown Songwriter will be shown at 2 p.m. tomorrow at the Providence Chamber of Commerce screening room, 30 Exchange Terrace, as part of the Rhode Island International Film Festival.