Recovery

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ABSTRACT

Matthew Faulkner, now a 21 year old college student at Canisius college in Buffalo New York, gives us the story of a traumatic car accident and brain injury that changed his life. In March of 2009, in his senior year of high school, Matt was in the back seat of a car when the vehicle he was riding in was T-boned by a pick up truck, leaving Matt in a several month long coma. Matt was unconscious for weeks on end, with doctors unsure if he would survive, at risk of being pulled from life support. Luckily Matt was Mercy flighted from the scene of the accident to Erie County Medical Center, where he would eventually regain consciousness, and relearn to speak, walk, and even drive again. Matt has no memory of the incident, thus the documentary is a collaboration of interviews with Matt, his family, doctors, nurses, friends, and all who were involved and touched by Matt’s incredible recovery. The film will be about his physical recovery, but will also go into depth on his mental and social long term challenges. Beyond this, the film will explore people closely tied to Matt before, during, and after the accident and show how they were effected, and where they are now, years later. The story is both heart wrenching and inspirational, and speaks to the broad human question, “How do we move on?” Through reenactments, extensive interviews and a look into the life of Matt, and his friends and family, we seek to answer that question and better understand something near and dear to all of us: Recovery.

CONCLUSION

The March 23rd premiere of Recovery was a huge success. With an attendance of over 300 people, cash donations of over $1500, and a large portion of the proceeds being directly donated to Western New York Mercy Flight, the Recovery team couldn’t have asked for a better turn out. After seeing the project Matthew Faulkner’s mother said, “I didn’t know what to expect. I thought relying that time of my life was going to be very painful, but Ryan did an incredible job and helped me confirm that my son is going to be just fine, whatever his future holds."

Recovery is set to make its way around the film festival circuit and has already passed the first preliminary round of the well known Tribeca Film Festival.

PRODUCTION

The film Recovery took Ryan and Matt roughly two years to complete. The project incorporates both traditional documentary style along side reenactments of Matt’s hospitalization and Mercy Flight rescue. The film also incorporates archival footage from home videos, local news stations, and cell phone videos to better narrate Matt’s story. Filming locations ranged from Matt’s home in Buffalo to his Grandmother’s home in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Hospital reenactments took place in ECMC and a mercy flight reenactment was also provided by WNY Mercy Flight, all of which Ryan organized and planned. Erie County Medical Center and Western New York Mercy Flight were avid supporters of the project from the start and were very impressed by the final product.

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Ryan Monolopolus and Matt Faulkner at the Recovery Premiere

The Production Crew Alongside Mercy Flight Team

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
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