

a HERO on everyblock

an Adrian Marinovich film

SYNOPSIS

28 WORD SYNOPSIS:

A Hero on Every Block is a documentary movie about fourteen people who chose to overcome extreme adversities and to continue living happy and purposeful lives.

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Editor – Chris Devcich
Production Consultant – Basil Hoffman

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72 WORD SYNOPSIS:

A Hero on Every Block is a documentary movie about fourteen people who chose to overcome extreme adversities and to continue living happy and purposeful lives. The “Hero” is the power, the human potential to overcome the unthinkable. This power exists in these fourteen people. It exists in every person. True Heroes can be found on every block, in every heart.

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1131 WORD SYNOPSIS:

The opening of the movie starts with the question: “Who is a Hero?” Fourteen people come on the screen to share their life journeys in the form of interviews. None of these people call themselves Heroes. Yet people who know them, do.

The Heroes come from different walks of life. Each was struck by adversity. None of them became victims.

The interviews follow their life stories. Despite their differences, the stories echo each other. Each Hero had to overcome something: dealing with terminal illness, recovering from emotional trauma, overcoming financial challenges.

Some of the challenges were:

Robert: “A long time ago, when I was sixteen, I was on a train. My mom had a nervous breakdown. It was the middle of winter. I had on a t-shirt, a pair of jeans and sneakers with no socks. And I was officially homeless.”

Cathy’s story takes us into a journey of living with multiple sclerosis: “The first year was by far the most difficult. And it totally made me change the way I looked at myself. I didn’t feel like a woman. I didn’t feel like a wife. I didn’t feel like a mother. I didn’t feel like a person. I thought, this is not who I want to be.”

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SYNOPSIS (cont'd)

Sarah fought for her life, challenged by drug addiction: “I had to really take a look at where I was going, what path I was going down and knowing that’s not what I wanted.” Her mother, Patty, had to deal with her daughter’s addiction by resolving a multigenerational issue within her family: “Sarah was the direct product of what I was the direct product of. I could only teach her what I knew, and she learned it well. So when it came time to see that it wasn’t functioning, I had to see it in myself too.”

Heroes had to take the time to readjust to the new circumstances in their lives.

Delinda, who suffered a memory loss from a car accident, said: “I looked at it this way: Well, I have to transform my life. It’s different now. It’s not better, it’s not worse, it’s just going to be different.”

They had to choose how they were going to view their lives from that point on and then live them.

Robert: “Am I going to live in what happened to me growing up? No. What for? It has nothing to do with right now.”

Brian: “I would rather be an awakened person having a hard life than a sleepy person having an easy life.”

Cathy: “I am a really tough person, I might not look like it, but I am tough as nails. And I just said, this I not the life I want for myself, for my children, for my husband. It’s not fair to me, it’s not fair to them to be this sickly person. I am not going to do it.”

Terry, who is also dealing with multiple sclerosis: “If you ever see a dog with three legs, he can still run. They don’t know that they are handicapped. The dog doesn’t go, ‘Oh my God, I’m not cool. I only have three legs.’ When I pull myself up, or struggle to get from one spot to another, doing every little thing like buttoning my shirt, I don’t think it’s heroic, I think it’s a necessity. I have to do it. It’s just what I need to do to live.”

Heroes have learned valuable ways of coping with their challenges.

Matthew, who chose to fight for his life despite severe disabilities from birth, shared: “I’ve come to learn that people are who they are. And they are going to make fun of you no matter what your disability or physical handicap is. Having to deal with this, I have learned to overcome all that. I’ve learned to overcome it and not let what people say get to me. I am very thankful that I am not in their position.”

Evelyn, who had her leg amputated because of cancer, said: “You do the best you can with what you’ve got, what was given to you. And you just get through stuff.”

Jerry was sexually abused by a Catholic priest: “Hate and anger, although you can bury them, which I did, although you can put them in the background, which I did, they are spiritual cancers. They don’t die on their own. Unfortunately, the only way they die is you have to face them and let them go. I reached the point when I knew I had to forgive him. All I said was, I forgive you entirely, completely and totally for all that you did to me.”

The main part of overcoming the challenges lay in seeing their value.

Brian was married to two schizophrenic women. His core issue sprang from an unresolved conflict with his mother: “I have never known a great lesson that I actually wanted to go through or enjoyed going through while I was going through it. It’s when I achieved the outcome of that lesson, then in retrospect I would look back and I could see the value of it and say oh... that’s why I went through it.”

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CREW

ADRIAN MARINOVICH Producer/Director



Adrian Marinovich was born in Toronto, Canada. He has a BA degree in business administration from Loyola University, an MA in public administration from the University of Southern California, an MA in spiritual psychology and an MA in clinical psychology from the University of Santa Monica and a JD in law from Whittier College. He is a founding partner of Maas & Marinovich, Inc. (formerly Navarro, Maas & Marinovich), a law firm in Los Angeles, California.

As a psychotherapist, Adrian did his internship at the Department of Psychiatry at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, and the Hollywood Sunset Free Clinic. He has conducted debt elimination workshops for government agencies including the Internal Revenue Service. He has also delivered personal empowerment lectures for private companies, religious groups, colleges, and high schools. He has a private practice in psychotherapy, coaching, and group counseling in Los Angeles. "A Hero on Every Block" is his first film.

CHRIS DEVCICH Editor



Chris Devcich was raised in Manhattan Beach, California and graduated from University of California, Santa Cruz with a BA degree in Film Making and Digital Media. In his career as a freelance editor, his credits include sound editor for television commercials at Studio 11 and a major multimedia presentation for the Lincoln Library in Springfield, Illinois. Chris also teaches advanced classes on the use of Final Cut Pro and other professional film editing tools.

In addition to his work as a film editor, he is the owner of Bell Rang Records/Guido Corleone Productions. Chris has published his solo album "A Day in the Life" under his hip hop name Guido Corleone. He is a member of Luminaries, a popular 7 piece conscious hip hop band from Venice, California.

BASIL HOFFMAN Production Consultant



Basil Hoffman is an American character actor. He was born in Houston, Texas, and graduated from Tulane University and the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. He is best known for his work with distinguished film directors including Peter Bogdanovich, Richard Benjamin, Mario Monicelli, Peter Medak (four times), Carl Reiner (twice) and Alan J. Pakula (twice); Academy Award winners Delbert Mann, Stanley Donen, Blake Edwards, Steven Spielberg, Sydney Pollack, Ron Howard and Robert Redford (twice); and many others.

He has been a longtime private acting teacher and coach in New York and Los Angeles and a frequent guest teacher and lecturer at prestigious colleges and film schools including the American Film Institute; the University of Southern California; Confederation College in Ontario, Canada; and the Academie Libanaise des Beaux-Arts in Beirut, Lebanon. He was U.S. State Department Cultural Envoy to Lebanon in 2008. He is the author of the well known acting textbooks, "Cold Reading and How to Be Good at It" and "Acting and How to Be Good at It, with a foreword by Sydney Pollack."

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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



ADRIAN MARINOVICH

FOREWORD TO ADRIAN

Filmmaker Adrian Marinovich, is a lawyer specializing in civil litigation and negotiation, a licensed psychotherapist, and a successful real estate investor. He is also a former juvenile gang member and petty criminal.

It was his own ascent from a troubled childhood to success in his private life and in every field of endeavor that he has pursued, that has given Adrian the passionate belief that there is an inherent, universal human power to overcome adversity. "A Hero on Every Block" is the culmination of his fervent desire to awaken the Hero in all of us.

"A Hero on Every Block" has been a labor of love for Adrian. Everyone who sees this film will know that. I am proud to be part of it, and I am honored to be his friend.

Basil Hoffman

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

More than three years ago I began a quest to reaffirm my belief that there is a personal Hero that dwells inside every human being. My observations of human behavior through my work as a lawyer and as a psychotherapist, working in both fields with people of all ages and from all walks of life, convinced me that this is so. I bought an RV and some filmmaking equipment to embark on a nationwide journey that would prove that I was right and to record the evidence.

Before I left Los Angeles, I interviewed a few people I knew, just to test and rehearse an interview technique (and also to get over a little nervousness about journeying into uncharted waters). Little did I know that these test subjects would reveal heroic aspects of their lives that I had known nothing about. I believe that these revelations actually gave me the reinforcement and courage that I needed to proceed.

I started my trip with no plan and no itinerary. I just knew that I would drive across the United States and let providence guide me. My unusual vehicle with "AHeroOnEveryBlock.com" painted on the back turned out to be a magnetic attraction everywhere I stopped. And at almost every stop, there were people who agreed to be interviewed or thought they knew someone who would. Ten thousand miles later, through the United States and Canada, I had interviewed more than a hundred people and filmed fifty eight of them.

Selecting the fourteen heroic individuals who make up the "cast" of "A Hero on Every Block" was a more difficult process than I ever imagined it would be. The qualities of heroism that I predicted were present in everyone I interviewed. I think I would have to say that perhaps the final fourteen inspired me and touched my heart in special ways.

I now know why I was led to make this film. A month before we completed post- production, I was diagnosed with brain cancer. Making "A Hero on Every Block" has proven to me that I have a power inside me greater than any malignancy. I will survive.

-Adrian Marinovich

