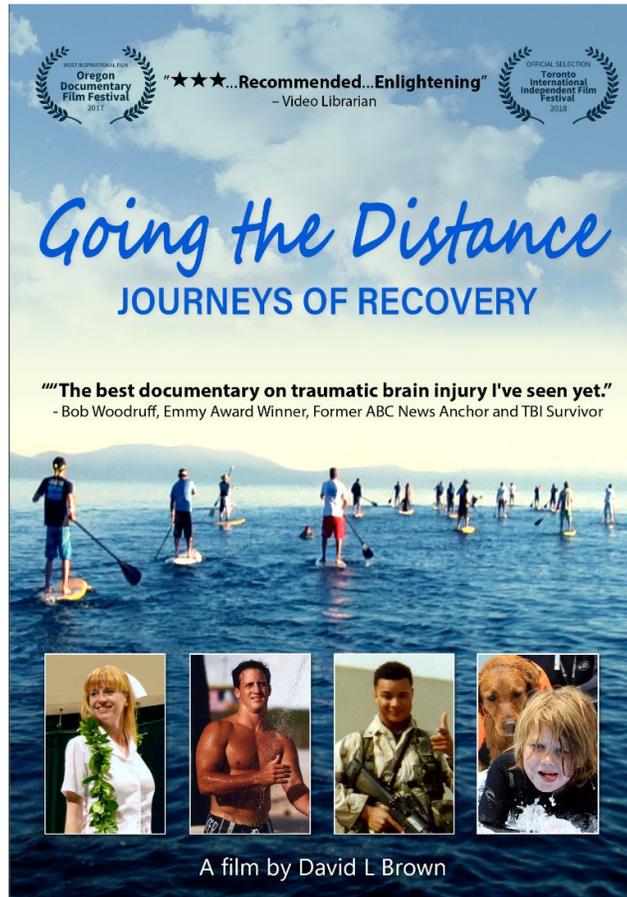


Going the Distance: Journeys of Recovery



A FILM BY

DAVID L. BROWN

60 mins / Color / 2017 / English / US



EPF MEDIA

324 S. Beverly Drive, PMB 437

Beverly Hills, CA 90212

(310) 839-1500

Website: www.epfmedia.com

Email: larry@epfmedia.com

FESTIVALS AND AWARDS

- Most Inspirational Film – 2017 Oregon Documentary Film Festival
- 2018 – Toronto International Independent Film Festival

SYNOPSIS

Four survivors take us inside the experience of traumatic brain injury (TBI) to reveal their personal stories of devastation, heroism and hope. A corporal in the U.S. Marines, African-American Jason Poole suffered massive head injuries in a roadside bomb in Iraq. Co-ed Kristen Collins was severely injured in a motorcycle accident while away at college. Pre-med student Jay Waller fell victim to a savage road-rage beating while on vacation. Six-year old Ian McFarland survived the car crash that left him an orphan. Along their paths to recovery, these four protagonists relive the dramatic accidents that almost took their lives, learn how to walk, talk and live again, and face the most daunting challenge of all—reinventing themselves—frequently with humor and always with heart. In spite of enduring hardship, including life-long cognitive and emotional challenges, each does succeed in envisioning and achieving a new dream on their life path.

Called the “silent epidemic,” TBI impacts 1.5 million Americans every year at a staggering cost of \$60 billion. Against the backdrop of an embattled health care system and a nation entrenched in war, ***Going the Distance*** paints a compelling portrait of the struggles faced by TBI survivors and their loved ones while delivering a hard hitting message about the failing social safety net. Through these individual profiles in courage, the hour-long broadcast documentary and social engagement campaign will draw attention to TBI survivors who have remained invisible, untreated and often undiagnosed, while providing a forum for their communities and educating the general public.



DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

The origin of the documentary *Going the Distance: Journeys of Recovery* was the harrowing but inspiring story of Bob Woodruff, TBI survivor and former ABC News anchor who was badly injured with TBI by a roadside bomb while reporting in Iraq in 2005. After receiving the best care available anywhere, he experienced a recovery that many describe as “miraculous.” He actually returned to work reporting for ABC News fifteen months after his injury, becoming the embodiment (“poster guy”) of TBI recovery. In 2007, I was hired to direct a multi-cam video shoot to document the *Cross Lake Tahoe Paddle*, a benefit for the Bob Woodruff Foundation. There I met and interviewed Woodruff’s brother, Woody, several TBI survivors and their close friends. After filming the first interview with TBI survivor, Jay Waller, I realized this was an urgent public health issue and that a widely distributed broadcast documentary on the subject would be an invaluable resource for the entire TBI community. I quickly knew that I wanted to profile relatively successful recovery stories to convey hope and inspiration to all those impacted by TBI or traumatic injury. I acknowledge that our four survivors are relatively fortunate and lament that many media productions on the topic convey a limited sense of hope about recovery. Our extraordinary survivors, I believe, provide a model for the elements required for successful recovery. I feel very fortunate to have been able to tell their stories. They, their families and their support teams have inspired me deeply. I believe their stories will have a similar impact on audiences for this documentary.

David L. Brown



DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY

David L. Brown is an Emmy Award-winning San Francisco documentary filmmaker who has produced, written and directed over 80 productions and 15 broadcast documentaries on social, nuclear, environmental, health, engineering, technology, aging, music, peace and justice issues. His documentaries, which have received over 85 international awards and three Emmy Awards, have been broadcast on PBS and in sixteen other countries. His recent work includes: **Keeper of the Beat: A Woman's Journey into the Heart of Drumming**, that won runner-up for the Audience Award for Best Documentary at the 2013 Mill Valley Film Festival. **Running for Jim**, a feature-length documentary on a legendary cross country coach who contracts ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). Best Documentary, Soho International Film Festival, Audience Award, Tiburon Film Festival; **The Bridge So Far: A Suspense Story**, a comedic 56-minute documentary on the troubled history of the new east span of the S.F.-Oakland Bay Bridge that received two Emmy Awards (Best Documentary and Best Graphics and Animation in a Program) and aired on national PBS; **Of Wind and Waves: The Life of Woody Brown**; an hour-long profile of legendary 94-year-old surfer, Woody Brown (Emmy nomination for Best Documentary, Inspiration Award at Mountainfilm in Telluride) that aired on national PBS; and **Surfing for Life**, a feature-length documentary on older surfers as models of healthy aging. It screened theatrically in 40 cities, was broadcast on over 160 PBS stations, won 15 international awards, and was profiled in The New York Times Magazine, Parade Magazine, on National Public Radio and ABC's World News Tonight with Peter Jennings. The San Francisco Chronicle called it "a treasure ... perhaps the most intelligent treatment of surfing ever captured on film."

Brown produced three hour-long films on nuclear issues including **A Question of Power**, on the antinuclear power movement in California. The Boston Globe called **Bound by the Wind**, on the global human and environmental impact of nuclear weapons testing, "the best documentary on the nuclear issue." His website is www.DLBfilms.com.



PRODUCTION CREDITS

Produced, Directed and Photographed by David L. Brown

Edited by Steven Baigel, David L. Brown, Tal Skloot, Marta Wohl

Executive Producer: Rob Howard

Music Composed by Steven Cravis, John Keltonic, Jaime Kibben

Colorist: Gary Coates

On-Line Editor: Jesse Spencer

Sound Design and Mix: Paul Zahnley, Disher Music & Sound

Still Photos: Robert Ochoa, Larry Bramble, Jason Poole, Cindy Collins, Melissa Coleman, Jay Waller, Sydney Waller

