



Project Rebirth
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Project Rebirth Documentary Film Enters Final Phase of Development

New York, NY, March 23, 2009 – “Project Rebirth”, the documentary film chronicling the strength of the human spirit coping with disaster, is entering the final phase of its development. Working towards the release of a feature-length documentary in 2010, editing has begun on the over 700 hours of footage captured since shortly after the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center.

Project Rebirth’s Director and Founder, Jim Whitaker, has committed to work full time towards the completion of the documentary film, and to do so will leave his position as President of Production at Imagine Entertainment. “I am fully committed to making the most of the powerful and compelling material we have gathered over these last seven years, as well as the bravery of my interviewees in inviting us to intimately share their efforts to cope with 9/11 over the years. We have built -- and will continue to build -- a unique film library, one that presents incredibly rich, but challenging material to edit into a feature length documentary. This edit will also inform my thoughts as to how to release further material, both in terms of greater detail regarding the individual stories of our subjects, as well as highlighting progress at the WTC site through to its completion,” Whitaker said.

Rebirth’s 13 time lapse film cameras will continue recording progress at the WTC

Rebirth's 13 time lapse film cameras will continue recording progress at the WTC site until the end of the rebuild, and its cameras have been chronicling developments there since shortly after 9/11. Whitaker has been conducting annual interviews of 10 people directly affected by the attacks, as well as filming major events in their efforts to cope with the grief and trauma they have experienced over the last seven years.

“Why now? The subjects have reached a new plateau in their lives after seven years and it's time for their stories to be told. The pace of construction activity at the WTC site has increased dramatically, and this is being captured by our time lapse cameras and as we continue to film inside the site. We will tell the full story of the rebuild when it is complete, but our subjects stories are ready to be told now, and in many ways so is the story and of the community of New York City as it works towards finishing the colossal undertaking of rebuilding the site and opening the 9/11 Memorial and Museum at the WTC.”

About Jim Whitaker

Jim Whitaker is the founder and director of Project Rebirth, a feature-length documentary combining time-lapse photography of the World Trade Center Site with the intimate stories of ten people coping post 9/11. Beginning with the installation of 3 time-lapse cameras on March 11, 2002, Project Rebirth now has 13 cameras in and around the site recording a frame of film every five minutes 24 hours a day. For the past seven years, Whitaker has also been following the lives of 10 people directly affected by 911 as they cope with their grief.

Jim began his career at Imagine as an intern rising to President of Motion Picture Production in 2004. He has executive produced such films as *The Changeling*, *American Gangster*, *Friday Night Lights*, *8 Mile*, *Flightplan* and *Curious George*. He Co-Executive Produced *Cinderella Man*. He began his career assisting craft services on John Waters' *Hairspray*. Jim is a graduate of Georgetown University and holds an MFA from the Peter Stark Program at USC.

About Project Rebirth

Project Rebirth is a chronicle of the strength of the human spirit coping with disaster: the aftermath of September 11, 2001 at the World Trade Center. As a feature-length documentary combining time-lapse photography with intimate stories of ten people coping post 9/11, it is recording the minute-by-minute redevelopment of the WTC site and represents the first long term film record of ten people dealing with grief and trauma. Proceeds from the “Project Rebirth” documentary will be reinvested to endow a Project Rebirth Center for victims of and first responders to events of traumatic loss. The Project Rebirth Center will meet an urgent need to improve the specialized care and support needed during and after major disasters.

To learn more about how you can support our film and philanthropic efforts to honor those who suffered through 9/11 and those who sacrificed -- and the many who continue to serve in response to 9/11 – please visit www.projectrebirth.org.

Project Rebirth is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization supported by the generous contributions of individuals, corporations and foundations.