



WHAT SHAPES YOUR LIFE?

Despite the Loss

A FILM BY JASON SCHNEIDER

2019 | DOCUMENTARY | USA | ENGLISH | HD | 88 MINUTES

AVAILABILITY | AMAZON PRIME VIDEO | US & UK

ITUNES & VIMEO ON DEMAND | WORLDWIDE



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(Open with Adobe Acrobat for interactive PDF functionality)

Despite the Loss

LOGLINE

First-time filmmaker Jason Schneider confronts the stigma of disability while coming to terms with his own limb difference.

SYNOPSIS

In his directorial debut Jason Schneider set out to parallel his own story of overcoming adversity on the racetrack with stories of others like him. His thesis? That amputees don't see the world through, or buy into, a disabled label. But when an accident forces him to question the very meaning of disability, his sense of self unravels.

Through personal accounts, interviews with the people who know him best, and profiles from a diverse group of amputees, Jason dissects and reframes his life, intertwining the trials and tribulations of building a race car with his personal journey for self acceptance.





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PRESS COVERAGE

"Despite The Loss is a thoughtful, compassionate, and soul-baring film. Schneider's honesty is refreshing and at times powerfully raw."

— Eric Weiner, HAGERTY MAGAZINE

"Jason Schneider goes full throttle beyond horsepower and chrome to lift his hood and bare every raw emotion, rough edge, and ultimate acceptance that a limb difference will never define nor limit his or others success. A humbling and eye opening film!"

— JP Emerson, JOURNALIST & AUTHOR

"I know what it's like to be doubted, bullied and left out based on physical differences. Schneider takes audiences on an intense ride as he weaves together powerful stories of adaptive individuals. Proving that despite significant adversity, one can build a beautiful life."

— Scott Davidson, LIVING ADAPTIVE

Despite the Loss

AMAZON REVIEWS



By Amazon Customer on June 6, 2019

"It's raw and honest"



By Amazon Customer on June 5, 2019

"Inspirational and refreshing"



By Amazon Customer on June 7, 2019

"Engaging and insightful"



By Amazon Customer on June 5, 2019

"Uplifting documentary that will
have you striving to be your best."



By Amazon Customer on June 9, 2019

"Sincere documentary that both
stuns and inspires!"



By Amazon Customer on June 7, 2019

"Captivating and honest!"



By Amazon Customer on June 14, 2019

"Great documentary film!"

Despite the Loss

AMAZON REVIEWS



By Amazon Customer on July 9, 2019

Stirring documentary about a man exploring the injury that changed his life but would not define it.

"A captivating and extremely honest, personal journey of one man exploring, and ultimately attempting to reconcile, deep physical and emotional differences caused by a life-changing childhood injury. By interviewing those closest to him, those with similar physical differences (but equally inspiring stories of strength and will), the director (also his own interviewee), rattles his own cage to identify how from one thing that went so very wrong, so many other things could go right."



By Amazon Customer on June 7, 2019

A beautiful documentary that everyone should see!

"This is a truly fantastic film! What I loved about it is that it is rooted in genuine emotion. The filmmaker shows you all sides of his struggle, rather than simply portraying himself as a hero. It's an honest portrait of how difficult it is to come to terms with who you are, how you are perceived, and how you can overcome anything in your way. I also loved all of the other people we meet throughout the film. It's an amazing portrait of a community that rarely gets the spotlight they deserve."



By Amazon Customer on July 9, 2019

You are more than your disability - you are all that you do!

"Loved the focus on how though the amputation occurred in childhood, the battle of acceptance continued well into adulthood. Disabilities don't define humans, but human perceptions of disabilities cause stigmas to isolate humans. This film was beautifully crafted and has the potential to help anyone going through a disability related struggle. Love the message and incorporation of incredible humans for a powerful storytelling experience!"



By Amazon Customer on July 16, 2019

Great insight into dealing with disabilities.

"Very insightful look into the daily life and innermost thoughts of some people with amputated limbs. It's honest, emotional and highly motivating about following your passions and goals despite obstacles and self limiting beliefs. The documentary explores disabilities and perceptions of disabilities and how they can impact people and their relationships. Candid, relatable and ultimately uplifting!"

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JASON SCHNEIDER

PRODUCER / DIRECTOR / EDITOR

Jason is an editor with over a decade of credits in film and television. He began his career working alongside several Academy & Peabody Award winning filmmakers, and has personally been nominated for four NY Emmys. His credits include documentaries for ESPN, PBS, and several NY Emmy winning series.

With an extensive background in documentary and television, Jason's passion, first and foremost, is to tell a compelling story. That passion extends beyond long form content, having edited commercial, corporate, and digital based content for a wide range of clients including Ford, Gap Inc, American Express, and others. Despite The Loss is his directorial debut.

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DIRECTOR STATEMENT

Despite The Loss started as an idea to make a documentary about following your dreams despite limitations. That anything is possible when you put your mind to it. That amputees don't see the world through, or buy into, a disabled label. Being an amputee myself, and a documentary editor for over a decade, I was in a unique position to tell that story. I never liked the way people with disabilities were portrayed in cinema, and set out to profile amputees pushing the limits of their disability as authentically as possible, without sympathy or turning them into "inspiration porn."

Principal photography began in 2010 with a double amputee named Jerod, and I was immediately taken aback by how much we had in common – our thought process, the way we looked at the world, our attitudes towards disability – it was incredibly eye opening for me because up to that point I had not known or associated with any other amputees. I started to realize there was merit in examining the common threads we shared, and in a moment of desperation turned the camera on myself. That impromptu interview brought to light a lot of the deeper questions I explore about limb difference and disability.

Despite The Loss took close to eight years to complete, and what I ended up with was a raw, unflinching, personal documentary about what it's like to live and love with a limb difference. The journey would turn my life upside down. But I emerged a better man, more comfortable with who I am, and how the world may or may not perceive me. More importantly, how I perceive myself.

The story is told via verite and archival footage, interviews with the people who know me best, and profiles from a diverse group of amputees, each living and loving in their own unique way. I share my journey in the hopes that by documenting my personal struggles, Despite The Loss helps spark a conversation about the way we look at limb difference and disability in society, all while highlighting what the bumpy road to self acceptance looks like.

— Jason Schneider

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FEATURING



CREDIT SPOTLIGHT

CINEMATOGRAPHY JACK WRENN

Jack Wrenn is a cinematographer and audio engineer best known for his work on the television series *The Last Goodbye* (A&E), *16 for 16: The Contenders* (PBS), *Curvy Girls* (Fuse), and *Inside Story* (A&E). Recent credits include *Horror Noire: A History of Black Horror* (Shudder).

VISUAL EFFECTS LUCJAN GORCZYNSKI

Lucjan Gorczynski is a graphic designer and visual effects artist best known for his work with two-time Academy Award winning director Barbara Kopple: *Miss Sharon Jones!* (Sharon Jones & The Dap-Kings), *Running From Crazy* (Mariel Hemingway), and HBO's *Gun Fight*. Further credits include the Emmy winning Netflix documentary *Mission Blue*.

CONSULTING EDITOR DOUGLAS BLUSH

Douglas Blush is an award-winning director, producer, editor, and cinematographer. His credits include the Oscar winning *20 Feet from Stardom* (editor), the Oscar winning *Period. End of Sentence.* (executive producer), and the Oscar winning *Icarus* (consulting producer and editor).

ORIGINAL SCORE RYAN BROS MUSIC - BRENDAN & BILLY RYAN

Brendan and Billy Ryan are musicians best known for their roles as founding members of the band *The Bogmen* (Arista Records) as well as their score work for film and television as *Ryan Bros Music*. They have scored and licensed music to films such as *Side by Side* (Keanu Reeves, Martin Scorsese), *The Heartbreak Kid* (Ben Stiller, Malin Akerman), and more. Their television work includes Netflix's *Bloodline* (Sam Shepard, Sissy Spacek), Peter Farrelly's *LOUDERMILK* (Ron Livingston, Will Sasso), and *NCIS: Los Angeles*.



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why did it take eight years to make *Despite The Loss*?

Despite The Loss was a true labor of love and on most days an army of one. For 6 years I produced, directed, and edited the film during small windows of downtime between paid work as a freelance editor (a necessity as the film was completely self-financed in order to retain creative control). By 2017, with a rough cut and shooting complete, I just knew I had something special. So I made the decision to put my freelance career on hold and devote 100% of my time to see the project through to completion.

What are the primary social issues represented in *Despite The Loss*?

Our film explores the stigma of disability on a deeply personal level through the eyes of six people with limb differences, examining how societal perceptions shape a person's life in both positive and negative ways. Unique perspectives provided by our diverse cast allow for a nuanced exploration of disability stigma, shaped by gender, race, and personal experience. The goal of *Despite The Loss* is to foster a better understanding of disability and its psychological impact, allowing audiences to learn and grow from the experience.

Who is the intended audience for *Despite The Loss*? Is the film just for people with disabilities?

Naturally a film of this nature resonates strongly with the disability community, but our goal was to craft a compelling story with overarching themes broad enough to appeal to a wide audience. We profiled a diverse array of people in an effort to represent a large segment of the population equally and authentically, and have observed through test audiences (and Amazon reviews) that the able-bodied community find *Despite The Loss* profoundly relatable; as struggles with self identity, body image, and self doubt are universal across all walks of life.

Are you interested in using *Despite The Loss* to create long term social change?

Absolutely. While other marginalized communities have made subtle strides regarding representation in recent years, people with disabilities are still vastly underrepresented in cinema—and society as a whole. I believe deeply in the transformative power of cinema, and wanted to create a film that gave people with disabilities a platform to define their identities on their own terms, and highlight that journey in a relatable way, fostering empathy instead of fetishizing disability among their able-bodied peers. I hope *Despite The Loss* can be seen as a catalyst for inclusion in this regard.

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