



A FILM DIRECTED BY GERALDINE MORIBA & JAMILA PAKSIMA

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James and another patient waiting for an appointment

GENERAL INFORMATION

FILM TITLE

Until 20

LOG LINE

Is a good life measured by its length or its depth?

TRAILER

<https://goo.gl/pBDtPk>

TECHNICAL INFO

Running Time:	84 min
Shooting Format:	HD
Exhibition Format:	DVD, Blu-Ray, DCP
Aspect Ratio:	16:9
Languages:	English
Year of Production:	2015
Filmed in:	USA

CONTACT INFO

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Geraldine Moriba - Co-Director and Producer

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SYNOPSIS

Until 20 is a powerful documentary about the pursuit of a good life. It tells the inspirational true story of James Arthur Ragan - a pediatric cancer patient and a promising NCAA Division One golfer who dedicated his life to trying to save the life of the next kid with cancer before his time ran out.

Imagine that at the age of 13 you are diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a rare and deadly cancer. That was James Ragan's reality. Instead of retreating into his illness, James chose to live his life with purpose. He created the Triumph Over Kid Cancer Foundation to fund research that improves the treatment and survivability of pediatric cancer. Close to 200,000 children are diagnosed with pediatric cancer each year. While cancer is the leading cause of death by disease in children under the age of 15, childhood cancer research remains consistently underfunded. James wanted this terrible disease to stop with him.

James met Geraldine Moriba, a fellow cancer patient and award-winning journalist and documentary filmmaker, through the hospital where they were both treated. Geraldine also had sarcoma, but has survived the disease and committed herself to raising awareness about rare cancers. The result is Until 20. Told in James' voice, Until 20 is ultimately about how to face fear and find the courage to love and live deeply.

Co-directed and co-produced by Geraldine and Jamila Paksima, this documentary beautifully chronicles how this extraordinary teen, supported by his amazing family, turned devastating odds into a personal mission to live an audaciously good life. James' story will encourage you to make the most of every day.

Until 20

DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

As filmmakers, we want to make films that ask audiences to think about challenging topics and feel deeply. Our hope is that *Until 20* inspires people to consider how they might want to live with purpose. We see our film as a true extension of James's voice and passion to make a real difference. He wanted to have this film made as much as we did and gave us his precious time and intimate access. Above all else, our ultimate wish is that *Until 20* helps infuse much needed research dollars into new treatments for rare cancers like osteosarcoma. The more people who see the face of someone with childhood cancer and understand this tragedy, the greater the awareness.

Save a child. Save a lifetime.



Jamila and James while filming "Until 20"



James and Geraldine after an interview

FILM FESTIVAL AWARDS

Inaugural Hiscox Courage Award - 22nd Austin Film Festival

Audience Award in Marquee Feature Category - 22nd Austin Film Festival

Audience Award for Documentary Feature - 28th Virginia Film Festival

1. What inspired you to make *Until 20*?

Moriba: I was diagnosed with sarcoma and told that I had six months to live. But I had chemo, radiation, and surgery and I survived. Research and funding go towards the biggest cancers, like breast cancer, prostate cancer, and lung cancer. Rare cancers, like sarcoma, are the ones that get the least funding. There must be meaning in my survival. I believe that I'm here to create awareness and to use the skills that I have to help others. I wanted to create a film that dares to ask the question, how to measure a good life.

2. How did you know people would want to watch this film?

Moriba: James Ragan supporters funded the *Until 20* Kickstarter campaign in an astounding five days, with an average donation of \$240 per person. Young adults and parents relate to James's story because they believe in his wish of finding treatment for the forgotten pediatric cancers. *Until 20* also received remarkable press coverage during the Kickstarter campaign in media outlets like CNN and The Huffington Post UK and in Texas where James is a beloved local public figure.

Paksima: As we created this film and especially now that we have started to share it, we continue to receive letters from medical professionals and parents of children with cancer all saying how a film like *Until 20* will help improve lives of people and families living with rare cancers.

3. What was it like to follow James and his family with cameras everywhere during his last year of life?

Paksima: James was a fun, courageous, and charismatic young man. He rarely seemed to buckle under pressure and he was seriously funny. James was one of those individuals that saw sunshine and optimism in any situation. I also found I could really identify with Gloria, James's mother. Her honesty and vulnerability are inspiring and give me strength as parent.

4. What was the hardest part about filming *Until 20*?

Moriba: The biggest challenge was building trust with James and his family. To make *Until 20* meaningful, we needed to be with the Ragans at their most difficult moments. They had to accept that we would treat his story with truth, even when it was painful, and with dignity. In the end, this film is an extension of James's legacy.

5. How did you film the opening scene in the ocean?

Moriba: The inspiration for the opening sequence is an African fable about a man who tries to swim to the bottom of the ocean. He believes that by finding out the depth of the ocean he can save his village. As he descends, the answers become clearer. Tragically, this man was made of salt and he melts away slowly as he swims down to the ocean floor.

Paksima: Our opening scene was perhaps one of the most challenging shoots that I have ever planned or directed. We had a crazy vision to not only have James seek his answers at the depths of the ocean, but also watch his life pass him by as he swims deeper into the darkness of an unknown underwater world. After several test runs, we figured out how to get a lifetime of photographs and memories to float upright toward the surface as we see James dive deeper and deeper into his life history.

6. How long did this project take?

Moriba: We worked on this project for about two years.

7. What impact would you like to make with this film?

Paksima: James stood up for other kids with cancer when he didn't have time. He fought for cures and treatments for diseases like sarcoma and pediatric cancers so that the disease would stop with him. There is strength in numbers. We hope that our film will help the thousands of small organizations around the nation join forces to find cures for childhood cancers. If James' story encourages researchers, oncologists and families to slay the cancer monsters, our mission will be accomplished.

8. What did you learn from meeting James and making this film?

Moriba: James also taught us that when you fight for the impossible and advocate for others instead of yourself, life is better. We can make courageous choices every day no matter how difficult our circumstances. We also learned that there is always time in life for love.

FILMMAKERS



GERALDINE MORIBA | Director and Producer

Five-time Emmy Award winning producer Geraldine Moriba is a filmmaker and an original program development executive producer at CNN, as well as the Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion for all of CNN Worldwide. Prior, she served as the executive producer of CNN's In America documentary series. Geraldine has also worked at NBC, MSNBC and ABC. In addition to her Emmy Awards, she's won an Alfred I. DuPont Award, two Peabody Awards and two RTNDA-Unity Awards.



JAMILA PAKSIMA | Director and Producer

Jamila Paksima is a two-time Emmy Award nominee and an independent documentary filmmaker, video director and journalist. She has won three Webby Awards, the RFK Journalism First Prize in Domestic Television Broadcast, CINE Golden Eagle and the OMMA Awards for Best Medical Animation Series. For close to 15 years, Jamila has been the Executive Producer and Creative Director at Paksima Productions. She has also produced a series of short documentary films in China, South Africa, Columbia, Argentina, and the United States for Janssen Pharmaceuticals and Johnson & Johnson.



CHRISTOPHER BEAUCHAMP | Director of Photography

Christopher Beauchamp is a Connecticut-based location photographer specializing in environmental portraits and dynamic adventure sports imagery for advertising, editorial and corporate clients. Growing up on the tail end of Cold War, his childhood was spent digging underground fallout shelters. This later developed into a passion for cave exploration and for investigating the often overlooked subterranean environments beneath cities. It was his efforts to document these spaces led him to a career in photography.



STEVE BUCKWALTER | Director of Photography and Lead Editor

Steve Buckwalter is an experienced filmmaker, videographer and editor who has worked in movies, commercials, documentaries and corporate video production. Some of his clients include The Walt Disney Company, Showtime, the U.S. Army, Glaxo and AARP. Steve has a unique combination of technical expertise and the eye of a gifted visual artist who captures exquisite images while crafting compelling visual stories.

FILMMAKERS



FRAZIER NIVENS | Underwater Cinematographer

Frazier Nivens is a multiple Emmy Award winning underwater filmmaker living in Key Largo, Florida. He is CEO of Ocean Imaging Inc. filming with state of the art RED Epic cameras underwater for the best in quality imaging. Frazier has filmed for Discovery's Shark Week, Animal Planet, Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom, BBC, Nature, CBS, ABC, and NBC.



DITA GRUZE | Second Editor and Associate Producer

Dita Gruze has written for newspapers, magazines, and publications in her native Latvia, Spain, and the U.S., and worked as a producer, assistant director, script supervisor, and editor on more than 50 documentary and narrative films, commercials, and corporate videos in the U.S., Latvia, Canada, Russia, UK, and India. Some of the films that Dita has worked on have won the Best Short Film at Slamdance, premiered at Sundance, Tribeca, and SXSW, and featured on the PBS series, *FutureStates*.



WILL STRATHMANN | Assistant Editor and Associate Producer

Will Strathmann is a photographer and videographer who has worked extensively in the environmental research sector, most recently as a staff photographer and marine research videographer at the Cape Eleuthera Institute in The Bahamas. Will also currently the Creative Director for the Entidaled Project, a media based non-profit that connects global conservationists through shared stories and visual media.



James and his golfing buddies

CREDITS

Geraldine Moriba

DIRECTOR, PRODUCER, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER, WRITER

Jamila Paksima

DIRECTOR, PRODUCER, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

James Ragan

WRITER

Christopher Beauchamp

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Steven Buckwalter

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY, LEAD EDITOR

Dita Gruze

SECOND EDITOR, ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

Will Strathmann

ASSISTANT EDITOR, ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

Josh Coyne

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Cubie King

CAMERA OPERATOR

Chris Cotter

SOUND MIXER

Ilan Bemaman

BOOM OPERATOR

John Piscitello

MUSIC COMPOSER

Nia Meadows

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Jan Miller

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Cynthia O'Hara

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Daniel Gauthier

DIGITAL EFFECTS

Jerry Hattan

CAMERA OPERATOR

Frazier Nivens

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY

James Willis

BOOM OPERATOR

Zachary Hennessey

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Bernard Gray

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Haimy Assefa

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Cindy D'Asaro

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Picture Lock: *"Until 20 Review"*

"Grounded in the reality of life, the film puts a face to childhood cancer and allows you to experience the love, trials, and pain that a family affected by cancer must endure. At the same time it's uplifting and beautiful! It's cliché to say, but the film is truly more about living your life and embracing each moment. The love that the Ragan family has for one another is undeniable. I couldn't help but think that the film is exactly what James wanted. While our lives are but a mist, film is forever, and with this film his message lives on and speaks to the heart of a viewer in ways that a speech never could! Hopefully with this film, one family's loss is the world's gain, as it inspires us to get involved in some small or large way."

- <http://goo.gl/oisBea>

The Huffington Post UK: *"Terminally-Ill 20-Year-Old Spent His Final Moments Helping Others In Heartbreaking Video"*

"Both his charity work and honesty in the film will leave an impressionable legacy."

- <http://goo.gl/s8bDHI>

Houston Chronicle: *"Cancer patient saw disease as an opportunity to fight for a cause"*

"The cancer research activist supported others with osteosarcoma and fought for more funding to cure the disease in children. Eventually, this public battle became another focus of the documentary."

- <http://goo.gl/vpNKim>

CNN.com Opinion: *"Why Winning This Lottery Sucks"*

"James never let his disease quench his determination to excel at everything he wanted to achieve -- golf, education, relationships and his advocacy work."

- <http://goo.gl/hf5eVI>

Lone Star Golf: *"Heaven Gained a Golfer"*

"Anyone who met James will do whatever it takes to see Until 20. It's important for you to see it, too. Learning about James and seeing how much he cared about other people will change your life."

- <http://goo.gl/xlc047>

Rice Thresher: *"Until 20 explores life as student with cancer"*

"The film explores how he was able to make the most of his limited time....For those who knew Ragan, it is virtually impossible not to mention his sheer optimism."

- <http://goo.gl/J9946Y>

PHOTOS



James and his sister Mecklin



On set filming a dream sequence at Rice University in Houston, TX



Annual fundraiser golf tournament for TOKC



James and his mother Gloria during chemotherapy



James and Mecklin accepting a donation for TOKC