

63 MARATHONS IN 63 DAYS



A FILM BY DEBORAH & BRADLEY CARR



Feat Productions
presents

FEAT: 63 Marathons in 63 Days

A documentary film by Deborah & Bradley Carr
HDCam; 16:9; 102min; 5.1 Dolby; USA



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TAGLINE

The hope for a cure lies in the feet of one man.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

FEAT is a feature documentary chronicling one man's coast-to-coast quest to run 63 marathons in 63 days for kids whose own feet lack the strength to run. Endurance runner Tim Borland seeks to raise awareness of and funding for children battling the rare terminal disease, ataxia-telangiectasia or A-T. Unlocking the mysteries of this orphan disease may lead to cures for more prevalent diseases like Cancer, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Disease.

FULL SYNOPSIS

Tim Borland, a 31-year-old father of two realizes his talent for endurance running is no longer fulfilled in the competitive realm. He meets 15-year-old Cathryn Achilles who is diagnosed with the rare terminal disease A-T. Despite the progressive loss of her ability to walk, talk, eat and sing Cathryn's unwavering spirit inspires Borland to draw attention to the little known disease. He embarks on the A-TCure Tour. In the fall of 2007, Borland runs 63 consecutive marathons (26.2 miles) spanning more than 14-thousand miles, 29 States, 1 Canadian Province and 63 communities where A-T children live. Every step of the journey, Borland pushes a mobility-jogging stroller that either carries an A-T child or a banner bearing the name of child who has died. Battling excessive heat, drastic elevation changes, drenching downpours and hurricane strength winds, one man connects families and children whose hope for a cure and life prolonging treatment is further complicated because so few are impacted.

Along the journey, filmmakers intimately introduce audiences to three A-T families whose children are experiencing different stages of the disease. Mark and Laura Lesperance of Neenah, Wisconsin, have two boys Max and Jake. At three months old, Jake was the youngest diagnosed case of A-T. Both boys struggle with compromised immune systems and showcase the typical first signs of the disease with a wobbly walk. We witness one of their monthly hospital visits where the boys endure IVIG treatments to boost their ability to fight off illnesses. At home, the 18-month-old and 3-year-old run and play; they are too young to understand the muscle control and abilities they are mastering now will slowly be taken away from them. John and Marcia Wood of Lemont, Illinois adopted five children. Eleven-year-old Alyssa was three when she joined their family. Looking back at the video footage they captured at the orphanage in Vietnam, they now see the balance problems that are telltale signs of her terminal disease. Today, the 5th grader has a love of life that draws people to her like a magnet. Alyssa exemplifies the typical progression of A-T, as most kids are in wheelchairs by age 10. Alyssa is old enough to know she's a lot different than other kids her age and candidly confesses she is often lonely. Sixteen-year-old Cathryn Achilles has lost her ability to play the harp and piano. She is wheelchair bound and each night a feeding tube pumps vital calories into her stomach. She enjoys quilting, picking on her younger brother and participating in her local theatre company. It is Cathryn who inspired Tim's amazing endeavor. The harsh reality of what A-T kids face everyday fuels Tim to complete each day's marathon course. When Borland crosses the finish line in New York City, he'll get a break. But, the race to find a cure continues. FEAT exemplifies the limitless potential of the human body and spirit when focused on a goal greater than oneself.

THE FILMMAKERS

DEBORAH CARR- DIRECTOR/ PRODUCER

BRADLEY D. CARR- CINEMATOGRAPHER/ PRODUCER

Feat Productions, Inc. is the Los Angeles, California based Production Company headed by husband and wife team, Deborah and Bradley Carr. Both seasoned in television and documentary production, the two met in college where they were also introduced to their first A-T family. The couple collaborated to produce the first A-T Children's Project Telethon at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh in 2000. The eight-hour live broadcast served to educate the surrounding community about the orphan disease ataxia-telangiectasia, while simultaneously raising funds to support research. The telethon has grown to become an annual event at the University.



Professionally, Deborah's television career started in local broadcast news where she was an Anchor and Reporter serving communities in Eastern Washington and Southern California. She transitioned into long-format documentary production where she honed her skills as a Coordinating Producer on a number of documentary specials for The History Channel with Bill Brummel Productions. The 2004 documentary, "Rwanda Do Scars Ever Fade?" was recognized with the prestigious Peabody Award. Her work on human rights focused documentaries continued with "First to Fight: The Black Tankers of WWII" and "Standing Tall At Auschwitz." Her latest TV series, "Food Tech" is now airing on History. Deborah has also worked in various production roles on content for ABC, Discovery, Court TV, and the US Army.

Bradley has extensive experience in reality television production. He spent four seasons working on the hit NBC show "Fear Factor." Brad served as an Associate Producer on more than 130 episodes involving 400 stunts and challenges. Moving forward as a Production Manager and Line Producer his resume includes, "Extreme Makeover Home Edition: After the Storm," and "Deal or No Deal." Currently Bradley is working as a Producer on the ABC splash, smash, hit "Wipeout."

FILM FESTIVALS / AWARDS

2009 Official Selection, Rhode Island International Film Festival

** Helping Hand International Humanitarian Award

2009 Official Selection, Big Bear Lake International Film Festival

** Audience Award, Best Documentary

2009 Official Selection, Interrobang Film Festival

** Professional Best of Show

2009 Official Selection, Flagstaff Mountain Film Festival

2010 Official Selection, Sarasota Film Festival

2010 Official Selection, Wisconsin Film Festival

FEATURED SUBJECTS

TIM BORLAND

Tim Borland has been running since 1998 when he trained for his first triathlon with the goal of getting into shape. Since then, he has run cross-country for his junior college, raced on a triathlon team and worked as an endurance coach. With more than 25 marathons under his belt, Tim decided to join the small subculture ultra-runners.

Tim's training took so much time and energy that the idea of exerting such physical and mental energy solely for his own benefit wasn't the best use of his talent. In



2006, Tim partnered with the A-T Children's Project to create the A-T CureTour. In 2007, Borland ran 63 marathons in 63 days, raising more than 500,000 for the non-profit. Six months later he accompanied Canadian ultra-runner Ray Zahab on the Canada OneXOne, running 50 miles a day for 13 days in each of Canada's provinces and territories. In December 2009, Borland completed the 13-day Strides Across Texas campaign to support Pediatric Cancer Research. Tim's running adventures are supported by his wife of six years, Michelle. They have three children, Kylie, Colton and Maddie. They reside in Central California.

CATHRYN ACHIILES

Cathryn Achilles (now 17) is the second of three children for Jim and DeAnna Achilles of Northern California. At age two, Cathryn was diagnosed as "failure to thrive." Which as her father says means, "doctors have no idea what's wrong with her." Cathryn was not properly diagnosed with A-T until she was eight. Cathryn once danced ballet and played the harp and piano. Today she no longer has the muscle control to sing or dance, but she enjoys selecting fabrics for quilting, looking at oversize picture books, riding therapy horses and picking on her younger brother Robbie. Her favorite school subject is vocabulary. Cathryn is wheelchair bound and receives monthly IVIG treatments to boost her immune system. She battles frequent lung infections, but through it all maintains a positive outlook.



MAX & JAKE LESPERANCE

Max (now 5) and Jake (now 3) are the two sons of Mark and Laura Lesperance of Neenah, Wisconsin. After numerous medical tests, Max was diagnosed at age three with ataxia-telangiectasia. At the time, his parents were told his 3-month-old brother Jake, would have a one-in-four chance of having A-T.



Jake tested positive, and at 3-months of age, became the youngest known diagnosed case of A-T. Today, both boys battle compromised immune systems. Once a week their dad administers their immune therapy treatment. Mark and Laura are hopeful a treatment to help slow the progression of A-T will soon be found.



ALYSSA WOOD

Alyssa Wood (now 13) is one of five children adopted by John and Marcia Wood of Lemont, Illinois. Alyssa joined the Wood family when she was three-years-old. Several months later, John and Marcia noticed she had difficulty standing still. What they



thought was an inner-ear infection impacting her balance, turned out to be a genetic terminal disease. Today, Alyssa is well-known and loved in the small community on the outskirts of Chicago. The community has rallied around the family supporting their efforts to raise money to fund research. At school, Alyssa works alongside her classmates. While she's losing her ability to speak clearly, write and run on the playground, Alyssa demonstrates her cognitive abilities are not impacted at all. She gets good grades, loves to sing, swim and paint.

A-T WHAT?

"ay-TACK-see-uh Teh-LAN-jick-TAY-sha"

Ataxia-telangiectasia (A-T)

- Is a rare genetic disease
- Attacks in early childhood
- One in 40,000 babies is born with A-T
- A-T is four diseases in one – combining symptoms of cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, cystic fibrosis, and cancer
- There is currently no cure for A-T and no way to slow the progression of the disease
- Parents of A-T children do not exhibit symptoms of the disease, but carry a mutated gene that causes it. Each time two “A-T carriers” have a child together there is a 1 in 4 chance that child will have A-T
- Similarities between A-T and other major diseases suggest knowing more about A-T could lead to cures for more common diseases such as cancer, Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s

Children with A-T:

- Both boys and girls of all ethnic backgrounds are affected
- Most children with A-T depend on a wheelchair by age 10
- About 30 percent of children with A-T develop lethal cancers
- About 70 percent of children with A-T have weakened immune systems
- 100 percent of children with A-T experience relentless loss of muscle control due to brain cell death that affects their speech, swallowing and reading

For more information on A-T visit www.atcp.org

THE A-T CHILDREN'S PROJECT

The A-T Children's Project is a nonprofit organization founded in 1993 by Florida parents Brad and Vicki Margus, who have two sons with ataxia-telangiectasia (A-T). The A-T Children's Project raises funds to support and coordinate first-rate biomedical research projects, scientific conferences and a clinical center aimed at finding a cure or life-improving therapies for A-T.

The A-T Children's Project:

- Encourages and supports laboratory research to accelerate the discovery of a cure or possible therapies for A-T by:
 - Awarding competitive research grants to top scientists using a peer-review board of scientific experts
 - Sponsoring workshops and symposia to encourage cooperation among laboratories and generate new research strategies
 - Working with Congress and the National Institutes of Health to encourage U.S. government funding of active research on A-T
- Funds a multi-disciplinary, international center at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland and supports a Cancer Center at St. Jude Children's Medical Center in Memphis, Tennessee to focus solely on the clinical evaluation and treatment of patients with A-T.
- Improves the accurate and timely diagnosis of A-T patients by increasing public awareness and educating physicians.
- Maintains an international registry of A-T patients and tissue/cell banks to provide up-to-date clinical information and resources to researchers.
- Provides emotional encouragement, guidance and hope to families impacted by A-T through telephone support, an internet forum and family conferences.
- The A-T Children's Project is a public, tax-exempt, non-profit organization pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and all gifts and donations to the Project are tax deductible.

FILM CREDITS

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JIM ACHILLES
MICHELLE BORLAND
MIKE DURANT
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ACHILLES FAMILY
A-T CHILDREN'S PROJECT
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GARMIN
JOHNS HOPKINS CHILDREN'S CENTER
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LESPERANCE FAMILY
OCTAPHARMA
ST ELIZABETH HOSPITAL
ST JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL
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SONGS

“Don’t Give Up”
Written by Matt Stamm & Art Hays
Performed by Matt Stamm
In memory of Josh Stamm

“Coming Out of the Dark”
Written by Matt Stamm & Art Hays
Performed by Matt Stamm

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To help fund A-T research, contact the A-T Children’s Project:

www.atcp.org

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