OSCAR CROSBY FILMS Presents
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In Association With DOUG PRAY

“TRANSFATTY LIVES”
A FILM BY PATRICK SEAN O’BRIEN
ABOUT PATRICK SEAN O’BRIEN

WORLD PREMIERE – TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL 2015
INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE – HOT DOCS 2015

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SYNOPSIS

At 30, Patrick Sean O’Brien was TransFatty, a New York City DJ, internet personality, and filmmaker. He spent his days as a beer-drinking creative force, making art films about perverts, vulnerable souls, and Howard Johnson’s restaurants. Then his legs started shaking.

Defying sentimentality, TRANSFATTY LIVES takes you on an emotional rollercoaster from Patrick’s wild, fun-loving days into the dark heart of ALS (a.k.a. Lou Gehrig’s disease). Given 2 to 5 years to live, Patrick first loses his ability to walk, then move his arms, then to swallow, and even to breathe. With the support of his bewildered friends and family Patrick braves the unthinkable and turns his camera onto himself.

As the director and star of his own documentary, Patrick films every step of his debilitating journey from first diagnosis through his current paralysis. Forcefully lacking self-pity, he captures the emotion, humor, and absurdity of real life as he makes art, gets political, falls in love, fathers a son, and fights extreme depression and paranoia.

At 40, Patrick has completed this film by typing directions to his editors with the movements of his pupils. Miraculously, TRANSFATTY LIVES is not a movie about death. Because, while Patrick’s brain stopped being able to control his muscles, it remains brilliantly alive, allowing him to ask: “What if my diminishing physical abilities can be inversely proportional to my journey inward? And, more importantly, “will there be bacon and unicorns once I get there?”
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FILMMAKER’S NOTES

TRANSFATTY LIVES was shot over the course of 10 years. It started off as a perfect roll of film that I took in Asbury Park, NJ at the last Howard Johnson’s Restaurant on the boardwalk by the ocean. I need to spend a moment geeking out on the notion of this perfect roll of 24 exposures B&W film. Shooting film is a bet with your mind. You get 24 exposures; each frame could be the one. Often you get three good shots per 24, sometimes one, sometimes none. You’re like a junky waiting outside the one-hour photo, hoping to score one good shot. This roll was perfect. Asbury Park is a famous old carnival town on the Jersey Shore that had fallen on hard times. In Asbury, at its epicenter, is the last HoJo’s in the state of NJ. A round building with a spiral walkway leading to a second floor "Panorama Room " and an outdoor space to watch movies, directly on the ocean. And of course it had its signature orange roof. I had made 3 films in that strange town, and we always went to the HoJo’s for lunch. Something about that old HoJo’s always fascinated me. An article in the paper said it would be torn down, like many of the old derelict buildings in town.

Around this time I was living in a derelict building myself. Something was happening to me in my small apartment on New York City’s Lower East Side. My legs had started to skip like a dirty CD. At first I thought it must be the cold weather. I was avoiding calls from my family and friends, eating at Dunkin’ Donuts three meals a day and taking shady Viagra from India. Winter ended in NYC but the shaking in my legs continued and now I had weakness in my pointer finger. The same finger I used to photograph the HoJo’s. Was there some parallel? I went to see the doctor: my sister Wendie. I limped into the house. The look on her face said it all. A single tear welled in one of her pale, blue eyes like an opal. That was the beginning. I quickly decided that if I had to take a trip into the black hole of neurological testing I was bringing my camera with me. It took me awhile to realize that I had just captured on film a doctor telling me that I had ALS and 2 to 5 years to live. As I progressively became more and more paralyzed I assembled a great group of friends and cameramen and I launched a website to fundraise and keep my documentary film afloat. The messages from others across the country and the world, also facing immense difficulties, helped fuel my mission to make my film. It started to feel like more than just my story, but also my duty to tell the story that others are facing in their own adversities. I did this despite lying in a nursing home bed for 5 years, mostly alone. My film isn’t about ALS, it is ALS. I wanted to catalog the space inside the HoJo’s before it was gone, but instead turned the camera on myself, hara-kiri style. TRANSFATTY LIVES saved my life, as did all of those who have stood behind me helping me every step of the way. And somewhere along the line it clicked, that this was a how-to film for my baby boy, Sean. I may not be able to play XBox with him, or build a tree fort for him, but at least I can give him light in the darkness of a movie theater.
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DIRECTOR’S BIO

PATRICK SEAN O’BRIEN – Director, Producer, Writer

PATRICK SEAN O’BRIEN, aka DJ TransFatty, is an artist and filmmaker. Born in 1974 in Edison, New Jersey, he attended the School of Visual Arts and has lived in New York for much of his life. When he was diagnosed with ALS in May 2005 he decided to embark on his most ambitious project yet, a feature-length documentary about his journey. He is currently based in Massachusetts at the Leonard Florence Center for Living. www.patrickobrienfoundation.org

CREW BIOS

DOUG PRAY - Producer, Writer, Additional Editing

Doug Pray is a director and producer of feature documentary films about American subcultures and maverick individuals. His work includes the Emmy award-winning “Art & Copy,” “Surfwise,” “Big Rig,” “Infamy,” “Hype!” and “Scratch.” His most recent film is 2014’s ”Levitated Mass” about the land art of Michael Heizer. He has also directed dozens of short films and documentary-style commercials for a wide range of major clients and causes including a 2006 advocacy campaign for AIDS awareness which won him his first Emmy. Doug studied sociology at Colorado College and received an MFA from the UCLA School of Film and Television. He lives in Los Angeles and is a member of the Director’s Guild of America and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences. www.dougpray.com

AMELIA GREEN-DOVE - Producer

Amelia Green-Dove is an award-winning documentary producer whose most recent film, "Watchers of the Sky" (Dir. Edet Belzberg) won, among others, a Special Jury Prize and Documentary Editing Prize at the 2014 Sundance Film Festival, and the Ostrovsky Award for Best Documentary at the Jerusalem Film Festival. She is the Audience Engagement Campaign Manager for the film’s outreach and on the board of the newly launched Watchers of the Sky Initiative. She also worked with director Edet Belzberg on the duPont Award-winning HBO documentary "The Recruiter." Amelia was a field producer for Michael Moore’s Academy Award-nominated "SiCKO" and, prior to that, an associate producer for Bill Moyers on the PBS newsmagazine "Now with Bill Moyers" and later David Brancaccio's "Now." A native of California, and graduate of Hampshire College, Amelia began her career as a researcher at the BBC’s Open University in London.

DARIN HALLINAN – Producer

Darin Hallinan is a producer of media for television and film with over 20 years of experience. Former owner of music and sound design firm Ohm Lab, he's worked on numerous advertising and broadcast campaigns including ones for Nike, T-Mobile, MTV and Verizon. Darin has served as Producer, Post Production Coordinator, Executive Producer and Supervising Sound Editor for numerous feature and short films, including “212”, “Happy New Year”, “Le Village”, “The Wannabe” and “Transfatty Lives”.

Darin is currently Manager of Technical Operations for Dolby Laboratories in New York City. He is also the head of Digital Cinema Mastering for the New York facility. Darin recently completed mastering for Sundance feature faves "May in the Summer", "Mother of George" and "It Felt Like
Love” as well as Sony Picture’s “Drinking Buddies” and Woody Allen’s latest release “Irrational Man” starring Joaquin Phoenix and Emma Stone.

Darin has known director Patrick O’Brien since they both started out in the business in the mid-’90’s. Darin worked with Patrick on his earlier projects and is very excited to bring this truly amazing film to the big screen.

**BRADFORD REED - Composer**
Bradford Reed never fails to entertain and inspire. This Brooklyn, NY based composer, performer and producer fights and tames the idiosyncrasies of the pencilina, an original instrument of his own design and construction. The pencilina is an electric ten stringed collision of the hammer dulcimer, slide guitar, koto and fretless bass with six pickups of varied types. It is struck with sticks, plucked and bowed, giving Reed an incredibly wide sonic palette. Many have enjoyed Reed's frequent street performances and club dates all over the world. He played with King Missile III (and produced 4 of their records) and in the Blue Man Group's original band. He's composed for film and television including the music for the first season Superjail! on Adult Swim and 3 seasons of Ugly Americans on Comedy Central.

**LASSE JÄRVI - Editor, Writer**
Lasse Järvi is a Finnish Director and Editor based out of San Francisco and Helsinki. A graduate of the Colorado College English Film Track, and an apprentice of veteran documentarian Doug Pray, Lasse’s editing credits include feature documentaries INFAMY, SURFWISE, and WALL WRITERS. He is currently co-directing NEVER GOING HOME, a feature-length documentary that follows notorious graffiti couple Utah and Ether, as well as editing an untitled documentary special directed by Allen Hughes for HBO. Commercial clients include Microsoft, 20th Century Fox, Toyota, Boost Mobile, Ebay, among others.

**IAN DUDLEY – Director of Photography**
Ian Dudley is an experienced and award-winning cinematographer residing in New York City. A graduate of New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts, Ian ignored his parents’ wise advice to “get a real job.” Instead he threw himself headlong into the independent film industry, where he worked his way up through the mid-90’s on music videos, commercials and features as a camera assistant, before dedicating himself full-time to cinematography in 1998. With over 18 years of professional experience shooting everything from feature films and shorts to documentaries, music videos, corporate and promotionals, Ian brings a great deal of experience, expertise and nuance to each project he undertakes. Ian approaches each project with a unique creative perspective that bridges the technical with the aesthetic and the written word with the visceral.
October 5, 1974
Born in Edison, New Jersey.

1992
Patrick’s first film project “Suicidal Eggplant” is awarded First Prize at the 1992 NJ Young Filmmakers Festival.

1994
Patrick’s first film project “Cancer Zoo Review” is awarded First Prize at the 1994 NJ Young Filmmakers Festival.

1995
Patrick directs his first short film, “Born Again Porn Star.”

1996
Patrick produces the Student Academy Award-winning “Waiting in the Wings.” Patrick graduates from the School of Visual Arts.

2000
Patrick continues to make short films and commercials throughout the early ‘00s.

2004
Patrick notices an involuntary shaking in his legs.

May 24, 2005
Patrick is diagnosed with ALS.

2006
Patrick officially starts production on “TransFatty Lives.”

Nov. 13, 2007
Patrick’s son Sean is born.

April 16, 2015
“TransFatty Lives” has its World Premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival – Patrick comes back to where it all began: NYC!
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FACTS ABOUT ALS:

● At any given time, roughly 30,000 Americans are living with ALS.

● Every 90 minutes a person is diagnosed with ALS and every 90 minutes a person dies from it.

● ALS was first described in 1869 by French neurologist Jean-Martin Charcot.

● ALS first came to national attention when baseball great Lou Gehrig had to retire because of it.

● From the time of diagnosis, life expectancy is typically a short 2 to 5 years.

● ALS is twice as likely in military veterans.

● ALS shares common threads with diseases like Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s.

● Currently only one drug is approved by the FDA to treat ALS, and it only extends survival by months.

● In some parts of the world, ALS is called MND (Motor Neuron Disease). This is what world famous theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking has.

Website:  www.transfattylives.com
Facebook:  https://www.facebook.com/EWBOK.POB?ref=br_tf
Twitter:  @TransFattyLives
          https://twitter.com/TransFattyLives

Support Patrick and his son by donating here:
www.friendsofpatrickobrien.org
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CREDITS
"TRANSFATTY LIVES"

Directed by
PATRICK O'BRIEN

Produced by
PATRICK SEAN O'BRIEN
MICHELE DUPREE
AMELIA GREEN-DOVE
DARIN HALLINAN
MARCI MOHIUDDIN
DOUG PRAY

Executive Producers
BEN CONRAD
SKIP KLINTWORTH
KENNEDY O'BRIEN
CRAIG SWANN

Director of Photography
IAN DUDLEY

Original Music by
BRADFORD REED

Edited by
LASSE JÄRVI

Written by
PATRICK SEAN O'BRIEN
LASSE JÄRVI
DOUG PRAY

Additional Writing and Editing by
SCOTT CROWNINGSHIELD

Additional Editing
DOUG PRAY

Animation by
AUGENBLICK STUDIOS, INC.
Associate Producers
CHRISTINA BORBELY
BUTT3RSCOTCH
DUSTIN "UPSO" HOSTETLER
AMBER KOONCE MYERS

Additional Producer (Lower East Side/Last HoJo)
H. J. KIM

Still Photography by
TIMOTHY SACCENTI
JON THOMA

Additional Cinematography
WAYNE ARNOLD
SCOTT CROWNINGSHIELD
SPENCER MICHAEL
SCOTT POWELL
DOUG PRAY
JON THOMA
ALESSANDRA ZEKA

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LENNY SCHMITZ

Text-to-Speech Voice Provided by
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DOUG DIAMOND
DAVE HNATIUK
DAVID WEISS
LAUREN NEENAN

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DARIN HALLINAN
DOUG PRAY

Assistant Editors
JASON BERGMAN
RUBEN PROENCA
NEIL DAVIS
HOA MAI
Post Production Intern
SCOTT POWELL

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ALEXANDER BERMAN

Digital Image Restoration Specialist
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KYLE SCHEMBER

Re-recording Mixer
LUKE BECHTHOLD

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LUCAS SANOFF

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LAUREN SOROFMAN

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BRADFORD REED

"Listen to the DJ"
Written by Z. Sciacca, C. Henderson
Performed by DJ Z-Trip
Courtesy of Z Trip Music, Najla Music
By arrangement with Hollywood Records

"Steps Softly"
Written by Bradford Reed, Geoff Gersh, Adam Kendall, Christof Knoche
Performed by Bradford Reed, Geoff Gersh, Adam Kendall, Christof Knoche
Produced by Bradford Reed

“Happiest Man In The World”
Written by Patrick O’Brien
Performed by TransFatty

"DJ Prince Paul vs. The World"
Written by Prince Paul
Performed by Prince Paul
Courtesy of OM Records
“Paraplegic DJ”
Written by Patrick O’Brien
Performed by TransFatty

"Hot Miami Nights"
Written by APAMusic
Courtesy of MusicLoops.com

"Night Mare"
Written by Bradford Reed, Geoff Gersh, Ludger Hennig, Markus Markowski
Performed by Bradford Reed, Geoff Gersh, Ludger Hennig, Markus Markowski
Produced by Bradford Reed

"Dream of Blackbird"
Written by Bradford Reed, Byron Estep
Performed by Bradford Reed, Byron Estep
Produced by Bradford Reed

"Car Thief"
Written by Adam Horovitz, Adam Yauch, Mike D, Beastie Boys, The Dust Brothers
Performed by Beastie Boys
Courtesy of Universal Music Group

"Valentine"
Written by Bradford Reed, Jamey Roninson
Performed by Bradford Reed, Jamey Robinson
Produced by Bradford Reed

"The Fucking Moon"
Written by The Evolution Control Committee
Performed by The Evolution Control Committee
Courtesy of Seeland Records

"Fok"
Written by Olafur Arnalds
Performed by Olafur Arnalds
Courtesy of Nettwerk Music Publishing

"The Light"
Written by Jimmy Lavalle, Matthew Thomas Resovich
Performed by The Album Leaf
Courtesy of Sup Pop
By arrangement with Songs Music Publishing

"Wonderful Full Landing"
Written by Bradford Reed, Geoff Gersh, Eric Hubel, Christof Knoche
Performed by Bradford Reed, Geoff Gersh, Eric Hubel, Christof Knoche
Produced by Bradford Reed
"Plague Burial"
Written by David Bond Hikes
Performed by Teargas & Plateglass
Courtesy of Kobalt Music Publishing

"The Boston Move"
Written By Bradford Reed
Performed by Bradford Reed, Zach Layton
Produced by Bradford Reed

"King Tropkillaz Remix"
Performed by Slimkid3, DJ Nu-Mark, featuring Diamond D. and K-Natural
Written by T. Hardson, J. Kirkland, M. Postic, D. Taylor
Courtesy of Hot Plate Records
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