



DREAM OUT LOUD
A Documentary Journey
A Subterranean Odyssey

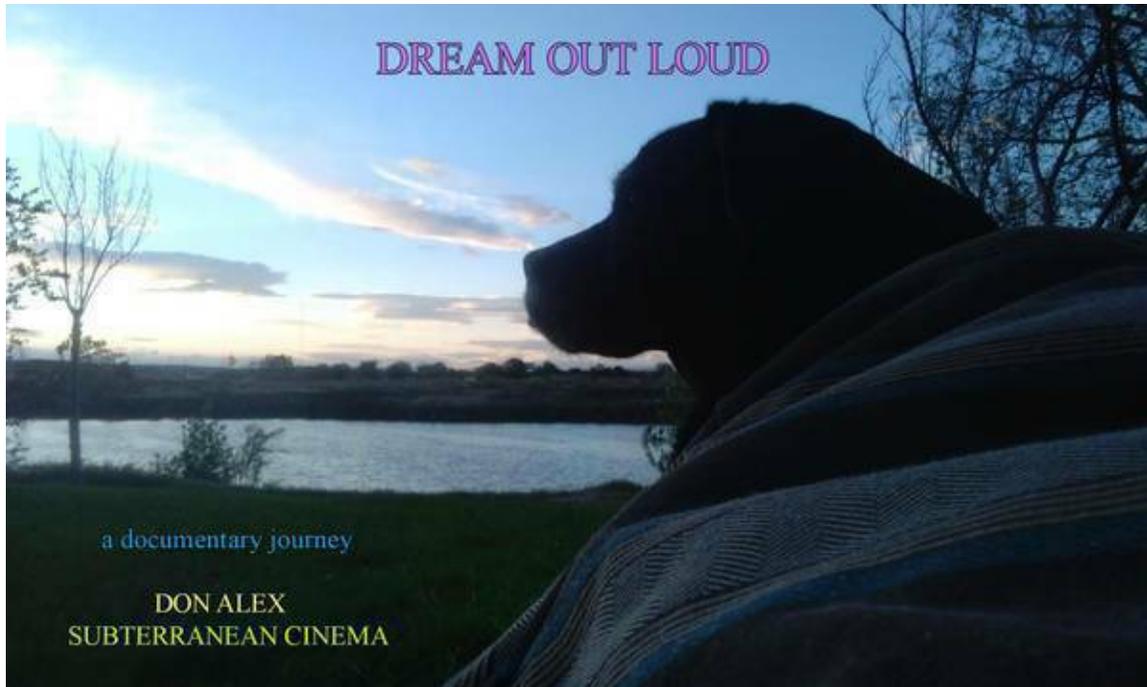
Don Alex
Subterranean Cinema
2017



My name is Don Alex. I am a 53 year old man, with a very charismatic and lovable 13 year old Black Lab named Mitzi. I am best known as the creator of a website called "Subterranean Cinema" that I first published in early 2001, which gained a solid worldwide reputation for making several rare screenplays available to the general public for the very first time, including two different drafts of Jerry Lewis' "The Day the Clown Cried", John Belushi's "Noble Rot", Andy Kaufman's "The Tony Clifton Story", and Rospo Pallenberg's unproduced adaption of Stephen King's "The Stand". I also created a tribute documentary called "The Passion of Andy Kaufman" which has a substantial cult following among his fans on the internet, and several "short films" based upon the music of Richard Patrick (Filter, Army of Anyone, Nine Inch Nails), which he artistically admired to such an extent that I am now given "VIP" status at Filter concerts that I attend. His music has literally changed the path of my life.



Mitzi was my mom's last dog. In my final phone conversation with her just before her death in 2011, she asked me to keep Mitzi with me no matter what, that she would "open doors" for me. I promised her that I would, and I have gone through several very difficult years since then, through times that would have been much easier if I had put Mitzi up for adoption, but I have kept my word, and Mitzi has indeed "opened doors" and enriched my life with her presence in it. Mom was 100% correct and prescient. The two of us now have a bond as close as any parent/child on the planet, and I wouldn't give her up for anything. I have since survived through three heart attacks (due to my former love of fried foods), and I am now carrying around six stents in me because of them. Two years ago, I was additionally diagnosed with degenerative arthritis in my knees, and told by a doctor that it will get progressively worse over time, until at some point when I will have great difficulty in walking very far, and I might even end up in a wheelchair eventually. I am starting to reach the early stages of that diagnosis now, and I have a very noticeable limp on especially painful days. Ironically, early last year, Mitzi was diagnosed with early hip displacia that will also get worse over time, and the signs of that are becoming increasingly visible in her own walk. We make quite a sympathetic pair as we limp our way together through our daily life, and we gain many very devoted and loyal friends and fans wherever we travel. Until they read this, most of them have no idea that there is much more to our journey than they are aware of.



Early last year, while enduring the despair of an especially painful bout of homelessness, and realizing that our mutual traveling days are nearing an end, due to our shared mobility issues, and because it has been a passionate lifelong dream of mine to create a real documentary film that will have a positive influence on the lives of others, an idea occurred to me: to embark on a final epic "twilight" journey that I will film, with us traveling down the western coastal highways in a van, from the Canadian border (filmed at Dawn) to the Mexican border (filmed at Dusk), and ending with us peering over into Mexico at "magic hour". Enroute, I will document the stories of the various people that we will meet, the incredible images that we will see, and the events that we will witness. I will visit the town of my birth (Napa, CA) and trace my childhood years there, where the first seeds of my movie obsession were planted in my mind by my late older brother, Milton, who took me to see films that were far in advance of my years, including "Deliverance" on it's opening night in 1972. I will even attempt to locate Francis Coppola at his winery near Calistoga, where I plan to discuss the deep impact that "Apocalypse Now" had on my love of cinema (and my longtime urge to create my own films), and to have him pet Mitzi on camera. I will visit historic cinematic locations, including many that are located in Hollywood. I will "Dream Out Loud", and that will be the name of the film (which originates from lyrics written by Bono, the lead singer of my favorite band, U2). But our journey will just be part of the story. The film will also touch on cinema, music, the current world situation, politics, religion, racism, the legalization of marijuana, homelessness, hopefulness, love, sex, death, the meaning of life, and how to live it to

the fullest extent possible. At various points during its running time, it will trigger every kind of emotion in the viewer, and it will be visually experimental and surreal in a way that has rarely been attempted since the 60s. It won't be your typical "Lassie" type story by any means, it will be much deeper and more profound than that. Some scenes will be "simulated" and filmed with multiple cameras, however they will all be shot in real locations and situations with real people, not "actors". However, there also might be a gag in homage to prankster Andy Kaufman hidden someplace in it ...



So for the rest of 2016 and into the early part of 2017, I took a "dry run" journey through Nevada and California, and we wound up near the Mojave Desert (right in the middle of "Joshua Tree" country), where by complete chance, we happened across a rather infamous underground director, Jon Aes-Nihil ("Aesthetic Nihilism"), best known for creating "Manson Family Movies", and as an intimate associate and creative colleague of John Waters, Kenneth Anger, and Nikolas Schreck, and Zeena LaVey (daughter of Anton). He took me to visit Hollywood, for an unforgettable nighttime cruise down Sunset and Hollywood Boulevards (which I filmed). Unfortunately, around this same time, medical issues reared up and forced me to return back to Idaho for some tests and treatment, and I am currently

residing in Boise. I really love this city, and I plan to return back here after completing the coastal journey, and to make it the permanent home for me and my old road partner as I edit the film into it's eventual final cut. I am now feeling somewhat healthier, and I am more determined than ever to carry out my original "border to border" plan, but my window of opportunity to achieve that goal is running out fast. Basically, it's now or never.



So, I am seeking out start up financing to make my Dream into a Reality as soon as possible. I plan to rent a van for a couple of months (the cost for that will be \$3500-\$4000), and then to head up to the Canadian border to begin the expedition south. I will stream live broadcasts on the internet so that people will be able to follow along with us in "real time" (spreading interest and awareness of the project around the world), and I will even have flying drone footage to make it that much more visually compelling. I want to begin that journey by June 1st at the latest. In the meantime, I am going to take the footage that I have shot over the last year during the "dry run", and edit it into an eye-popping "preview trailer". Then, I will either put up funding pages on Kickstarter and Indiegogo for financing, or I will seek it out through various dog and/or travel related businesses in exchange for very subtle and artistically appropriate "product

placements". After the filming has been completed and I return back to Boise for the editing phase, I hope to then be able to secure the rights to use various songs by U2, Filter, Tangerine Dream, and others, for an appropriately powerful soundtrack. I plan to create a fairly sparse and quietly spoken narration track, similar (and in homage) to Martin Sheen in "Apocalypse Now", however at certain points I will intentionally drift over into something closer in sarcastic tone to Malcolm McDowell in "A Clockwork Orange". Those are my two favorite films of all time, and my artistic pseudonym "Don Alex" is based on the name of the "ACO" character.



I will accomplish my goal, and I will create this film, no matter what it takes. It has now become my obsession, and my life's most important work, and failure to complete it will not be an option. I am not interested in personal financial profit from this journey / film in any way, and it isn't an excuse for a "free vacation". While I certainly can't deny that I do hope the film ends up making back enough money (from a theatrical or DVD release) to allow Mitzi and me to have a real Home for ourselves again, I would choose to donate most of any eventual financial proceeds that I would personally receive from it to 1) pet-related organizations and shelters, and 2) homeless-related organizations and shelters. I only want the ability to create a classic, meaningful work of audiovisual art that I am 100% sure of my ability to accomplish. We are about to embark on a truly great adventure together, something that has never been attempted (or imagined) before, onscreen or off, and I want to invite everyone to live it with us. I want to inspire people with the fact that they also have it within their power to make their own Dreams come true on their own terms, no matter how bad their current life situation is, and I know that this film will have real potential to do that. In that way, Mitzi and I will then "live forever", in Dreams, in Images, on Film, long after our mortal shells fade into the eternal Twilight.

That will be more than enough to satisfy me.

Cinematic Influences and Allusions

Stanley Kubrick
A Clockwork Orange
The Shining
2001: A Space Odyssey

Francis Ford Coppola
Apocalypse Now

William Friedkin
Sorcerer

Michelangelo Antonioni
Blow Up
Zabriskie Point
The Passenger

Federico Fellini
Satyricon
8 ½

Paul Thomas Anderson
Boogie Nights
Magnolia
There Will Be Blood

David Lynch
Mulholland Drive
Twin Peaks
Blue Velvet
Wild at Heart
Dune

Werner Herzog
Aguirre: The Wrath of God
Fitzcarraldo
Burden of Dreams

Alejandro Jodorowsky
El Topo
Jodorowsky's Dune

Richard Linklater
Slacker
Boyhood
It's Impossible to Learn to Plow by Reading Books

Frederick Wiseman
Welfare

David and Albert Maysles
Salesman
Gimme Shelter

Jim Jarmusch
Stranger Than Paradise
Down By Law
Cigarettes and Coffee

Dennis Hopper
Easy Rider
The Last Movie

Stan Brakhage
Dog Star Man

The Blair Witch Project
Play Misty for Me
Deliverance
Soylent Green



ITINERARY / SCHEDULE
May 5th - November 5th, 2017
(subject to changes / revisions / additions enroute)



PRE-PRODUCTION

Boise, ID
May 5th to May 25th

I will spend about three weeks getting together all of the necessary equipment, setting up the van rental, etc. At the same time, I will create two "preview trailers" for the film, set to segments of the songs which inspired the film's title, "Zooropa" and "Acrobat". I will create a "sample segment" (see "Home Sweet Homeless" below) using various real homeless people whom I have come to know in the last month or so that I have been living here among them. Though these shots will technically be "staged", they will not be fictional, because they will accurately represent what I have actually been experiencing in my life here lately, and they will be showing the people who I have been experiencing it with, not "actors". This segment will be mostly humorous and funny.

**Boise to Blaine, WA
May 25th to June 5th**

We will depart from Boise, traveling north through Moscow and Lewiston up to Coeur d'Alene, then we will head west over the Washington border thru Spokane and towards the coast. We will arrive at Blaine, WA, and the production phase of the film will officially begin.



PRODUCTION

**Blaine, WA to Astoria, OR
June 5th to June 15th**

We will depart from the Canadian border at Blaine (International Peace Arch / Peace Arch State Park), where the film will begin at Dawn "magic hour". We will travel down the coastal highway: Cottonwood Beach, Birch Bay, Marietta, Bellingham, Mt Vernon, Everett, and into Seattle. We will take an excursion to Snoqualmie / North Bend, where "Twin Peaks" was filmed, and I will do a segment

on it (which is especially timely, as the long awaited 3rd Season of the series is about to premiere on Showtime, 25 years after the original ABC broadcasts). Then we will return to the coast, travel south to Tacoma / Olympia, around the Olympic National Park peninsula, and down to Aberdeen (hometown of Kurt Cobain), with us finally ending up at Ilwaco (where we lived for a short time a few years ago, and where somebody took pictures of Mitzi and me at the ocean, which I will recreate for the film. Then we will cross over the Astoria Bridge into Oregon.

Astoria, OR to Crescent City, CA June 15th to June 25th

We will explore Astoria (where "The Goonies" was filmed), then travel south thru Seaside, Oswald Park, Tillamook Bay, Cape Meares, Oceanside, Netarts Bay, Cape Lookout, to Pacific City, where I will interview and hang out with infamous prankster Bob Pagani, a close associate and friend of both Alan Abel and Andy Kaufman, who is best known for getting on the news as the "winner" of a lottery that he never bought a ticket for. Then we will take an excursion in to Portland and visit various film and music sites in that city. Then we will return to the coast, and travel south thru Lincoln City, Newport, Bayshore, Yachats, Florence, to Dunes City, where Frank Herbert visited and got the idea for his classic series of science fiction novels. From there, we will take an excursion in to Eugene (where "Animal House" and other classic films were created). Then we will return to the coast, travel south thru Winchester Bay, Coos Bay, Bullards, Port Orford, Gold Beach, Pistol River, Brookings. We will cross the border into California.

Crescent City, CA to Hollywood, CA June 25th to July 5th

We will travel south thru Crescent City, Eureka / Arcata (Humboldt County), Fort Bragg, Bodega Bay (taking shots of us at various "Birds" filming locations). We will take an excursion in to Napa Valley, where I was born and raised, and I will locate the winery of Francis Coppola (see earlier description of my plans involving that potential meeting). Then I want to do a segment on Robin Williams, who was a passionate advocate for the homeless, and one of my favorite human beings of all time, and who lived in Napa Valley. Then we will return to the coast, visiting San Francisco Bay Area (and Zodiac locations), Santa Cruz, San Jose, Monterey / Big Sur / Carmel (see "The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face" in the sample segments section below), Santa Barbara, Ventura, and then we will proceed into Los Angeles, with various segments on famous and infamous incidents that have taken

place there with us at the exact sites where they happened, e.g. Manson sites with "Jon Aes-Nihil" discussing the case, Wonderland Avenue with friends and associates of John Holmes that I am acquainted with, Chateau Marmont and the death of John Belushi (maybe even a rental of the room that he died in), Jim Morrison's haunts and hangouts (narrated by his brother-in-law Alan Graham who I am friends with), gravesites of famous celebrities, etc, and then we go to Hollywood to visit cinematic landmarks: Mitzi and me with the Hollywood sign in the background, and places dedicated to famous movie canines, like Lassie / Rin Rin Tin at Grauman's and the Walk of Fame. My favorite modern musician, Richard Patrick (Filter, Army of Anyone), lives near Hollywood, so hopefully, I will be able to arrange a meeting with him and capture it on film. The visit will end on the evening of July 4th with Fireworks in the Sky.

**Hollywood, CA to Playas de Tijuana, CA
July 5th to July 10th**

We will leave Hollywood and proceed south to San Diego / Coronado, pausing to say hello to the family of Jim Morrison, and then finally we will proceed to the Playas de Tijuana at the Mexico border, right next to the Ocean. On the Mexico side is the bustling big city, and on the US side is a sparse beach/park. See "Twilight at the Playas" in the "Sample Segments" section below for more specific plans about this final segment.

**Playas de Tijuana, CA to Grand Canyon, AZ
July 10th to July 13th**

After the official "final shot", I plan to head back home to Boise by going east to the Grand Canyon, where I will capture eye popping footage of us there to go over the end credits.

**Grand Canyon, AZ to Boise, ID
July 13th to July 15th**

Then up through Utah, perhaps filming some more footage around Salt Lake City (Wasatch Mountains), and then home to Boise, where the post-production editing process will begin.

POST PRODUCTION

**Boise, ID
July 15th to October 15th**

EDITING, SOUND MIXING, FILMING INSERTS, ETC.

**FINAL CUT
READY FOR PREVIEW SHOWINGS
October 25th**

**RELEASE DATE
November 5th, 2017**

**the 54th birthday
of
Don Alex
Tatum Beatrice O'Neal
Andrea McArdle**



POTENTIAL SOUNDTRACK
depending on post-production financing for music rights

SEGMENTS OF VARIOUS LENGTH

U2

Zooropa, Acrobat, Let's Go Native, Where the Streets Have No Name, Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For, With or Without You, One Tree Hill, The Fly, Alex Descends Into Hell for a Bottle of Milk, Gone, Hold Me Thrill Me Kiss Me Kill Me, Unknown Caller, Song for Someone, Every Breaking Wave, Volcano, Kite

FILTER

Surprise, Take a Picture, Tremors, Kid Blue, The Only Way is the Wrong Way, Skinny, I Keep the Flowers Around, It's Over, Miss Blue, Where Do We Go From Here, The Missing, Goddamn Me, Only You Can Stop This, My Life Before, Leaving Without a Note, It's Just You

REM

Kohoutek, Begin the Begin, These Days, Fireplace, Oddfellow Local 151, The One I Love, Losing My Religion, Get Up, Sweetness Follows, I Don't Sleep I Dream, Undertow, Mr Richards, Until the Day is Done

SEETHER

Crash, Save Today, Remedy

THE DOORS

Indian Summer, Shamans Blues, The Movie

THE OFFSPRING

Gotta Get Away

TANGERINE DREAM

The Journey, The Big Sleep in Search of Hades

POPOL VUH

Aguirre

KEITH JARRETT

Spheres 3

ROBERTA FLACK

The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face

RITA COOLIDGE
Close the Window, Calm the Light

311
Down

QUEENS OF THE STONE AGE
Mexicola

FOO FIGHTERS
Floaty

STEVE ROACH / ROBERT RICH
From the Heart of Darkness

CARMINE COPPOLA
Apocalypse Now (Finale)



PLANNED SCENES



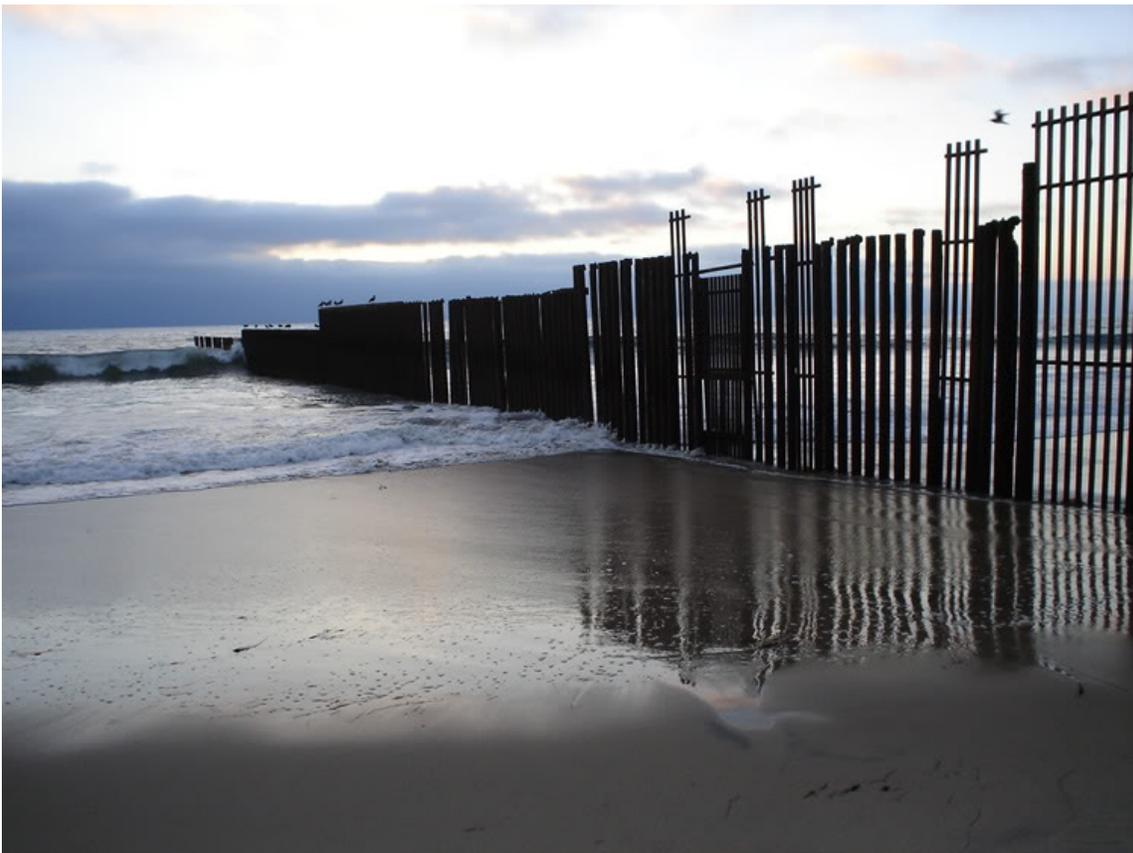
THE FIRST TIME EVER I SAW YOUR FACE to be filmed at Big Sur / Monterey / Carmel, CA

I want to do an homage to the unforgettably beautiful and haunting scene from "Play Misty for Me" that was filmed here by Clint Eastwood in the 70s, using the same song, "The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face" by Roberta Flack, except that this time, the imagery will be about Mitzi and me together at first, and then it will start to include other people with their animals, and then with their children, and then with other family members, and then couples of various races and sexual orientations, ending up with everyone together on the beach staring out at the incredible ocean at twilight "magic hour", as the song ends and the scene fades out with Mitzi and me standing among them. I can visualize this scene so clearly in my mind with that song backing it that it brings tears to my eyes when I think about it, and I have no doubt that it will most likely be the scene that people will remember the most after watching the film, because it will be emotionally overwhelming and it will have everyone weeping.

TWILIGHT AT THE PLAYAS **to be filmed at Playas de Tijuana, CA**

After spending the 4th of July in downtown Hollywood, we will proceed south thru San Diego to the Mexican border at the ocean, where the border fence literally (and ironically) drops down into the ocean and disappears, and that is exactly where I plan to film the last scenes at Dusk "magic hour", with Mitzi and me peering over the border into Mexico (the city of Tijuana), maybe even having children from the other side reach through the fence and pet Mitzi. The last shot will be of us together looking south, as the wistful notes from the very last shot in "Apocalypse Now" play, and I whisper the last narration: " ... the Dream ... the Dream ... " Fade out.

Given the bizarre "border wall" aspirations of President Trump (and the absurdity of him occupying that office), such an ending will be more timely (and disquieting) than ever. However, it will also be upbeat and hopeful, because in this film, man + dog survive, with the Dream completed, and with it, the film production itself.



DREAM OUT LOUD
A DOCUMENTARY JOURNEY
A SUBTERRANEAN ODYSSEY



CREATED
BY
DON ALEX

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY
BY
BRYAN LASS
And others who contribute smaller clips and insert shots

**PRODUCED
BY
SUBTERRANEAN CINEMA**

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS
those who finance the production

**DEDICATED
TO
ROBIN WILLIAMS**
homeless advocate and personal hero

**SPECIAL THANKS
TO**

**WERNER HERZOG, STANLEY KUBRICK, FRANCIS COPPOLA,
WILLIAM FRIEDKIN, PAUL THOMAS ANDERSON, PAUL DANO,
MICHAEL CUESTA, CLINT EASTWOOD, RICHARD PATRICK, PAUL
"BONO" HEWSON, DAVE "EDGE" EVANS, ADAM CLAYTON, LARRY
MULLEN JR, MICHAEL STIPE, SHAUN MORGAN, JAMES DOUGLAS
MORRISON, JAMES MARSHALL HENDRIX, KURT DONALD
COBAIN, LAYNE STALEY, FLORIAN FRICKE, GEORGE CARLIN,
BILL HICKS, JON AES NIHIL, ALAN GRAHAM, TATUM BEATRICE
O'NEAL, RUTANYA ALDA, CAROLE SKINNER, RORY KEMMERER,
JAMIE GRIFFITS, MICHELLE JACKSON, ALEX LEUTHAUSER, ANN
and RAY HICKS, MILTON LLOYD HICKS, MARTHA and ROY DEAL,
TRISH USABEL GROHS, REBEKAH HICKS, MICHAEL ANTONY
SMITH, SEAN TRUMBO, JOSEPH HOFER, TIMOTHY CLARK,
GREGORY BROSMAN, ERIK COMPTON, MARSHALL COMPTON,
JAN COMPTON, ROBERT and SHERI THOMPSON, JULIE SMALL,
JACOB SIEBERT, JACOB and SARAH BYRD, ADAM ZAMUDIO, ERIN
GONSALVES, KEVIN ABELS, TERRY SCHOLZ, CASSANDRA MARIE
LEWIS, HARVEST HOUSE (Ontario Oregon), DO DROP IN (Carson
City Nevada), BOISE RESCUE MISSION (Boise Idaho), CORPUS
CHRISTI DAY SHELTER (Boise Idaho)**

"Do not go gentle into that good night, old age should burn and rave at close of day; Rage, rage against the dying of the light." (Dylan Thomas)

"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world." (Harriet Tubman)

"Keep your heart open to dreams. For as long as there is a dream, there is hope, and as long as there is hope, there is joy in living." (Unknown Author)

"Man, alone, has the power to transform his thoughts into physical reality; man, alone, can dream and make his dreams come true." (Napoleon Hill)

"Whatever you can do, or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it. Begin it now." (Goethe)

"When you are inspired by some great purpose, some extraordinary project, all of your thoughts break their bonds. Your mind transcends limitations, your consciousness expands in every direction, and you find yourself in a new, great and wonderful world. Dormant forces, faculties, and talents become alive, and you discover yourself to be a greater person by far than you ever dreamed yourself to be." (Patanjali)

"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams! Live the life you've imagined. As you simplify your life, the Laws of the universe will be simpler. Solitude will not be solitude, poverty will not be poverty, and weakness will not be weakness." (Henry David Thoreau)

"Take your dream, attach it to a star, and never lose it. If you lose it, you are a dead duck. You've lost your enthusiasm; you've settled for something less. This will never do. Fight like hell for your dream and get it. If you do, life will be a very beautiful, wonderful and exciting thing. You cannot compromise with people; you cannot compromise with yourself, or you will sell yourself short. If you say, I will not compromise in any way, shape or form; that is what I want, and I want that or nothing, you'll get it." (Guru RHH)

"Some men see things as they are, and say why? I dream things that never were, and say why not?" (Robert Kennedy)

"Begin difficult things while they are easy, do great things when they are small. The difficult things of the world must once have been easy, the great things must once have been small. A thousand mile journey begins with one step." (Lao -Tse)

"Don't be afraid to take a big step if one is indicated. You can't cross a chasm in two small jumps." (David Lloyd George)

"Don't ever let somebody tell you that you can't do something, not even me. Alright? You dream, you gotta protect it. People can't do something themselves, they want to tell you that you can't do it. If you want something, go get it. Period." (Chris Gardner, "The Pursuit of Happiness")

"Talking about dreams is like talking about movies, since the cinema uses the language of dreams. Years can pass in a second, and you can hop from one place to another. It's a language made of image, and in the real cinema, every object and every light means something, as in a dream." (Federico Fellini)

"There is never an excuse not to finish a film." (Werner Herzog)

"It is not only my dreams, my belief is that all these dreams are yours as well. The only distinction between me and you is that I can articulate them, and that is what poetry or painting or literature or filmmaking is all about. It's as simple as that." (Werner Herzog)

"The best advice I can offer to those heading into the world of film is not to wait for the system to finance your projects and for others to decide your fate. If you can't afford to make a million dollar film, raise \$10000 and produce it yourself. That's all you need to make a feature film these days." (Werner Herzog)

"Did you have a good world when you died? Enough to base a movie on?" (James Douglas Morrison)

"She's gonna Dream up the world she wants to live in, she's gonna Dream Out Loud." (U2, "Zooropa")

"You can Dream, so Dream Out Loud, you know that your time is coming around, so don't let the bastards grind you down." (U2, "Acrobat")



Don Alex on Facebook

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Dream Out Loud on Facebook

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