



PITCH PACKAGE
2013

GO FAR: THE CHRISTOPHER RUSH STORY

View Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/66136962>

Official Site: www.gofarmovie.com

Logline

GO FAR is a motivational film that will teach and inspire not only persons with disabilities, but everyone, to follow their dreams and achieve them no matter the obstacles.

Synopsis

GO FAR: THE CHRISTOPHER RUSH STORY chronicles the inspirational life of Christopher Rush, a quadriplegic, and national MDA poster child, who lived with muscular dystrophy from birth to his death at the age 30, well beyond his predicted two years of life. Chris achieved extraordinary goals despite impossible odds and left behind a philosophy of life for all of us to follow. GO FAR is a motivational film that will teach and inspire not only persons with disabilities, but everyone, to follow their dreams and achieve them, no matter the obstacles. Featuring Tony Orlando, Jerry Lewis, and narrated by Chris' childhood hero and inspiration – Mark Hamill, of Star Wars fame.

Shortly before his death Chris invented a program called GO FAR, a motivational program that he intended to promote by travelling the world and inspiring those in need. THE GO FAR philosophy reads:

GO FAR – Goals, Obstacles, Focus, Act, Review

Goals - Setting them is what makes life worthwhile

Obstacles - Recognize and face them

Focus - Prioritize and plan your approach

Act - Assert yourself

Review - Whatever the results, learn from the experience

This film has one purpose in mind, to be used as the tool to promote Chris' message and continue his goal of promoting the GO FAR philosophy. Chris' memoirs state *"I think it's true that we all serve a purpose in life and I've always accepted my own as being one of a messenger. It became my mission to teach others--that no matter the obstacles in front of them--they too can GO FAR."* This film will teach and inspire others to follow Chris' inspirational philosophy.

GO FAR: THE CHRISTOPHER RUSH STORY

About Christopher:



Christopher Rush was born September 5th, 1976 and at first appeared like any other child. However, at the age of seven months, after his parents noticed his physical abilities were not developing properly, he was diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy, one of the many muscular diseases that fall under the umbrella of muscular dystrophy. He was specifically diagnosed with type 1, the most severe and debilitating, and his

best-case scenario was a life expectancy of two years. Chris outlived his prognosis by almost twenty-nine years, finally succumbing to respiratory failure and dying in his sleep comfortably in his own bed on August 12th, 2007 – less than three weeks before his thirty-first birthday.

In the mere few years of life lived beyond his initial prognosis of two, Christopher achieved more than most fully capable human beings do in a lifetime. He was a local, state, and ultimately a national poster child for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). During his six-year tenure, he met countless celebrities, political figures, and sports figures, the short-list including a visit with Ronald Reagan in the oval office, a meeting with Alabama governor George Wallace before his assassination, a deep personal friendship with MDA sponsors Jerry Lewis and Tony Orlando, meetings with and letters from Sammy Davis Jr., Wayne Newton, Siegfried and Roy, David Copperfield, Bill Cosby, Dan Marino, Ricky Henderson, Harrison Ford and Karen Allen, a visit to NASA and a tour of the Challenger spaceship shortly before its tragic demise, the Grand Marshall of the Disneyland parade....this is his short-list by age seven.

By the age of eighteen his accomplishments became too abundant to list. Chris became the first quadriplegic to get licensed as a scuba diver, and he walked the ocean floor in the Grand Cayman Islands, his first steps. He was the manager of his high school basketball team, an active member of numerous academic organizations including the National Honor Society, and he graduated high school near the top of his class. And he achieved all of this after surviving a (usually) fatal brain tumor at the age of nine. Chris went on to graduate college from the University of Michigan with a 3.78 GPA, later going to law school and graduating with a Juris Doctor from Wayne State University. During his time in both undergraduate and law school, Chris traveled the country as a motivational speaker, inspiring everyone who listened to him, helping them understand that people with disabilities may have certain handicaps, but they also have capabilities like everyone else and deserve to be treated as normal human beings with the same dignity.

The list of his accomplishments above were all achieved by someone who has never walked, sat up by himself, had the use of both hands, and for the last twelve years of his life was 100% quadriplegic and unable to move or control any function of his body other than speech.

GO FAR: THE CHRISTOPHER RUSH STORY

Filmmakers Statement:



I was fortunate enough to have known Chris for the last few years of his life. Chris may no longer be alive, but his work on this Earth is not complete. He inspired everyone around him to dig deep within themselves and reach their truest potential – even after his death, that inspiration drives me to tell his story to the best of my abilities.

The life and achievements of Christopher Rush inspired the idea for this film. He was an incredibly accomplished person, a kind and caring

friend, a decent human being, and he also just happened to be disabled. What most inspired this film, even beyond his many accomplishments, was seeing the way everyone around him became a better person after having known him.

My ultimate goal for the film is to allow various charities and organizations that deal with disabilities the opportunity to screen GO FAR for their members, and for families and friends, and those with disabilities to be inspired. I want a struggling nine year old in a wheelchair to know that he too can Go Far. I want the parents of a newly diagnosed disabled infant to have hope that their child is still capable of achieving amazing things. This was Chris' plan to spread his GO FAR program directly to those it could help the most. And while no person or film can replace the power that Chris had to inspire, I have worked hard on Chris' behalf to create a documentary film worthy and powerful enough to serve that purpose.

I am privileged to be able to provide this film as an inspirational tool to continue Chris' teachings long after he has gone.

*Zack Arnold
Director/Editor ... friend*

GO FAR: THE CHRISTOPHER RUSH STORY

Cast:

Narrated by Mark Hamill [imdb](#)
(aka Luke Skywalker of Star Wars,
Christopher's hero and inspiration)



Mark Richard Hamill grew up in California, Virginia, New York and Japan; his father was a captain in the United States Navy. He majored in drama at Los Angeles City College and made his acting debut on "The Bill Cosby Show" (1969) in 1970. He played a continuing role (Kent Murray) in the soap opera "General Hospital" (1963) and co-starred in the respected comedy series "The Texas Wheelers" (1974). Real fame came with his film debut with the hero role of Luke Skywalker in Star Wars (1977), Star Wars: Episode V - The Empire Strikes Back (1980) and Star Wars: Episode VI - Return of the Jedi (1983). During the 1990s, he became best known for providing the voice of the Joker in the animated "Batman" (1992) series.

Luke Skywalker was Christopher's childhood hero and genuine inspiration for the GO FAR program. We are so proud to have Mark portray the voice of Christopher in this film.

Appearances by:

Jerry Lewis – MDA telethon host/family friend

Jerry Lewis enjoys a prolific career as a world-class actor, entertainer and comedian. Lewis also served as the chairman of the Muscular Dystrophy Association and hosted the annual telethon for 45 years, raising \$60 million dollars in donations annually. Jerry enjoyed a lifelong bond with Christopher Rush, from his early days as the Muscular Dystrophy poster child and appearances on the telethon.



Tony Orlando –

MDA telethon performer/family friend

Orlando remains one of America's best-loved performers. He has been a recipient of three American Music Awards, a People's Choice Award for outstanding achievements in the entertainment industry, and was given a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The TONY ORLANDO AND DAWN SHOW ran for four seasons from (1974 - 1976) and welcomed the biggest names in show business each week including Jerry Lewis. A friendship forged, and Tony's guest appearances on Jerry's Labor Day Telethon, over 25 years, allowed Tony and Christopher, along with the entire Rush Family to become friends.



GO FAR: THE CHRISTOPHER RUSH STORY

Crew:

Produced by	Fix It In Post / Pulse Productions
Written and Directed by	Zack Arnold imdb
Co-Producers	Craig Byrd imdb / Tracy Balsz
Associate Producers	Thomas C. Grane / Sue Marx
Composer	Dorian Cheah imdb
Cinematographers	Sophia Kruz / Perry Payne / Bruce Schultz
Editor	Karoliina Tuovinen imdb
Assistant Editors	Natalie Baker / Eric M. Barker
Post Production Services Provided by	Electric Entertainment (Dean Devlin, Marc Roskin)
Sound Designer	Samuel Aronson, Sammy Sound Inc.

GO FAR: THE CHRISTOPHER RUSH STORY

National MDA Poster Child



Presidential Visitor at the White House



Honorary NASA astronaut



Disney Parade Grand Marshall



GO FAR: THE CHRISTOPHER RUSH STORY

Licensed Scuba Diver



College Graduate/Law Degree



Motivational Speaker and Inspirational Hero



GO FAR: THE CHRISTOPHER RUSH STORY

Specifications:

Genre: Documentary

Total running time: 80 minutes

Shot on Canon 7D, Sony EX-1 XDCAM

Mastered and delivered in high-definition (1080p 23.98) HDCAM-SR with a 5.1 audio mix.

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Official Site: www.gofarmovie.com

Marketing the film:

Genre/Sub-genres

Biography

Philosophy

Health & Fitness/Illnesses and Disabilities

Self Help

Human Interest

Tones:

Inspirational, motivational, philosophical, educational

Niche Market

- Individuals with disabilities, families and friends of those with disabilities, organizations, associations, self-help and therapy groups associated with muscular dystrophy and all other disabilities
- Muscular Dystrophy Association supports this film, but cannot sponsor due to legal limitations

Study Guide – MDA to supply informational packets for community screenings, along with a printed Go FAR guideline

Contact:

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