

Dream

“Don’t ever let someone tell you you can’t do something...[When] you gotta dream; you gotta protect it. [When] people can’t do something, they wanna tell you that you can’t do it. If you want something, go get it. Period” (The Pursuit of Happiness). Not only did Will Smith deliver this quote with such emotion as to cause the audience to be drawn into his life as a character, but it also has a meaning that is so profound that it can apply to anything that you want to do in life. Whether it be in your career, family, school, or even battling a genetic illness, dreams can be the stepping stone to a better tomorrow. When we think of dreams, we think of the mystical; we imagine them as being intangible concepts that come to us in our sleep. But a dream is so much more than that. It can be a tangible desire, hope, or aspiration that one strives for with hard work and dedication. Dreams can be reached as long as one puts their mind to reaching that dream. I look into the future with a longing for my dream; There is a hunger that is boiling up inside of me, ready to come out and grab that dream with open arms. Filmmaking is my dream, my passion, my everything. I eat, breath, and sleep filmmaking. When one cannot picture themselves doing anything else in the future except for one single thing, than that person has found their dream; and I have found mine.

I was told that I had Alports when I was twelve. At that age, one cannot comprehend the full impact of such news. However, as the years went on, I came to learn to appreciate this knowledge. At the age of twelve, I was spared most of the details of this disease and how it has affected my family. As I grew older, however, my parents chose to reveal this information to me. They told me that Alports has been in my family for nearly four generations. I was told about my mother’s uncle who died from kidney failure, as well as her other uncle who has

hearing loss and decreased renal function. I was told that I have numerous female cousins who have blood and protein in their urine, and that I, as well, have blood in my urine. This information came at a shock to me. Up until that point all I knew was that this illness was causing me to have yearly trips to the nephrologist in Miami and 24 hour urine tests. I was told that I would have to start taking Lisinopril as well. However, as I learned more, I came to realize that this illness cannot define who I am; I would not let it define who I am.

Who I am is a seventeen year old boy with numerous hobbies and extracurricular activities. Not only am I a first degree black belt in taekwondo, but I am also the Vice President of my School as well as publicist of the National Honors Society. To add to the stresses of high school I am also in the International Baccalaureate program, the toughest academic course a high school student can take. Along with the rigor of this program, I am also very active in the film department of my school, a high school that specializes in film and acting. So active in fact that I was chosen, from the twelve students who submitted, to write the script for the annual student film. This film is treated as if it were a true Hollywood production, with over thirty different jobs and titles. My title is that of “screenwriter” and I will work with the director and the producer in order to make a memorable film. Also pertaining to film, I have started a production company with two friends: “TRIdent Artistry.” We have been hired to film weddings, bar mitzvahs, concerts, as well as small events. It is this experience in the field that prepared us for our most ambitious project yet. The three of us currently wrapped up post production on our own short film titled “The Book of Life,” a twenty-five minute short film following the lives of four strangers and how their stories flow together due to a single event. This film has been accepted into the Lake Worth L-DUB film

festival and has been submitted to Palm Beach International Film Festival.

Now that we have completed this project, we will begin production on our second short film this coming January. However, this is our most ambitious project to date, as the cost to create such a film has been estimated to be over \$700. The reason for this high price tag is the fact that this film takes place in more than five time periods in history. That means that costuming will have to change between the time periods. That is where the Paul Silver Tribute award comes in. If selected, the money provided from this award will go to purchasing costuming and props, as well as food to feed the actors on set. The remaining \$300 will go to purchasing camera equipment in order to make shooting such a film possible.

Not only do we wish to submit this film to Sundance Film Festival in Utah, but I personally would use this film as my application film when applying to both New York University and the University of Southern California. Both of these universities have extremely high standards when it comes to filmmaking, and I wish to exceed those standards with this motion picture. By attending one of these prestigious schools, I become that much closer to my dream of filmmaking.

When watching films, I can't help but picture what is going on behind the camera; the hundreds of people working together to bring this art form to fruition. I dream that one day I to will be the man behind that camera, the one to call the shots, the one to create a film that will impact millions of people worldwide. As Walt Disney once said, "We don't make movies to make money; we make money to make more movies." Please grant me this ability to create my film. In doing so you will have granted me so much more; you will have granted me my dream.