

Just Like Us - Press Kit

BACKGROUND

As of 2015, 12.8 Percent of Arizona's population reported living with a disability. That is approximately 862,387 people. Although this is quite a significant number, the special needs community is too often misrepresented and forgotten. Camp Tatiyee, an Arizona based summer camp for people with special needs, has been working for decades to provide a place of empowerment and self discovery all while keeping the financial burden off of the campers and their families. When Adam Benavides, director of *Just Like Us*, visited Camp Tatiyee in the summer of 2014, he felt deeply moved and decided the camp needed to be shared with a broader audience. Whether learning the personal struggles of a camper or exploring Camp Tatiyee itself, *Just Like Us* offers a unique experience to expose yourself to a world that would otherwise be overlooked.

For a detailed description of how the film came to fruition:

<http://manleymanuals.com/marketing-today/raw-and-real-a-storytellers-first-documentary-film.html>

SYNOPSIS

The special needs community is too often misrepresented and forgotten. Max, a recently disabled athlete, is just one of many who attend Camp Tatiyee, a summer camp for people with special needs. As his story unfolds, Camp Tatiyee reveals a unique world that would otherwise be overlooked.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I was never an expert on the special needs community. Often times, I doubted whether I was qualified to direct a film on such subject matter. I started out this project knowing nothing about autism, cerebral palsy, cognitive delays, or the deaf or blind population. I never knew about their struggles, talents, personalities, ambitions and extraordinary abilities. That ignorance became the motivation to tackle this project. As a guy who is a fervent activist for social justice, I want to help educate others who might be just as ignorant, or even dismissive, of people with special needs. It is a privilege to call '*Just Like Us*' my first documentary short. It's message may be simple but it is critical.

- Adam Benavides

RESUMES/ BIOS

Adam Benavides - Director/ Editor



Adam is a director and videographer from Phoenix, Arizona. This is Adam's first film since graduating college from Grand Canyon University in 2014. He graduated as a double major both in film and theatre. Adam has always had a keen interest in social justice and using video storytelling to educate others. He currently works for Manley Films & Media, a phoenix based production company specializing in digital video marketing.

Jim Manley - Executive Producer



Jim is a seasoned project leader with hundreds of successful projects created in his career. An award winning director, he directs and manages all video production projects from concept to final. He has been creating videos for over 20 years and has won many awards, including 28 Rocky Mountain Emmys and 2 worldwide film festival awards. Jim is also an educator, a member of the Suns Charities 88 philanthropy group, and an advisory board member for the Phoenix Film Foundation.

Edward Hernandez - Cinematographer



EJ is an award-winning multimedia storyteller, director and documentary filmmaker. His previous posts include director of the Saturday editions of Good Evening Arizona as well as occasional Good Morning Arizona shows; director and production crew member for Arizona Horizon; Videographer for Eight, Arizona PBS; and worked with Fox Sports Arizona.

Andrew Peterson - Composer/ Musician (Original Music)



Andrew Peterson is a composer & audio engineer from Chicago, Illinois. In 2016, he graduated from Grand Canyon University with a BA in Digital Film Production, where he studied a variety of film production and post production aspects. He is currently attending Northwestern University as a Master's student studying Sound Arts & Industries. Andrew has a passion for creating music that evokes emotion and enjoys being able to achieve that through multiple mediums.

LINKS:

To our facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/justlikeusmovie/>

To the trailer on youtube: <https://youtu.be/tiB82GBcCU8>

To the trailer on Vimeo (downloadable):

<https://vimeo.com/manleyfilmsandmedia/justlikeusmovietrailer>

To the actual Film on Vimeo (30min Cut): <https://vimeo.com/189093860>

Password: tatiyee