



Documentary Short: "What Happened To You"

Runtime: 25 min

Full Film (Password = 123):

<https://vimeo.com/890183132?share=copy>

Teaser:

<https://vimeo.com/880667638?share=copy>

Website:

<https://www.whathappenedtoyoufilm.com/>

Social:

https://www.instagram.com/whathappenedtoyou_film/

Logline:

Two childhood friends, both now stand-up comics, explore their past trauma together.

Synopsis:

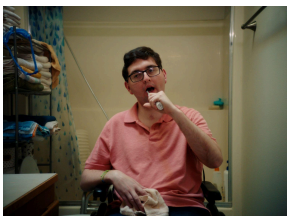
'**What Happened To You**' is a short documentary that tells the stories of Tom Jorza and Sebastian Scales. Friends since pre-school Tom and Sebastian have been through everything together. Sebastian was sexually abused as a child; and Tom suffered brain trauma from an injury resulting in him no longer being able to walk or talk. Now, the two of them do stand-up comedy about their trauma.

Background:

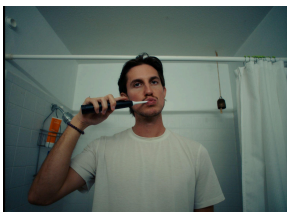
After Sebastian was sexually abused by their friend's father- Tom and Sebastian had to testify in the trial. Following the trial, the man was not convicted. Sebastian went through high school playing soccer with the man's son and the man himself was present at all the games. Tom on the other hand was playing lacrosse and was voted "Most Accident Prone" in his senior superlatives. In college, Tom would fall off of a fire escape onto the right side of his head leading to severe brain trauma. Tom lost his ability to walk and talk.

Sebastian visited Tom after his accident and saw him in positive spirits and laughing. After years of struggling to talk about his trauma himself, seeing Tom motivated Sebastian to get on stage and do stand-up for the first time. Years later, Tom would do the same.

Characters:



Tom Jorza: Tom Jorza is a stand up comedian from Bainbridge Island, Washington. In 2014, Tom fell off of a 3 story building during his sophomore year of college. He is now paralyzed on his right side and communicates using an iPad. His experience led him to stand up comedy in 2023, and he now performs all around Seattle.



Sebastian Scales: Sebastian Scales is also a stand up comedian from Bainbridge Island, Washington. Sebastian was molested as a child by his friend's dad (not Tom's dad). In 2017, he started doing stand up comedy about what happened to him, and his experiences in comedy led him to found What Happened To You Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to normalizing conversations about trauma using humor.

Crew Bios:

Alec Goldberg [Co-Director, Editor]: Alec Goldberg is a director/editor with a focus on stories that have potential positive social impact, most of Alec's documentary and narrative work centers around contexts of trauma and transformation. Also working on campaigns for brands such as Porsche, Chevron, Jordan, and Off-White Goldberg explores different types of projects within the medium.

His 2021 documentary short in partnership with Abstract Magazine featured artist Thai Mainhard, being screened at numerous festivals and shows, including being featured during the keynote presentation for the LA Art Show. In 2023/24 Alec is releasing his first feature film 'Sitting in the Fire' as well as short films: 'What Happened to You' [Semi-Finalist Cannes Indie Shorts Awards], and 'Movers' [Winner of Copenhagen Film Festival]; all with trauma and transformation at the core of the stories.

Rob Webster [Director of Photography]: Robin is a British born cinematographer with over fifteen years of experience in feature films, commercials, documentaries, tv and music videos. He began his career as a camera assistant in London and worked on films including Star Wars (Episode 7, Rogue One and Solo), Skyfall and Disney's "Beauty and The Beast", training under some of the worlds most accomplished and decorated cinematographers.

Since moving to the USA and working as a cinematographer, Robin has shot award winning short films such as "How'dy" (Directed by Keene McRae) as well as commercial projects for Sky TV, Marc Jacobs, Star Alliance, Toyota and Olivia Rodrigo. His methodology is designed around strong collaborators with directors and actors, to create striking and naturalistic imagery that puts the central story first.

Director's Statement:

Alec Goldberg and Sebastian Scales have been friends and frequent collaborators for years. Scales is a stand up comedian who centers a lot of his content around his past trauma and has a podcast focusing on other trauma survivors. Standup was a helpful outlet for Sebastian to talk about his trauma.

Tom Jorza is Sebastian's friend since they were four. Growing up together, Tom had to testify in Sebastian's sexual abuse trial. In college, Tom fell off a fire escape and suffered severe brain trauma resulting in an inability to walk or talk. Sebastian visited Tom after his accident and saw him laughing and in positive spirits. After years of struggling to talk about his trauma, seeing Tom motivated Sebastian to finally get in stage and do standup.

Fast forward several years, one day when Goldberg and Scales are together, Sebastian was told by Tom that he too was going to be trying out stand-up comedy as well. After Jorza got his bearings, Goldberg, Scales, and Jorza teamed up to tell the story of "What Happened to You".

Our Fiscal Sponsor “What Happened To You Foundation”:

What Happened To You Foundation provides resources for trauma survivors, and platforms for sharing their stories, including “What happened to you?”, the podcast, which is dedicated to normalizing conversations about taboo topics using humor. The foundation was started by Sebastian Scales.

Press & Awards:



For more information contact:

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