

‘The First Patient’ Documentary Set For Multi-City October Premiere Screenings



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New feature-length documentary explores the study of gross anatomy with unprecedented access to the inside of the human body.

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — Often considered the most difficult class of a medical student’s career, gross anatomy – the dissection of the human body – was exclusive to the medical community for centuries. Aptly described by many in the medical field as a “rite of passage,” the class is unlike any other form of hands-on learning. Capturing the journey of medical students with a camera has rarely been undertaken – *until now*.

[The Duncan Entertainment Group](#) is pleased to announce the premiere of "[The First Patient](#)" with upcoming multi-city theatrical premieres. This life-affirming film includes detailed interviews with a diverse group of first year students and the veteran faculty who guide them on the path to becoming a physician.

Filmed by The Duncan Entertainment Group during seven weeks in the anatomy lab at the [Mayo Clinic School of Medicine](#), the documentary follows first-year medical students as they dissect,

explore and analyze human anatomy. Audiences will be moved as students work together to overcome the academic, emotional, and spiritual challenges throughout their time in the toughest class in med school - and transition from student to doctor. The film is written and directed by Chip Duncan. The producers for the film include Chip Duncan, Vivien Williams and Robert Huck with an original score from award-winning composer Peter Batchelder.

“Anatomy class is often considered one of the most challenging courses in medical school. Acquiring a strong understanding of the human body sets the groundwork for the rest of a medical student’s education – that rite of passage toward becoming a knowledgeable physician. However, we would fall short if we did not share the cognitive and emotional metamorphosis that also takes place as students progress through this course. I believe that awakening is what this documentary so vividly captures,” said Mayo Clinic School of Medicine Dean, Fredric Meyer, M.D..

“When we began the filmmaking process, we knew we’d discover what it means to be a doctor,” says writer-director Chip Duncan. “What we didn’t know was that this diverse, thoughtful group of students and the faculty at Mayo Clinic would help us understand what it means to be human.”

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“[The First Patient](#)” was developed in collaboration with Mayo Clinic for nearly a decade. The joint collaboration of The Duncan Group and Mayo Clinic School of Medicine, long considered a national leader in medical education, underscores the importance of medical training and patient care.

Premiere dates for “[The First Patient](#)” are set for October 26th in NYC at [The Cinema Village](#) in Manhattan, and November 9th in Santa Monica, CA at [The Monica Theater](#). A “world premiere” screening will take place at the [Milwaukee Film Festival](#) on Saturday October 20th, 2018.

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About The Duncan Entertainment Group

Now in their 33rd year as a producer of long-form film and television, [The Duncan Entertainment Group](#) is an independent media company with a background in broadcast journalism, conservation, history, adventure and social issue programming. For more information visit www.TheFirstPatient.com.

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About Mayo Clinic

[Mayo Clinic](#) is a nonprofit organization committed to medical research and education, and providing expert, whole-person care to everyone who needs healing.

For more information, visit <http://www.mayoclinic.org/about-mayo-clinic> or <https://newsnetwork.mayoclinic.org>.

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