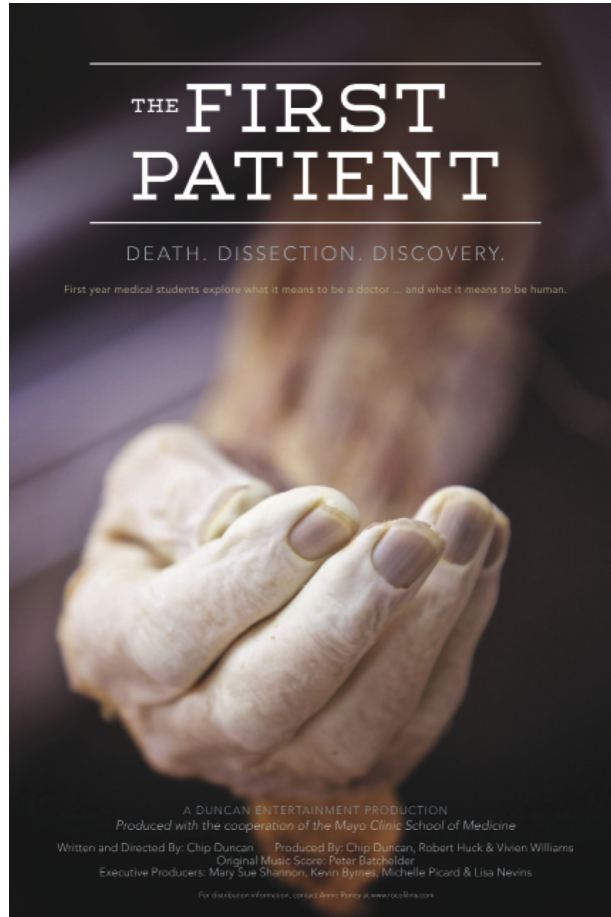


ro*co Films and The Duncan Group, Inc.

presents



A film by Chip Duncan

RUNNING TIME: 82 Minutes

PRESS NOTES

Distributor Contact:

Annie Roney
ro*co Films
(415) 332-6471

Press Contact:

Chip Duncan
The Duncan Group, Inc.
(414)223-1060

SYNOPSIS

A dramatic expedition into an unknown world, *The First Patient* challenges audiences to embrace their curiosity and courage as they follow first year medical students through gross anatomy – the dissection of the human body. The Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine granted unprecedented access to veteran filmmaker Chip Duncan and The Duncan Entertainment Group team to explore a world long considered taboo. The documentary proves both entertaining and emotional as the camera follows a diverse group of students, faculty and body donors on this life-affirming journey inside the human body. *The First Patient* provides dynamic insights into medical science, teamwork, death, and spirituality as students discover what it means to be a doctor ... and what it means to be a human being.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

The First Patient challenges audiences to embrace their curiosity and courage as they watch Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine first year med students dissect the human body in gross anatomy. Filmed at The Mayo Clinic anatomy lab, the documentary by veteran filmmaker Chip Duncan and the Duncan Entertainment Team provides dynamic insights into medical science, teamwork, death, and spirituality as students discover what it means to be a doctor ... and what it means to be a human being.

LOG LINE

First year medical students on the ultimate expedition to explore the inside of the human body.

TAGLINE

Death. Dissection. Discovery

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Chip Duncan

Filmmaker

Chip Duncan is a filmmaker, photographer, and author. For more than three decades, Chip has focused his lens on stories of life-affirming human achievement, world history, climate change, and the powerful narratives of people living in crisis and conflict. Chip's work as a storyteller has taken him from the White House to Darfur, from the wilds of Alaska to the back roads of Ethiopia as he works to capture the essence of the human spirit. A Sundance festival alum, Chip's work has received numerous awards and has been featured by outlets such as PBS, Discovery Networks, and HBO. Chip also frequently lends his talents to supporting NGOs in the developing world including crisis zones such as Myanmar, Haiti, Pakistan, Sudan, and Afghanistan. Recent books include *Half A Reason To Die* and *Enough To Go Around*. For a complete list of Chip's works please visit www.duncanentertainment.com.

Robert Huck

Producer, Photographer

Robert Huck is an accomplished producer, editor, and photographer with many international credits. Bob has worked with the Duncan Entertainment Group since 1994. Bob's work as a photographer has taken him to more than a dozen countries and he has supervised post-production of numerous Duncan Entertainment Group films. An Emmy winner for his editing work, Bob's recent credits can be found at www.duncanentertainment.com.

Vivien Williams

Producer

Vivien Williams is an award-winning journalist. She is a host and executive producer of NBC's TV series, *Health and Happiness with Mayo Clinic*. An expert in health and medical reporting, Vivien regularly covers stories for cable, network and social media news outlets. Vivien frequently collaborates with the Mayo Clinic.

Hernando Garzon, M.D.

Consulting Producer

Dr. Hernando Garzon is an emergency medicine physician with extensive background in global health and disaster response. He studied gross anatomy at New York University School of Medicine in 1984. Dr. Garzon is currently a practicing physician in northern California and is associated with numerous relief organizations including Doctors Without Borders, International Medical Corps, and Relief International.

Theran Pfeiffer

Associate Producer

Theran Pfeiffer has been an assistant editor and associate producer for the Duncan Entertainment Group since 2006. Theran has contributed to long-form projects including *Tolkien & Lewis: Myth, Imagination & The Quest for Meaning*, *The Reagan Presidency*, and *Landslide: A Portrait of President Herbert Hoover*. Theran also supervises archival research and acquisition for the Duncan Entertainment Group. Theran works regularly with NFL Films managing footage, specifically covering the Green Bay Packers.

Peter Batchelder

Original Music Score

Peter Batchelder is a composer and multi-instrumentalist whose work has been featured in several Duncan Entertainment Group films including *Tolkien & Lewis: Myth, Imagination & The Quest for Meaning* and *The Reagan Presidency*. Peter's other works include *The Wheel*, *30 Seconds Away: Breaking the Cycle* and the upcoming *Popper Baxton's Sickly Stew*.

Complete Credits

A Duncan Entertainment Production

Presented by: ro*co films

Writer/Director: Chip Duncan

Producers: Chip Duncan, Vivien Williams & Robert Huck

Executive Producers: Mary Sue Shannon, Kevin Byrnes, Michelle Picard, Lisa Nevins

Original Music Score: Peter Batchelder

Editor: Chip Duncan

Photography: Chip Duncan & Robert Huck

Color & Video Post Production: Robert Huck

Graphics & Animation: Wonder-Wonder

Sound Design & Mix: Randy Bobo & Steve Kultgen

Produced with the cooperation of the Mayo Clinic School of Medicine

Website: www.TheFirstPatient.com

FEATURING

Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine Anatomy Professors

Nirusha Lachman, Ph.D. – Nirusha Lachman is a Professor of Anatomy and Chair of the Department of Anatomy at Mayo Clinic with joint appointment in the Department of Surgery, Division of Plastic Surgery. Her primary focus lies in integrating anatomy education for everyday practice and she is one of few clinical anatomists in the world who works collaboratively on a daily basis with clinicians in a practice based setting. In her 25 year career as a clinical anatomist, she has contributed over 80 scientific publications, 18 book chapters and over 100 national and international presentations.

Wojciech Pawlina, M.D. –Wojciech Pawlina, M.D. is a Professor of Anatomy and Medical Education at Mayo Clinic. He has extensive experience in teaching anatomy, histology, and embryology to undergraduate, medical, and dental students, as well as residents and fellows. In 2017 he received the Henry Gray Distinguished Educator Award from the American Association of Anatomists (AAA). He serves as Editor-in-Chief of the Anatomical Sciences Education journal. His research interest in medical education is directed towards strategies of implementing innovative teaching methodologies in anatomical sciences education, teaching professionalism, leadership, and teamwork in early medical curriculum.

QUOTES

“As a filmmaker and adventure guide, I’ve participated in expeditions all over the planet. But the best journey of all is reflected in *The First Patient*. Watching these brilliant young people discover the beauty and complexity of the inside of the human body took me out of my comfort zone and into another world. Once the skin is removed from our bodies, we’re virtually all the same. So what does it mean to be an individual? What does it mean to be human? Our search for answers begins with the incredible journey of the first year medical students featured in *The First Patient*.”

Chip Duncan
Filmmaker - *The First Patient*

“I just watched the documentary and was so touched by my students’ reflections on how transformative the experience of going through our anatomy course was for them. As teachers we are so immersed in the sound of our own voices that too often we miss those of our students, but this film captures the essence of what we do with untouched reality and an authenticity that will resonate with all anatomy teachers and students as well as the general public.”

Nirusha Lachman, Ph.D.
Professor of Anatomy - Mayo Clinic

"This is one of the finest portrayals of a diversity of intelligent, ambitious young women on screen that I have seen in over twenty years of distributing films.”

Annie Roney
Founder & CEO - ro*co films

“I just watched *The First Patient* documentary and was pleasantly surprised to learn new facts about my students. It was insightful and very entertaining to follow their individual journeys to Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine, as well as to discover their sensitivity and emotions as they went through the anatomy course. To realize that anatomy is an integral part of their identity formation as future physicians is humbling yet rewarding. For any health care professional or a person in the general public, this film will trigger reflection on what it means to be a great doctor.”

Wocjiec Pawlina, M.D.
Professor of Anatomy - Mayo Clinic

“I’ve worked as a medical reporter at Mayo Clinic for many years, but the inside of the anatomy lab at the Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine was like nothing I’d experienced before. It’s impossible to explore the human body and not ask the question ‘what are we?’” The practice of human dissection as a learning tool goes back centuries, and it’s the kind of hands-on learning that gives me comfort in my own doctor, and in the future of medicine.”

Vivien Williams
Producer - *The First Patient*

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

- Run Time: 82 minutes
- Audio: 5.1 Surround Sound (Available in Stereo Formats)
- Aspect Ratio: 16:9
- The film was photographed using four different HD formats and was edited on Adobe Premiere.
- DCP (Flat) and other formats available for theatrical screenings