



HEY RJ

Remember that time I got you out of jail? Well, ok, so maybe it was just pretend jail, but if it had been real jail, I would have got you out for sure. You know that right.

Anyway, so a few months ago your dad called me and we talked for about two hours, and by we, I mean he did most of the talking for the whole two hours actually. But I have to say I was his captive audience, which for me, being both A.D.D. and PTSD'd for me to pay attention to anything for more than five minutes is remarkable.

Before our conversation I knew pretty much nothing about Lowrider cars. And now, well, I pretty much know nothing still; accept now I know that when that car is jumping around it's a manual thing and that the guy driving is actually hitting switches to make the hydraulics work. And that thanks to your dad, if whoever it is bought the whatever it is he invented, it's less likely the switcher box that triggers the hydraulics so the car can jump around will burst into flames and incinerate the car right down to the rims.

Anyway, once he got through telling me the total lowrider story with all it's sub plots and twists, it became super obvious what a no brainer the story is, not just for some documentary situation, but a bad ass Netflix, Apple TV, movie or short series even.

Especially after I tried to watch Apple TV's Beanie Baby movie.

The Lowrider story is everything The Beanie Baby Movie isn't. It's got a murder, and family betrayals, and gang culture, cool music, and way too many very attractive girls dancing, a lot. Lowriders, the sexiest story that involves hydraulic systems ever to be told.

So, I told your dad if I can help at all I will for sure. but I also told him that I was trying to get a project called UNDER THE WHISPERING SKY figured out, a project that was lost forever more than 20 years ago at the hands of an ex-business partner who I never thought would have done what he did to me, after 12 years building the most successful commercial production company in Canada, I was even the best man at his wedding. But life is a very fucked up situation sometimes, and that's the reason a guy like Shakespeare had so much to write about in all his movies.

The story of losing that film, 39 boxes of 35mm negative to be exact, the story behind those boxes though was part of an even darker and deeper time in my life. So much more went down than I am describing here, way beyond the act of betrayal that allowed those boxes to be taken from me, and then the story of what those boxes went through over the last twenty years, once almost being thrown into a garbage bin outside a storage facility, to be saved at the last minute by a guy

who saw the name of his favorite band, 5440, on the side of one of the boxes, and for no other reason than that, paid the 250 dollars to pull the boxes out of the garbage and take them home, and then the journey from there, into another storage locker, only to be abandoned again.

This time though the boxes were saved by a First Nations Cree Native Canadian by the name of Dan McGonigle, who in some random decision, with his wife driving home from work, because his favorite tv show is Storage wars, decided to go to a storage locker auction, and, because of a dirty look a white man in a nice grey suit and a Mercedes Benz gave him, he bought all 39 of my boxes, with no idea what was in them, for 1000 dollars. That story is here on the Whispering Sky site if you want to read all about it.

I believe those boxes were saved by some higher intervention, especially the last time, such a random event, except that the person who saved the boxes, Dan, ends up being connected to the story those boxes of film hold and in the most profound way as well.

And the timing of it all, for them to come back now, when I am in the most poignant crossroads of my life, it's like evidence of God and how if there's a plan and your life has been led to it, no matter if you think you have what it takes to do your part to make it happen, it's a pretty much humble up and shut-up situation, and so that's where I am at, I have to dig with whatever shovel I have to get this done.

This all becomes even more of a God driven story when I include the adversity of my life the last four years down here in Mexico, which I am writing in a book I call A GOD OF STORMS, which as I write, I am like, who's going to believe any of this.

It has been a relentless journey of rough times these last few years like nothing I ever thought I would be brought to, so many things way out of my control that devastated things for me, and the worst lousy thing of all, more than the way too many tragedies I have had to navigate to try and tell the stories I found relevance in down here, the thing that most messed me up was without a doubt losing Jackson.

Then, because Rene said it was a great idea because it kind of wasn't a great idea at all, I, right from the day I found him dead, started to write the book about the whole thing, not just those brutal days after he died, but also the eleven year journey with him, the story of me and Jackson, one dog gone great dog and all that happened in our lives during those years.

The last thing I wanted to do was re-live almost every minute of those eleven years, because the more I dug in and read thousands of emails, going through tens of thousands of photos, the more I wanted to go back in time and punch myself in the head, and the more broken hearted I became thinking of every wasted stupid minute I spent doing other totally spiritually empty wtf stuff, when I should have been throwing more balls for Jackson.

Ya, I am haunted most by what at the time seemed like inconsequential moments, that today I would pay a king's ransom for just one more of those moments with Jackson. But that's not how it works.

So, I have written the book, but I still need to do the lay out of it because the book is more of an experience, like a journal, not totally Peter Beard style, but kind of, because I did spend a few summers on Peter Beards estate in Montauk learning from him about creating art, making story telling more fun and experiential.

There are almost 800 photos to be included to tell Jackson's and my story, and the story of what Dogs are, their higher frequency to something beyond us, everything they are from all Ive come to know from a lifetime of dogs.

The book is almost at that place to have one last totally pro proof reading to make sure everything is good to go, then I want to first print 50 to maybe 100 copies only of this first effort, a first limited edition to be the calling card to get the book out for consideration to a market that includes 45 million American households who own a dog.

I would love to sell 500 copies of this first super limited edition, which once printed I am asking 250 dollars each, signed and numbered by me but with an art edition as well that's got a hand made rustic wood, with paint and resin wonderfully hand-crafted box that holds the book, that one for 750 bucks. Only 25 of those. But for now if I can sell a hundred it would be huge in saving my ass down here.

Rene Russo says her bucket list is to watch me doing a Reading at some Barnes and Noble somewhere. Not sure about me doing something like that, I have a dreaded fear of fame. Accept this idea I have about me on the Oprah Winfrey show, and I totally kill it, have her in tears and all that. And that's for my cousin because I promised her, and my aunt as well, who I miss like crazy.

They were both killed in a lousy car wreck that I still carry so much sorrow over, which I won't get into the fucked-upness of that story, of that day and the few days after, especially not right now because I also know your story and so you're welcome for me digging up the past. Although having been through some things now, I know that what you went through was unimaginable. But knowing a few things about how real life gets, what people are made of, I can honestly tell you that I gained a whole different kind of respect and admiration for you, I am pretty sure in all the many tragedies I have been through I have never been as valiant and noble as you were.

Anyway, as for Rene, I am forever grateful for the love and support she has always in some way or another given me. But, as per the relentless setbacks that I have had to try and not be derailed by, in a brutal series of events in her life, a perfect fucked up storm of wtf, she had to pretty much drop out of her role in the things she was helping me with.

She's still around and so is her husband Dan Gilroy, both are in my corner and especially Dan, who wrote and directed Nightcrawler. He is a great person and I know that whenever I have something that is truly Netflix presentable, he might be the guy to help me get it to them.

And who knows, maybe he would fall in love with the whole Lowriders story and want to take it on. Dan and Rene are both really good people, up against it in their own lives lots of times, but there's a kindness in them I appreciate and I feel blessed to call them friends.

So, where was I?

Oh ya, so, why this special long-winded letter?

Well here's the part where I can't remember if your dad said, 'don't tell RJ I told you this,' or if he said, 'and you can tell RJ I told you this'. Either way he either did or he didn't tell me to send you this letter.

Right. So, for twenty years I never let myself even think about the UNDER THE WHISPERING SKY project. Heartbreaking as it was for me, I had to let it go. Although I often imagined what if it hadn't been lost, because I know that what I shot back then was truly a beautiful heroic portrait of life on earth, a portrait of the kind of people I'm not sure the world will ever see again, the story of a way of life that was truly still good about life on earth.

Then, for it to come back into my life, found, and saved, like some message in a bottle that had been floating in an endless world of waves for twenty or more years, to finally come ashore, and right to me. And the timing because what's in the boxes that you will see on the site, the content is more relevant today, for this unruly ruthless world, than it was when I shot it way back when.

So, like an Aaron Rogers hailmary pass, with no strategy of where or how, on faith alone, I created this UNDER THE WHISPERING SKY site that you have now. With your dad's voice maybe echoing or not in my head saying, 'send this to RJ'.

So, I'm not exactly sure what the question I have is. Maybe it's this:

Please become the main partner/owner of this exceptional project, the Executive Producer/A Creative Partner/Boss/First In-First Out Investor/Or Something Else That Makes Sense to You. Because of every reason something special like this deserves to get done.

I know that to get those boxes to LA and transferred, the cost alone to transfer that footage with Beau Leon, the greatest colorist in the history of modern culture, who has already committed to doing it for us, his company says it's an 80,000-dollar cost.

But I have another idea as well, an idea I think is imperative to really get the rewards of the full potential this project has. Instead of just shipping the boxes by UPS, I want to drive the boxes to L.A. myself, to revisit the journey of those boxes literally as they travel in a motor home with me and maybe a new dog named Rooster re-visiting the places those boxes were first filmed in, to create a new digital film called FOLLOW THE SKY HOME.

The cost of the trip down, the budget for that part of the production I estimate would be around 65,000 dollars. I also have to pay Dan McGonigle 12,000 dollars for storing the boxes for almost ten years. There are other relevant expenses as well within these first efforts, Patrick Sheffield's wages for one, for taking on the first level of editing the beautiful transferred footage into the content we will need, over the course of six weeks maybe, probably 25,000 dollars.

After those boxes get to LA and transferred, I know there will be an endless adventure of unlimited potential in the ideas that will overwhelm us, the what will we do with 59 hours of spectacular 4k mostly 35mm stunning storytelling, about an American West that has mostly slipped away while we were busy not being as wise as the words in those boxes we are going to share with the world.

That footage deserves to be not just a movie, or short Apple TV series, which is the main strategy, but also the potential for a stunning coffee table book that shares in an even more personal way, because the written word is both powerful and magical, and then with the most stunning images along with those words, I think there's a coffee table NY Times best seller telling what the story of the most epic unbelievable journey that started with three cowboys from Alberta and some crazy idea they had to help heal the world.

I believe those boxes of film transferred contain opportunities to connect people, kids, schools of kids, with something super cool and positive and beautiful about our human nature, instead of just all this lousy news the world is now. Wait did I mention the art show, worthy of a LACMA premiere, says Rene.

I've thought long and hard about all this, especially the shooting the story of the boxes traveling to LA and not just shipping them, which would be 3500 dollars only, but that going the distance to tell the story of where the boxes ended up, with who, and what has evolved in thirty years, but maybe mostly I want to also share in this film FOLLOW THE SKY HOME the deep personal story of the losing of my two best Friends who I started the journey with, both to suicides. I think this chapter two of the Whispering Sky story is as marketable as the project this content would support.

Then with audience knowing our story, my personal story of all the tragedy that helped to stifle the project and led to the boxes disappearing for 20 years, then to go back and re-visit the journey I took with Jordie and Troy (that story I have also included in a 25-page essay on the site), to meet the grand children of the elders we filmed, to see what's changed, I can't help but feel the emotional relevance in all this, and the power of how shooting this new stuff would be in the marketing of the main UNDER THE WHISPERING SKY movie.

Already KJ McCusker, my Cree executive producing brother on this, after reaching out to the Crow tribe, found the great grand son of Goerge Takes A Gun, a kid who calls himself 'Supaman', the Eminem of Native American rappers, who told us that if not for us he never would have had the chance to know his great grandfather. And if we need some music for our film, he's proud to do some for us.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ep97FZrRSPk>

And when I am back home, before I head to the boxes at Dan's house with that motor home, I would take a couple of weeks and re-visit the ranch I lived on with Jordie creating my first film MOON OF THE DESPERADOS with him, the film that launched my road to fame and fortune, and more fame, and then no fortune.

I would go get relevant interviews with Jordie's family and his lifelong friends, his daughter, his niece who burned the house to the ground he shot himself in, his brother Kirk, his nephews who also became big stars in the world of pro bull riding, to collect in documentary form who Jordie Thompson was, it would be a beautiful start to tell the story of a legend that should also be a Netflix movie, it's that epic and amazing a story to share.

<https://vimeo.com/65781886>

And I would gather all kinds of stunning imagery of the vistas that stretch through my imagination, the epic landscapes that was my upbringing, all along those rolling foothills that roll all the way to those jagged edges of the Rocky Mountains that have never delivered the same beautiful sunset twice, always a new story in every color those sunsets give us.

I also want to shoot this footage in the winter. To see why just watch the trailers for the last three seasons of FARGO, all shot everywhere I am describing in Alberta.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ZdK87tfv6k>

Netflix likes to get involved with projects not yet completed but enough done to show relevant proof of concept and enough to show the weight of what the project is. Then it's very reasonable to expect them to not just pay what has already been spent getting it to them, but they would pay the rest of the way. And they would have an exclusive license for whatever time they would ask for and they would pay for that license as well.

Without creating a detailed budget but from everything I know or think, to do what I think has to be done, this is likely a 250,000 project. That total doesn't account though for the almost 750,000 dollars I spent originally on getting the film on the negative in those boxes, and the money I spent through the years trying to create it.

I don't really care so much about that money now. I don't even have a sense of some financial concern or what I think is my financial part in this. So, to ask for such a formidable amount of money, to know that I am actually going to get this done, it's as huge as anything my life can say it attracted. I would leave the structure of things up to you, to tell me the score, I just have a need to get it done. My only idea of right though would be that you get paid back first out of whatever comes in before I, or my partners in this would.

So, besides you, if you are in any position to make this at all happen, the only way I can see me getting the kind of money to do this is if I can get The Book of Jackson finally done, designed and a first edition printed, and then sell 8 to 10,000 copies of that edition, that's the only road I see I might have to that goal.

But I'm still a way away from seeing how that plays out, because I still need to find a way to raise even the 5,000 dollars or so to get that first edition created. Honestly, except for Rene telling me so, and my sister too, I don't even know if the book is any good, so perhaps I'm delusional.

So, my hope is that you look through the site, read the background story, that'll help you get to know me in a whole new way, and see just how powerful and relevant this story is, and maybe there's something exciting in how you would see your role in this, it's potentially whatever you want it to be. Heck, I know you're busy but come on the road and film stuff for this secondary effort, which I want to call FOLLOW THE SKY HOME, by the way.

That's the first and biggest thing I wanted to share with you. There is something else though, less formidable, but equally helpful perhaps.

Part Two of My Letter – A Short Term Idea

I know that's a heck of a lot to take in and right now I'm kind of cornered, mostly because I can't really walk anymore. I hope someday I will again, but right now I don't really have the use of my legs as far as using legs go.

I move around on two crutches and even though I look at the challenge as I did any Athletic thing I ever did; the truth is I am in a world of debilitating pain all the time and it's a real challenge to try and cope with relentless all day long reality of that pain.

I have been through a total hell of a time in so many other ways as well over the last four years. I've had to dig deep and even though I felt like I was hanging by threads at times I know that my faith kept me from giving up. And even when I had no strength it felt like to carry another day, I put my work ethic to my faith and with no consideration to what was against me, I kept on

I have been through so many tragedies trying to create the content behind my Cinema Cartel company, that I got to the point where I could write Eulogies in my sleep, to save time. I am pretty sure I wrote twenty at least. Not to mention, although I will mention it, I was almost killed a couple of times in way too gnarly of situations that I know that I only survived them because God decided so. I am a living valid argument that God and his miracles exists.

But this journey as much as my life has exceeded my dreams it has also kicked the living crap out of me. So, I have this idea to help out my situation in the short term. I still after all that I have been through own a beautiful treasure, especially for someone who surfs

<https://thecinemacartel.wixsite.com/iamtorquato>

This is a private site that I created to help promote and sell a piece of art I own. Not sure about the main project which Rene Russo and I came up with before the Covid lockdown, and if someday there's some interest in it, great, but for now I only want to sell my Michael Torquato Denicola battle wave worn surfboard, which was appraised at 7500 dollars when I got it four years ago.

There's an art piece as well that is appraised at 10,000 dollars that I don't own on the site and I would send that one back to California with the board and Michael would likely come get it and you and him could go surf your break maybe, together. I think you would love knowing a kindred spirit like him.

So, in the short term, if you need time to consider my main most profound offer to have you as my partner in UNDER THE WHISPERING SKY, or silent investor, or whatever, I am hoping you might buy this beautiful surfboard from me, which would be huge in helping me not just get Jacksons book printer ready and me some time out of here to get my hips looked at, but also get dumb stuff like my teeth fixed.

So, I know it's a lot to take in but UNDER THE WHISPERING SKY is pretty special a story and I wouldn't want just anyone involved, but I know who you are in your heart, you are noble and truly good. So that's the no brainer part for me. Whatever your thoughts are with it I'm pretty much open.

And to know you are the guy with that board would mean the world to me too. And for a casual estimate of what's possible, from what Rene expressed as well, knowing how Netflix works, just as I first thought on this, I really believe that WHISPERING SKY could bring in 2.5 million. But maybe it could be something extraordinary and one of those brilliant surprises and then there's 25 million in the bank.

I know that Jeff Gibbs who is Michael Moore's partner and the genius behind Bowling for Columbine and Capitalism A Love Story after looking at my low rez rough cut said he couldn't see any reason if we find the right thread to sew it together, we wouldn't get an Academy Award nomination for it.

And that was five or six years ago when he said that.

So, Anyway, love ya bro, and no matter what I hope only great things for you. And once we get this figured then let's make your dad famous. Because I know he secretly wants that.

Sincerely Jeth

WWW.JETHWEINRICH.COM

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=slywet1PBAI>

Goerge Takes A Gun

