



A LIFE'S PASSION

ENGLISH ; DOCUMENTARY LIVE ACTION WITH ANIMATION

RUNNING TIME 06:30 INCLUDING CREDITS

Film Transcript

James McCreath on camera:

My Canadian heritage is Scottish and Italian. My mother, Myrtle Francheschini was the only child of Italian immigrant Vincenzo Francheschini. Vincenzo arrived in Toronto in 1906, 15 years old and all alone. Shortly after arriving in Canada, he changed his name from Vincenzo to James. He began his life here as a laborer digging excavations but eventually founded Dufferin Construction, a company that is still in existence today. And through his lifetime James amassed a fortune in the construction business.

I was the eldest of four children and I thought our life was pretty normal. That all changed when I was 11 when we moved into a house that James had built for us. The house had fourteen bathrooms. I was known as the kid from the house with fourteen bathrooms.

When my grandfather died in 1960, my mother was the sole heir to his fortune. What she inherited besides Dufferin Construction were all the problems that came with it. It began to take a toll on her health. Finally, on Victoria Day 1968, she passed away.

My goal in life at that time was when I was 19 was to be a lawyer like my dad. But after my mom's death it certainly all changed. And I decided that frankly my future lay in a concrete tower rather than an ivory tower. So I left school.

Now I knew I had to pick up the torch for our family. I knew I could not break faith with my mother because she trusted me to look after my siblings. So that's what I did. My course was set, and I followed it.

Narrator under animation:

From Argentina, the land of silver, a young boy vows to one day lead his country to gold.

Fate rules destiny when Renaldo executes a daring rescue from a bloodthirsty mob. He leaps the *first* threshold into manhood.

McCreath (continued)

Well I was on a blind date at my fraternity one Saturday night, and I saw this beautiful blonde girl by the name of Carol in a pink crochet dress. And it was love at first sight, we got married in 1976 in Sudbury, we had two daughters, life was great, we were married for 14 years, and it was marvelous.

Well you never know what's going to happen down the road in life. My wife Carol started not being able to sleep. What happened over the years, over the next three years is that she sank into depression to the point that in July of 1990, about a week after her 40th birthday, she took her own life.

And I guess during her illness I had been formulating this story in my mind, just a place to go. I was particularly intrigued with a soccer story of a young boy in Argentina. And I guess the week after Carol died I was up at our place in Muskoka and the story just started to flow. It Just came out.

My girls and I were lucky to find an angel. She'd been a dear family friend who was going through a tragic family situation of her own. We dated for four years and got married in 1994.

Because she was there for me, when I really wanted to put the pedal to the metal, I was able to spend the time and finish *Renaldo* and promote it and I couldn't have done that without her she was absolutely the source of my energy and good karma as far as *Renaldo* was concerned.

Narrator (continued)

It's the game that thrusts him into fame, fortune ... and corruption.

And yet he is distracted by a new obsession: she was captivated by his pure heart.

Her integrity, their passion, these become his inspiration.

McCreath (continued)

I've always been a passionate sports fan. When I was 18 I went to Europe on a school tour. The World Cup of soccer was taking place in England. Now any sporting event I've ever been to in Canada had never matched it the passion and insanity that soccer creates in the fans. So I came back to Toronto and I was hooked.

In 1978 when I watch Argentina win the World Cup, the country was in absolute turmoil. They had a military dictatorship, people were disappearing off the streets, in the middle of this they hold this tournament which they almost didn't have so to me I was intrigued because, in the midst of all this turmoil going on, the greatest sporting event in the world takes place. Five Argentine cities, and Argentina wins.

Narrator (continued)

He stands before a raging sea of blue and white.

Player and nation united.

Dedicated to the ultimate goal.

For the first time, Renaldo understands his destiny: to lift the hope,
to change the fate of an entire nation with the power of his kick
and the passion in his heart.

McCreath (continued)

Because I'm Italian passion is everything to me ya know? It's great I mean the passion of sport, the passion of music, the passion of love.. oh my god, I mean there's nothing like infatuation, you love your sports team or you love your wife, you love your dog, there's passion in all of that. Life without passion is a tragedy absolutely. Once you've found it you never want to let it go. So find your particular passion and grab on to it and hold on for all you can, cause a ... Don't let it go.

- END -

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