

HÜRTGEN

A WORLD WAR II SHORT FILM

Dear Community Partner:



We never really knew our grandfather--Thomas Nycum. He was gone before we had the opportunity to talk to him about his service in the Second World War. However, as we came of age, stories of his kind nature and helpfulness were imparted to us. We learned of his hobbies, his eccentricities, and heard his jokes. His humorous sayings are still repeated at family gatherings. As a U.S. Army veteran, Tom witnessed some of the deadliest combat of the war. Similar to other members of the Greatest Generation, he did not speak of his experiences; it was simply too painful. Today his story and that of his generation live through us. As brothers, we have organized educational programs, explored European battlefields, and have completed exhaustive research--all to learn more about our grandfather and his division. This historical pilgrimage inspired us to write a short film about his service during the brutal Battle of the Hürtgen Forest in November 1944.

Hürtgen is bringing the story of our grandfather, Thomas Nycum, to the big screen. Using local scenery, actors, crew, and resources to achieve this goal, our not-for-profit film will focus on isolation and survival during one of the costliest battles of World War II. Like any movie, monetary contributions are necessary for all aspects of production. Our project is not funded by international investors or corporate studios but by people like yourself. We humbly turn to your generosity and ask that you become an official Community Partner for *Hürtgen*. Throughout filming, marketing campaigns, regional premieres, and the national film festival circuit, your name or corporate emblem could be at the forefront of our movie's promotional outreach. Additionally, you could be recognized on screen in every showing and online stream across the globe.

Joining us in this creative endeavor are Andrew and Catie Grant, talented producers who bring institutional knowledge of the film industry to the project. Cinematographer Mark Stitzer will add his signature style to the movie as well. A small legion of World War II historians and reenactors are standing by, bringing with them gritty authenticity and accuracy. Collectively, our team has over 50 years of professional filmmaking and storytelling experience. If you wish to help bring this meaningful tale to life, we invite you to join our team as a Community Partner today. Please review our incentive list below and visit our website to learn more about these opportunities. Thank you for making our project become a reality.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Frederick

Mark A. Frederick
Writer/Director, *Hürtgen*

Jared Frederick

Jared Frederick
Executive Producer, *Hürtgen*

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COMPANY BACKGROUNDS

THE FURIOUS FOURTH is a non-profit association that seeks to convey the personal stories, struggles and triumphs of the typical soldier who battled across Europe during World War II. This reenacting group typically portrays and interprets the 4th Infantry Division. Through education and public outreach, the organization strives to convey a profound human story that remains highly relevant. In an effort to expand upon this educational mission, The Furious Fourth is proud to partner with an independent film company, Brush Mountain Media LLC, in producing this short film.

BRUSH MOUNTAIN MEDIA LLC was founded by emerging filmmaker Mark A. Frederick in 2018. This freelance enterprise offers a wide-variety of multimedia work to a diverse consumer base. Mark tailors his expertise to fit the clients' needs and to fulfill their creative vision, whether it be a simple illustration or a complex video shoot. His services include videography, photography, graphic design, website building, and writing, among other technological tasks. In all of his historical projects, Frederick seeks to convey authenticity and drama in his cinematic depictions of the past.

PROJECT SYNOPSIS

Inspired by the harrowing story of director Mark A. Frederick's grandfather; *Hürtgen* is a tale of isolation and survival during one of the costliest battles of World War II. As the Allies push east into the heart of the Third Reich, American divisions enter a thickly-wooded and fiercely-defended wilderness on the Belgium-Germany border known as the Hürtgen Forest. Sergeant Thomas Nycum oversees vital communications in the 4th Infantry Division and witnesses a vicious cycle of violence that threatens to destroy his unit. Fear, loss, and bewilderment ultimately take a toll. Amid the longest battle in U.S. Army history, Nycum must find the strength to carry out his job. In Hürtgen, death seems to be the only certainty.

HISTORY OF HÜRTGEN

From September through December of 1944, American soldiers engaged in one of the cruelest battles in U.S. history. In their efforts to push into the heart of the Third Reich and end World War II in Western Europe by Christmas, Allied commanders hurled multiple American divisions into a dense forest on the Belgium-Germany border named Hürtgen. In a series of futile attempts to advance, GIs became bogged down in an endless array of ambushes, minefields, and bombardments that ultimately inflicted 35,000 casualties. Overshadowed by the even larger Battle of the Bulge that followed, the fighting in the Hürtgen Forest serves as a stark reminder of recklessness in the pursuit of victory. This film seeks to depict the forgotten trials and tribulations of the men who endured that struggle.

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TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

- **MARK A. FREDERICK (WRITER/DIRECTOR)** has long been a student of history and cinema--two life passions he energetically blends together. He has written and directed orientation films for several historic landmarks and has created educational presentations for the National Park Service. Frederick also assisted producers at WPSU Penn State in creating a documentary entitled *A Time to Heal*. He currently operates his own multimedia business, Brush Mountain Media LLC, and works at the Railroaders Memorial Museum as their Digital Curator. *Hürtgen* is an important passion project for him.
- **JARED FREDERICK (EXECUTIVE PRODUCER)** has a lifelong passion for American History. One of his many books include *Dispatches of D-Day: A People's History of the Normandy Invasion*. Prior to his career in academia, Frederick served as a park ranger at Gettysburg National Military Park and Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. He has appeared on AccuWeather, C-SPAN, PBS, and the Pennsylvania Cable Network. In 2019, he acted as a guest host on Turner Classic Movies for the channel's 25th anniversary. Frederick currently serves as an Instructor of History at Penn State Altoona.
- **ANDREW GRANT (PRODUCER)** is always exploring new ways to create and tell compelling stories. He has worked in television and video production for fifteen years, including long and short-form documentary work for both broadcast and digital media. Grant has worked for several production companies including Driftwood Productions in State College, PA and WNED-TV Buffalo/Toronto. He is currently the Lead Producer of Digital Media at WPSU-TV.
- **CATIE GRANT (PRODUCER/ASSISTANT DIRECTOR)** has fifteen years of experience in documentary, client-based media production, and branded content. She specializes in producing and directing, with an interest in cinematography and editing. Grant teaches courses at the Donald Bellisario College of Communications at Penn State University in video production and production management. Before teaching, she worked at WPSU-TV, where she specialized in producing and directing short-form documentaries. Grant's philosophy is that any story--no matter how big or how small--deserves to be told.
- **MARK STITZER (DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY)** has more than fifteen years of experience behind the camera as a cinematographer and editor for projects ranging from television spots to feature length documentaries and narrative films. His most recent credits include documentaries *A Time to Heal* as well as *Water Blues: Green Solutions* for which he was awarded an Emmy. Stitzer currently works as a videographer and editor at WPSU-TV.

FUNDS & GOALS

Filmmaking is an expensive process, especially when creating a period piece. Even though *Hürtgen* is a short film, the project still requires a substantial amount of funds. With an authentic story and historical accuracy in mind, there are several large factors to consider. The film requires a talented cast and crew. Compensation for gifted professionals is a vital ingredient for success. Film equipment for video, lighting, and sound are equally significant. Additional expenses include props, make-up, visual effects, insurance, and catering, among other production costs. *Hürtgen* has raised almost \$10,000 so far, but total cost projections approach \$60,000. Funds will be raised through Community Partners and a crowd-funding campaign. Ultimately, these funds will provide the *Hürtgen* team with the resources it needs.

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CROWD FUNDING LEVELS

In appreciation of your support, our incentives include early releases and exclusive content for your viewing pleasure. Additional categories consist of keepsake mementos and props used in the movie. Gifts associated with the film's production will be sent to donors after the movie's completion and its run on the film festival circuit.

\$5 - THE PIN-UP

- A HEARTFELT THANK YOU: Thank you for making your pledge of support to this project!
-

\$10 - THE REPORTER

- PROJECT EMAIL UPDATES
 - NOTIFICATION OF "HÜRTGEN" PREMIERE DATE
-

\$25 - THE RIVETER

- All of the above PLUS:
 - EARLY RELEASE OFFICIAL TRAILER
 - PDF COPY OF "HÜRTGEN" SCRIPT
-

\$50 - THE LINEMAN

- All of the above PLUS:
 - DIGITAL RELEASE OF "HÜRTGEN"
 - DIGITAL COMMENTARY BY DIRECTOR
 - THE MAKING OF "HÜRTGEN" DIGITAL CONTENT
-

\$100 - THE ENGINEER

- All of the above PLUS:
- AUTOGRAPHED COPY OF THE BOOK "DISPATCHES OF D-DAY"

\$250 - THE PRIVATE

- All of the above PLUS:
 - A SPECIAL THANKS IN FILM CREDITS
 - OFFICIAL "HÜRTGEN" T-SHIRT
-

\$500 - THE CORPORAL

- All of the above PLUS:
 - AUTOGRAPHED, ON-SET SCRIPT PAGE FROM A "HÜRTGEN" ACTOR
 - OFFICIAL "HÜRTGEN" BALL CAP
-

\$1,000 - THE SERGEANT

- All of the above PLUS:
 - SIGNED "HÜRTGEN" POSTER PERSONALIZED BY THE CAST & CREW
 - SEATING FOR TWO (2) AT "HÜRTGEN" PREMIERE
 - INVITATION TO CAST & CREW PARTY FOLLOWING "HÜRTGEN" PREMIERE
-

\$5,000 - THE LIEUTENANT

- All of the above PLUS:
- GENUINE HÜRTGEN SOIL CANISTER
- G.I. PROP M43 JACKET
- MOVIE TITLE - ASSOCIATE PRODUCER CREDIT
 - (Internet Movie Database & Film)
- PRESS RELEASE: highlights your generosity to local media outlets.

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COMMUNITY PARTNER LEVELS

Surplus funds not spent on production will be gifted to the James A. Van Zandt Medical Center in Altoona, Pennsylvania. This institution provides services to more than 81,000 veterans living in a 14 county area. Donations will improve the lives of the men and women who have proudly served our nation. Support them by supporting us. If we exceed our fundraising goal and you contributed \$5,000 or more, you will be invited to a check presentation at the Medical Center.

\$10,000 - THE CAPTAIN

- All of the above PLUS:
 - G.I. PROP M41 HELMET
 - PAIR OF G.I. PROP BOOTS
 - MOVIE TITLE – EXECUTIVE PRODUCER CREDIT
 - (Internet Movie Database & Film)
 - HÜRTGEN PREMIERE PACKAGE: includes travel expenditures, lodging costs, limo transportation, and four (4) complimentary tickets to the premiere.
-

\$20,000 - THE MAJOR

- All of the above PLUS:
- MOVIE TITLE – CORPORATE CREDIT
 - (Business Name & Logo in credits)
- MARKETING PROMOTIONS: your organization is recognized in marketing and social media materials leading up to and including the premiere.
- MILITARY HISTORY PACKAGE: enjoy a weekend for two (2) in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Guided by an historian, partners can tour Gettysburg National Military Park, the Eisenhower National Historic Site, and the vibrant downtown. Includes accommodations at a B&B.

\$30,000 - THE COLONEL

- All of the above PLUS:
 - MARKETING CAMPAIGN: earn three (3) Brush Mountain Media-produced commercials for your business or project.
 - VETERAN TRIBUTE PACKAGE: is there a veteran(s) in your life you wish to honor? Have the name and military info of your family member or friend featured in a special dedicatory section of the credits. You will also be filmed for a special social media segment highlighting why that veteran(s) is important to you. Lastly, speak on stage at the premiere to honor a veteran, promote your business, or offer any special remarks. This is an ideal means to honor someone who served our country.
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\$50,000 - THE GENERAL

- All of the above PLUS:
- EXCLUSIVE PREMIERE NAMING RIGHTS
 - Example: "Presented by Jones Furniture."
- CORPORATE PROMOTION: have a display table for your company at the premiere and other film events. Let attendees know you made it possible!
- THE HÜRTGEN EXPERIENCE PACKAGE: two (2) guests will be treated to a four day trip to the Hürtgen Forest in Germany and Belgium where you will receive personalized tours by expert guides. Includes travel expenditures, lodging costs, transportation, and tour guides.

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EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

Hürtgen has a strong presence in the community through educational outreach. The project was highlighted by WJAC News as a result of the film's growing social media following. The work of Journalist Samantha York and Director Mark Frederick ultimately encouraged veterans and their families to share personal stories of war, in-person and online.

Frederick is available for presentations at museums, universities, and libraries, among other venues. His lecture largely explores his 2019 expedition to Hürtgen, but also provides a brief overview of the battle, the role his grandfather played in it, and the production of his upcoming film. If interested in booking, please review the Contact Information section.

After fundraising goals are met and the film's production is complete, *Hürtgen* will be available to a variety of classes at schools, universities, and other educational institutions. To accompany the film, teachers and professors will be given a lesson plan that will hopefully make the history of Hürtgen more mainstream in our classrooms and our society.

GRAPHICS & TRAILER



View our reveal trailer and graphics on our Facebook, Instagram, YouTube or website.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- ❑ HÜRTGEN - A World War II Short Film
 - Web: www.brushmountainmedia.com/hurtgen
 - Email: www.brushmountainmedia@gmail.com
 - Facebook: www.facebook.com/hurtgenmovie
 - Instagram: www.instagram.com/hurtgenmovie
 - Address: P.O. Box 222 - Bellwood, PA 16617
- ❑ JARED FREDERICK, Executive Producer
Phone: (814) 932-6476
- ❑ MARK A. FREDERICK, Writer/Director
Phone: (814) 327-0241

Businesses, corporations, and individuals who contribute to Hürtgen will receive the incentives described above. As is the case with such productions, Community Partners will not be given any artistic control, financial earnings or owning rights. Content is copyrighted by The Furious Fourth and Brush Mountain Media LLC. Information on this site is subject to change. Updated: October 2020.