

CUT BACK: *facing ageism*

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For Immediate Release:

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Phoenix based Fight Ageism, a division of Chez Match is pleased to announce the release of its new documentary film CUT BACK: facing ageism.

This movie brings to light the often subtle and the not so subtle sting of ageism. With her focus on the workforce director Patricia Sahertian takes a look at a diverse group of people across the nation who have been affected by age discrimination. In their own words, they tell their personal stories about how ageism has touched their lives. "I am grateful to the people who agreed to participate in this film. They show an amazing spirit and resilience" said Sahertian. The stories are interspersed by comments from lawyers, advisors, employment specialist and many more who are trying to make a difference about the effects of ageism.

The women and men in the film are bright, courageous and determined, but the stress of not having a job and not even getting an interview takes its toll. Tom Farley states "Deep down you feel like you are doing something wrong and nobody out there is willing to help, that won't change until people take a stand." Overqualified is a term they are all familiar with. Valentina Janek says, "I think the world isn't ready for people who have experience anymore." And James Lansing adds "By excluding a whole class, you are excluding people based on assumptions that you don't even know are valid." You will see how they keep their spirits up and take positive steps to help themselves deal with ageism in the pursuit of employment.

"I started to work on the idea about making this film after I had felt ageism played a part in my struggle to find work in Phoenix in 2004 and 2005" said Sahertian, a native New Yorker. She traveled across the United States and Ireland gathering stories and filming over 150 hours of footage for the documentary, CUT BACK: facing ageism. She spent a good part of a year just in the editing process, but now the film is finished and she is beginning to enter it into local, national and international film festivals.

There was also another personal side to Sahertian's motivation. "My father lost his job in the printing industry when computers made linotype obsolete. He suffered from depression and found it hard to get another job. Ageism played a part in that, but I was too young at the time to even realize what was happening to him" she stated. When she reached the same age as he was and felt the same resistance in the job market, she finally understood what he had experienced. "My father, Francis Michael Patrick McLarnon, died three years ago and I want to dedicate this film to him."

With the help and support of Sahertian's husband, Jacob, her sister, Rosena Radenberg, her children Megan Kelley Quinn and Damian Kelley and her friends Margaret Haack and Ruth Tukan this movie has become a reality. The documentary was filmed in New York City and Long Island, New York – San Francisco, Marin County, Oakland and Tiburon, California – Denver, Colorado – Phoenix, Arizona and Dublin, Ireland. For more information go to <http://cutbackmovie.com>.

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