

Wait for Your Laugh
Jason Wise - Director's Statement

I wanted to make a simple film about the history of Hollywood. I thought if I could show the changing ways we've entertained ourselves for the last hundred years, it would be a good movie, something simple... Then I found Rose Marie. The kindest, toughest, hardest working, and most inspiring person I've ever met in my life is a 94-year-old woman living in Van Nuys, California. I could not believe her story; I could not believe I would be allowed to tell it, and even more so I couldn't believe I would be the first to do it. Here was a woman who started in vaudeville at the age of three, was a star of the nightclub era surrounded by the mob, who went on to play the first role on television that portrayed a working woman. She didn't play a mother, wife, or a daughter. Then she reinvented herself at sixty to play to huge sell out crowds. In her ninety-four years, she's experienced love, failure, success, and persevered to have the longest career in show business history. Over the three years of production, she became my good friend, and the documentary became personal for me. I saw in her someone who stood up for her morals and always kept working no matter what obstacle was thrown at her. Rose Marie is an inspiration to anyone trying to work to achieve something great, but also to those who value how important it is to love what you do. Rose Marie is the almost impossible Hollywood role model, the only blue collar star the industry has ever produced, and anyone can look up to her and find inspiration. As someone who was raised by a woman in Cleveland Ohio who has two daughters of his own, I think she is the real wonder woman. The time is right for this story.