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GATESVILLE NATIVE RETURNS HOME TO MAKE FILM
Interviews Locals to Tell His Cancer Survivor Story

Major Danger Productions announces the launch of its latest film, *BIG little Man*. Helmed by Jared Morgan, a Gatesville native, the short documentary chronicles the filmmaker's journey with leukemia during the early 80s. Conceived after a trip to Texas several years ago and triggered by a February layoff, Jared decided now was the time to make the film. Living in San Francisco, he returned to Gatesville in March to interview several area residents and film local landmarks, such as Gatesville Primary School, his childhood home, and the hospitals where he was diagnosed and treated. The film aims to share his outlook and help other families and communities going through similar experiences. He explains, "most people immediately think of the physical impact of cancer, but they often overlook the other aspects--emotional, spiritual, as well as the effect on the community."

The first phase of *BIG little Man* was made possible with donations from Austin-based production company Synthetic Pictures, as well as individuals. With filming already complete, Jared again turns to his community for support to help raise the additional \$6,000 need to finish. "The funds will be used for transcription services, editorial, music and audio, and title design," he said. With the internet and ingenuity, the filmmaker has launched his fundraising campaign online using email, Facebook, and a film fundraising site called IndieGoGo to reach out to donors. "IndieGoGo has a lot of great tools to stay connected to donors throughout the filmmaking process by offering the ability to post videos, stills, blog-style entries, and other fun stuff. And it offers incentives to donors while providing a secure way to contribute."

Jared was born and raised in Gatesville, until he attended college at Texas State University and eventually moved to San Francisco. He was diagnosed at Scott & White Hospital in Temple, TX when he was 4.5 years old, and continued treatment at MD Anderson Hospital in Houston until 7.5 years old. Jared's mother Nancy Morgan, a pediatric nurse at Scott & White at the time, was instrumental in discovering the illness and administering treatment throughout the ordeal. Jared recalls support from many members of the community, including his family, Trinity Baptist Church, his teachers, babysitters, classmates, and 2 area cancer camps: Peaceable Kingdom in Youngsport, TX and Camp Star Trails outside Houston.

Jared's creative journey began as he painted stories in the cancer ward. With a decade of experience in the film industry, Jared has touched just about every area of production. He's directed his own short films and assisted on major studio pictures (Disney's *The Wild*, Robert Rodriguez' *Sin City*), as well as Bill Jersey's award-winning PBS documentary series *The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow*. Most recently, Jared has taken on San Francisco's advertising world, prepping budgets and coordinating graphics for heavy-hitting brands such as Sprint, Adobe, and Ask.com.

A release is planned in early 2010, with screenings in Gatesville and San Francisco. To support the project, please visit: www.indiegogo.com/big-little-man.

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If you'd like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview with Jared Morgan, please call Major Danger Productions at 415-596-9789 or e-mail jared@majordanger.com