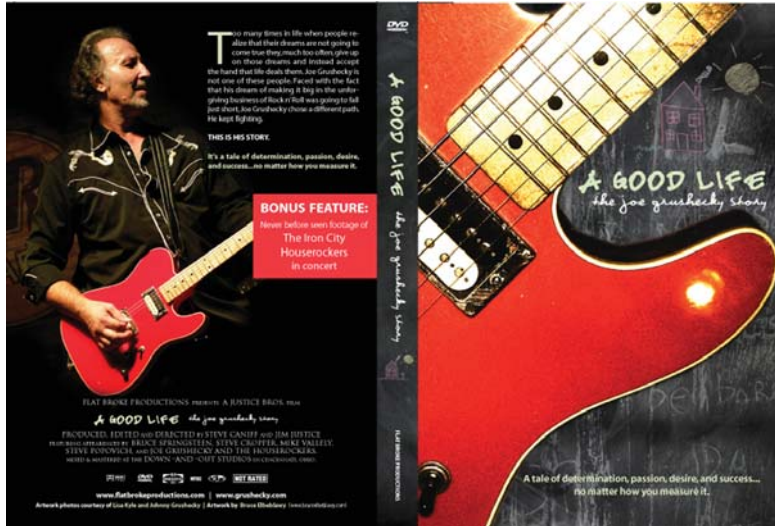


## “A Good Life-the Joe Grushecky Story”

*A tale of determination, passion, desire and success...no matter how you measure it.*



DVD artwork for A Good Life- the Joe Grushecky story.

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Flat Broke Productions publicity photo. (Jim Justice left, Steve Caniff right)  
photo by Jim Justice and Steve Caniff

## **Logline**

An 'almost famous' story about not giving up on your dreams, no matter what the obstacles.

## **Synopsis (medium)**

Documentary film about one of the most critically acclaimed rock stars that few have ever heard of. Pittsburgh musician and special education teacher, Joe Grushecky, has written, recorded and performed with rock legends Bruce Springsteen and Steve Cropper, garnered praise from the likes of Rolling Stone magazine and the Village Voice, helped raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for various charities, toured the world with his band, the Houserockers, all while doing his day job of teaching some of the most difficult and neglected kids in society. It's a rock and roll tale of determination, passion and success...no matter how it's measured.

Programming Descriptors

FORMS: Documentary

GENRES: Independent

NICHES: Music

## **Qualifiers**

Exact Runtime

01 hr: 31 min: 00 sec

Date of Completion

October 2007

Country of Production

U S A

Country of Filming

Spain, U S A

Releases on File

Applicant DOES CONSENT to press screenings and/or television broadcasts of excerpts of the project for publicity purposes

## Cast

Joe Grushecky

Bruce Springsteen ( Rock and Roll Hall Of Fame)

Steve Cropper (Rock and Roll Hall OF Fame)

Mike Vallely (Pro Skateboarder / Musician)

Steve Popovich (Cleveland International Records)

Jeff Sewald (Producer/Filmmaker)

Sean McDowell (Pittsburgh Radio Personality)

Rege Behe (Pittsburgh Tribune)

Sal Trepac (Good Sounds Records – Europe)

Art Nardini (Muscian / Joe Grushecky & The Houserockers)

Joffo Simmons (Musician / Joe Grushecky & The Houserockers)

Dan Gochmour (Muscian / Joe Grushecky & The Houserockers)

Dr. Alice Schaeffer (Educational Supervisor)

Dominic Disilvio ( Club Owner )

Rick Witkowski (Producer / Joe Grushecky & The Houserockers)

Lee Ann Grushecky (Joe's wife)

Johnny Grushecky (Joe's son)

Desiree Grushecky (Joe's daughter)

## **Formats**

### **Shooting Format**

MiniDV- NTSC

### **Preview Formats**

DVD Video –Region 0/1-NTSC

MiniDV-NTSC

Digibeta-NTSC

Super VHS- NTSC

### **Exhibition info.**

Exact Runtime-01 hr : 31 min : 00 sec

Film Sound- Dolby Digital 2/0 Stereo

Aspect Ratios-1.78 (16x9 VIDEO)

### **Screenings**

World premiere November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Colony Film Festival – Marietta, OH  
(Best Documentary Award)

### **News & Reviews**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette- <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/07086/772878-387.stm>

Journal News- <http://www.flatbrokeproductions.com/journal-news.htm>

## Director Statement

What must it be like to be playing music in front of 30,000 screaming fans with rock legend Bruce Springsteen one night and get up the next morning and go to your "real" job teaching special needs children?

I first heard Joe Grushecky's music in 1996, primarily due to his relationship with one of my favorite singer/songwriters, Bruce Springsteen. Bruce had just finished playing on and producing Joe's album, American Babylon. I liked the album alot not only due to Bruce's participation but because the lyrics were real and sung with a hint of desperation. What I didn't know at the time was the Joe had been making critically acclaimed music since the late 70s. In addition to that, I had no idea that during the day Joe was a special education teacher in Pittsburgh.

I attended my first Joe Grushecky concert in 2004. It was a benefit show that Joe had arranged to raise money for victims of flooding in his hometown of Pittsburgh. Once I saw Joe live, I was hooked.

Another chance meeting that revolved around Bruce Springsteen happened two years prior to that show. It was at a Bruce concert in Cincinnati, OH. Jim and I hit it off instantly. He was a huge music fan and I was too. We had a lot in common, same age, married with families and an urge to do something bigger in life than our day jobs could provide.

Early on Jim expressed an interest in film making to me. I had never thought of that but when he mentioned it, I was, again, hooked. At some point Jim mentioned the idea of making a documentary film. That's when the thought of making a film about Joe first came to be.

I contacted Joe out of the blue with little hope that he would even respond to me since he had no reason to think we could pull it off. A short 12 months later, filming began. At our first pre production meeting Joe asked how long we thought it would take. He thought two years would be a realistic goal. We laughed and said that we would have it wrapped in no more than 12 months. Well, here we are over two years later and it's finally done. It's been difficult at times but also very rewarding. We've traveled all over the US, got to meet some great people (including one Mr. Bruce Springsteen) and were able to tell Joe's story. It is truly a story of determination, passion and success...no matter how it's measured.

Enjoy,  
Steve and Jim



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