

TAPE # BL27
Brian Lyons
JIM WHITAKER, Producer/director
PROJECT REBIRTH

04.01.00 PICTURE UP

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

04.08.02 BRIAN LYONS: Those are gonna be, they were supposed to leave before 9-11. But the electricians ain't moving them, so the Local 3, they ain't moving anything. They don't want to move nothing, so those things are staying there. 'Til they leave, then they said they'll take them with them. 'Cos they don't want to spend the money to move it. 'Cos they got, you know, they got to use like, labor to move it and it costs them probably, you know, \$5000 to move it, you know, 100 feet or something like that.

04. 08.30 'Cos you know, one guy'll move it with a forklift and all the others'll just watch them. Like, last night, we had 19 electricians to pull this cable. It took them like, a half an hour. And everyone just tells their stories from the week. Yeah, yeah, I was doing that. And I was doing this. And you know, I was doing that. And.

JW: How far did the cable move?

04.08.52 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, well, it was like, a 600 foot run. But they just pull it out, you know, 600 foot and lay in it a trough. Took them like, an hour to do it, you know. But they had like, you know, they had ten guys on that crew.

JW: How are you doing?

BRIAN LYONS: Well, good, good, good, good.

JW: You seem good.

BRIAN LYONS: No, I'm doing good.

JW: How's the job?

04.0920 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, yeah, well, Tishman Construction is a very good company. And you know, now, uh, they pretty much let me do (?) my own thing. Uh, you know, they recognize my experience.

04.09.30 So, uh, (?) that's why they put me down with, uh, the electricians, 'cos I built the first PATH restoration, uh, project. And know, uh, you know, a lot about where the electric went and where, how they put it up and how we did the wire pulls and, and that kind of thing. So, you know, they put me with the electricians to manage that project, you know, until that's done. And, uh, you know, Tishman also got the contract to build towers two, three and four.

04.10.02 So, uh, you know, (?) when we finished, well, it's gonna take a long time to finish this. There's gonna be delays and, you know, (?) there was first 2009. Then it's 2011. And, uh, what, you know, (?) I was telling Danielle that it was like, you know, 2011 maybe, you know. They'll be another year delay there, so you can count on 2012. And then that's just the core of the thing.

04.10.29 Then you got to fill it with people. They got to fit it all out. That takes two or three years. So, you know, that's like, you're closing in on like, 2015 by the time, like, you get the building occupied and stuff. That's the way I see it, you know what I mean?

JW: That's the Freedom Tower?

04.10.47 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, yeah, yeah. You know, the other tower are supposed to start like, in a year or two. But there's gonna be some delays on that because of the transportation hub that they're building down there.

04.11.00 And if they ever start the station, they're supposed to start the PATH station. Like, make it into a Grand Central Station, you know. Then that will just add chaos to the construction. So that'll delay everything, you know. No, there's delays everyday. You go to do something and the Port Authority stops you. Hold on. You don't have the right security. You don't have the right approval. And someone else needs to go over here. Blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. Now

they started two weeks ago, they just started, they brought trailers down to start the, uh memorial, all right.

- 04.11.32 So now they're gonna start building the memorial as we're starting to build the Freedom Tower. So there's gonna be more delays. There'll be like, (?) you know, all logistical type of things. Like, you know, where are you putting your stuff and where we're putting our stuff. There's like, no room to put anything, you know what I mean? So, you know, (?) you're gonna have a bunch of steel and rebar. And we're gonna have a bunch of steel and rebar. And concrete trucks got to come down. And there's a company that, uh, the Port Authority hired.
- 04.12.03 They hired a consultant firm to, to try to manage that. But they ain't, you know, they ain't doing too good on it, you know what I mean? They can't even find a place for us to put our trailer for the last three months, so like, we, the first four months, we had a trailer with no electric, water, television. I mean, uh, uh, telephone. Or, uh, bathrooms or nothing, you know? 'Cos they can't find, uh, no logistical spot to put you at, you know.
- 04.12.31 So, uh, and it's all political. This guy has to go check, when you come up with all these problems, no one comes up with answers. They're like, all right, we'll get back to you. So then they have to go check with like, nine other people. And then they come back and they still don't have answers. Everyone's scratching heads, I don't know where to put them. I don't know. Security won't let us put them there and, uh, 'cos they've really tightened up security for some reason.
- 04.12.59 They got cops on the outside of the gates. They got cops on the inside of the gates. They got security guards on the inside of the gates. They put truck barriers up. You know, they did everything possible to make it harder to get workers and trucks and material (?) into the site, you know what I mean? You know, after all these years, you know what I mean? You know, when we built the first thing with the PATH restoration things, we had wide open roads and you could get in, get trucks in and out of the gate and, and stuff like that, you know. But now it's like, very, very difficult to get, uh, you know, material and, and, stuff, stuff down there, you know, so

JW: Why did that change?

04.13.42 BRIAN LYONS: Oh, (?) who knows? (?) It's internal within the Port Authority. They put someone in charge of security. And, uh, I guess they don't want anything to happen. They get all these threats and they get all these things. And, uh, you know, they, uh, are like, overzealous on stuff.

04.14.03 You know, like they got like, six guards in the bottom of the pit at like, midnight when there's like, not one person there, you know what I mean? So they're paying for, you know, security guards to watch the empty hole in the ground, you know what I mean? So, uh, for some reason, they just are, and then, you know, they got six on top. So uh, I don't know how you would get down to the bottom. So you know, they got, they just, you know, they get minimum wage, so (?) I'm sure they're not worried about the funding on that, you know.

04.14.33 So I don't know what their plan is or whatever, you know.

JW: Sounds like guaranteed employment for awhile.

04.14.43 BRIAN LYONS: (?) Well, that's what I was saying is like, it's a good company. So they, they're gonna build all these towers and I'm involved with them. So I'm gonna stay on this team, I'm on like, the Ground Zero team downtown. And I'll probably be working, I'll go from the Freedom Tower and, uh, you know.

04.15.00 If they let you finish it, depending, you know, they might need resources. And they might pull you from the Freedom Tower to start building Tower Two or work on Tower Three or something like that, you know. (?) Whatever the case may be. They might need, because (?) all the construction sites are looking (?) for good people right now. There's, uh, you know, a shortage of, you know, obviously this (?) union contractors, they're all subcontractors. But the main C-Ms, the construction managers, like my company, you know?

04.15.32 They need project managers. They need superintendents. They need, uh, project engineers and stuff to manage the subcontractors. And (?) the labor pool, you know, for what they want to pay is not like, you know, very large. You know, what they can afford to pay, you know. 'Cos they set up budgets and stuff like that. And like, for example, we're building, with the whole political thing, when they, they changed like, you know, four months ago, with the deals with Silverstein and the City of New York?

- 04.16.09 And the Port Authority of New York. What the deals were with the towers and the Freedom Tower and stuff. Silverstein gave up the Freedom Tower, of building the Freedom Tower. He's just gonna manage the building of the Freedom Tower now. The Port Authority's gonna build the Freedom Tower. And like it said in the paper, Silverstein will get a one percent fee to manage the building of the Freedom Tower.
- 04.16.36 So he's not really the owner of it, actually. So he, you know, gave in to that. So that he could have specific rights to Tower Two, Three and Four. So he will actually own those buildings. And then with that, I guess they made a deal of, with the city, so much residential and so much commercial space.
- 04.17.00 And so much retail space in those buildings, whatever the combination is, uh, you know, I forget. It was all in the paper, but, you know, that all came to light. And then this month, I guess they were supposed to etch it in stone. We're waiting for that to happen, I guess. In September, they said mid-September, they were supposed to sign the final documents on clearing that all up, you know. But then there's still the whole issue of the memorial. That's, I guess they're starting some of the memorial.
- 04.17.31 Like, putting some footings in. But there's still like, a hold on like, exactly how it's gonna be built and where they're gonna put (mains?) and how the final design is gonna come out. That's not 100 percent, from what I can understand, you know, about it, you know.

JW: What do you think of all this?

- 04.17.53 BRIAN LYONS: No, no, that's normal construction stuff, I guess, you know. And (?) with Ground Zero involved, with all the political things, I would consider it, you know, normal, normal bureaucracy, you know, of what's happening, you know. It's just, you just got to go with the flow. It's just gonna take time. You know, it's a massive project. And uh, everybody wanted a piece of the action. The city wanted some things their way. The Port Authority wanted stuff their way. Silverstein wanted stuff his way. They all have lawyers and they're all suing each other. So they all had to come to some type of conclusion.
- 04.18.30 So (LAUGHS) this is what you end up with, you know what I mean? So it's just gonna, you know, you got to go, like, day by day. And uh, you know, no matter what you do, like, even the job that, that I'm on, it's like, it was supposed to be done August 1st. And then the

footings were supposed to start August 2nd inside the track area. And you know, the electricians aren't finished. They're like, on, they're three-quarters of the way done. And it's the middle of September. So you know, even the trades, the local, you know, slows down when they see the end of the job coming, because there's no more work.

04.19.07 And when they're done with that project, there's nowhere to go. So they (?) don't want it to end. So like I was saying, you know, the guy had like, a ratchet taking off the bolts. And the foreman yelled up, hey, what are you doing with that ratchet? Put that down. Get like, a hand wrench. Get a regular hand wrench. So he could go, you know, just one thing at a time instead of using the ratchet.

04.19.32 You know, otherwise he would have been finished that night. He has to save some for tomorrow night. So (LAUGHS) you know, you can't win, it's not, you, you can't say anything about it. It's not your job to say, you know, keep using the ratchet, you know what I mean? You know, it's their, he's like, ratchets aren't authorized in our union. Which they aren't. (LAUGHS) That particular like, speed wrench the guy had, it's not authorized in their union. 'Cos it does things too quickly.

04.20.01 Yeah, it's a sad thing. But these are the thing that happen in uh, in construction. I'm telling you, (LAUGHS) it's like, you can't make these things up, you know.

JW: When's the memorial going to be done?

04.20.14 BRIAN LYONS: No, I don't know. They're only doing the bottom footings right now, I guess. And then that's, they have a contractor that just came down in the last couple of weeks. And uh, they're doing, it was in the paper. They're doing like, a 112 footings. And then that's the end of their contract. That's probably just the bottom footings to get it out of the ground or whatever. And to show progress.

04.20.38 And then they have to raise money. They're still raising money. And uh, they have to move forward with the rest of the design of that. And then again, you know, they're building all these big buildings all around everything. You can't like you know, build the center first. And then try to build, you know, all these big buildings around (?) it.

01.21.03 You know, it's like, the pit, you know, like, you got to bring logistically, steel, trucks, concrete. Everything's got to come down and come up, right, for the buildings. How can you,

like, take up the whole middle thing trying to build a memorial when you got like, all these big skyscrapers you got to build? Like, how do you do that? Why, why would you build a memorial like, and have a memorial sitting in the middle, and like, now you're trying to work around this thing to build big skyscrapers.

04.21.34 It's, to me, that's, I don't know. That don't sound right. I always believed (~JW~)

JW: So you're saying to build the buildings first?

04.21.43 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah. I mean, that would make sense. I mean, the middle is almost like a lay-down area where you have to put materials. And it's not that big either, you know. There's, there's a train station there already, you know. There's a bridge that comes down. There's trailers already down there.

04.22.00 There's not a lot of space. I mean, it looks, 16 acres, but it goes up all the way to Church Street and stuff. That's where some of the buildings are gonna be built, you know what I mean? I always believed what they should have done was, like, the first few months, right after 9-11, pick a corner somewhere or across the street, pick something. Build a small memorial with granite stone, with everybody's name on it.

04.22.32 With a few benches around it. Or whatever. And have that as a memorial until the main memorial was built. So people could come and, and see people's names. And you know, put flowers and, you know, say something and, and do something. And then when the memorial was built, which was, is gonna take like, forever, then it would be done, you know. But you know, they don't have anything.

04.22.59 So that's why people are, you know, all up in arms. The fire department went ahead and they made their own on the side of Engine and Ladder Ten, the side of the building. There's a firm that, a lawyer's firm, that lost one employee. And he was a volunteer fireman. And I guess he was there that day. And he was like, directing people out of the building, and so he stayed and got killed. So they privately donated the money to make this like, memorial.

04.23.32 And the side of the building is a complete like, bronze uh, fixture that uh, has murals on it. And has impregnated the names of all the firemen that died. And, and that volunteer fireman. So that you could go up with a piece of paper and pencil like, with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and (?) etch the person's name into it.

- 04.24.02 So they made their own memorial right now. The fireman. And it's at Engine Ladder Ten, you know. And so that's somewhere for the firefighters' wives to go to. Which we're gonna go to Sunday night, because Elaine's coming down. My brother's coming down from Cape Cod. My other brother's coming down from Connecticut. We're all gonna stay in a hotel on (?) Sunday, so we can get up and be right at the site for Monday morning.
- 04.24.29 Instead of trying to drive down again. You got to get up at like, four o'clock in the morning, you know, from where we live. And they close the roads down, so you got to get through, you know, you got to past the road blockage before they close the highway down, you know. So we, we'll all be down Sunday night. And then we'll walk around. We're gonna go over to that memorial and, you know, take a walk around the site. We're bringing the children, all the kids are coming this year. 'Cos they're all older now. They all have questions and uh, what actually happened, where is it. What does it look like?
- 04.25.03 You know, they see bits and pieces on television, but you know, they, they want to see the real thing now, I guess. So we're, we're bringing the children with us, you know.

JW: Have your kids been there?

BRIAN LYONS: No, no. No.

JW: No?

BRIAN LYONS: No.

JW: Have Elaine's kids been there?

BRIAN LYONS: No, no. No, no, no. So Elaine's gonna bring her children this weekend.

JW: This will be a big deal.

BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, yeah. It's gonna be interesting, you know.

JW: What's a typical day like for you?

- 04.25.38 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, yeah, well, (~JW~) I work nights so I get home from the train, I get home at like, eight o'clock. So uh, summertime just passed. So uh, you know, that wasn't no big deal. But when school is on, my, the 11-year old is in sixth grade now. She's already on the bus at like, a quarter after seven. So I miss her.
- 04.25.59 But I, you know, I get to take the third-grader to the bus stop, which is right down the corner. Put her on the bus, which, you know, nice. To put her on the bus. And then I come home and go to sleep. You know, you get six hours or six and a half hours' sleep. You wake up in the afternoon. Then I pick her up from the bus stop. One's already home from the bus stop. That's the older one. But uh, the younger one, I pick up from the bus stop. And then I do some type of chore or something.
- 04.26.29 If we got to go out or, you know, I got to do something in the yard, do something with the pool. And uh, you know, do some chores. Then we have dinner. And then, you know, we sit around for awhile. Then I take a nap usually, like, an hour before I got to get on the train, I take a nap. Then I get (LAUGHS) on, I get to take like, the ten or 11 o'clock train. And you know, we start like, at midnight. The electricians start at midnight. You know, and they end at like, six in the morning.
- 04.27.00 So then I take, you know, go to Grand Central, take like, the six something train back home. And you know, do that again. And then it's six days a week, you know, so it's Sunday night, Monday, Tuesday night, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday night. And then Saturday, (?) I have off. So whatever we can do on Saturday. And now school's started, so all sorts of things are gonna start. Like, we do Irish dancing. That starts. And Girl Scouts start. And you know, there's a lot of activities for the kids that'll start.
- 04.27.32 So we'll be getting involved with that. When I get home, I'll probably, you know, after dinner, you got to drive them to school. Dance school. Pick them up from dance school. That type of thing, you know what I mean? So it's (?) not too bad. You know, and then at work, you know, I do my shift and then I just email with my Blackberry a report. How many electricians, what was accomplished that night. If there was any issues or (?) injuries or whatever. And you know, I do, to the senior project manager and the engineers and a couple other guys.

- 04.28.07 And you know, I don't really hear back from them. They, you know, unless they have a major question, they, they understand what happened. And then they write a schedule, you know, there's a schedule that's written for the week, what's supposed to happen. I just kind of like, got, you know, use that as a guideline of what the electricians are doing, you know. And uh, you know, that's about it. It's pretty simple. It's like, for managing 2000 guys, to managing, some nights, they only have four electricians, you know.
- 04.28.33 On the weekends, they beef up the guys. They get guys from other jobs. That's why like, last night, they had like, 19 guys. Plus they're pressed for time, where, we're trying to press them to finish the job. So, you know, they're bringing more men in to, to try to finish the job. This weekend was very questionable, because there's a lot of go and stoppage. The president's supposed to come on Sunday. So the Secret Service is there today checking everything.
- 04.28.58 And there was access uh, uh, problems where they, you know, the electricians can't bring their vehicles down. They can't get into certain doors. They got to go around different entrances. And bring their tools in different ways. And you know, there's (?) but since they're working like, inside the train area, they won't be in the pit and they won't be seen. So they're letting them, they're letting them work. But for all other purposes, all work is stopped in the pit area.
- 04.29.29 And I think today, they're doing like, the major setup for 9-11. They're setting up the stage. They're setting up the rings down at the bottom of the pit with uh, the reflecting pools and stuff like that, they're doing that today and tomorrow. You know, I, I guess they got to have it finished before tomorrow morning at some time, because the president's supposed to come. I don't know. I guess they'll pick some family. They probably already have some families picked out, and they'll bring them down there. So when the president comes, he can greet some people and stuff.
- 04.30.02 I'm sure he's not just gonna come by himself and just go down there and, you know, he needs some type of photo op or something like that, you know. Have some families down there waiting for him. Handpicked families. (LAUGHS) It was interesting, though, I watched, the engineer in charge of the Port Authority, which is the guy that I check in with when we go to work every night, there's a Port Authority guy.
- 04.30.29 He's in charge, 'cos we got to work on the tracks and stuff like that? So he's in charge of getting the power turned off on (?) the third rail and making sure electrical closet doors are

open access for us to get into and stuff like that. So they have a Port Authority engineer with you to work the shift. So you just got to get you set up, and then he just goes, sits in his trailer or, you know, sits in, there's a control room, 'til (?) you have any questions or if you need him for anything.

- 04.31.05 But he brought a DVD player in last night. And he had a DVD of Fahrenheit 9-11. And I swore I would never watch that film, because of I heard all different things about it. But I watched it last night. And it was just, it was just a goof film, actually, if you ask me. It was like, you know, a, you know, to goof on the president pretty much.
- 04.31.31 They edited all sorts of things to make the president look like an idiot. And (?) if you know anything about editing and, you know, watching films, you could tell that it was just all done just to do that, you know what I mean? You know, they took different excerpts out of different stuff and, you know, they were talking about, you know, (?) and I was in the military and, you know, this guy wasn't in the military.
- 04.31.56 And, you know, they were talking about, there was guys they were interviewing, you know, that were over in Iraq and they were, you know, over in Afghanistan and they were saying, why are we here and that I want to go home. And I was saying, well, then why did you sign up, you know what I mean? Like, you guys, like, signed, volunteered, you know what I mean? No one like, tied your hands behind your back. And now you're complaining, you know what I mean? It's the military. You go and you fight in a war. Either you're gonna die or you're gonna live. One or the other. It's like, that's as simple as that.
- 04.32.29 People like, get all these false, you know, like, they told them, you know, you're gonna get free college. You can get this. Sure, you're gonna get all that. But you're in the military. You're in the army. You know, army guys carry guns. You go into war. You know, a war could start at any moment in history, you know. So stop complaining, you know what I mean? And you know, and they weren't doing their, their platoon any good by complaining about being where they were at or whatever, you know what I mean?
- 04.32.59 So, you know, and all they did was have those comments. They didn't, I was telling the guys, they didn't, they didn't interview any special forces guys that came to the site. They, you know, some special forces guys came and looked down at Ground Zero. You talk to them and you'll want to join up the special forces. They're so like, hyped up. They're like, yeah, we can't wait to get back to Iraq. We're gonna like, snap some more heads.

- 04.33.30 We're gonna like, you know, bomb some more buildings, you know. We did like, a secret thing. We went in, we smashed into the palace, you know. They're telling you all these stories. And these guys are like, big, mean, tough dudes, you know what I mean? So it's like, interview them. Go ahead. And put it on your film. But they don't do that. They interview the guy that complaints. So you know, the film to me was just like, a puff, you know, a spoof to jap the guy. Jap the president, you know.
- 04.34.06 So which is another piece of footage there in history. I don't know how many people watched it, but, you know, or believed it or whatever, you know. You know, but there was things like, it was like, this guy, he got a job doing this. And guess who he is? He is President Bush's first cousin. Oh, hello? Well, like, that's like, the whole world, like, revolves around that, you know.
- 04.34.31 You go to any company, you ask like, who is that? Well, that's what's his name's brother-in-law. Who's that guy in that office? Well, that's his son-in-law. And who's that? Oh, that's his son. And who's that? Well, that's his son's son, whatever. They're all, every company in the United States does that, you know. Puts all their friends and people they know in like, good job positions if they can, you know what I mean?
- 04.34.58 It's like, he's not the only guy that does that type of stuff, you know what I mean? And like, every other president in the world did that before them, you know what I mean? Anyone that helped you get re-elected, you're an ambassador to somewhere or, you know, you're, you know, you know, on the Justice Department or whatever you are, you know? So, you know, it was interesting just to see, you know, like, he was like, picking it out, like he was the only one that ever like, did any type of thing. Like, picked friends to go to different job positions, you know.
- 04.35.33 And me knowing that that's not true, it's like, you know, you know, different companies I worked for, you find out like, how did that guy ever get to be like, a vice president? Oh, well, he is the senior vice president's brother-in-law. That's why he's vice president. Oh, okay. That makes sense. He don't know anything, but he's sitting in that office over there. And he's like, screwing every job that we have up.
- 04.35.58 But that, you got to deal with that because that's his brother-in-law. And don't talk about him 'cos you'll be fired. (LAUGHS) You know, so you run into like, you know, different job things like that, you know. So.

JW: How do you like your job?

04.36.15 BRIAN LYONS: No, I like my job. I have a very good company. They treat me well. And I don't know anybody, so I'm not related to anybody. So, you know, I, I got it, my job on my own merit, by the way. (LAUGHS) And you know, no, it's very satisfying and, you know, I'm looking forward to, to building this tower and, you know, hopefully I stay to the end of it.

04.36.39 And you know, I don't get switched over to one of the other buildings or whatever, in case they need me over there or whatever. But most likely, you'll stay on this uh, on this one project till it's finished. 'Til you get the, you know, you get the core done.

JW: What if you were switched and why don't you want to be switched?

04.36.56 BRIAN LYONS: No, no, you know, the Freedom Tower is, you know, the biggest building in the world. It's like, a dream to build that type of building, you know what I mean? Well, by the time it's built, it's only gonna be the eighth tallest building in the world. So you know, that's a fact. 'Cos they're building, right now, there's other buildings under construction. And there's a building in Korea that, uh, this building's 1776 feet. And the building in Korea is like, uh, 2,665 feet. It's like, 1000 feet taller than the Freedom Tower.

04.37.34 In South Korea. Or North Korea. One of those Korean countries. So, you know, so there's other buildings, obviously, under construction. So it'll be the biggest building in (?) America, you know. That's (?) for sure. But you know, worldwide, I guess other countries are building taller buildings.

04.37.57 Everybody's you know, building bigger buildings.

JW: What about the way things started with your brother?

04.38.05 BRIAN LYONS: Oh no, no, absolutely. It's very satisfying. You know, I'm sure he'd be proud that I somehow got onto this team to build the biggest building in the world. And (?) you know, I'm major-ly involved with it. I'm the mechanical project manager on it. So that's

a big deal. And uh, uh, you know, I think he would be happy about that. He's a mechanical engineer, graduated from Manhattan College.

04.38.30 And you know, I think he would be proud to see me building this building. You know, he would love to come down and, you know, visit it and, you know, I wouldn't have him do all that stuff, you know. He'd (?) be in his glory, you know, doing that, you know.

JW: You were the builder, though?

BRIAN LYONS: Yes. Yes, yes. Yes.

JW: What was he?

04.38.55 BRIAN LYONS: No, he's like, the engineer of the family and stuff like that. But, you know, like, you know, like, if he was renovating his house, I would have to help him sheet rock and stuff like that. He was (?) learning as he went along a little bit, you know what I mean? So, but he was more, you know, smarter in the books, in math and, and that type of thing, you know. So, you know, and he had an engineering job. The second job from the fire department, working with an engineering firm in Connecticut. And he was doing very well with them, you know.

04.39.28 So, no, he would be very proud that I'd be building this building.

JW: Do you think about him when you're down there?

04.39.41 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, yeah. Every day. Every day. I try to like, two or three times a week, walk over to where we found his body. Over by Tower Two, to say a prayer, you know. You know, 'cos I got time. The electrician puts that slow wrench on and I get time to walk around a little bit.

04.40.00 So then I walk out to the pit and walk over to Tower Two area. There's not a lot of action going on over in that area. You know, we're north of Tower One. The Freedom Tower. And then the uh, memorial people are working near the Tower One area right now. So the back, the south end of the pit is kind of like, there's not a lot of activity going on over there.

JW: What do you do when you go out there?

- 04.40.34 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, I go over right to the exact spot where we found his remains. And then the thing came out in the paper, which is good. I told Elaine, I'm gonna follow up with that, with the medical examiner's office. About a week ago, or during the week, uh, the city announced that they awarded a contract to a company in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to retest all the DNA samples that haven't been identified, because uh, they've developed a new science and technology to extract more DNA out of damaged pieces of human remains.
- 04.41.15 And they can get results 1000 times faster than old technology. So they have allocated like, \$1.2 million to have that testing redone.
- 04.41.30 So you know, I'm gonna call the medical examiner's office up and, you know, kind of like, talk to them about my brother's stuff and see where they're at with that. And what's true and what's not true. And when they're gonna start it and how (?) it's gonna work. And, and stuff like that. And we'll see. 'Cos you know, I've talked to them a bunch of times over the last five years. And they used to have meetings in the very beginning, like, every Tuesday night, for family members to come and ask questions about remains and stuff.
- 04.42.01 So after the first year or so, the meetings went to like, once a month. And then after the second year, they kind of stopped the meetings, 'cos they were slowing down on, on identifying anything. And then by the third year, they had, you know, put everything on pause type of thing. They announced all that type of stuff. They, they had exhausted all their possibilities. So they had, you know, stopped on a few things.
- 04.42.30 And you know, they continue, you know, searching for new ways. And I guess, you know, through that searching process, they found this new technology. And they're going to try it, I guess, you know, and see how it works out.

JW: So they found the remains?

BRIAN LYONS: Well, on Saint Patrick's Day, right.

JW: I remember that.

- 04.43.03 BRIAN LYONS: I found the halogen, right, that my brother was carrying. So where, where the machine dug that up, we went and hand dug and built screening devices. And we, with the screening devices, we got just bone fragments, about 400 bone fragments. And some white ash. And that was all turned over to the medical examiner's office.
- 04.43.29 And from their reports is that those, those bone fragments were so superheated from fire and stuff that it was, they were damaged so badly, they couldn't extract any DNA out of it. So, you know, we've been left with no (?) positive identification from DNA, you know. And you know, while we were doing screening, we had found tools and metal devices that would have been on your body at the time.
- 04.44.01 And you know, it all came from squad, it was three men from Squad 41. Their gear. So, you know, one of them was Michael's stuff. And, 'cos they knew by the type of stuff that they wore on each, each other, different guy had one type of harness. One guy had a different harness. You know, different tools they carried. And you know, stuff is labeled and welded in. So they, you know, they knew that we knew where we were at.
- 04.44.30 That it was, that that was the spot that, you know, they, they were at. And you know, so the medical examiner's office obviously said that, you know, stuff was too superheated and damaged. And so that's why I'm, we're looking forward, the report in the paper said is that they could extract DNA out of damaged bone particles that were extremely heated. And that's exactly what happened with our (?) bone fragments that we collected.
- 04.45.05 So we're hoping that they could maybe get something out of it, you know what I mean? I mean, there's matter there. It's a piece of bone fragment. It is matter. But I guess, you know, (?) it's superheated. There's no liquid matter in it, you know, per se. And I guess maybe that's where they get the DNA from. They need something moist or (?) whatever. I, I don't know. But maybe they can take a piece of bone now and, and get it out of the bone or whatever (?) they can do, whatever type of science they have now.
- 04.45.40 Using different chemicals and they can convert it to something else. And that's why I'm gonna call the medical examiner's office to find out exactly, you know, what's, you know, what, what the procedure's gonna be and you know, hopefully we could get some closure on that, you know. 'Cos I've spoken to Elaine about it. We have a vial of blood of his that's frozen.

- 04.46.00 It's in Minnesota. Because he donated through the fire department bone marrow uh, program two weeks before 9-11. Him and like, 87 other firemen. So there's two things. With the blood that's frozen, they have an exact DNA match for him. Like, we didn't really need to go and get hair particles and toothbrush and, we got all that and gave that to the medical examiner's office.
- 04.46.30 But when I spoke to the medical examiner, he was like, we have the perfect thing anyway, Brian. We, we have his blood. And we have his profile. We have his DNA profile from the blood. There's no other perfect way than you can get it out of the blood. So there's like, they have exactly the 100 percent profile that is needed to match something. Whereas other people, that's not the case.
- 04.46.58 You know, and that's why it's hard for some of the uh, things to be identified. You know, it's not like every Joe Blow lived in Queens, took the train, went up to the tower and was killed. There was people from all over the world. People visiting. People staying in a hotel room that was visiting. And they're from another country. And they had to try to get their DNA profile. They needed to get items from them.
- 04.47.30 They needed to get their toothbrush or their hair comb or something from their house. Their underwear or (?) whatever it might have been. And for the foreign people that were there, it was very difficult, and sometimes they haven't even gotten all of it yet. And so they don't have profiles for every single person. The 100 percent profile. They might need, they need like, eight numbers to have all the different chromosomes on them, you know what I mean? And some people that need to be identified, they only had seven numbers.
- 04.48.07 So they need three more numbers to match, they might even have the piece of, they have a piece of body or flesh, that they got DNA out of. And they got ten numbers out of that. But on the board, there's, you know, 800 people with only seven numbers. So they can't match that up.
- 04.48.29 So they need the other three numbers to match those type of things up. And this, this technology, too, spoke about that. That they, you know, they might be able to get a piece of hair and something else and get the ten numbers out of it, you know, using the new technology. So then once they get the ten numbers and then they have already tested all (?) the remains, they match it like, within milliseconds through the computer.

04.49.00 'Cos they're just numbers. You know, everything gets points or whatever from the DNA process. So you know, we're trying to, you know, look at that, too, you know, and seeing where we're going with that, you know.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

04.49.21 END OF TAPE

TAPE # BL28

Brian Lyons

JIM WHITAKER, Producer/director

PROJECT REBIRTH

02.01.00 PICTURE UP

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

02.01.34 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, well, the 11 year old is really into it now that she caught like, three of the biggest bass that we had. Big ones. Like, five-pounders, which is a nice size, I (?) bought, we went to Wal-Mart and I bought them two nice, light poles. So that they would get a good fight out of them, you know what I mean? So when she caught those big basses, she's like, hooked into the fishing now.

02.01.59 So salmon fishing is coming, up in Lake Ontario where (~JW~) they do a run up the salmon river. So she wants to go to that. So I talked to her mother, and her mother like, you know, hates it when I go fishing up there, you know. But, because she, she don't want to go. It's too cold. Like, anything below like, 80 degrees is cold for her. So (~I~)

JW: Jim's a big fisherman.

02.02.26 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, yeah, and we want to go up and I want to just take her and we'll stay at a hotel. Hotels are cheap. You're like, \$25 a night, you get a room. And we'll take the little john boat with the engine and we'll go at the mouth of the river. And they'll all be, thousands of them will be in, in schools coming up. And just drop your hook down there. And they don't bite it. They don't eat. They're not feeding now, you know what I mean? You just got to kind of like, hook them a little bit somehow. Without the DEP guy seeing you, you know, foul hook them. (LAUGHS) And like, you know, even if you just get them on and you get the fight out of them, you know what I mean.

02.03.02 And the line breaks or you have to let them go because you foul hooked them, at least you, you know, you had that fight (~I~)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

02.03.59 BRIAN LYONS: Well, the stairwell is gonna be moved, yeah, yeah, yeah. (~JW~) Well, now the memorial people are down there. And some of the footings go over there. So that's, when the footings that they need to do that go there, that's when that stair tower's gonna come down, you know. (~JW~) You know.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: Do you have any comments on the ME report that came out this week?

02.07.00 BRIAN LYONS: Oh, the people? (~JW~) Yeah, yeah, like, if you notice, like, it started like, eight weeks ago in the news. Like, the one detective died or whatever, from, I guess they said from 9-11 lung uh, disease. And then The Daily News put out a thing for anyone that got affected to please send them their story. So they got flooded with stories, The Daily News. So like, everyday in The Daily News, they were telling another story.

02.07.32 This policeman, this construction worker, this fireman. You know, this uh, Red Cross worker. You know, this nun. You know, they were picking and choosing which ones to put in there. But they were like, you know, all these people, first responders, they got, one's got lung cancer and one's got kidney problems. One's got this, one's got that. And you know, there's all these issues.

02.07.57 And then like, recently, within the last couple of days, you know, they came out with this thing. 70 or 80 percent of everyone that worked there, you know, has deadly illnesses, you know. (LAUGHS) And I'm like, I don't know. I went and registered like, a year or two ago at Mount Sinai. And I got checked. They checked my lungs, my blood. They give you a doc, they assign you a doc. Soon as you walk in, you fill out a form with your name and all your stuff. Your history of the dates you worked there, which I worked the whole time.

- 02.08.30 And then they assign you a doctor. So you go in, you meet Doctor Joe, how you doing, Doctor Joe. And Doctor Joe takes you around to, to uh, all the different laboratories during the day. You do your lungs. You do your blood. You know, I don't know, they do chest X-rays. They do a psychology type of thing. They do all sorts of stuff. Then you go back to the doctor. He instantly gets all the reports. He looks at them.
- 02.09.00 And you know, he tells you, well, right now, I was fine, you know. And then they do an in-depth, the in-depth results that didn't come back. The rest of the blood and stuff. And they'll mail you a letter and, you know, a package and let you know what the status of your health is and stuff. So, you know, I got a letter back saying I was fine. Everything, my lungs were clean and clear. And chest X-ray was clear. And, you know, my health report came back fine.
- 02.09.30 So you know, I wasn't really worried about anything. I don't have any cough or anything like that, you know, so.

JW: You're feeling fine?

BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

JW: I thought you said you weren't feeling that well?

- 02.09.47 BRIAN LYONS: (MID-STATEMENT) I guess a couple of years ago, it's been that, you know, I did go and see one of the, uh, from the crew program that was paid for by (?) the government, and, and seen some therapists and I had (?) post-traumatic stress syndrome. I had a little bit of that.
- 02.10.15 So they helped me get through that. And some of that is anxiety and maybe sleep disorder. And dissociation, where someone's talking to you and you're thinking of something else because, you know, your brain isn't in contact with the person. And so they gave me some exercises to do.
- 02.10.36 And you know, I went there for a few months or whatever and talked, talked with them through it. And you know, I got better. And everything seems to be fine now, you know.

JW: You're feeling okay?

- 02.10.53 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, no, no, I feel good, you know. (~JW~) You know, I had lost, which was calculated, I went on a diet, just using portion control. Like, not eating two helpings of mashed potatoes. Only eating one and stuff. And when we were building Seven World Trade Center, and I lost like, almost 30 pounds. I think this time last year, when I did my interview, I was very skinny. And then people were asking me, are you okay? You look sick, 'cos you like, lost so much weight. I was very skinny. So I said, you know what, I think I'll gain back 5.1 pounds.
- 02.11.31 That turned back into like, 25 pounds. 'Cos I'm like, you know, I get home and my wife has like, big dinner ready. And you know, it's like, she has like, 17 chicken cutlets there. And they're all delicious. So instead of having like, two, I have four of them. You know, so I got to cut back on, I want to lose like, 15 pounds. And get back to (?) a decent weight, you know. It helps you keep, you know, healthy and stuff like that.
- 02.12.01 You know, you're supposed to exercise and do this and that. And, uh, and uh, but I don't get no exercise. Walking is what I get from the jobsite, 16 acres, you got to walk everywhere, so, you know, and then I lost some weight from Seven World Trade Center because you got to walk up and down, you had to walk up and down the stairs. You're checking on the 47th floor, then you got to go down to the 23rd floor. So you would walk the flights and, you know, 'cos there was the elevator.
- 02.12.29 You would have to wait for the construction hoist outside and that would take forever, so you would just do the stairs. Which is good for your heart and everything else, so, you know, and as the Freedom Tower goes up, you'll be doing the same thing. You'll be walking and, you know, doing this and that. So, uh, you know, we staying healthy that way, you know. Type of thing. But, no, I feel good. And, you know, there's like, people ask you, you know, like, there's like, 17 different groups suing 18 different people.
- 02.13.00 And, you know, you don't know, like, you know, they, they tell you the guy is coughing and stuff, but, you know, is he smoking three packs a day before that? Or, you know, you don't know exactly, you know, what the issues are, you know what I mean? You know, I'm sure there are some people that got ill from, from doing something. But I mean, you know, I was there, too, and I had (?) a respirator sometimes and sometimes I didn't.

- 02.13.30 But the more the job went on, you had to wear your respirator. So, uh, you know, there was people that were hired just to watch to make sure you had your respirator on. And if you didn't, they would come up to you and tell you to put your respirator on. You know, you would have it hanging half off so you could talk or whatever, but they would make you put it back on again. So I mean, I stayed pretty disciplined with that, so maybe that's why I, I don't have any health problems right now. You know, knock on wood. I mean, what's happening is, it's all coming out now, later on.
- 02.14.00 Like, people didn't get sick like, right at the beginning. They're all getting sick now, four and five years later, you know what I mean? So, uh, and you know, 20 years from now, I can get sick, you know, never know. You never, you don't know (LAUGHS) what's gonna happen to you. You get sick from anything. So, you know, forget it. There's a girl at my daughter's bus stop, she came up. She's 17. She's got a tumor in her head, you know. You know, you don't know what's gonna happen to her. She's, you know, got to go for an operation in Texas, she was telling us, you know.
- 02.14.32 We just met her at the bus, they just moved up here over the summer. You know, she came to the bus stop with her mother. And, you know, she was telling us the story that, you know, she day she woke up and uh, she had a headache. And they did some X-rays and they found a tumor. And you never know. So. I don't let that bother me. I just got to live my life the way, you know, for everyday, you know. That's it.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: How's the weekend work going?

- 02.15.35 BRIAN LYONS: It's gonna stop. 'Cos I'm working six nights, you know, a week now, so that puts a squash on, on things. But, you know, it's a temporary thing. If it was gonna last like, eight years, then I would go to my boss and I would be like, you know, I'm not gonna work six days a week, every day, you know. That's, you know, we're gonna have to get, and Tishman is like that. They don't want you to work six days a week. You're supposed to rotate.

- 02.16.00 There's superintendents and stuff. And so you work this weekend and then you have off for four weekends. And then you work like, the fifth weekend one extra day. And then you have off for five or six weekends. And it ends up being like that. Right now, the crew is small, because we're not doing a lot of stuff. We have just me supervising like, four or five electricians at night. And then outside, there's one super supervising two or three machines digging a little hole in the ground.
- 02.16.29 So, you know, there's not a lot of people on the project yet, you know what I mean? Up in the office, there's a ton of people. They're doing schedules, but the office is, which is at 170 Broadway, is, uh, they're doing multiple projects. They're doing the Freedom Tower and they're doing Tower Two, Three and Four. They're doing schedules, budgets, you know, contracts. All different things for the other towers.
- 02.17.00 So, you know, the office has a lot of people in it. But the field really has a super at night and super at day. And then they have one college kid helping out the guy in the daytime. So that's all there is in the field really. Whereas when you're, we're building Seven World Trade Center, like, in the middle of the construction, you might have 12 superintendents and six (?) assistant superintendents.
- 02.17.30 You know, and 30 laborers, you know what I mean? So you know, we're nowhere near that point yet, you know. To cover for, you know, whatever, you know.

JW: Five years later, any philosophies that have changed?

- 02.17.42 BRIAN LYONS: No, no, no. I think one of the major things from five years was that we spoke about rebuilding Ground Zero and uh, building like, the Freedom Tower or the biggest building in the world, that I would like to be involved with that.
- 02.18.01 But I wasn't with a company that was gonna be involved building that thing. So somehow fate had switched me over to get into this company that I'm working with that's building the biggest building in the world. And now I'm a project manager on it. And uh, now I'm building, you know, the biggest building in the world at Ground Zero, the first building, you know, to be built there. So you know, that's, you know, fate, if you call it, or, you know, it's got to be something, you know what I mean? So.

JW: What is it?

02.18.37 BRIAN LYONS: Faith, I think, you know. Absolutely.

JW: Fate or faith?

BRIAN LYONS: Faith. Fate. You know, so you know, definitely, you know, someone was watching over me to put me there, you know.

JW: I remember the story about the subway.

02.18.59 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, Michael Lyons on the subway.

JW: And you talked about (?). You saw them as signs?

BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, yeah, absolutely, yeah.

JW: Any signs recently?

02.19.10 BRIAN LYONS: No, no, no, no, no. We thought, I thought about that, but the only thing I, the only one I think was when I got hired with Tishman to do the uh, Freedom Tower was that my brother was looking over me to do that, you know. And, you know, I had spoken to Elaine about that.

02.19.31 She knows a lot about those, you know, the coincidences. And she never got any. And she was like, jealous kind of type of thing, you know, where she wanted to get like, some feedback or some signs or something, you know what I mean? And lately she's been getting them. Like, like she looks at the clock and it says 9:11.

02.19.58 You know, and she looks at another clock and it says 9:11. Or uh, she does something and Michael's picture, you know, falls out of the closet or something like that, you know what I mean? So lately, she's, she's been getting a couple of things, she told me, you know. That seemed odd, you know. That she thought that they were signs or whatever, you know.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

02.21.00 BRIAN LYONS: There you go. Fate. It wasn't by accident. It's just something that, something guides you through those things, I guess. We don't know what it is. I don't know what it is. But (~JW~)

JW: How's your spiritual life? Do you go to church?

02.21.25 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, I go to church on Sunday. And, you know, I mean, we haven't sat in 9-11 pew or anything like that. But (LAUGHS) my daughter made her communion this year and we had a party at the restaurant on the lake and stuff. So that was exciting. That was in May, you know. And uh, you know, and that now Elizabeth has to, she's gonna be making her confirmation like, in two years. So she's going like, Wednesday nights to CCD, you know, and, you know, we don't do too much stuff with the church.

02.22.03 But you know, we go on Sunday. And they have bazaars or carnivals or whatever. We go to those and, you know, basically do that type of thing, you know.

JW: Is your relationship with Elaine still good?

02.22.18 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. You know, we talk. She came over one weekend in the summer and the kids all went in the pool together. It's hard, you know, very busy schedule. And she lives, you know, down county, we live county. And it's hard to hook up really, you know. And I've been working a lot of nights and weekends. Like, you know, when I work Friday night, I come home Saturday. Saturday day is wasted because I'm sleeping pretty much, you know.

02.22.42 You know, so then you have Saturday night. And then Sunday day you do something, but (?) work Sunday night. So you can't plan, you know, too much stuff, you know. No, but we had a good summer. We went to (Hamanasek?), that was the place that you guys filmed us one time. We went Memorial Day weekend with the camper.

- 02.23.04 And then we went to Wildwood, which is a place in south Jersey. It's a big amusement park and all that stuff. We got a campsite down there. We went to the beaches and stuff for Fourth of July weekend. Took five days for that. Then I paint, I have an old camper. It's like, '73. Like, when we pull out of the driveway, it looks like this like old junk car that you're pulling. So before we went away to Lake George, I sanded it all down, redid the roof, and painted it all white and then put a red stripe on it and everything.
- 02.23.37 There used to be an old red stripe on it. Cleaned up the hubcaps and did the framework underneath, painted it. So now it looks nice. Looks like an old, an antique car that's been painted all up and stuff. So, and then I strapped my john boat to the top and brought my little horsepower engine. So we had a boat to go fishing and stuff. And so we went up there in style this time, you know.
- 02.24.02 No, what I was telling Tom is, we took the girls out. They loved it. I brought, went to Wal-Mart, we went (?) up there. And I bought them two nice light poles, you know. So that when they caught a fish, they could get a good fight off of them. And we were catching like, four- and five-pound small mouthed bass like, every cast, you know what I mean? And the 11-year old, she goes, she caught the biggest ones. And her pole was like, going under the boat and she was like, you know, couldn't, I can't hold onto it anymore.
- 02.24.35 And the biggest thing was get the net, the net, you know. And no one knows where the net us. And you know, they were getting the net and getting it out. Getting them in the boat and stuff. You know, and then we ate a few at night and stuff, you know, put them on the grill. So they had a blast doing that, you know. So now the 11-year old, she wants to go salmon fishing with me. Up at Lake Ontario. So we're I'm gonna take her with me. We're gonna take, I'm gonna get a weekend off or whatever.
- 02.25.01 And I've been watching the internet. You can see that they're like, in, last week, they were in ten and 30 foot of water, right outside the mouth of the river. Now they're in five to 20 foot of water outside the mouth of the river. They're with a couple in the river. And probably by next week, by the, end like, near the end of September, it depends on the temperature up there and the temperature of the water and stuff, and the speed of the water, for how much salmon come (?) upstream.
- 02.25.36 So you can look up, look it up on the website. So I'll wait till the fishing is good and then we'll go up one weekend. We'll take the boat with us. And then we can float around right at

the mouth of the river and then she can just drop the hook down and just try to get one, you know. At least she'll get a fight. They're like, you know, 30-pounders. So that'll be good. Even if she can't hold it in there, at least she'll be able to get the fight on there a little bit, you know.

02.26.00 I'll have to strap her in the boat (LAUGHS) so the thing don't pull her in, pull her in the boat. I remember one year, it pulled my anchor. The thing was dragging the boat and the anchor and stuff with me. 'Cos I have like, a little concrete thing that I made an anchor out of, you know. And this thing was like, pulling the boat and the anchor and everything. And finally, the line snapped. I couldn't keep up with it. 'Cos I was the only one in the boat. You needed someone to pull the anchor up, start the motor up.

02.26.31 And chase the fish a little bit, you know. But I didn't have anybody, you know, to help me to do that. So I got, the thing went so far, then snapped the line.

JW: What are the high points of the year?

02.26.48 BRIAN LYONS: No, no, just camping and stuff. It's (?) been a very mellow year, you know. From January, I started nights in March. Uh. You know, we got, we had the big heat wave all through like, June and July. So when I would come home, the kids would go in the pool, like, with, they would sleep late 'til like, eleven.

02.27.11 Then they had lunch and they would go right immediately to the pool. Pool water was really good. And I got up at like, two o'clock. And then I would spend the rest of the afternoon with them till six or so in the pool, you know. And we did that for weeks after weeks, two, three, four weeks in a row, you know.

02.27.30 And, you know, just relaxed. I didn't do nothing on the house, you know, 'cos I really didn't have the time. If you're working nights, you don't really have the time to, to start, and just all little projects, you know. Cleaning up, weed whacking once in awhile. I got a guy to cut the grass for me, but he doesn't do all the weed whacking. So weed whack a little. Keep the plants in front of the house, you know, watered. And you know, cleaned up the driveway one day. And I do little odds and ends as you go along.

02.28.01 But there was no big events this year at all. You know, we, my daughter made her communion. That was a big thing. So we had a party for that, you know, and, uh, you know,

that was in May. So that, you know, that was obviously a big thing. And uh, you know, my daughter lives with us now, so she helps out some stuff. So that helps, so, you know, there was no real, you know, the biggest thing was being uh, with Tishman and, you know, in March, being sent over to the Freedom Tower.

02.28.32 And working on that. You know, I got a big article in The New York Times with my photograph in it and stuff like that. So that's, you know, not the biggest thing in the world. But it was something just for the scrapbook, I guess, you know. That was good. You know, Silverstein people really appreciate the stuff that I'm doing for them. They constantly, uh, you know, are praising me for helping out and uh, helping them with their publicity and are very sentimental that I had lost my brother.

02.29.03 And that I'm doing the work on Seven and doing the work at the Freedom Tower. And you know, the Silverstein people are really good, you know. They're a very, very good group of people, you know. So you know, things have been, you know, pretty good for the year.

JW: How did you find out you got the job?

02.29.26 BRIAN LYONS: No, well, what I did was I approached them. And uh, through the Port Authority, one of the head guys at the Port Authority that I know, I wanted to know who the best person to contact at Tishman was. And he gave me his name. And he called the guy up for me and said that, you know, this guy, Brian, will be calling you. And you know, he built the PATH restoration project for us. And you know, you should, you know, take a look at him. So I emailed him my resume and stuff.

02.29.58 And through the recommendation of the main guys from the Port Authority, I got hired like, within a couple days. You know, the guy even said, he goes, you got like, the highest recommendations. I got off the phone with the guy and I wanted to hire you right away from what the guy had told me. All the stuff that you possibly can do for us. So you know, you got the job right away, you know, so I had like, one interview. And I got the job. So.

JW: What motivated you to pick up the phone?

- 02.30.29 BRIAN LYONS: Well, they warned me. They were like, we're running out of work for you, Brian, you know. 'Cos what happened is, I worked for them uh, for the cleanup. You know, 'cos you know, my story is, I worked for a company in midtown. And when 9-11 came, I went down to Ground Zero obviously. And I took, I tried to take a leave of absence from the company I was with. But then I ended up just leaving them and got a job with one of the main contractors that was at Ground Zero.
- 02.31.02 So I did the recovery with them. But they were being reimbursed for my salary, okay. So for what I wanted to get paid for what I do, they were getting reimbursed for. But in their mind, they were paying me like, more they pay like, other people that work for them, I guess. And then we did the PATH restoration project. And that was the same issue. They're getting reimbursed plus more.
- 02.31.29 Like, they pay me. And they bill the Port Authority. If they pay me \$10, they're billing the Port Authority \$15 an hour for my services. So they're making money on me, you know what I mean? So when that ended, they sent me to another job, but it was their own job. So they're not making, they're not getting reimbursed for my salary or anything like that. So that job was like, ending. And they were running out of big jobs to do.
- 02.32.00 And I'm a big job type of person, that manages big jobs. They had like, a little sewer line job here and there. And they got superintendents that make half of what I make that do those type of jobs for them for years and years and years. So you know, the boss is like, you know, Brian, we're running out of, you know, jobs for you. We don't have nowhere to go. I don't know where to put you. Like, he was like, hinting around. So you know, I could smell like, the river. I was like, you know what, I'm making some phone calls.
- 02.32.32 'Cos I was coming down to Ground Zero and talking to the guys that, there was two Tishman guys down there tearing the garage section down that was there. And I was like, you know, you guys are gonna be starting up soon. So you're gonna need someone to do the utilities. I should talk to Tishman about it. And one of them had come from the PATH restoration project. The super that's there now. This guy, Carmine. So he's like, yeah, you should send your resume in. So I went and seen that Port Authority guy.
- 02.33.01 And then he called up. And then I had that job the next day. So I went back to my other company and I was like, look, I got another job. I'll see you later. I'm working for Tishman. I mean, they knew who Tishman is, so, you know, I said, I'm gonna work at Ground Zero. So

I'll see you later. You know, and they weren't sad to see me go because they were paying me, you know, they (?) didn't want to pay the high salary for doing stuff. They're a small, they were actually, they were a small street company that got lucky to work at Ground Zero because they were doing a street job right at Ground Zero.

02.33.36 Right outside the gate of Ground Zero. And they had bulldozers and stuff like that. So when the towers fell, their bulldozers started picking stuff up and stuff. So the city hired them to continue working. And then, so they needed, and they went out and hired, you know, different consultants and like, guys like me and stuff like that.

02.33.59 But they were getting reimbursed for your salary, you know what I mean? And (?) the field that I'm in like, Tishman's field is, they pay you for those salaries, 'cos, excuse me, they know how hard the work is. Like, when (?) you get going and we start building the Freedom Tower, and you got to manage electricians and sheet metal workers and stuff, and read drawings and get everything done, you know, that's not easy to do.

02.34.26 So there's a certain pay scale that they know that someone of your caliber needs to be paid. And they gladly to pay that for you. Plus we, they get reimbursed. That's what the construction managers do. They get three percent of anything that they bill. So, you know, they would get my salary plus three percent. And then so they make three percent off of your salary or whatever. That's how construction managers work, you know, so.

02.34.58 They weren't afraid to pay the salary that I wanted to make in order to make ends meet, you know. So that's how that all kind of happened.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: Describe the work that's going on down there right now compared to last year.

02.35.40 BRIAN LYONS: Well, probably like, 18 months ago, when I started with Tishman Construction, they had, when they were building Seven World Trade Center, right, nothing is happening at Ground Zero, all right? Tishman was hired to, uh, they were going to build the original tower.

02.36.00 So there were still sections of Building Six garage slabs there that they had to take down. So they took those things down. And then all work pretty much stopped at Ground Zero. There

was nothing. Nothing happening. Just the trains going around and around there, all right? But Seven World Trade Center was being built. But that was in its own little world. It's off on Vesey Street. They had their own little block. And that was coming out of the ground. And you know, I wasn't involved with that.

02.36.32 I was at a different company at the time. So uh, just when I came on board, you know, they were going just to start the Freedom Tower and so on, all right? And that's about 18 months ago. And uh, you know, uh, Tishman has a main office, the, the office to manage Seven World Trade Center is at 170 Broadway.

02.37.00 So you could walk, get off the train and, at Fulton Street, and walk up Broadway and go into 170 Broadway. And the Port Authority's offices are at 115 Broadway, which is across the street, one block down. So you know, they're very close together. So you know, in case they have to communicate, it's not very far away from each other. So at this point, nothing's happening at Ground Zero.

02.37.29 You can get off the train at Fulton Street and Broadway, and just walk down Broadway with all the other people. And go into your office building. And Seven World Trade Center's being built in a nice little square. As time progressed, they started the transportation hub, okay, at Fulton Street. So they brought machines in. They started drilling for boring. So one day you see (?) one machine out there just drilling holes.

02.38.01 They're taking samples of the soil and the rock and so on, right. And then.

JW: What did they do with the samples?

02.38.10 BRIAN LYONS: They, it's a geological profile of the earth underneath the sidewalk. Like, is it sand, is it dirt. How far the rock is, how hard the rock is. In case they got to drive piles or put footings in and so on.

02.38.30 So they get a drawing that shows you uh, a boring schedule that tells you how deep rock is, what type of soils are there. In case you have to excavate or drill into the rock yourself, you need to know, you know, what you're dealing with, you know. So there's one, you see one truck out there doing that. And then suddenly, you know, within three to four weeks, next thing you know, they're digging up the road, relocating utilities on Broadway.

- 02.39.04 They got one lane closed. They're outside our building, closed off like, the whole section. They're digging new entrances to the subways down there. They're uh, got manholes by Fulton Street. They've closed the subway on the weekend. They close it after midnight, because they're drilling piles down there now. They closed like, Day Street, 'cos they got big caisson machines there drilling down right outside the Millennium Hotel.
- 02.39.35 And this is all for the Fulton Street hub that's gonna connect the train that's up on Broadway with the train that's on Fulton Street with the trains that are at the PATH station. So that's like, a \$2.5 billion project that's funded by FEMA that the governor and all them wanted to have was this transportation hub. So that it would connect all these railroads with the PATH station, all right.
- 02.40.04 So if you walk up on Broadway, you can't even get by it. There's like, arrows this way, everything's all dug up. And they closed a whole bunch of stores 'cos they're tearing down some buildings over there for this hub. And there's a while, I haven't seen the whole plan, but there's just massive amount of work on Broadway and the side streets heading towards Ground Zero.
- 02.40.28 Because of the transportation hub that they're gonna build under ground. They're drilling from the top down and they got guys in the subway drilling and digging and doing all sorts of shoring and stuff like that.

JW: What are piles?

- 02.40.42 BRIAN LYONS: A pile is something that goes from a certain height up in the air above the surface down into the rock to support some type of footing or something that you want to put on top of that, you know what I mean?

JW: That's made of steel?

- 02.40.57 BRIAN LYONS: It's made of steel, yes. It's like an I-beam. Looks like an I-beam. (~JW~) So you've got a lot of work going on on Broadway. And on all the side streets. Seven World Trade Center is finished and there's a park out there, so nothing's happening over in that area. And uh, you know, around Ground Zero, you know, they, with the transportation hub,

they got the sidewalk closed out in front. They got C boxes and stuff out on the street diverting people like, onto the street and around the buildings and stuff like that. That's all for the transportation hub.

- 02.41.38 And then when you get into the pit, you got the Freedom Tower being built. They have blasted rock, 80-ton rock, down like, 18 feet so far. The utility work that's going around the train, the train service is stopped, you know, six nights a week, from midnight to six o'clock in the morning.
- 02.41.57 So that work is going on. And then two weeks ago, they started the memorial. They started drilling for some footings and so on. They brought trailers down there. Loaders, machines. Drilling machines. Trucks. That type of thing. And then Deutsche Bank started putting a crane up to start dismantling that section. That's supposed to start in the next couple of weeks. That got delayed 'cos they found like, 700 body parts on that, on the roof of the building.
- 02.42.31 Like, in the last four or five months. (LAUGHS) When (?) they uh, went to demo that. So I don't know what happened with that, but somebody missed that. So that, you know, that was in the paper. But, and they're gonna retest those from uh, that new DNA company that's going to uh, double check all those items, you know.

JW: If I went down there tonight, what would I see?

- 02.43.05 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, yeah, they're pulling electrical cable. Mounting some railroad switches on some framework. And doing some fiber optic pulling connections on, in some fiber optic rooms. That's probably about what would be happening down underneath in the train section tonight.

JW: What's the blasting about?

- 02.43.27 BRIAN LYONS: Well, blasting is not such a big thing. They, they drill holes. They put charges in it. They cover it with mats. They connect the wire. It goes bump. And it cracks the rock. And then they take the mats off. Then the excavator just pulls the big rock out. So it's not like, it's a big thing. (Boosh?). You know, and people think stuff's flying all over the

place and stuff like that. It's just something to shatter a rock, cracks it. 'Cos they drill holes first, so if you drill a hole here, drill a hole 12 inches, 12 inches, 12 inches, 12 inches, 12 inches, they do about 50 of those.

02.44.07 Then they put small charge in those things with wires. And then they blast it. And then a crack occurs between that hole they drilled and the next hole. Crack, crack, crack, crack. And then it cracks the rock. So then they, the excavator can just dig it out. Otherwise, they have to have a hammer, a hydraulic hammer chip away at it. And it's 80-ton rock, so it takes a longer time to do that, you know.

02.44.34 And they did a study like, you know, like, if they were going to, and that's why they let them do it. Because the study was so overwhelming, that you know, they could drill the holes and put, and just do the little (boof?) and crack the rock and dig it out, like, in two days, where it would take them three to four weeks of doing a hammer.

02.44.56 You got noise, using, you know, 500,000 gallons more diesel fuel on (?) the project, you know. You know, uh, you know, there was all these different environmental issues that came up, that it was easier just to blast the rock a little bit and dig it out with the excavator than use hydraulic equipment to (?) crack the rock, you know.

JW: Any low points in the year?

02.45.30 BRIAN LYONS: No, no, no, nothing really. You know, just I miss having the week, whole weekend off, you know. That's about it.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

02.45.46 END OF TAPE # BL 28

TAPE # BL29
Brian Lyons
JIM WHITAKER, Producer/director
PROJECT REBIRTH

03.01.00 PICTURE UP

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: Quite a difference from last year when you were talking about focus. Any thoughts on focusing and dissociation?

03.01.46 BRIAN LYONS: No, I've gotten better with that now. Now I can focus on what I have to do and you know, I went to therapy for a little while. They give you exercises to do that Uh, helps you with

JW: What kind of exercises?

03.02.00 BRIAN LYONS: You know, to take one item and focus, make sure you're focused on that thing for five minutes. And then just leave it alone. And then maybe do that three times a day. And if you do that for so many months, you know, you get, your brain refocuses itself to focus on stuff. You're retraining your brain to come back to, to reality, to focus. Instead of drifting off thinking of Ground Zero or a body part or whatever it might be, you know what I mean?

JW: Do you have those experiences still?

03.02.37 BRIAN LYONS: No, no, no, I'm fine now, I think, yeah.

JW: You did have the problem seeing a sneaker on the side of the road.

BRIAN LYONS: No, no, right, right, right. No, no, it's pretty good now.

JW: Were you nervous about this interview?

- 03.02.56 BRIAN LYONS: Oh yeah, I'll tell you. You're gonna hate it, but you know, it's like a bad divorce, okay. It's like, I'm thinking, oh, I got to do this fucking interview again. It's like, today is pretty good, though. I got to admit. It's better than I thought it was gonna be. It's like, you got divorced five years ago, all right. Then you got remarried and you have kids. And now you're coming, someone wants to sit down and talk to you about your old wife. You know, what's your wife think of you, your new job? (LAUGHS)
- 03.03.31 Or what does your ex-wife think of your, you know, what do you think about your ex-wife, you know? Is she dating somebody now? Or (?) whatever. It's like, it's like, you're trying to forget about all the crap that happened like, five years ago and move on. And then you know you got to do this interview, and they're gonna ask you all about the stuff that happened five years ago, you know? Ground Zero, you know, (?) all sorts of things like that. You're trying to move on and move forward and stuff.
- 03.04.04 But this time of year, and it's not just this interview, it's like, you know, Silverstein has guys that want to talk to me. And uh, you know, other people ask you, and you know, and then you got to come down to the ceremony itself type of thing, you know. And it just, for sometimes in moments, it's just like, it's like, you wish it like, never happened, because you've got to relive the whole thing over again for brief moments, you know what I mean?
- 03.04.36 The 9-11 thing like, the ceremony this year, I'm looking forward to it because I'm bringing the kids with us. And it's kind of like, special for them. We can bring them down. I can walk them, we're gonna walk around on Sunday night. We can show them where we were working like, my brother Sean is coming. There's the new memorial by the firehouse we're gonna go visit.
- 03.04.58 You know, we, you know, can show them a couple of things. And you know, that's a new type of thing, you know what I mean? And it might give them some closure type of stuff, you know what I mean? But you know, (?) constantly going back to five years ago and like, revisiting like, all the issues of, you know, even at work, like, like when we, some of the

electricians and (?) the engineer from the Port Authority, you know, they know that my brother was killed and that I was here at 9-11.

03.05.35 And then they ask you questions like, you know, what was it like, you know. First of all, do you have any lung problems? Everybody wants to know that 'cos it's in the paper. And then uh, you know, what were you doing? And then, you know, everyone asks you questions about like, what happened five years ago, you know what I mean? And it's like, sometimes that gets old. It just gets old, you know. You're tired of talking about it.

03.05.57 You know, you're just like, I'm moving on. I'm building a building now. I'm building the biggest building in the world. I got a new job. I'm uh, going salmon fishing with my girl in like, three weeks maybe. And you know, that's what I want to do, you know. And tired of talking about my, you know, ex-wife from five years ago that, you know, you know, threw out my golf clubs out the window or whatever the hell happened, you know what I'm saying. (LAUGHS) You know, it's like, you just get like, what the hell is going on here.

03.06.30 So you know, sometimes I get nervous about coming down for the interview, you know what I mean? It's like, and then the scheduling thing, you know, it was like, you know, thank god I got that hotel last night, otherwise it was like, a whole 'nother thing. I had to go home and drive back down here. And get a parking spot. And it's like, pain in the neck, you know. And the city's worse than ever now. It's like, traffic is everywhere. And if you fucking stop at a red light, they'll give you a ticket for parking, you know what I mean?

03.06.59 It's like, it's like, ridiculous, you know. (LAUGHS) So you know, it's, you know, logistically, it's, you know, worked out this year. And you know, it's, you know, I feel fine this year talking about stuff 'cos we're talking about, you know, newer things, I guess, and stuff. But yeah, I do, you get like, anxiety, a little anxiety about you know, revisiting like, what happened and you know, all those type of things, you know.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

03.07.54 BRIAN LYONS: No, I'm dedicated to the project. That's why I was calling 'cos I said, you know, we're digging a hole now. There's no birds. You could come down and film. Where are you guys? Hello. I seen Tom once. Him and his dog. That was about it. But you know, and, but then I know, and (?) I realize, and it is hard to get access to the place and (?) stuff. I

mean, you guys have the cameras, but to physically come down with equipment and stuff, people have heart attacks, you know.

03.08.28 Like, they see a guy with a camera, forget about it. They're like, you know, who are you, what are you doing, you know. They strip search the guy, you know. They want to know what's gonna on. The (?) this was interesting, too, is like, Silverstein, there were a guy gonna write an article on Seven World Trade Center and then he also wanted to talk about the Freedom Tower because they were, Silverstein was gonna build the Freedom Tower. And he's writing a book. And he's a European guy or whatever.

03.09.00 I don't know where Silverstein publicists, they get all these guys from. But you know, they hand-pick exactly who they want, you know, specifically to do stories for or whatever. So they had got this guy, whoever was writing, he was writing these articles and books and stuff. And it's a European-type of issues. And he interviewed me like, in January. And about three weeks ago, I get a call from Dara and he's like, there's a photographer gonna come down and he needs to take your picture because So-and-So interviewed you and they need a photograph to go along with the article about, you know, the stuff that you told them and stuff.

03.09.43 And at first, we didn't know who the guy was. And I was like, it was for a Swiss Magazine. And I was like, I never interviewed anyone for Swiss Magazine. And it turned out to be this guy that was writing a book. And Swiss Magazine is doing an article on the guy that's writing the book.

03.10.02 And they're gonna have excerpts of the book uh, in the magazine. But this guy flew all the way from Sweden to just to take my picture. And I work at nighttime. So I met him at like, midnight in front of Seven World Trade Center. And he wasn't allowed to get into the site 'cos we couldn't, they couldn't get him credentials or whatever. So we just stood outside the gate near whatever closest thing you could see of whatever you can see of Ground Zero from looking outside the gate.

03.10.33 And this guy took my picture for like, 90 seconds. And he's like, okay, I'm done. I said, you flew all the way over here just to take my picture? He's like, yeah, I got to go now. I'm taking a plane back tomorrow. You know, and he took a plane back to Sweden or wherever he went to. You know, I was like, you know, that wasn't so bad, you know.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: Are there parallels between your healing and the construction of the site?

- 03.12.02 BRIAN LYONS: Yes, and it's not gonna be, it's not a fast thing, you know. Like, especially with the Port Authority, it's like, you know, there's a lot of uh, you know, double diligence, if you will, you know what I mean? It's like, when (?) you, for example, when they built Building Number Seven, all right, like, this is the process of construction.
- 03.12.30 You have an architect who designs the building, all right. And there's an owner that owns some property, all right. And he says, okay, I'm gonna hire you as my architect to build the building for me, all right. Show me what you got. So the architect draws up a building, shows it to the guy. He says, okay, this is what I'd like to have. Thank you very much. Go ahead and let's start building it.
- 03.12.59 So then the developer, which was Silverstein, has to hire a contractor. But he hires Tishman Construction to be the manager to hire, you know, all the steel workers and so on, and you know, sheet metal workers and (?) stuff. So the architect hires uh, an engineering firm. The architect just does the framework of the building. You know, the uh, what it looks like and the floor plans and where a closet is and where your conference rooms are and so on.
- 03.13.34 Then he hires an engineering firm that designs the heating for that closet, the heating for the conference room. The lighting for the conference room. You know, the boiler systems, the, you know, the water systems. You know, all, all the mechanicals, the ventilation systems that go along with that. So now you have an architectural firm and you have an engineering firm.
- 02.14.02 And they are the two basics of building the building, all right. Along with that, there's a whole line of people -lighting consultants, ventilation consultants, elevator consultants. You know, (?) but they all fall underneath the engineering guy, all right. And so what happens is, a company like Tishman, what we do is, you know, we, they supply us with drawings.
- 02.14.32 The architect makes them, okay. He sends them to the engineer. The engineer puts on his plumbing and heating and everything on them. And then they come up with a conformed set of drawings that's ready to build. And then they send them to the construction manager, us. So we look at them and then now we got, there's 10,000 feet of pipe, so that costs two cents a foot. So that's, you know, a zillion dollars or whatever it is.

- 03.14.59 And you know, we need to get a plumbing guy to do that. And his price is, you know, one million dollars to put all the piping in. And then ventilation drawings, uh, that's two million dollars for that. The concrete, that's four million dollars for that. And so then we tell them, listen, your building's gonna cost \$750 million because this is what you want to have and then everybody says okay. And then start building. So then they start digging in the ground and then they start building up. So, but what happens is, if you run into a problem or something's got to be inspected, you call, (?) if it's a mechanical thing, you call the engineer.
- 03.15.39 And he has a guy like, an apprentice or an associate guy, like, assistant project manager or a project manager, that will come down and uh, inspect what you had to do, or if you had a question on it, he would answer it. Send you an email, give you an answer.
- 03.16.00 You would say, look, you wanted a 12-inch piece of pipe over here, but the hole is only ten inches, okay. Can we change that, do we change the hole to 12 inches or do we change the pipe to ten inches. And they say, okay, we'll get back to you. They send you an email. Change the hole to 12 inches. All right. So you change the hole to 12 inches. And you're, two days later, the pipe is in and off you go. That's the standard way a building is built.
- 03.16.31 When you deal with the Port Authority, though, you have the same process, but all the approvals and stuff that go along with uh, building that building, like, when the piping system is designed, the plumbing guy's got to make a drawing up. And he sends it to the engineer. And the engineer looks at the plumbing drawing and he says, okay, you got a valve here, you got a valve here. And I asked for three valves.
- 03.17.00 You only drew up two valves. You got to add a valve. You forgot that one. So he marks it in there. And he puts in, the contractor was trying to get away with only two valves 'cos he bid the thing for a million dollars. So he figured, I only need two valves there. I don't know why he wants a third one. Let me see if I can just stick it in with two valves. But then the engineer catches that and says, no, put three valves in. So that process happens. But now all that stuff goes to the Port Authority now.
- 03.17.30 They look at it. And then they come back with like, nine million questions. Like, why do you even need plumbing in the building, okay. Well, we need to turn the bathroom water on. That would be the first answer, all right. And (?) you get the sense that these are the questions that they come back with, you know what I mean? And then you have to send it back to the engineer. He has to look at the comments from the Port Authority.

03.18.00 Then that gets sent back to us. And then back to the Port Authority to be reviewed again. And then if it's okay, it gets sent back to the engineer, which approves it. Then it gets sent back to us and then we can build it. So this is what happens all day long. You're digging a hole in the pit. And the Port Authority guy comes up and says, why are you doing it that way? Well, that's what the drawing says is, well, that's not our specifications.

03.18.33 Stop. So now we got to write a letter to this guy. He's got to send it to us. We got to send it to the Port Authority. Port Authority sends it back to us. We send it back to him. He reviews it. Says it's okay or not okay. Again. He sends it back to us. Back to the Port Authority. Port Authority sends it back to us. We got to send it back to him. Comes back to us with the correct answer. And then you correct the problem or it was no problem.

03.19.02 So that's what happens. So you get dizzy from like, figuring out what, like, what happens when you're dealing with a different agency. That's why some things are so, go so slowly. Like, we were pulling cable, like, we get, the engineer says, okay, pull the cable. It's 6000 psi. You're allowed tension on the cable. So we're pulling the cable.

03.19.30 And the Port Authority is there. And they're like, well, we only want 1000 psi. So we already reached 3000 psi. So now they're like, well, then all that cable that you pulled is no good now. So now you spend weeks on, this engineer recalculates everything. He sends it to the Port, you know, the whole thing goes back and forth. That's what happened. It took like, eight weeks to get one cable put in because one Port Authority guy came by and said, oh, that's, instead of 3000, it should be 1000.

03.20.06 Where the engineer that was over here said use 3000 psi to pull the cable. But the Port Authority guy walked up and said, oh no, we use 1000.

JW: But it's not always Port Authority, is it?

03.20.26 BRIAN LYONS: Ninety percent of the time it's the Port Authority guy that's, that does this. And that's the same way that happened when we built the PATH restoration project.

JW: How did that get built so fast?

03.20.48 BRIAN LYONS: I could tell you why is I had the police like, threaten me to be arrested

like, 100 times, because I would just, they would tell me, Brian, no, no, no, you can't pour concrete in there. That's not approved. You can't do that. I would just say, concrete truck, back it up, back it up, pour it in there. Pour it in there.

- 03.21.06 And they'd be like, no, Brian, you can't pour the concrete there. Step out of the way. Concrete truck, keep coming. Pour it in there, pour it in. Move out of the way. Get out of the way. We're gonna hit you with the truck. All right, safety guy, get him out of the way 'cos he's gonna get hit with that truck. Fill that thing up with concrete. And then we would fill it up with concrete. And then you know what? If you want me to chop it out later, I'll chop it out later. But right now, that thing is built, all right. And that's how that thing got built.
- 03.21.32 And that's why the Port Authority had, you know, such high regards for me. And I got the thing built and on time for the governors. And then they gave me a high recommendation to Tishman. And that's why I got hired quickly. Because I got the thing built for them, you know. Because there would be an inspector, you know, that, you know, would find one little thing wrong that's (?) a common thing in construction. It's not, you can't stop.
- 03.22.00 We got 15, 18 guys here with five to six concrete trucks full of concrete. You can't stop right now. What do you think's gonna happen? Where does the concrete go? Who's paying for all these guys, you know what I'm saying. Sometimes it's 30 guys ready to pour some, it's like a shoot. You're ready to do something and you got like, you know, the ship over here in the ocean and you got like, some guy over here. and you got stuntmen up there. And you got this guy.
- 03.22.30 And someone walks up and says, you know, that's not really in the script that way kind of thing. And you're like, who know what, cross that out. You jump. Go ahead, you know. (LAUGHS) You know, this is, this is what happens, you know what I'm saying. This is, you know, what went on there. But like, this is, this is a little different because it was a lot of political pressure. And I was pushing that job like crazy to get stuff done.
- 03.23.02 And the Port Authority knew they had guys in the field that weren't all up to snuff on exactly like, what they were doing. So you know, if we had to tear something out later on, which we did occasionally, we had to go back and fix it, 'cos you know, whatever they wanted to do, we repaired, whatever, or added something to it to make it stronger or whatever the case may be. But we're not stopping now. We'll rebuild it later. We'll make it stronger later.

- 03.23.30 We'll put a brace on it later. I don't care what we got to do. But right now, we're filling that thing up with concrete. So move out of the way, you know what I mean? It's like, you know, that's what we would, you know, we've been here all week building this thing. What were you doing, you know? Like, you looked at it all week long. Now the concrete trucks are here. Now you're saying stop? You know, (?) what's happening? Get out of the way. (LAUGHS) You know, so that's, you know, that was the difference.
- 03.23.58 We got that, you know, built fairly quickly because of some of those issues. But, you know, this is, you know, all hard money from like, (?) the contractor that's there bid the job for X amount of money to dig these holes. So if he feels he's gonna dig, like, if (?) a Port Authority guy comes up and looks at something, and he says maybe no, that contractor stops. He don't work over there. 'Cos he don't want to do something twice and waste the money on it.
- 03.24.33 'Cos it's all hard money. He bid it for such amount of money. And the PATH restoration project was time immaterial type of thing. Where there was, you know, you got paid even if it you did it wrong, you got paid. But you got to go back and fix it. But you know, you didn't do it, you didn't do too many things wrong. But I'm just saying, you had the opportunity to push a little harder than that, you know what I mean?
- 03.25.00 But you know, here, they're looking at, it's the biggest building in the world. And they want everything perfect. And they're double-checking everything. And they're triple-checking everything. And, and besides that, there's the whole aura, they got like, security and passes and guys who are trying to get in need like, five pieces of ID to get into the site. And uh, you know, it gets to be ridiculous. Like.
- 03.25.30 They don't understand like, some of the people that are making the rules for security don't understand the way the unions work in New York City. Or the way the labor pool is done. Like, you got a laborer that barely doesn't have a driver's license, okay, 'cos he takes the subway, all right. Never carries his union card with him, all right. He's barely gets to work in the morning, all right. Carries his lunch with him.
- 03.25.59 And we need to get him a pass. So where's your ID? You got a social security card? You got a driver's license? Huh? No. Where's your union card? Huh? I don't know. Home. So like, you can't get the guy in the site. So like, the guy can't come to work that day. So, but they got to pay him because they hired him from the hall to show up to work. And his union, you got to pay him show up time, which is two hours' show up time.

- 03.26.28 So you know, it becomes all these issues with security. And what kind of ID you need to get a pass. And what they actually carry with them and like, you know, how many guys in (?) the labor pool actually have their social security card on them at any moment. Do they even know where their social security card is? They need a social security card. They need a valid driver's license. You know, this is New York City.
- 03.26.58 People don't even have driver's licenses. They don't have cars. So like, how can he get an ID, if he don't have a driver's license? Well, he needs a driver's license to work on the site. Where'd you come up with that rule all of a sudden? So like, these are things that are being battled out like, even just to get the work force on the site to build stuff. That didn't happen before. That didn't happen during the other process.
- 03.27.28 You know, you just, the guy came from the union hall and it was just like, yeah, I'm from Local 25. And I was authorized to get him a pass. And I would just say, what's your name, you're from the Local. I would sign his sheet and he'd get a pass and he would be in. And that don't happen now. It's totally different, you know.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: Is your desire to move on because it's been five years?

- 03.28.08 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, yeah. 'Cos it's five years later. It's a long time. Yeah.

JW: Is that part of the process?

BRIAN LYONS: Yeah. Sure. Sure it is.

JW: How would you describe that?

- 03.28.18 BRIAN LYONS: No, it's a healing process, you know. I guess there's milestones in your life. And you know, you're older and five years is a long time. And uh, you know, that's why they pick those things is five years, ten years, 15 years, 20 years. All different things happen at those milestones. And they probably happen for reasons, you know what I mean?

- 03.28.40 And you know, five years is a long time. And you know, there's a lot of people that have moved on, you know. There was a thing with, uh, Elaine had the girls on, uh, they were on Prime Time Live the other night, where Mary, Mary Michael, who was born after 9-11, she was pregnant with her.
- 03.29.02 Diane Sawyer had a thing on Dateline or whatever it was, Prime Time Live, uh, all the babies, five years later. She, she took a picture of them when they were first born. And now it's five years later. And they showed back uh, in 2002, the babies and the mothers and the mothers were crying and they were all sentimental. And this and that.
- 03.29.30 And then this year, you know, like, half of them are all remarried with other children. And they've moved on and they were all happy with their life. And uh, different things, you know what I mean? They, you know, they even got remarried. So you know, their healing process had moved from in five years, you know, from here to, to way up here, you know what I mean? So you know, that was very interesting stories that they, they had, you know, for them.

JW: Is that how it is for you?

BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, yeah, sure, sure.

JW: When we talked last year, you didn't know where you were in the process.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

- 03.30.19 BRIAN LYONS: Well, I'm on a new project. I have a new job. I have a new position. You know, that all helps you, plus you're building the biggest building in the world. That makes you feel good. Like, my eight year old is in third grade.
- 03.30.32 She's like, I can't wait to go to school the first day and tell everybody, my dad's building the biggest building the world. And she went and did that. And she came home and she's like, no one believes me. So I'm going down there. I'm gonna see that thing. I want some pictures. I'm taking pictures and I'm bringing them to school, you know what I mean. (LAUGHS) So,

you know, that was like, the case where everyone's like, yeah, yeah, sure, sure. All like, the other girls are like, yeah, yeah, sure, sure.

03.30.59 They don't care about the biggest building in the world. But she hears me talking about it all the time. And it's part of our life type of thing, you know what I mean. You know, so she knows I come home from building it, take her to the bus stop. And pick her up. And that type of thing, you know what I mean. So she's real interested. The 11-year old don't care about it, you know. She's just very quiet about it or whatever, you know. She's very analytical.

03.31.28 It's the tallest building in the world, not the biggest building in the world. Okay. (LAUGHS) You know, stuff like that. That's what, like, she snaps back at her sister with that type of thing. She made the high honor roll all last year. And we went to like, a breakfast. That was very nice, actually, too, in June. She was on the high honor roll all year. And then at the end of the year, if you're on the high honor roll, they have a breakfast for the kids.

03.31.57 And the parents get to go. They have bagels and orange juice and stuff like that, you know. So we all went to that. So that was, that was very nice that she was on the high honor roll, you know, and uh, you know, we did that. But she's very, you know, very quiet, and then very analytical about, you know, about things, you know.

INTERVIEWER: How's her dancing?

03.32.18 BRIAN LYONS: No, no, they both do the Irish dancing. So she got a letter yesterday from the teacher that she signed up. She's gonna be doing solos now at high competition at the North American championships in, uh, we go every year, in Philadelphia, on Thanksgiving weekend.

03.32.37 So she'll be competing against probably 200 girls this time, you know. And uh, she needs to jump higher. She needs to practice. That's what, she needs to practice on her jumping. She needs to get up, get up off the ground a little higher, you know. (~JW~) She's solid as a rock, you know.

INTERVIEWER: Did you say, don't be bigger, be taller?

- 03.32.58 BRIAN LYONS: Jump higher. You got to jump. They look, those judges are looking for you to jump. You got to do this flamingo thing where, when you go from here to there sometimes, you jump. And your front leg is up and your back leg is like this. And you got to be in midair for like, one, two seconds and then back down to do stuff. So like, she can only do like, half of that now. You have to be able to do that whole, that whole flamingo thing, they call it.
- 03.33.30 They call it a flamingo, I guess, 'cos the way a flamingo stands or whatever. You have to be able to do that flamingo to get the high mark, to get those higher marks. They put you in a different marking range if you can do those flamingos. You got to jump. You got to get up in the air, you know. So yeah, so you got to practice. You got to practice your jumping. Guess you got to get your calves all, you know, down here worked out, you know.
- 03.34.04 So that's one of the things that she's gonna be working on, you know. We signed her up, we, you know, signed up for private lessons with the teacher. They go on weekends and they do private lessons. And they work on those type of things. Things that they need to work on. The flamingo, or standing on your toes more, or keeping your hand like, Patricia, your hands have to be like, really in.
- 03.34.28 Hers like, stick, like, when she jumps, if you jump like, when you jump, like, sometimes you need your shoulders to jump. So your arms automatically go like that. But you have to stay like that and jump. It's harder to do. You need more strength or whatever to do it that way. So you know, she, on Saturdays, at special lessons, they try to teach her, like, she duct taped her hands around the back of her body so she, you know, to keep her hands from going out, you know what I mean.

INTERVIEWER: Can we see that?

- 03.35.05 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, yeah, well, my wife keeps saying, tell Jim, you know, we got to get him to go to Irish dancing one day, one thing. But one of the issues is uh, that they have very strict rules. There's like, no camera allowed on (?) a lot of things. But like, on competition, there's no filming allowed at all. For competitions. It's in the rules.
- 03.35.28 So you're not allowed to video things or anything like that. But there's other things that they do is, like, we have show troupe, which they raise money for the school. Like, they go to

different events, like, they go to weddings or they go to a nursing home. Or you know, they went to a (?) minor league baseball game. And they performed. And they get paid like, 100 bucks or 200 bucks or whatever (?) the occasion might be, you know, how many girls they bring there.

03.36.00 And they do a routine. And they dance. And the girls really like that because there's no judges. So there's no anxiety. Like, when they have to go and dance, and the judges are there and stuff, there's, you know, like, I can see my 11-year old, there's all this anxiety. It's hard for them. They don't smile. They're like, everyone gets nervous. You're dancing against the other girl. And you dance two a time. You dance against another girl. There might be 20 girls.

03.36.31 You do two at a time. And then they get marks. And then like, they only come out with you know, three winners or whatever. But at the show troupe things, there's no judges. You're just, you're dancing for like, these people in a wheelchair or, you know, that, you know, they don't even know you're there kind of thing. (LAUGHS) So the music is going and, you know, they just are dancing around. And you know, they have a good time, you know. My little daughter makes up her own steps and stuff sometimes, you know.

03.37.00 And the teacher don't like that, but you know, she's like, a showgirl. She wants to like, you know, do, she does a spin around and stuff. She's not supposed to be doing that. Supposed to stay the traditional dance that they're supposed to do. (LAUGHS) But Patricia's like, no, I wanted to do a spin, so she did a spin, you know. So you know, one of those type of things, we could get you involved, maybe if the teacher would be okay with it. I don't think that she would say anything.

03.37.28 You know, you might be able to come and film one of those one time, you know.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

INTERVIEWER: Any other thoughts?

BRIAN LYONS: No, no, no. I'm fine.

JW: You're five years older. What's that feel like?

- 03.38.01 BRIAN LYONS: I'm an old bastard now. I fall asleep on the train after the third stop. (LAUGHS) I wake up and it takes me like, a longer time to wake up and I got to drink three cups of coffee. And that's why I want to lose like, 20 pounds, to try to get my energy level a little bit better, you know what I mean. Yeah, yeah, five years older. It's, I'm 46 now. So you know, I'm trying to make plans for retirement.
- 03.38.29 You know, better those plans. And you know, I got to work 'til I'm 70. 'Cos that's when you get social security now at my age, at our age, is, the cutoff is 70.now. Used to be 65. Now (?) those people in Washington, you know, they gave themselves a raise and then they raised my social security, though, so I have to work 'til I'm 70. You know, I'll be going like, with a cane, you know, how you doing? (LAUGHS) 70's old.
- 03.39.00 I think, you know what I mean. To still have to work, you know. So, but it's (?) 24 years. I got to work 24 more years.

INTERVIEWER: Could this be your life's work?

- 03.39.18 BRIAN LYONS: Down at Ground Zero? Yeah, well, 24 years. I think they'll be done before that. Probably. Unless they start some other hubs or something down there, who knows, you know.
- 03.39.31 Supposedly, you know, they're building a new Yankee Stadium. (?) Supposedly we have that job, too. But I haven't seen it printed in our newsletter, you know. But they're building a new Shea and a new Yankee Stadium. Turner Construction has the new Shea Stadium, we know that for sure. But the rumor was that we were gonna be building the new Yankee Stadium, you know.

INTERVIEWER: When do you think Ground Zero will be done?

- 03.39.58 BRIAN LYONS: Two thousand - fifteen, that's what I think. Around there. So it's a long way off.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

- 03.40.16 BRIAN LYONS: (MID-STATEMENT) I was telling Danielle, I guess, about it, is it's gonna be like, 2015 before those things are all done. I mean, they got to tear down the Deutschd Bank building still, you know. They got to finish that hub. They didn't even attempt to start anything with the station yet.
- 03.40.38 The new (Colorado?) station or whatever. They don't even have plans. You know, they got preliminary plans for that, you know. You know, like, how you gonna build that and build skyscrapers around that thing, too, you know what I mean. It's like, whole 'nother logistical issue. Only, you know, only so many things can happen at one time, you know what I mean.
- 03.41.03 It's like, and I think that they're gonna find that all out as they start building. As they start building things, you know. You know, they, they have all these site plans. You should see them. They got the plan, zone A, zone B, zone D, E, F, G, H, I, J, Z, F, double A. You know, you're working here, they're doing that. They're doing here.
- 03.41.29 And it's just a plan with color-coded numbers on it. It don't show you men and lay down-areas for equipment. I don't know if anyone ever built anything. People come with a truckload of steel. They unload it. They throw it over there. It's in a big pile. Plywood comes, it goes over there in a big pile. You know, it's just like, you know, people are like, uh, it's like, you know, we get a schedule to build at nighttime for the electricians. It's like, from one AM to 1:30, the electricians will unload reel A and bring to door.
- 03.42.05 From 1:30 to three AM, they'll unload the wire from the reel and connect to, you know, cable tray one. From 3:30 to five AM, you know, two electricians will take cable from here to there. I'm like, what are these people, crazy?
- 03.42.25 They're up in the office. They're making like, all these schedules like this. It's like, the electricians come in. First of all, they're all talking for like, an hour, all right. So right away, you're like, an hour behind on your schedule, all right. They take the reel. They throw it up onto the thing over there, you know. Two of them pull the thing out. Now they're done with what they had to do. Now they talk for another half an hour. It's like, you know, people make all, they sit up in the office. They make the big plan. They make all the schedules, time frames.

03.42.59 And you know, like, last night, they were supposed to pull all these fiber cables. No one came down from the Port Authority again and opened up the doors. You're not allowed to go in the doors. Only the Port Authority's allowed to have the key. They never showed up. So 19 electricians waiting to put this cable in. And the Port Authority had nobody to come to open the door up. So they just said, okay, we're going home. See you later. They (?) reeled it out, reeled up right in front of the door. All right, have a nice day. We'll see you next weekend.

03.43.32 Off they go. Nobody, it was on the schedule. Port Authority's supposed to be there with signal guy to man the rooms, help splice in the cables. No one showed up from the signal. We called the signal guy up. The guy goes, no, no one told me about it. (LAUGHS) I only got one guy. I only got one guy on duty. That's it.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

03.44.25 BRIAN LYONS: Well, steel that's being built, it should be shipped already, right? I don't know if you know, read the articles. For (?) the sub-grade construction. And that's what we're doing now is the big, large beams have been manufactured in Luxembourg. And they're being shipped over to the United States already. Luxembourg is a real small country next to Germany. It's like, this big on the map. They, but they have a huge iron ore reserve. And all the biggest beams for all the biggest skyscrapers in the world are made in Luxembourg.

03.45.02 And they're shipping that, that steel over here now. It's supposed to arrive, and then it goes to, Baker Steel is the construction company that's gonna erect the steel. It goes to their yard in Virginia, I guess, when it comes off the container. Until they're ready, ready to install it down at Ground Zero.

JW: Can you call us when it comes in?

03.45.25 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, it's supposed to come the beginning of the year. (~JW~) If the footing contractor would ever pour any concrete, 'cos it doesn't, you know, (?) I haven't seen him pour anything yet, you know, to build these things, to put the steel on. So, you know,

that's all got to happen first. You know, when cold weather comes now, it's like, once Labor Day's over, you know, hello, the winter comes. It snows, you know. Gets cold. You know, it's hard to pour concrete. You know, you get like, a whole winter, you, they might get squashed. Depends on how the winter is, you know.

03.46.02 You get one winter like, every, twice a week, you get three foot of snow, then you're screwed, you know. You're way behind schedule. So like, they should be going like crazy now, you know, before winter comes, you know. So we'll see how that goes, you know.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: Any thoughts about what you'll be doing in two years?

03.46.54 BRIAN LYONS: (MID-STATEMENT) I'll be working on the building, you know, you know. Well, you never know. What happens is, you know, like, part of this deal with Silverstein and the City of New York and the Port Authority, and liberty bonds, which is to pay for the building, is there's certain milestones that have to be made, you know, for the buildings. So what happens is, you know, as you get closer to these milestones, which I don't know exactly what they are right now, but more pressure gets put on the subcontractor. So like, the guy that's doing what he's doing now is going along.

03.47.38 And he's doing this. And the Port Authority is saying hold on and doing that. And then one day, someone is gonna say, they're gonna have a big meeting of the minds. And all the big guys at Silverstein and the Port are gonna come down and they're gonna say, listen, I don't care how you do it, but you know, columns A through Z have to be up by Friday, okay.

03.48.04 So make it happen. So then you'll see the Port Authority guy'll come down. And he won't say a word. And the subcontractor, you know, we'll have pressure on him or threaten to bring another guy in. And then next thing you know, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, they'll have all those columns in by a certain date. Because they got to meet this milestone. Otherwise they lose the funding for the building or whatever.

03.48.31 So, you know, that all comes in the mix, too. So everybody goes dilly dally, I'm in charge here, you know, you do that. You do this. And then everybody realizes, hey, there's a milestone to meet to get like, you know, \$800 million worth of bonds. And if we don't meet

that milestone, you know, we're not being paid by the insurance company, you know, to do that. And then next thing you know, things speed up.

- 03.48.59 So you know, that's the way construction works is they, you know, screw around. And then there's milestones. And then sometimes a lot of stuff happens. And then, you know, something stops. And you know, so you know, you never know exactly what might happen, you know. But like, I say is winter's coming. Usually right after Labor Day, like, I always try to take the week before Labor Day and then Labor Day comes and then the week following Labor Day, I always get in my mind, winter is coming.
- 03.49.32 We got to get as much work done now as possible. Because Thanksgiving comes, and like, it's just a vicious cycle in construction. When Thanksgiving comes, everybody goes away. And then right after Thanksgiving, everybody's in Christmas mode. Their wife wants them home early. This guy can't work late. Nobody can stay late. Deliveries are all messed up because of holiday traffic.
- 03.50.01 You know, Christmas holidays, nothing gets done until after New Year's. And then after New Year, it takes a week for everybody to recover. So now it's, you know, the second week in January. It's (?) a vicious cycle. It's always the same. Always the same. Same happens in the summertime. You try to get this, this guy needs to approve stuff? Oh, he's on vacation. It's (?) July 18th. He's on vacation.
- 03.50.30 We got to wait for, he's the only one for the biggest building in the world that can look at that. So we got to wait for him to come back from vacation. And that's what happens. Week, sits on his desk for a week, for him to come back from vacation. When he comes back from vacation, this thing is sitting on top of it, he don't even see it for two days, no one called him. So someone calls him, the second day, he says oh, that thing? Oh, let me take a look at that. And this is (?) this is all what happens.
- 03.50.59 So that's why like a guy like me is like I know all those things already. So like if I know a guy's going on vacation, I try to get what I got to get done out of him before he goes. When he comes back, you call him that first thing that Monday morning and say hey, hey, remember me? I sent you that thing, I need that thing right away. Make sure you can find it on your desk, you know, whatever. You know? You don't wait like a half a week and then call him, hey, did you look at the thing that we sent you before vacation?

03.51.27 Oh, yeah, yeah, right, right, right, yeah I got to look at that. You know, those, those, it's just like a vicious cycle. You get, you get the vacations in the summer. Then, then you get like, like now is the perfect construction time. Labor Day is over. You need to do a big push until Thanksgiving. 'Cos once Thanksgiving comes, then it's like everybody gets into holiday mode. There's a long weekend, and then it's all Christmas shopping from them. They get uh, all the wives (STOPS)

03.51.58 END OF TAPE #BL29

TAPE # BL30
Brian Lyons
JIM WHITAKER, Producer/director
PROJECT REBIRTH

01.01.00 PICTURE UP

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

01.01.57 BRIAN LYONS: They filmed a movie in Seven World Trade Center. Perfect Strangers. Halle Berry and Bruce Willis.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: Anything else about your brother?

BRIAN LYONS: No, no, nothing came up. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

01.04.23 BRIAN LYONS: When you're 33, when you hit, this is what I had always said is, when I hit 34, a whole bunch of things changed, you know what I mean. Not 40 or whatever. It was like, 34. I hit like, this brick wall. I lost like, a ton of steam. A ton, I used to do a zillion things. I (?) had a company with a building in Yonkers. Three air conditioning trucks on the road. And driving up to Carmel and back and forth.

01.05.00 And doing a million different things. And working on weekends and going to people's houses and making extra money and installing all sorts of equipment all over the city. And oh, tons of stuff. I can't do that now. No, when (?) I hit 34, I started getting aches and pains and this and that and that and this. And then when I got to 40, you know, all those aches and pains, they're all still there, but you just, you know, you live with them all. Like, you know,

the other day, I put the grill, when we were going camping, I put like, I took the gas, an old gas grill with me.

- 01.05.37 Like a barbecue up on the truck. And I was like, going like this. I was like, oh, my wrist. And it's like, it took like, two weeks before my wrist like, started feeling better again. And it was like, no big deal. It was just like, lifting the thing up and putting it over there. And it's like, 'cos I'm older. I'm like, 46 years old. Takes like, longer time for things to heal up and, you know, get, you know, get better.
- 01.06.02 And you know, you don't have the same energy. And you (?) know, there's a whole bunch of different things. You have a family now. You got more kids. You got like, a whole bunch of stuff that happens. You know, like my kids are older. Like, I used to have a baby bottle business. And you know, that's all gone by. The kids, one kid wasn't even born. And one kid was little.
- 01.06.27 So I didn't even have to spend time with them or do anything. I would come home, do that, do some of this stuff. My brother was alive. He would help me. I'd go see him and, you know, we'd do stuff together. And all that. But now the kids are older. Now you're bringing them to dance class and you're doing this and on the weekend, and taking them camping. And you know, there's a whole, you know, different thing, you know. It's why, you know, trying to stay focused. I come to work. I'm building this building, you know.
- 01.07.02 I go home. I stay with them take them to school. Irish dancing practice. Do some chores around the house. Try to go on vacations or go out, take my wife out to dinner. You can only do so many things in life in a year. A year goes quick. Then the holidays come, you know. It's Thanksgiving. Then it's Christmas. You know, then it's a vicious cycle. Just starts all over again, you know, so it's, you know, you just got to roll with the punches, I guess.

JW: How about going from 40 to 46?

- 01.07.46 BRIAN LYONS: See, the difference is, with me, is between being 40 years old, well, this (?) is what happened with me is, I was working at a company in Brewster, right by my house, called Dairy Conveyer.
- 01.08.03 They make conveyor systems and stacking equipment and all sorts of machines for the milk industry. Two German guys own it, all right. They moved from Queens up to Brewster where

I live. So at the time, I was project manager of this concrete plant. And it was Canadian-owned.

01.08.28 And they were trying to pay me like, a Canadian salary, which was like, half of American salary. And they started off, it was like, the first year I got hired. It was like, oh, we're gonna pay you this and as we grow, your salary will grow. And you know what? That never came true, you know, so those are the things that like, happen in life. People like, lie to you, you know, like, so like, I stayed there five years. And I was getting paid nothing. And I was working like, night and day. I got like, double shifts going.

01.09.01 Six days a week. And you know, I wasn't, you know, getting compensated for it. So at the next corporate park, they were building this big building. So I was like, I went up there and I was like, what's gonna be in here? And they're like, oh, well, it's a uh, conveyer company. And blahblahblah blahblah. So I went and interviewed with this guy and you know, it was everything that I had done like, in the service. Welding and control systems and stuff like that. So I got hired by them.

01.09.30 And part of it was we traveled around to all different dairies around the country. Like, go to Pennsylvania on the weekends. Massachusetts, Connecticut. Vermont. Colorado. All different places, I was traveling. And most of it was on the weekends. So then, you know, my kids were (?) being born. And I was like, never home. I was never seeing them.

01.10.00 I had to work in the shop during the week. And then on the weekends, go and install these equipment and change around these dairies at, you know, on the weekends. So I was like, I need a career change. And my brother Michael is the one that said, listen, you got to go work down in the city. 'Cos he was working for an engineering firm. And Michael had like, drawings on his desk like, this high that he couldn't get to those. He's like, there's tons of work. They're like, begging for people. This was like, 1999.

01.10.30 So I was like, you know what, I'm gonna be 40 years old soon, all right. And the chances are going to a company when you're 40 and above, trying to get a job with them, isn't gonna be too good. So I was like, I'm 39. I'm just gonna be turning 40. I need to get a job. I need to change my job now, that I could stay in New York and not travel around the country and stuff, so that, you know, I could be settled before I'm 40 years old.

01.11.07 Because if I try to get a job when I'm 40, 46 years old, and send a resume in, they're gonna hire a guy out of school for like, you know, a quarter of my salary, you know, to do like, the

same thing that you could possibly do. Maybe like, not as good, but they don't care. They don't want to pay your salary. They'll pay a guy out of school, you know, \$40,000 a year or whatever.

- 01.11.31 So you know, that's when I got a job down in the city when I was 40 years old, right. And then a year passed, and then bam, 9-11 happened. So you know, that changed like, you know, everything. Like, you know, nothing can compare to what happened for the last five years. You had like, the 9-11 recovery, you had the PATH restoration. You know, you had all these things that are once in a lifetime issues type of things, you know.
- 01.12.05 Energy level-wise, from 40 to 46 is about the same type of thing, you know what I mean. You know, first of all, between 9-11 and the PATH, I had like, twice the amount of energy I had now, you know, because I was running big projects and, you know, that just gives you adrenaline type of things when you're doing those things.
- 01.12.29 So those years were, you know, way more interesting. It's like, you know, your position's changed over the years in your job. But like, if they said to you, you know what, Jim, stop what you're doing, you know. Go direct this film. It's gonna take you two years. It's like, you know, gonna be the best film in the whole world ever invented, you would have like, all this energy. You'd be doing, you know, extra, extra things.
- 01.12.59 You would dig it up out of your things when, if you were 42 years old or whatever, you know what I mean. But if you're staying in the same, same groove or whatever, from 40 to 46, I would say the energy level would probably stay, is about the same. It's all your health. Your weight, you know, you got to stay exercised, you know. In the 40s is when you hear all these things that happen to people. They get (?) prostate cancer, they get, you know, all sorts of problems start happening to you when you're in your 40s, you know what I mean.

JW: Is that right?

- 01.13.33 BRIAN LYONS: That's what it seems to me, yeah, (~JW~) you know, 40s and early 50s is when, you know, you get a lot of problems. Obviously when you turn, when you're in your 60s and 70s, you get, you can get stuff. But there's a lot of guys that you read, watch the news everyday. You'll see. This guy, he was 48. He got this. He was 46, he got that.

01.14.00 You know, he died of this and that. They were only in their 40s and stuff, you know. It's like, scary. It's like, you know, that's why I go get checked up all the time. Get a physical once a year, you know. You never know. It's much different.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

01.14.47 BRIAN LYONS: That's what I'm saying, right. So what happens is, and it's hard to do, but what you're supposed to be doing is watching your diet. Like, I haven't or whatever.

01.15.00 And exercising and stuff like that, to keep your energy level up at work. You know, to keep, when you turn 40, when you're over 40 and 42 years old, your metabolism, you know, changes in your whole, in your body. And I guess, you know, the exercising type of thing, you know, the (?) cardio uh, stuff and everything like that, that must help out. You know, it pumps more oxygen in your brain for the day.

01.15.29 And you know, helps you get through the day more clearly and keeps you at a higher level. But that's a big, it's a big commitment. I don't know if you jog or run or whatever.

JW: I just started.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

BRIAN LYONS: No, no, but that's a needed thing to do, I think, you know what I mean.

JW: But it's also the mental thing, needing a challenge, to keep from being bored.

01.16.04 BRIAN LYONS: No, right. Well, well, that's what, look what I'm doing is I'm working at night. I'm supervising four electricians. Guys that like, got like, a nut thing like, going like that, that's it. I just let that pass by. I'm only, I know it's a temporary thing. And I just consider it that I'm here because, you know, I know what's happening down here.

01.16.28 And then I just try to use my other energy when I get home with the kids and stuff like that. Until it's gonna get more challenging. As we bring the building up, there's gonna be a lot more things I'm gonna be getting involved in, I know that that's all gonna start happening,

you know. They're gonna start putting more and more responsibility on you. But right now, there's only. They want to keep payroll low, so there's only a couple of guys. There's only a few things happening. So you know, that, you know, that's where we're at with that.

01.16.58 But you know, as you start to build a bigger building, you know, there's more and more chaos that you have to coordinate. And then I like being right in the middle of that, you know. And then you're (?) coordinating that, this, that. You know, that's where, you know, I thrive in, you know, doing multi tasks like that, you know. But, you know, right now, like last year, too, like, when I was at Seven World Trade Center, I had like, one thing to do. I was like, bored to death all day. But I got through that. I went every day, I went there and finally I got transferred over to this job.

01.17.33 Which was (?), it's a little bit better, you know. At least you're like, know you're on the Freedom Tower and that things are gonna be coming forward. So I don't let that bother me, you know what I mean.

JW: Where would you be if 9-11 hadn't happened?

01.17.52 BRIAN LYONS: No, I would be at Structure Tone and I would be doing rebuilding spaces all around the city and stuff like that. They're really busy now. I met the guy, the guys that I used to work for, like, my vice presidents and stuff. I've seen them around. They came to Seven World Trade Center. One of their clients took two floors. And they fitted out the floor. You know, built the walls, the ceilings and all that. I met them in the elevator a couple times. I was like, hey, how you doing, you know. He's like, yeah, you want to come back to work? And I'm like, no, no, I'm good where I am, you know. You know, 'cos they're busy. They're looking for (?), they're looking for people, you know, that know what they're doing, so, you know, I would be doing that, you know.

01.18.31 And that would be fine, too, you know. So, you know, that's, I would still be working in the city and doing that. So, but fate has me on the biggest building in the world. That's where I wanted to be, right. I'm gonna be putting that light bulb on top, you know. It's a big-ass fucking thing, I think, though, this time. It's like, supposed to spin around and shoot a light up into the sky. And, you know, all that kind of thing.

01.19.00 It ain't like one of those little red light bulb things that you seen me put on, (LAUGHS) you know.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

01.20.02 BRIAN LYONS: (MID-STATEMENT) And then, you know, salmon fishing, too, is, catching one of those fucking salmons, it's like, getting one on the hook, man, and like, you know, fighting him for like, 20 minutes. One time I fought one for 45 minutes up there. I got him in, but he was big Coho, man. The line didn't break, thank god.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

01.20.41 BRIAN LYONS: And you know, we're gonna go up, I'm gonna watch the internet. Gonna get a good weekend to go. Watch the weather. 'Cos I'm bringing her. She's 11. We'll stay in a hotel, as long as the weather's not 'cos it gets cold up there, 'cos the wind comes off the lake, you know, and it gets cold. And, but I could just her in the day.

01.21.04 See, what happens is, my friend used to have a boat right on the Salmon River. And a lodge. Now he sold everything and went to California. So now I'm like, on my own. But he could, and he knew where all the fish were. He knew tributaries. He would take us up to tributaries and, you know, where salmon are and (?) tons of stuff like that. He was like, a guide. And he's not there anymore. So you know, you can fish in the day.

01.21.30 But the fish don't move in the day. They only, the salmon move up the river at nighttime. So at the mouth of the river, in, for like, 200 feet to where there's a buoy, you're allowed to fish that area at nighttime, because it's considered the river, the lake. Lake Ontario. So there's fishing on Lake Ontario at nighttime. But there's no fishing on the Salmon River.

JW: You're catching salmon at night?

BRIAN LYONS: At nighttime, yeah, yeah. That's one (~JW~)

JW: With a flashlight?

01.22.07 BRIAN LYONS: No, no, well, they're down, they're down. What you do is you cast out. You wait, there's so many of them, they hit the line. And soon as they hit the line, you fucking pull up. You fucking try to get one. (LAUGHS) 'Cos they don't feed, you know what I mean. (~JW~) They, you know, they're not hungry. So they're not gonna bite your bait. (~JW~) See, what we used to do (~JW~)

JW: Do you use a giant grappling hook?

01.22.30 BRIAN LYONS: Well, what we used to do was, this guy, we used to fish off the back of his boat. And this is like, ten, this is 1990, so this is 16 years ago. He made special, he used to have a (treble?) hook with a piece of lead on it like this. And you could toss that thing out and then pull across the lake. And just hook one right in the side. And just fight him for like, a half an hour. Just to get the fight, you know what I mean.

JW: The further to the back, the better the fight?

01.23.00 BRIAN LYONS: No, oh, if you got him in the tail, you'd be (~JW~), you be good, yeah, yeah, yeah. But during the day, you got to fish with like, salmon eggs you put on.

JW: You pretend.

01.23.10 BRIAN LYONS: But what they call, they let you do it. It's called lifting. Because they (?) know that people come up there and it's good for the economy. (~JW~) But they don't eat, you know. They (?) they're going to spawn, so they're not eating. They already ate when they were out in 200 foot of water. So they let you go like that with the pole. And if you're anywhere near the mouth, you could keep the fish.

01.23.39 Pretty much. (~JW~) You know. So we'll try that. The key is, what I do is, I used to put the hook on the bottom and then split weights over here like this. But then the line is like this. So the hook is over here. So now what I do is, I put the hook here, right.

01.24.03 Tie a half-hitch on the hook, on the line. So the line comes down and the hook is actually on the line. Put the split weight down on the bottom. So then when you hang off the boat, everything's in a straight exact line. So when the fish hits the line, now you can pull up. And the hook will come straight up. Otherwise, before the hook has to come up, like on an angle, you miss him, you know.

01.24.33 Don't put that on tape. That was a secret trick. (LAUGHS)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

01.25.32 END OF TAPE # BL 30