

**TAPE # BL33**  
**Brian Lyons**  
**JIM WHITAKER, Producer/director**  
**PROJECT REBIRTH**

01.00.31 PICTURE UP

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: Six years?

01.09.30 BRIAN LYONS: I don't know, man, six years. It was you know, you know, that I dread this stupid thing every, every year, but you know, today I'm find with it. But.

JW: Why today?

01.09.43 BRIAN LYONS: 'Cos I mentally got over to the depression (LAUGHS). You know, 'cos it's the same thing, you know, it's like, you know, I won't mention names, but even like your staff, they call up, they, you know, I'm not like an old woman type gossiper, you know?

01.10.01 That people want to know how are you doing, how is everybody, you know, it's like my aunt calling from Ireland or whatever, you know what I mean? And it's like you know, I'm not like that talkative of a guy. You know, women like to gossip about, you know, what's her name got her hair changed, and this and that. You know, everybody's fine, thank you, good bye. That's the kind of guy I am. But.

JW: Last year you said this is killing you?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

01.10.45 BRIAN LYONS: It's like a bad divorce, or whatever. And I got divorced six years ago, and you're asking me how my ex-wife is doing. You know it's like Old Christine, they have that show that's on TV now. It's like, you know you talk about your ex-wife.

01.11.00 And so when you were getting divorce, when she threw that plate at you, you know, just before you had to go meet the lawyer, you know, how did you feel about that? You know, that was six years ago. Do I really care how I felt about that plate? Of course, I wanted to kill her at the time. But you know, that, that's what it was. But, you know, the, you know, this time, every year, it's like the week before, you know, you got to start to make plans to go downtown.

01.11.33 I tried to be, this year, is the readers are first responders. But I guess every year, no matter which year it was, you know, they had children, spouses, grandparents, you know, whatever it was, siblings, now first responders. You had if you wanted to be a reader, you had to, you know, apply to the city and they put you in a lottery and they pulled your name out of the hat.

01.12.02 So when they did like siblings, you know, (?) I didn't even know about it. My brother put his name in, that's when he read. But everyone that put their name in got picked, because I guess out of like, you know 2800 people that died, how many people had a brother or a sister, you know what I mean? Not that many, what 40% or 30%. So and how, out of that, how many really put their name in?

01.12.29 So whoever did got picked. First responders, I called yesterday just to verify if I was picked or not, right? The guy was telling me, first responders, they had like fifty thousand people apply. You know? All the (LAUGHS) people that came down here. Applied. So they pulled all of them out of a lottery. And they did it independently, the city had their names, they sent it to an independent agency who somehow pulled their names out of a computer or whatever.

01.12.59 And then sent it back, so I didn't get picked, and I was very depressed about that yesterday. When I found out for sure. 'Cos I, I figured I was a first responder and my brother died. But it didn't matter, you know, they didn't put that in consideration. It was just bunched in with first responders. So. But I, so I wanted to read his name. But, you know, I could still, you know, there'll be other chances, you know, they'll be reading this thing for awhile.

JW: You think they will?

01.13.27 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah. Well, I think they'll do it, I don't know how long they'll do it for. I guess you know, I don't know if forever is a long time. But probably awhile. You know?

JW: Why did you want to read his name?

01.13.45 BRIAN LYONS: No, because it would be a different tune. You'd just come every year you come down here. So, you know, this year, you know, you had the opportunity to be picked to do it. So, you know, I would want to try to do that, you know?

01.14.00 Just something that you'd want to do. You can have the opportunity.

JW: Is the rest of your family coming tomorrow?

01.14.11 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, well, this year it's just I always come down with Laurie. Since the girls were a little (?) older we've been bringing the girls, my daughters down. And then Elaine, my sister-in-law, she's coming again this year. And she's bringing her sister and the two daughters. But my brother, Kerin, he can't get off of work and Sean's in Cape Cod. He's not coming.

01.14.30 He came last year because it was the 5<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. You know, he came down from Cape Cod. But he's got three kids, so it's hard for him to get off of work, too. And travel all the way down here. And, and stuff like that. So it's hard for him to get back to New York. You know, so I was even thinking of not even going. Again. 'Cos the site hasn't, in the beginning the site was supposed to be closed. And they didn't know what they were gonna do. They were gonna have it off site somewhere, and you know, and it's like you know, it's just gonna be another thing down there.

01.15.03 I'm down there every day, you know what I mean? It's not like I'm in Jersey working and now I get an opportunity to go down there. I'm in the pit every day. So to me, it was like, you know big deal. But then my wife's like what are you, crazy? You got to go. You know, she likes coming down, too. And then when you think about it, of course, you got to go, I guess, you know? So. You know, we stay in hotel the night before 'cos you got to get up early. The thing starts, you know, the thing about this ceremony, this thing starts early.

01.15.31 Compared to other ceremonies. (~JW~) Well it's just as early as any other year. But I mean, anyone that's going there, you know, yourself, your alarm clock is ringing at like 3 in the morning or 4 in the morning. If you want to be there, set up, all ready to go, not to miss

nothing, and with crowds and figuring out where you got to go and you know, whatever, you're not waking up at 7 o'clock, you know, you, you're done by, if you're doing that. So.

01.16.00 You can't like if you stay at home you got to wake up extremely early with kids and stuff, so we stay down at a hotel, which is hard to get, and then the hotels have no mercy. They just like raised all the prices for 9-11. 'Cos they know, sure they do. They because one, like a month ago a guy stayed like at the Millennium. It cost like \$129. The night before September 11<sup>th</sup>, the rooms are \$450. A Monday, when no one's around.

01.16.30 So they just jack the prices right up. All international people come. The, the media and stuff. So they just, they just crank the prices right up. So that's commercialization for you.

JW: People talk to me about the feeling of that time and no one would have jacked up the prices the first year?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

01.18.19 BRIAN LYONS: That's why they bombed us in the first place. Like here's an example. I'll tell you a typical example. I went up to a news truck this morning that's outside Ground Zero, Channel 2 was there, right? So they made a report on the news yesterday, bin Laden's out of his cave, he made a video. And it's gonna come out in a couple of days. Right?

01.18.30 So that's, that's corporate America, the news, setting everybody up to watch and get ratings to make money on a commercials. To show this video. When they shouldn't even show it at all. Ok, if they want to say a video is coming out, they could do, they could say, he's issuing a video. But we're not gonna show it because it just adds to his cause for it to be on television, especially around the anniversary.

01.19.03 When they had the guy, the guy that (~JW~) shot everybody at Virginia Tech, he made a video. And he wrote down when I die, you know, this is gonna be on TV and everybody'll know what, why I did it and everything. And they all agreed that, I guess, I don't know if they released it or not, but they agreed that they wouldn't show it on television or wouldn't publish it or whatever, and they didn't.

01.19.32 Which was good, 'cos a lot of kids got killed, I forget how many. But that was like (~JW~) yeah, that was like a catastrophe. But the same thing should happen with the terrorist things.

They shouldn't, you know, any time bin Laden or (?) them come out with a film, they slam it on TV right away. They should just not do it. Do not post it there. But what drives it? Ratings and money and greed. And that's what does it. You can't tell me it don't; otherwise, they wouldn't do it, you know? So that's where it all comes from.

01.20.06 And you walk around Ground Zero, (LAUGHS) people selling hats and stuff from China and little rink-a-dink things. And the books with pictures, and all the tourists come and they buy them all and they do this and that. And then they, they did put some, zone regulations in, they, you're not, you're not so many blocks away from that area. But they sneak in and the cops come once in two weeks to chase them, and then they come back.

01.20.34 Whatever. But they're still there. It's still a tourist attraction.

JW: I walked by the site a while ago and (?) woman selling pictures of the towers when you walk by it.

01.21.02 BRIAN LYONS: You know, so I went to the news camera guy this morning (~JW~) I didn't know what they were there this morning for, but there's been media there all, all week. 'Cos I guess it's just coming up the anniversary. I said to him, hey, I don't know who your boss is, but I've been, I tried to call Channel 5 yesterday, tried to call Channel 2 and 7. And they just kept putting me to like automated customer relations.

01.21.29 So I didn't get through to anybody. But I said to him, listen, when you get back, you tell your boss, you know, I've been working down here six years, and I was here on 9-11. And this bin Laden tape that's coming out that they shouldn't publish it 'cos all it does is add to their cause. You know, the anchorwoman was, you know, was looking at me. I said have a good morning, see you later. (LAUGHS) So you know, that's the last thing from their mind, they all wait, everyone's waiting for that thing to come out.

01.21.57 I don't know, it's, it's on the front page of the paper. Today. You know, that he's coming out with a video. It's ridiculous.

JW: I caught it (on TV?). The human feeling is different from the commercial side. The feeling when everyone was together?

01.22.30 BRIAN LYONS: Oh, yeah, that ain't happening now. (~JW~) Even at Ground Zero. You got guys, we had to have a big clean up, I just told you? People all complaining all day, why do we got to clean up? We're trying to build something here, we're cleaning up (?) well, what I got to clean up? I got to miss a day of work. Everyone's complaining all about it. So I told one of the supers that's in charge of his cleaning up, I said listen. If one guy complains to you about cleaning up for the 9-11 ceremony or whatever, you give me his name and I'll go over and talk to him, in five minutes.

01.23.00 All right? You got his name? Who's the guy that said that? Oh. I don't know. He wouldn't tell me. I said, so all day long, if anybody says anything to you, you give me, call me on the radio and I'll come over and speak to them. And then we'll see what they say when I'm done talking to them. So, you know but he, you know, nobody, he didn't cough up anyone's name, but they still complained, probably. (LAUGHS) And they all got to come in tomorrow to work, but they're getting paid to come in tomorrow to clean up.

JW: Did you hear someone say it?

01.23.34 BRIAN LYONS: No, no, I heard 'em saying that.

JW: You did?

01.23.39 BRIAN LYONS: Well, they work for me, the guys, some of the guys. (~JW~) That we, we dispatched to go over there to, to clean up. And they're like well, this guy's complaining and this. Who? Tell me his name, I'll go right over there right now and talk to him. Matter of fact, if he won't even be on the site any more if I go over there. 'Cos we don't need a guy like that here. This is not just like Joe Blow construction site.

01.24.00 I just remind him of that. A little reminder. You know, which people still don't, you know, get, I guess, you know, that they, where they're working at you know, it's still gated off, it's high security area. You know? And, the Port Authority does, they're very strict on security and they're waiting for a terrorist attack themselves (LAUGHS) at Ground Zero again. It's a perfect target, you know?

JW: Is that what you feel down there?

0124.33 BRIAN LYONS: Sure. Yeah, we're just waiting to build it up, someone's gonna blow it up again.

JW: Is that how you feel?

01.24.41 BRIAN LYONS: Oh, yeah. I, I joke around, but definitely, it's gonna be a major target, right? It's a huge buildings and stuff and like, like in a little square block area. You know? And you can't stop these guys. These people, they arrested in Germany are something. They were just, they were Germans.

01.25.00. But they were somehow hooked up to al-Qaeda or whatever, you know what I mean? So, you know, people got it out for us. So we're gonna have to live with that type of thing. You know, they just, the intelligent, the intelligence community has been doing an excellent job, I guess. There's a lot of stuff that's probably got squashed that people don't even realize. You know, and, you know, some of the threats that happen, why the president does stuff and things that, you know, people don't have the knowledge that, that he's, the information that he's getting.

01.25.37 That, you know, about, you know, the intelligence what's happening in different places around the world. And stuff like that, you know? But we don't know anything. We get maybe leaks, leaks into the press a little bit and then they shoot out a couple of little things or something like that, to you. But you know, he probably gets some serious looking documents that (LAUGHS) all sorts of stuff that's happening around the world, you know what I mean?

01.26.03 Without a doubt. You know, with that has backup from you know, our CIA secret spies and all that stuff. Man, there's some serious stuff that's going on probably. You know?

JW: How has the site evolved?

01.26.27 BRIAN LYONS: Well, it's a major construction site now, you know, like ever aspect of the site's dug up, you know? There's all sorts of, you know, cranes, there's 20 different cranes, drilling machines. People working all around the clock. You know, you got a Freedom tower

being built, towers 2, 3 and 4, you know, a subway goes through it. They're building a new station. A memorial. A tunnel. They got like transportation hubs. So there's massive, massive amount of work happening, you know what I mean?

01.27.02 There's a ka-zillion consultants, over consultants, government agencies and overseeing government agencies (LAUGHS). It's like big huge bureaucracy of money there, you know what I mean? So. It is what it is, I guess.

JW: Can you be more specific about what's happening?

01.27.28 BRIAN LYONS: Well, like in our corner, like I was explaining to you, we have a section which is the size of the building, and, and I won't go into too much detail 'cos some of it is secret (~JW~) confidential, right? So we have, for the Freedom Tower, you have a section that of, of the Port Authority property that you're building. And then there's a whole 'nother section where the footprints of the building was, where they're building their memorial. So that's work that's going on and going forward. And then they're making a new bathtub area, where towers 2, 3 and 4 are gonna be built.

01.28.02 And then they're preparing all the areas inside the PATH station to build a new PATH train station. And then they're making a transportation hub to connect all the railroads together and stuff so everybody can go from building to building or subway to subway and stuff. Underground tunnels and things like that. So, you know, there's you know, a major amount of work going from the Ground Zero area up to Broadway and underground where the subways connect and stuff like that.

JW: Lot of underground work?

BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, yeah. Yeah.

JW: What do you do on a day-to-day basis?

01.28.44 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, I get up at 3 o'clock. I take like a little bit after 4 o'clock train. Down to Grand Central, then take the subway to Ground Zero. You know, we have a trailer,

we go in. And then I'm a project superintendent, meet with the other guys, talk about what's gonna happen that day.

01.29.02 And you know, we're still bringing the building out of the ground, so we're still digging foundation areas and piping that goes under the ground. And you know, supervising that type of thing, you know? So that's still gonna be another year or two before you get to the street level.

JW: What types of things did you do today?

01.29.34 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, like today, lightning plates and underground plumbing, pouring footings today. And doing some emergency lighting and the PATH train area. You know? And getting information on the, the stair tower that's gonna come down and has the cameras on it. Just wanted to verify some of that (LAUGHS) information. So. You know, I did a little research on that today. (~JW~) you know?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

BRIAN LYONS: And two days they gonna, take two days to take it down.

JW: Why are they taking it down?

01.30.15 BRIAN LYONS: 'Cos stuff has to be built near, near that area. You know?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

01.30.32 BRIAN LYONS: There's just (?) that lighting I was talking to you about has to be finished, and then that was the egress for the train where that camera was, so we were waiting for the electricians were supposed to finish before the holiday started, but then the holidays came and it has to be done on the weekends, 'cos of the train powers and stuff, so. This weekend they're gonna go and finish it and then that opens the door for that area to be demolished where the other camera is.

JW: Do you have any stories from the site?

- 01.31.12 BRIAN LYONS: (MID-STATEMENT) I was very sick, I don't know if you knew that, whatever, I think I told Tom. In the beginning of the year, I got sick, I got, this time last year, which in September I got sick a few times, in the last few years. Diverticulitis. It's like an infection in your intestine. So when I got sick last September, I had to be hospitalized, they give you antibiotics to get the infection down and so on.
- 01.31.39 And then the doctor who happens I grew up with went to grade school with, he's the gastro-nologist. He's like Brian, three strikes and you're out, you know, you, you been in the hospital three times for this thing. So we're gonna do a colonoscopy and look and see how bad it is. And he did that, and he said, there was about 4 ½ inches that was very damaged.
- 01.32.01 So you know, he recommended a surgeon. And then we scheduled and scheduled and then some things got postponed. I had to postpone it, the surgeon has postponed it, so I think it was the beginning of January, the first week in, or the first week in February that I went in the hospital, and they removed about 8 inches of my large intestine. So I stayed in the hospital a week. And.

JW: What was that like?

- 01.32.28 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, that was not fun. You know, very painful. And then you can't eat anything. You're just on IV. And then I (~JW~) then I went home. And I, I was only home a couple of days, and I started like getting sick and throwing up, and I was like oh, my god, and the, extreme pain. And in my chest here, and then you know, I couldn't eat, I was trying to throw up, and I was like oh, my god, I got to you know, I was telling my wife.
- 01.33.00 I think I got to go to the hospital, you know, this is, I got to go to the hospital. So it was like (?) it was 4 below zero, said (LAUGHS) in her car minus four on the, on the thermometer, it was 2:30 in the morning, she drove me to the emergency room. And I got in there and they're like giving me morphine and stuff, and I'm like that ain't working, man, and I said I'm dying here. Dying. I, I couldn't even like see. It was painful. And so they did tests, so they changed the medicine.

- 01.33.30 Whatever they gave me, the, I said yeah, that, that's working, working good (LAUGHS). Whatever it was. Whatever they gave me. And the doctor came back, they did blood and urine and stuff and he's like you got like pancreatitis. My gall bladder was ready to rupture and was oozing gel out and that's like a poison, and then that infects your pancreas. And it inflamed it.
- 01.33.58 So then they had to admit me again for a week, because it took a week of antibiotics to get the pancreas inflammation down. So they're like we got to schedule you to get your gall bladder out. But all the infection's got to be gone. So that's got to be at least two weeks. So I stayed home for a week, and then I was like ran out of like sick days and everything, so I had to go back to work. So I went back to work, I didn't look too good.
- 01.34.30 I went back to work everyone's like you don't look too good. I go yeah, I don't feel good, either, man. So I was only at work like two days, and had another attack, back in the emergency room, hey, Mary, hi, Sue, I need that stuff that you gave me last time. And then, they had to give me that, and then I had to stay in the hospital and get the infection down, until they could operate. That was another week. And then they took the gall bladder out, and then I had to stay home another week.
- 01.34.59 So it was like the end of March by the time I went back to work again, you know?

JW: Two months?

- 01.35.07 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. It was painful. The, the diverticulitis was nothing. That, that pancreatis stuff is, that's painful stuff. Man. You know, and the doctor's like you just take it easy, 'cos you can't live without a pancreas. All right? (LAUGHS) You can live without 8 inches of your intestine, we can even take more of that out.
- 01.35.28 But if something happens to your pancreas, that's it, you're done. So you know, you got to like watch what you're doing when that happens, you know, so they went in and they took out the gall bladder. And, then everything's been fine. I had lost 30 pounds, but I gained it all back now. I wanted to be slim and trim and have abs for this thing today. That didn't work out.

JW: You do look trimmer?

01.36.04 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah. Well, I probably did lose some pounds over the summer. It's hot. Man, you got to walk up and down that pit those stairs. There's no elevator. It's still 75 feet up and down. So and a hot, it's been hot all summer, it's still hot today. You know, September. And you know, you're up and down the stairs, you know, watching the contractors and you know, watching your drawings, make sure everything, they're building everything the right way and stuff.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

01.36.38 END OF TAPE # BL33

**TAPE # BL34**

**Brian Lyons**

**JIM WHITAKER, Producer/director**

**PROJECT REBIRTH**

02.00.29 PICTURE UP

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS RE: MOVIES)

JW: You had a life and death experience?

02.03.22 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, on the edge there. No one came to visit me in the hospital. I got brothers and friends and stuff, nobody except my wife, my darling wife came. That's what happens when you get older. People don't come, come see you. See, especially where I live at, you know? No one lives near me, so nobody comes. You know? And then my aunt who's in Ireland found out that like none of my brothers came and stuff, and she was pissed. She was like calling them up and leaving them messages on their machine and stuff. You didn't go see your brother in the hospital. What's the matter with you? You know, 'cos back in, in the old country, they would take a donkey cart all the way to someone's house where they're sick, just to sit by their, you know.

02.04.07 And have tea or whatever, just to pay their respects or whatever. But what, what happened when you were younger, you would, people in the hospital you could go see them, or someone's father was in the hospital, you would see them.

JW: What's that about?

02.04.25 BRIAN LYONS: It's both, it's age, and people don't want to be bothered. It's like yeah, I got things to do, I don't have time to go. You know, it's like, you know, everybody's got, is in a hurry, you know what I mean? That's why I go in camping every year, I go camping in Lake George, and I don't have a phone, I don't have a television, I don't have electricity. I am in the woods. I cook my food on a fire. I catch my dinner in the lake, and there's no one

around except for me and my family. And we sit by the beach and sit by the campfire all the way to nighttime, wake up.

02.05.02 Make your coffee by the fire. Ten days, and then you come back to reality, and you find out two firemen die in a stupid building that had no people in it, you know what I mean? It's ridiculous.

JW: New York felt hostile last night?

02.05.30 BRIAN LYONS: Well, New York is booming, I don't know if you notice, but like if, if you get a chance, like I'm gonna take the girls in 7 World Trade to the 52<sup>nd</sup> floor. Monday night before. I did last year. 'Cos we just finished building the building. It wasn't too many tenants in there, but now the thing is getting full of tenants, but you know, I still got some connections in there, I, we have an office on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor 'cos we're building tower 3 and 4. But you know, I can get up to 52<sup>nd</sup> floor, and you can look over, all over Manhattan, and especially Lower Manhattan.

02.06.02 Not only is Ground Zero being built, but you know, across the street, they're building Goldman-Sachs headquarters, which by the way, my older daughter got an interview with Tischman, and she's like a project manager for Tischman now. And she works at the Goldman Sachs building as a project manager. So that building's going up, and then this like residential ones. We're building another building behind the Deutsche Bank building, it's a condo-hotel.

02.06.29 Next to that, they're building another 60-story condo hotel. We're building another 70 story building two blocks from Ground Zero. Two and a half blocks, they're building 4 residential buildings right there. Down the street, behind Wall Street, they're building like two huge more towers of residential buildings. It's like building all over the place. You know, everyone's going around crazy. The subways are like packed, you can't even get in them. It's like, you know, I don't know if it's the price of gas or, you know, whatever it is. But like from 6 years ago to now, like when I took the train, remember I told you the story about I met the guy on the platform?

02.07.12 But there was only me and him, that was the first train out. Me and him, two guys on the platform. Well, now the first train out, there's 70 people on the platform, where I live at now. Same platform. And the train is 45 minutes earlier than (LAUGHS) it was 6 years ago.

02.07.32 Packed with people, the trains are packed, subways are packed. It's all, everyone's all hustling and bustling around, running all around, you know? Run you over with a car or a taxi (LAUGHS). They don't care.

JW: I'm a part of it, too- I'm not the solution. I'm going a million miles an hour, but maybe a little slower in terms of prioritization. It feels more hectic than ever. I didn't realize it was booming?

02.08.31 BRIAN LYONS: Hugely booming. The stock market's like swinging from left to right, left to right, you walk outside the stock market, building buildings all over the place. Lot of residential, lot of residential. And then with the commercial buildings that they're gonna put up at Ground Zero, that'll all fit in and everything you know? So it's like you know, the whole downtown thing will all come into perspective like they wanted it to.

02.09.01 But it'll be 20 years by the time it's all done. From, from 2001. So everything's built and filled up and, you know, they tore like a lot of (LAUGHS) stores down on Broadway that were there for years and years and years and years. You know, to make room for a transportation hub buildings and, you know, they're gonna fix the streets and stuff like that you know?

JW: Considering the bigger picture, would you have thought this would have happened 6 years ago?

02.09.56 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, yeah, I know that's a very good question. I just wish I could you know, go fishing every day. 'Cos my family's more important than anything, my wife and my children and, and stuff. And I keep that in, in very good priority. You know, like when they're get on the bus for the first day of school, you know, I go in late to work that day. 'Cos I put them on the bus the first day of school, I did it since my older daughter was in

kindergarten. So why should I stop now, you know what I mean? It's an important day. Them going back to school.

- 02.10.30 And then coming home and spending time and even last night, like when my 8-year old goes to bed, she reads for 20 minutes, so I sit by the side of her bed, and she reads to me. And even last night, I was thinking, you know what? This is more important than building Ground Zero and, you know, making a good salary or, or whatever. Secure in life. You could have no money and you could be homeless, like that one movie (LAUGHS). But your daughter's like reading (?) like a book for you, struggling on one or two words that she needs your help with.
- 02.11.04 And then moves on. And then you talk about the story, and then, you know, and you finish two chapters and it's time for bed. And you know, that's important to me. That's you know, you know, I never lost sight of that, and then September 11<sup>th</sup> always magnified that for me. That, that was very more important than all the commercialization of things.
- 02.11.30 But it's a dog-eat-dog world (LAUGHS). If you don't go after things and you don't, like my taxes have quadrupled since 9-11. Where I live. So if I don't work and I didn't get a better job and I didn't, you know, fight for the jobs that I want to get, and stuff. I'd have to move. (LAUGHS) Because my taxes went up so much. You know, so what drives that is like, you know, all different issues, you know, from wherever you live at, what regions you live at.
- 02.12.04 So, you know, it's, you know, I guess it's America. You know, you could sit back on holidays and families can get together and stuff, but you know, on Monday morning when the bell rings, the stock market, you know, it's like a dog eat dog world out there, everywhere you go. And then you know, for the rest of, forever's time.
- 02.12.29 Like I, I think I spoke about this once before. I don't know if it was with you guys or, I think (~JW~) No. But I, I think it might have been during one of our conversations, you know, you know, what do you think's gonna happen. Maybe it wasn't. Someone had asked me, you know, what, what do you think? Will we ever recover from the 9-11 terrorist attack, you know?
- 02.13.03 Like they blew up all the buildings and they killed all these people and, you know, how, how are we gonna move forward from that? How, how're we possibly gonna do it? And I was like hello. They had like the revolutionary war. They killed like hundreds of thousands of people. On the same team got killed, one just wore one different color jacket, were killing each other over like, you know, peaches and like tea bags or something like that.

- 02.13.32 We got (LAUGHS) over that, that was like 200 years ago. So we're gonna get over this, and you know, you know, and we're gonna get past it all. And you know, people breed fear into everybody, you know? The media, corporate America, the security thing. You know, there's a lot of, people aren't afraid in New York, that's for sure, you know what I mean?
- 02.14.00 Like if you asked somebody, you know, there's a high security alert, and then they have it on the news, what do you think about the high security alert? You know, are you scared to go on the subway? No, I got to go on the subway, I got to get to work, so, you know, if it blows up, it blows up, but I got to get to work. I don't know what to tell you. But they all know that tit's there, there's more police around. And you know, that's more overtime for them, and they got to get more money from the government, who gets more money from our taxes, 'cos they raise it.
- 02.14.29 And I don't know when where it stops (LAUGHS) at. But my life is too short to worry about that stuff. I don't know what to tell the people. The, my kids are gonna, you know, inherit all the security problems, but it ain't never gonna go away. You know, I mean, one way to do it is that you don't get foreign oil. I mean, I definitely agree with that. That's why I like we're in all over these places, we need oil to drive all these big car things we have and all this industry stuff.
- 02.15.00 But corporate America, if they wanted to, you know, like, you know, you read stories, guys invent cars that run off of like, you know, its own energy or whatever. You never see that come to market. You don't see these things coming to market too much. Because they, you know, they wouldn't be selling oil. Oil's a big, a big thing for money, you know what I mean? So it's like, you know, you know, I don't know the whole scope of stuff, but you know, it's, it's weird.
- 02.15.33 There's a friend of mine that we would do, his daughter's an Irish dancing, and he got laid off at Wall Street, 'cos when they, they made it all electronic now. So they used to be traders. You had to run across the floor with a piece of paper, I'm buying 20, selling however the, however Wall Street works. Now it's all done by computers that, so they don't need the personnel to do it.
- 02.16.00 Same with banks. A lot of stuff has shrunken because of the, you know, the internet stage and electronic stage. So you know, he got laid off from that stuff, and you know, when we go to some of the Irish dance events, the girls are doing what they got to do, and we just talk about

stuff. And excuse me, and he, he talks about a lot of this, he knows a lot about this corporate stuff. And you know, Trump's players.

02.16.31 And you know, some of the millionaires, who there's certain groups of guys in companies that hold like most of the money in America and in the world. And how they manipulate everything to make more money or make people lose money, and you know, all these things. Who, who knows who, and who, why that happened is because this guy knows this company or owns that other company. And you know, whole big, you know, conspiracy (LAUGHS) thing.

02.17.01 This guy goes into about stuff. You know? And it's very interesting. But, you know, I, I'm not into that. I'm into construction and fishing. And going (LAUGHS) back, taking the train all the way back home, and then sitting on my porch where no cars go by. That's why I live up in the country. So it's a 2-hour commute, but at least I'm out of the city. But the city hustle and bustle is fun. I actually took my wife out to a show, you come down, you go out for dinner, you're walking with crowds.

02.17.34 We went to a Met game, you go to a Yankee game. That type of thing. You know, but then you reside back out of the hustle and bustle of things, you know? So it's, you know, I have the luxury of doing that. I planned that all out, to live there and come down here, you know, to afford a lifestyle that you could do that type of thing, you know? But it's, you know, you know, six years later, like, I think the deputy mayor said it, Dan, Doctorhauff, I think his name is.

02.18.14 You know, time isn't on their side. It was in the beginning of the recovery process. People were generous and people were willing to move and, and do different things. And but as time wore on (STOPS)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

02.18.47 BRIAN LYONS: As you know, as time went, goes on, people forget and they go back to their own, the same ways, and you know, and that's the same thing. Somebody said that today, oh, yeah, we were talking about somebody.

02.19.05 When, when we were directed to start cleaning up the site and stuff like that, one of the guys like listen. Everybody's got to move on. Nine-eleven's over, happened six years ago. So this

other (LAUGHS) guy he was with was like listen, let me tell you a story. A couple of years ago, guy said the same thing. And he didn't want to clean up and he didn't want to do this for 9-11.

02.19.29 He, he got up and beat his chest, listen, we got to move on, 9-11's over. Well, the media got a hold of it, and this guy was attached to a certain company, and they said this guy from this company said we should just forget about 9-11, and next thing you know that guy's like you know, picking up newspapers in Central Park. You know what I mean? So in a way, people want to move on.

02.19.59 But then when the anniversary comes on, like we said with the group that protested to get back onto Ground Zero, the first thing out of everyone's mouth like back in May or June when they wanted to plan the ceremony was, well, we're working at Ground Zero, and you know, no one can come, we're too busy and it's too dangerous, so you know, we're having it over here, and that's tough luck. And the family members got together and said no, time out. It's not tough luck.

02.20.30 We can figure out a way to do this. We want to go down to the pit, we want to be at the bottom. And you're gonna find out a way to do it. And we're gonna sit down and do it. And so, you know, it had to come to that, you know, to blows with the mayor, and he sat down and they actually had to bring him a picture and say look. Here's the site, here's where you are. Here's where we are. How can we can't just walk over here? Oh, I guess you can. Ok.

02.21.01 What was so hard about that? The initial reaction was no, you can't. you can't do it, 'cos it's too dangerous. You can't do this, you can't do that, it's over. You know, forget it, move on, move forward, everyone's got to move on. Big speeches, ladadada. You know, but some people, you know, you, you do not get over it, at all. You know, I was looking up my brother's buy a house website today. Because I wanted to get, pull up some archive pictures and stuff.

02.21.29 'Cos the route that people's gonna take goes right by my trailer now. So where I sit, I have a window, everyone's gonna be walking by, so, I, I printed some stuff of the website, so I put it on the windows, some pictures of my brother and stuff. So now when people go by and then when we go by, with my kids and his kids, I can say oh, look, there's my office. And then there's your dad, picture of your father and stuff like that, you know? So you know, then

when you get closer to 9-11, it's kind of like, you know, you start remembering back a little bit and, and that type of thing.

02.22.06 You know, and then when, you know, the day comes you're glad that you went to the ceremony, you know, but you know, the gravity of it is when you, when you're sitting there, you know, and you've been there, they just keep reading the names, and reading the names. An hour goes by, another one goes by, another one goes by.

02.22.30 And it's like 11:30, they're still reading names. You know? Like I was telling someone yesterday, I said you, you don't realize, you weren't there, right, and you never came to the ceremony? Hours and hours go by, they're still reading names of people that were killed right here. It's like that if you get the gravity of that, it's like that's a lot of people you know, that goes on for hours the names, so.

02.22.59 You know, unless you're actually there, and you know, you know, have a feeling for the amount of names that they are calling in that amount of hours, you know, you realize, you know, what, what has happened there, you know? You know, and I actually have more of a rare opportunity than others. I recovered the bodies, I know where we found like 20 people and two people and one person. And ten people. And now they're just digging stuff up there and pouring concrete (LAUGHS) on top of the areas, and stuff like that, you know?

JW: What's that feel like?

02.23.38 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, yeah, yeah. I have mixed feelings about it, I guess. You know? You know, they're saving the footprints of the towers. Actual outline of it but. You know, they're excavating areas where we found, you know, a lot of people, you know what I mean? But you're going down into rock now, different than, you know, they were above grade.

02.24.03 The one thing that, that it, that is agitating is that you know, some people are very adamant about the stuff that went to the Staten Island landfill. Now that should be addressed, you know what I mean? They should actually, like I said get a farm upstate somewhere. I'm sure some farmer would even donate the land, right?

02.24.29 Dig up all the dirt that they put there, trucks and stuff, and truck it all up to a farm in upstate New York or whatever. And fence it all in, right? And whenever, and put all the names of

everybody, and that's a big cemetery. Get it out of the dump. No one wants the stuff at a dump, at a dump. It's other stuff, they dump garbage is at the dump. You know?

JW: Are you talking about Freshkill?

02.25.00 BRIAN LYONS: And but it all costs money, that's why no one's doing it. No one wants to spend money.

JW: You would make that a graveyard?

02.25.11 BRIAN LYONS: Right. I would. Why, why wouldn't it, couldn't it be at an old apple farm upstate somewhere, some farmer? I, I bet you some farmer will give you the land for nothing. You know, I mean, you don't need that many acres. And fence it all in. And get all the stuff out of the thing, it'll be just the machine to load trucks.

02.25.33 And, and a, when, it would have to drive and unload the truck, and then a machine to level it all out again or whatever. So it would be trucking, but trucking is so expensive that that's why (LAUGHS) nobody wants, wants like to, to you know, do that project or whatever. 'Cos it cost money. If you had asked them two days after 9-11, they would have got all the money they needed.

02.26.00 Six years later, money for that, what are you (?). Can't you just forget about it? That's what you're gonna get now.

JW: That's an interesting human dynamic that is curious?

02.26.18 BRIAN LYONS: But I think it's, I think it's human nature. I think it's you know, you, you have to go back in history and look at all the wars and all the, the Romans and the, you know, our own, you know, American revolution and you know, all these things.

02.26.34 Brothers, I guess, in the American revolution, fought against each other. One that went to the north, and one that went to the South, I, they probably made even movies about them. You know? And it's interesting how that, you know, all came about. You go down in the South,

they still hate you if you're from the North. But if you're in the North, no one cares if you're from the South. But the South people have a chip on their shoulder.

02.27.00 I've been down there, I was stationed in the service down there. You know, if you're from the north, they still, you know, call you Rebel. They'll beat you up in a bar or something if you go into a wrong bar, in, in Hillbilly Land or somewhere, you know, Redneck Land if you want to call it. Guys'll just pick a fight with you 'cos you're from the North.

JW: One of the things about this film is about grief and healing, and the dynamic of the part forgetting plays in healing. What do you think?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

02.29.10 BRIAN LYONS: Well, I wanted to, I went on to get pictures of my brother, so I could have them up on the window so his children would see them. So they would remember him. 'Cos we want them to remember their father, even one that never even met his father, her father.

02.29.33 You know? Because she just sees pictures of him, you know what I mean? So you know, and they're getting older now, so they're asking questions about stuff. You know what I mean? Like my daughter, she still gets very emotional, Patricia, the 8-year old. Like she will when she comes down here, I know she will, she's very emotional. The 12-year old won't. She says, why are those stupid people had to run the planes into the building, anyway? Why didn't they just turn?

02.30.06 You know, she doesn't really get the concept of it right, right, but you know? She calls them stupid people.

JW: She's suggesting it was an accident, too. Is that part of human nature and the bigger picture?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

02.31.04 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, but they do. Like my daughter's in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, and in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, she was in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade last year. So we were thinking about this, so in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, she had major

problems with girls at recess. Fighting and bullying and bus problems and all sorts of issues. She's only in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, she's 6 years old.

02.31.31 So like the human nature of, it's like some jealousy and envy-ness of, of different people, you know what I mean? Causes people to act different ways all the time, you know? (~JW~) You know, and that happens (~JW~) in school, at home, in families at work, you know, in that (~JW~)

JW: It's a natural state of?

02.31.59 BRIAN LYONS: Siblings, you know? My daughters, like my wife'll tell you, all they do is screaming at each other all day, they hate each other. Can you, can I come in your room? Oh, get out of here, I hate you. And then my wife, well, don't tell your sister you hate her. What's going on with you? I don't want her in my room, she has her own room, you know? You have brothers, I have brothers, we used to punch each other, fight each other all the time. Everybody goes it's roughhousing and all that crap. You know what I mean? I guess that's what (LAUGHS) you know, that's what it is man, I don't know.

02.32.32 It's, it's weird.

JW: What do you think about the issue of memory and the value of remembering or forgetting in terms of healing?

02.32.51 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, I guess, you know, you know, death is death, like whether your father died, you know, 25 years ago like mine did, or your mother died. You know, you're sad, I get sad sometimes when I think, when I watch my older daughter dance. She's a championship Irish dancer. My mother was an Irish dancer. She would have loved to see her granddaughter dance. And she's beautiful, she has a beautiful dress on, costs thousands of dollars, you know and she's, she's extremely pretty. And you know, her grandmother would have loved to see her dance.

02.33.30 You know what I mean? So you know, you, you just, you think of that and then it passes, you know? And you know, same thing happens with my brother, you know? It, it just, the way that things had happened. It was a terrorist attack and (?) that type of thing. And it, you're at

Ground Zero, the thing is still a demolished mess, if you look at it. Sure, it's cranes and construction going around, but it, everything is a wreck, you know? It's all dug up and you know, all that stuff. It's gonna be years before you're sitting you know, in the park having lunch, which eventually will happen.

- 02.34.06 At least if you go to 7 World Trade Center, there's a beautiful park outside, you can go sit and eat lunch there. I do that sometimes. That's a nice quiet, shady place. But you know, the remembering and healing and you know, I don't know how healed you get. I don't know what healing is, you know what I mean?
- 02.34.27 You know, you see stuff on the news when the, when the, a lot of the (?) victims' families have protested, you know, they were the parents, a lot of them are parents, that, that they would, that all the fathers, that he might have been maybe 60 at the time, now he's 66 or almost 70, you know what I mean? He's still very agitated that his son is gone or his daughter is gone, you know what I mean? Real agitated. And, and probably real agitated at bureaucracy and you know, people have all different feelings about the Ground Zero thing, and who's building what and stuff.
- 02.35.07 That pretty much has gone away. I think because they're all building there now, so they have no control over stopping any of it, so the voices of holding construction up and hallowed ground and all that has silenced. 'Cos you know, physically if you go down there and look, there's no way for them to stop that now.
- 02.35.31 You know what I mean? There's too much involved with it now, that, you know, money and, and, and things have all happened. So you know, those people have faded away, that used to protest about not building on the site. When it had public hearings and what they were gonna do, and that whole phase is all gone. That was the, the third and fourth anniversaries. So now we're at the 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and you know, the healing is, you know, where I guess it's there somewhere or another, you know.
- 02.36.05 You just, you, you're over your you know, brother's death, sibling's death for whatever, but you know, you remember-eth type of thing, and it's more about when you're getting together with it's sad when you're with his wife and stuff. You still remember, you feel sorry. 'Cos she hasn't moved on yet, you know? She, and she's raising two children alone.
- 02.36.30 You know? And I'm sure that's hard to do. And where other people have moved on, got married, had children, with other people and have a whole new life. So they've moved

completely on. Probably don't go to the ceremonies, moved to another state, have a whole 'nother life. So I'm asking 9-11, yeah, my husband died in 9-11. Yeah, he'd dead now. Now but I have a new husband, I got new kids, this is my daughter from my first marriage, and here's my two sons from this marriage, and you know, whatever.

02.37.02 You know, there's people that have completely moved away. And like I was talking to Tom. He said significantly from watching the films, that you see the crowds have shrunken from the first anniversary to now. You know, I, it's hard for me to see that, but I guess if you're watching film from the areas where you guys film at, you could see from the first to be interesting to see what the 6<sup>th</sup> year would bring.

02.37.30 The 5<sup>th</sup> year obviously brought, the president even came, it was like a 5<sup>th</sup> year anniversary type of thing. The sixth year, you know, it's not on site, again, it's off, you know, and people might be thinking I'm not even gonna go. It's supposed to be a tropical storm Monday and Tuesday, I don't know (LAUGHS) if you know that. Yeah. That's gonna be not good. So that'll turn like a lot of people away, probably. We're gonna still go, but.

02.38.00 Tropical storm is supposed to come Monday and Tuesday.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

02.38.10 END OF TAPE # BL34

**TAPE # BL35**

**Brian Lyons**

**JIM WHITAKER, Producer/director**

**PROJECT REBIRTH**

03.00.30 PICTURE UP

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: What are you thinking about?

03.01.09 BRIAN LYONS: (MID-STATEMENT) so we go to the dollar store, and there's a compass there, it's a dollar. So I, I'm putting it in, my wife's like what do you need a compass for? I go, well, we're gonna go hiking. She goes, we're gonna take like the trail by the campsite, we're not gonna need a compass. I said it's a dollar, let's just get the stupid compass. Actually let's get two of them, one for each girl, and I'll show 'em how to use it.

03.01.28 You don't need a compass, we're gonna go down the trail, we don't need compasses. I'm like, I put the compasses in there anyway. So then, so when we're up there, we decide which day, 'cos it really wasn't too many sunny days there. It was kind of overcast, but it was, we were in a darker campsite so it doesn't really matter. So you know, you pick one day where you're just gonna go fishing, one day you're gonna go hiking, one day you're gonna go bike riding. So we picked a day, we're gonna go hiking. So you, you pack all your stuff up, make sure everybody's got the right shoes on.

03.01.59 And we have two new puppies, that's what we have in the family this year. We got, in May we got two Jack Russell's. And now they're like, May (~JW~) they were born in March, Bubbles and Bella. So they came hiking with us. So there's a trail. It's called the Roger's Rock trail, 'cos we stayed at Roger's Rock Campground. So it's named after some guy name Roger Something or another. And there's an Indian fable that he was being chased by the Indians.

03.02.33 And he went up to the top of this big rock, and then there's just a face that comes down. And that, they call that Roger's Slide. Because he disappeared. They don't know if he went down

the slide of the rock, onto the lake that was frozen and got away. Which was a huge cliff. Or he backtracked on his tracks and then went somewhere else, so the Indians didn't know what happened to him.

- 03.03.02. But then a day later, they seen him walking across the ice. So they thought he was like a ghost. So they worshipped him, so they named this thing Roger's Rock, and the cliff was called Roger's Slide. So we've been camping up there for 7 years, but we never took that trail. So I said, this year, we're gonna do Roger's Rock, so the girls can always say that they, that they did the Roger's Rock trail.
- 03.03.28 So we went up, and then the beginning of the trail, the trees are painted yellow, so you go yellow, yellow, yellow, and, and the trail hasn't been walked much 'cos it's not beaten down or anything, there's dead branches and stuff. So you're climbing over things, whereas, you might go on a, a well-marked trail that is, you know, all clean, and you might even pass 15 people, you know, on it while you're walking on it. But this one we had seen nobody, there was no one else on this trail that day.
- 03.03.59 So you're trying to follow the trees, but and then you get to a spot here the trees kind of end. So tell everyone stay there, I would go out and scout out walk a couple different directions, oh, way over there, there's a yellow tree. So then we would head for that tree. Dogs climbing over everything to get over there. My wife yelling at me, she's stepping on pricker bushes and stuff like that. So (LAUGHS). We got up to the top, which is beautiful, you know, where you over look, you're up at like 1700 feet.
- 03.04.31 They're overlooking the lake, it was a sunny day, beautiful view and everything, you know? So now, we were gonna leave, and you know, we seen this like ATV trail. Like you know, so it could be a ranger trail or a fire road, and you know, I said, well, if we take this down, we're sure to find, it's got run into the trail. Or some trail. And we can just follow that back to the camp.
- 03.04.57 So we follow it down and then like a half an hour later, it stops. Like they took the ATV out with a helicopter. There's nowhere to go. So I go well, we'll just, we're gonna use the compass. My wife's like the compass? You don't know how to read a compass. How's that gonna get us back? So like we have like this small family dispute on which way to go. You know? One daughter's like no, we got to follow the elm tree line, and the other daughter's

like, no, we came from that way, my wife is like, you know, call someone and get a limo, you know?

03.05.35 There's no cell phone service or whatever. But I'm like no, we'll use the compass and we'll get back. Right now we're facing north. We got to go southeast. Southwest to get back to where, you know, our camp is. So I said, we got to go southwest, so we got to go down this trail. And now this is like very hard terrain to get through. We got to go this way, this is the way the compass says to go.

03.06.03 My wife's cursing the compass the whole way, the dogs are afraid to go over cliffs now. They're tired. You know, we had, ran out of water. Everyone ate all the snacks. The backpack's empty. Now it's getting dark. I'm getting nervous, I'm thinking hope this compass (LAUGHS) fucking works, man. Because it's getting dark, and they ain't no one gonna come look for us. 'Cos no one knows that we left to go hiking. Which was stupid which you're supposed to tell somebody.

03.06.30 And, you know, then we see like orange ribbons, like landscaping ribbons or surveyor ribbons on some trees. And we had seen them along the path, so then my daughter's like well, here's the path, we just follow the trees. So we follow that for a while, and I keep looking at the compass, I'm going you know what? We're, we're going northeast, this is not working. This, well, whoever put those things on there, those, they're, not, it's another trail.

03.07.01 We got to go southwest. Let's go southwest. And we went southwest, southwest, southwest, and then we had a beaten trail and we came out right at our camp. Followed the compass. So I said, see, girls? You got to follow your compass and that gets you back to where you belong. Don't follow trees or other markings, or whatever. You rely on your compass and you'll get back to where you got to go. Then they were astonished for like a day.

03.07.30 That their father even knew how to read a compass, and that they followed it all the way back and came out exactly where they had to come out at, you know? So that was a very good trip. And it was a good hike. It took us six hours. The puppies were all (?), at the end of the, end of the road and everything you know? But we weren't tired too much. I thought the kids would go to bed early that night, but they stayed up, and we had s'mores every night at the fire. Place. You know, so, you know, that was, that was a good hike.

03.08.00 Very good hike.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: What about the stupid thing from the Lake George trip?

03.08.14 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, well, I guess you know, it was on the news that you know, I don't know if you even heard about that. Maybe you didn't, but the Deutsche Bank that they're tearing down caught on fire. And two firemen went up, and the standpipe thing didn't work, and they had no water and they died.

03.08.30 Two guys died in that building. An abandoned building after dying is ridiculous, you know? So you know, that was sad, and then like two days later, they were there, and some construction worker dropped like a pallet jack down the elevator shaft, and hit two more firemen. And broke a guy's spleen, and they were in critical condition in the hospital. One guy just got out a couple of weeks ago.

JW: You had warned them about that?

03.09.04 BRIAN LYONS: Oh, yeah it's still a mess. (~JW~) It's (?) a disaster, that building. They tore a building down on Broadway to build a, the Fulton Street transportation hub. Like in 3 weeks. Thing is gone. Three buildings. One of them was tall- that one was 52 stories, this one might have been 25 stories. But like in 3, 4 weeks, totally gone. And they're drilling caissons for another new building.

JW: What's the new one?

03.09.33 BRIAN LYONS: The management, whoever's managing that stupid thing, you know? They got management, they probably have union issues, union problems. You know, no one knows how to manage anything over there, whatever was going on. How could you have a standpipe that doesn't work, that's disconnected? In an abandoned building. And you know, the fire department, too. Abandoned buildings that (?) they're demo-ing, every 15 days, New York City code is that the fire, the fire department is next door to the building.

03.10.04 They never even went in and checked the standpipe. You're supposed to check it ever 15 days. So, lack of communication, lack of, you know, forget what happened, whatever.

JW: Does that make you angry a bit?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

03.10.41 BRIAN LYONS: No one learns. Their radios still don't work. People still can't talk to each other. It's a joke. No one, it's money. Money and power and who's in control, whatever, it's like, you know.

JW: Back to human nature again?

03.11.03 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah. It's, It's crazy. Yeah, no, no one learns, you know, whatever. You know, even firemen like you know, there's a 100 firemen at the Deutsche Bank building now, right? You know, and I would go up and say hey, is there any squads here, Squad 41 here whatever? And no one wants to give you the time of day. No, I don't know. Never heard of them. That's what you get from them, never heard of them, what are you talking about?

03.11.30 You know, no one wants to even be bothered talking to you. You know, it's very interesting. And you know what I really find, you know, what's very strange? I told my wife this a couple of months ago or something. Even over the whole last 6 years, if you meet a firemen or even a cop or mainly a fireman, a city fireman, you know, and you know, when I go to these Irish dance places, a lot of guys have their daughters in it and some are firemen.

03.12.01 So I, I see them, or I go to a function somewhere at school or something, and you know this guy's a city fireman or something. And you go up and you say to them, oh, how you doing, oh, you're a fireman, you work, you know, what house you work at, you know? Engine 26 or whatever. Oh, yeah, yeah, my brother was in Squad 41, you know, and he died in 9-11. Yeah, yeah, right how you doing, hey, goodbye, see you. What happened? I smell or something, what happened? Don't want to talk to you.

03.12.31 Very like you know, what? Don't want to know nothing. Oh, yeah, yeah, Squad 41? No, no, don't know anybody there. Hey, Joe, what's up, man? That's it. No one wants to talk to you,

you know, about anything or even have a conversation with you, whether you're a fireman or not. I don't know, I don't really care, but you know, it's just the point they just turn you off. Unless you're a fireman, they don't want to talk to you, seems like. I don't know.

JW: Why has that changed?

03.13.01 BRIAN LYONS: I, I don't know if it ever changed. I don't know if it was like that before 9-11 or after 9-11. (LAUGHS) Or whatever, but.

JW: Would that have happened in the first two years?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

03.13.21 BRIAN LYONS: (MID-STATEMENT) the first anniversary we went to the fire houses, and there was guys there that you know, weren't there the year before. Like the whole entire firehouse had almost changed personnel. So if they didn't know your brother, or didn't know the guy that you know, they don't want to know you, don't want to talk to you. Maybe one out of ten, see. Oh, come in, well, I think it was the probably the second anniversary, we went to my brother's first firehouse.

03.13.58 Which was very supportive of his wife and everything. And they built a memorial inside. They were gonna close that firehouse down. It was slated to be closed, 'cos they, they had closings of some of the firehouses so the, the city could save money. When, when Bloomberg was trying to balance the budget. Which they did close a bunch of firehouses. Slower ones and then they merged other ones together and stuff. And Engine 44 was scheduled to be closed.

03.14.27 And so they, they built this memorial for Michael so that even if it was closed, that this thing was still gonna be in the building. So that they sold they building, or whatever, the thing's still gonna be there. So this guy, Ed Kennedy, he was pretty much one of the last ones there still at this fire house that Michael knew. And he wasn't gonna be on duty that day, but we told him what we, we were gonna stop by and put flowers by Michael's like memorial thing.

- 03.15.00 So it's like oh, yeah, yeah, I'll tell them you're coming and stuff. So you know, we knock on the door and you know, some guy comes, and so he gets the officer. You know, everybody's upstairs, sleeping. So the officer was very polite and stuff, and he didn't know Michael. He said, oh, I didn't know your brother, but you know, we, you know, there's some guys that did, but you know, I'll get the guys up. You know, they're sleeping upstairs. It was only like 3 in the afternoon (LAUGHS) but you know, whatever.
- 03.15.29 So he gets everybody, you know, they all come down and stuff. And like they don't even want to know you. So the officer like dismisses them. Says ok, guys, you know, go ahead back to your thing. And then he brings us outside and he's like I'm so sorry, I want to apologize. My men, they're very disrespectful to you. You know, I didn't really, you know, catch on or really care what he was saying, but he was very upset that they didn't show any compassion at all to one of the firemen's brothers or siblings that came by to visit the memorial that's in their firehouse, (LAUGHS) you know what I'm saying?
- 03.16.11 So it was only that's only was two years after the thing happened. Now, the whole fire department's completely pretty much changed all around, you know what I mean? So, you know, there's some older guys that have been promoted to chiefs and stuff that lost a lot of good friends and I know they don't forget about it.
- 03.16.29 When you go to 9-11, if you look at some of the films, you'll notice there ain't no firemen there. Very few firemen go to that thing. I was always surprised about that. Very, very few firemen go. Like last year, I noticed Rescue 3 came the first year, second year, third year, fourth year. Massive unit, as a unit in dress uniform, with the widows and the families, very close, tight.
- 03.17.03 They were a rescue unit, not far in the Bronx from my brother's (?) house. So the fifth anniversary, I was saying, yeah, I was looking forward to seeing those Rescue 3 guys. I was gonna ask some of them a couple of questions or stuff. They never showed up (LAUGHS) there. So whatever had happened, or the house had changed so many people, nobody got together.
- 03.17.32 So even on the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary, they never came as a unit to the ceremony. I was very surprised about that. You know? Which is another thing lost in you know, in the history of life, I guess, you know what I mean? It was very interesting.

JW: Your brother is really in your life, and I wasn't sure what to expect this time. You don't let it go?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

03.21.01 BRIAN LYONS: No, no, don't forget about it, you know what I mean? And you know, you know, he, he's always there, you know what I mean? You know, my father died in '81, so that's like, you know, '81, '91, 2001, twenty-five some odd years ago, you know what I mean? Still think about him. You know, even though you were younger, and your memory you had of, you have to have memory (LAUGHS) loss there. There's memory loss for sure. Of memories that you have.

03.21.32 You get a few spots, even with my mother, who probably died '95, so 12 years ago or so. You can only remember bits and pieces of that. You know, the same with my brother, you know, you'd lose the, the things that were raw back 6 years ago that you remember. It's hard to remember now. But you know, you know, he still has some children that, you know, bring back, look just like him, you know what I mean?

03.22.05 And bring back memories of, of, of that, you know what I mean? You know, and the same thing. I'm still dedicated to, you know, I met with Larry Silverstein's people yesterday, and I was talking about stuff that I still am committed to the thing I said the day I got there. When I got to Pearl Street, and, and Church Street.

03.22.29 That I was gonna find my brother, you know, find everybody else that was there, and rebuild this site, stay here until it's completely done. You know, so I'm still committed to do that. You know? And you know, god bless my wife. She's been through a lot of stuff for me to be doing that. But you know, post traumatic stress syndrome, and changing jobs, to negotiating your worth, work areas, to get where you are and stuff like that, to be in positions you know, that I'm in.

JW: (To build the towers?)

03.23.10 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, doesn't just happen, you know what I'm saying? You have to help it a little way, there's a little faith there, a little luck here or there, you know what I mean?

Being in the right place at the right time type of thing, stuff like that. So you know, it, it's, it's very interesting about that, you know?

JW: Your wife has been through a lot to support you?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: How are the kids?

- 03.23.57 BRIAN LYONS: Oh, no, they're fine with everything, you know what I mean? You know, I'm there for them anyway. I go to every one of their dance competitions, you know, so haven't missed any of them in 6 years, so. You know, I make time or move my schedule around, so I, I stay active with them and do their homework with them at night when I'm home. And excuse me. You know, even like last year I guess I was, I was on nights or whatever.
- 03.24.26 About a year or so ago when we were doing the night work for the Freedom tower. So I was there in the day time with them or picking them up from school, or whatever the case may have been. And then, you know, you went to days so you just, you know, see them in the evening time and do the evening stuff with them, and you know, and off on the weekends, but you know, some weekends I have to work, you know? So it's. You know, they don't, they just see it as a job.
- 03.24.58 You know, they, they're very happy. Like I know Patricia says she brags in school that I'm working on the biggest building in the world, and she says no one believes me, Daddy. So. I brought them pictures, I brought them rocks now, like from the footings, the foundations. Like it's a, the rock shivv that's there is like 400 million years old. You know, and you talk to geologists, 'cos we got geologists that's there, you know, and they'll tell you what type of rock, this is like a quartz with a little mica in it, and it's from the African plates.
- 03.25.36 And, you know, it's 400 million years old, you know, I brought them home some samples, they keep them on their thing, you know what I mean? And you know, the one, Patricia, you know, she brags to her friends that I'm working on it, and they're like they're not even building the tower, they're not doing anything. They, but they're kids, they don't know. You

know what I mean? But my daughter knows, and she comes down and we bring her down, there, so she knows what she's talking about.

03.26.02 So I, we just said, listen. Don't listen to them. You, you know what's happening. You've been there. You went to 7 World Trade Center, you have a hat from 7 World Trade Center. So you know, you got proof (LAUGHS). You got a rock now.

JW: Is there some closure there for you?

03.26.27 BRIAN LYONS: For me, yeah, you know? Lot of people don't, like you got to be careful when you say that around family members, because they all believe. Oh, then he was found, so you know, you know, they found the body and everything and stuff like that. So you know that, that's really not the case where we, we don't have identification. DNA positive identification on it. But we know what we found.

03.26.58 So, you know, it's interesting to. To different people, you know. If you try to explain it to different people they have no concept on what you're talking about. It's, it's interesting about you know, the intelligence of, of all sorts of different (LAUGHS) individuals, of how you would explain finding somebody, and you know, you know, or, or you know, how death is and you know, with that type of thing.

03.27.31 You know, people perceive things on all different manners.

JW: Do you mean laypeople?

03.27.37 BRIAN LYONS: It would be lay people I would imagine, you know? I mean, people that are in that industry of like a police officer or maybe a fireman, or a medical person would know what you're talking about more than lay people. And relatives and family, they don't understand. What do you mean, you found him but you didn't? What does that mean, exactly? You try to explain it but then no one gets it, really, you know what I mean?

JW: Are you pursuing the DNA testing?

03.28.10 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, yeah, well, you know, they started a new process, and where they have some type of science that can detect DNA out of a bone fragment a thousand times better than they had at 9-11.

03.28.29 Six years later. So the medical examiner's office has, as you know, there's like 13 tractor trailers still refrigerated full of the remains that 19,000 some-odd remains that haven't been identified. They've put, putting that all through the process again, to try to identify as much remains as they can again through the new DNA process. So you know, we still have hope, maybe, some of that might come through there. You never know.

JW: Will you just get a call one day?

BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, that's how it works.

JW: How are Elaine and the kids?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

03.29.20 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, no, no good, they have a very good life. You know, they young girls and they go to school. And they got friends, and their own rooms now and stuff like that, so. They got a dog, too, this year, so. And I think we seen their dog, yeah, they haven't seen our dogs yet. We went over for Christmas. We, we haven't seen them you know, this year, you know, it's tough. It's like, you know, I go to work, you know, early in the morning and come home. So you're not going nowhere after work. The weekends, if I didn't have to work (?) I've been working on my house as much as possible.

03.30.06 If I, we didn't have an Irish competition to go to. So this whole year was either Irish competition, on a weekend, work on the weekend, or work on the house on the weekend. 'Cos I'm trying to get the house finished. 'cos I'm just, I have a whole huge extension with a garage and mudroom and basements that aren't finished, for six years.

03.30.28 So it's like ridiculous, so tomorrow, I got, I got my framing inspection before I left on vacation, so that's all the framing and major part of the house is done so I can move forward. So the electrician is coming tomorrow to do the wiring. The garage door guy is coming

tomorrow to put the two garage doors on, so that will be, look a little better. And then I can do the insulation and get an insulation inspection.

03.30.59 And then I got to order some windows and doors, which we been waiting on and we had to wait for the framing inspection. In case the building inspector wanted you to change the framing. Can't put the doors in yet. So, you know, hopefully before the end of the year, the windows and doors are all in, the electric's on and I have the heat on, and I got garage doors. And I'll be able to (?) at least make use of the room while I still fix up the inside. It won't be totally finished, you know?

03.31.29 So that, that would be a big, you know, plus. In that, that, that burns a lot of your time up. I, I'm at the age now, I started building my first part of my house when I was 30. I'm 47 now. I don't want to be building a house when I'm 50. Unless it's for someone else, and getting paid to do it (LAUGHS) you know what I mean? I want to be done. I want to come home and just not work on the house, to do an odds and end thing maybe. Fix a door handle or something, I don't know.

03.31.59 But not like major construction. Which I'm still doing.

JW: Will you let us film that?

BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, yeah, we've been trying to work that out, right? (LAUGHS)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: What are some other stories from the year?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

BRIAN LYONS: Boring and hard.

JW: What does that mean?

BRIAN LYONS: No, you know, it's just (~JW~)

JW: Do you mean hard work?

03.32.56 BRIAN LYONS: Just hard work, you know it's up in the morning, take the train, two trains, get a cup of coffee, go to work. You know, it's either hot, rainy, wet, cold, whatever. Take the train back home and work all week, maybe you got to work the weekend, and then, you know, you might have to go to (?), you work on your house, and then Monday comes, start to do the same thing. There's (?) no excitement or dynamic type of things that have happened. It's just it's just kind of like a, what's the right word for it?

03.33.36 Monogamous or whatever, the same thing over and over again? Monotonous, for the last year. From the, from 9-11 to this 9-11, it's just been the same thing, six days a week, go there, come home, go there, come home, go there, come home.

JW: You're working 6 days a week?

03.33.58 BRIAN LYONS: I was working 6 days a week for a long time. Now we got some more people, so we can rotate the weekends. You know? So you don't have to work every weekend. Maybe every 4<sup>th</sup> weekend, you, you work. Something like that, you know? (?) So it's, so it's interesting. So. No, the, there's been no excitement there at all. There's been nothing that's happened that was exciting during the year down at the site, at all, you know? There's been no visitors from you know, you know, I, I guess the biggest thing was that, you know, the 19<sup>th</sup> of December we put up the first column.

03.34.39 So that's like almost a year ago. So, you know, that, that was in, in a year's time, from then 'til now, that was the most exciting thing that probably happened. We put up the first column, then everybody left, and then we all just went back to work like normal (LAUGHS). You know what I mean?

JW: Did you sign the column?

03.35.01 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, yeah, yeah, I signed the column. Took a picture of it. You know? So that, that was exciting. I think Tom, I told Tom to sign it when he was down there that

day, one day. Now we covered, now it's, now it's concrete-encased, the first one. That had Freedom tower on it. Then the, they had, they had a couple of columns, and they put one column on a truck and they drove it all around the United States and all sorts of people signed it.

03.35.30 You know what I mean? And they brought that to the site and we put that one up. You know, that, that day, too. You know, and they went to a high school and there's a whole bunch of kids, like from Kentucky, you know, it says, you know, Beavers, you know, Rule, that must be their nickname of the school or whatever. You know?

JW: How has your PTSD been?

03.36.01 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. That's you know, I'm out of therapy now, I don't take medication no more. So, it's a curable thing, which is a good thing (LAUGHS). You know, it lasted a couple of years, so. You know, I got over that now. So that, that's a good thing.

JW: Do you still go to the spot where you found your brother's halagen?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

03.36.49 BRIAN LYONS: Oh, yeah, I go down there. Like the other day I went by there, stood in the area. But soon it'll be covered up. It's gonna go out of the ground. They're doing footings now, so soon they'll start coming out of the ground. That area will disappear into some type of structure. So.

03.37.07 I can see it perfectly from my trailer window right, right where it is, the spot.

JW: You see it every day?

03.37.16 BRIAN LYONS: See. Like there's guys I worked with for a whole year. They didn't even know 'til today that I lost my brother. 'Cos when they were, some of them start, were complaining about cleaning up. And I said listen, do you know where you're working?

Like 2800 people died here, ok?

- 03.37.34 And on Tuesday, all their family members are gonna come here, this is the only place that they have to go, 'cos they didn't find them. So you got your crap laying all over the place, so you might as well clean it up for them. All right? You know, you're not just here because, you know you're beating your chest last week, you're building like the Freedom tower. So do you know why you're doing that? Because like the other ones fell down, so (LAUGHS) remember where you are, once in awhile.
- 03.38.02 You know, and, and then later on I was printing stuff out, and then you know, this other guys that I know that I met that, from 9-11 that still work there, too, you know, something came up and I said you didn't know I lost my brother here, right? You know, this is a picture of him. Oh, no, I never knew that. So I'm working with like a couple of guys, I thought they knew. But. And they might have known but they might have forgot, I guess, I don't know.
- 03.38.28 But oh, I didn't, I didn't realize that you lost your brother here. Yeah, yeah, I did. You know, this means more to me than a job. I'm not just here for like the fun of it. Type of thing.

JW: You'll be there for quite a while?

- 03.38.57 BRIAN LYONS: Well, everything's supposed to be completed. If you look at everybody's numbers (~JW~) 2012, so that's 4 years from now, right, come January. If you take the whole year of 2012, well, then it's like 5 years. But those, that's just, that's just the structures of the buildings, you know? The core and shell. Then you have to fit them out. People got to move in, you know, so that's another 2 or 3 years, so that's 4, and 3 is 7 years.
- 03.39.30 Plus 6 now, that's 9 years, so you know, it's 10 years, like you said, maybe. Well, it would be more than that, right?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

- 03.39.48 BRIAN LYONS: (MID-STATEMENT) so if you got 4 years to finish and then 3 more, that's 7. All right, so 7 and 6 would be 13 years or so, 13 or 14 years from 9-11, 2001, things might be completed down there.

JW: How old were you when it started?

03.40.08 BRIAN LYONS: Forty-one, so you know, if, you know, 2000 say, when will I be 50? Three more years. So, 2010, I'll be (?) it'd be a few years after that. So I would be you know, like 54 or 55. By the time we finish. (~JW~) Forty-one when you start. Yeah.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

03.40.59 END OF TAPE # BL35

**TAPE # BL36**

**Brian Lyons**

**JIM WHITAKER, Producer/director**

**PROJECT REBIRTH**

04.00.26 PICTURE UP

04.00.29 BRIAN LYONS: (MID-STATEMENT) building the tower. And they're saying soon you'll start seeing it come out of the ground and stuff. Because you know, there's a lot of work when it's in the ground. People don't see, like you know, the things that are you know, there's some things you can't talk about they're confidential. But there's a lot of work to get a big building out of the ground. And (~JW~) you know, it's complicated area. You know, it's not just like an average site that you know, someone can build on, you know, sojj, there's, there's a lot of logistic issues that you have to work on, and there's a lot of construction in the area.

04.01.07 That you know, all sorts of other projects are happening. So (~JW~)

JW: What is an explanation?

04.01.19 BRIAN LYONS: Like if you go to Shop Rite, and you tell someone you're building the Freedom Tower, they'll say to you, oh, they're still, they're still working they, they, they gonna go ahead with that building or they're still working on that, or they even gonna build it?

04.01.31 No one even has a clue what they're even doing at Ground Zero. You know, up where I live or even around the country, you know what I mean? I think if you went to Idaho somewhere, they would be more excited 'cos you, those are the tourists that come, like there's all sorts of tourists that come. Those are the people, they're all excited about what's going on and, and they're the ones buying the maps from the Chinese people and all these things, about they want to know what's happening, what they take tours.

04.02.03 They pay money for some guy to show them around and tell them the story of Ground Zero. And you know, all this stuff, you know that's, those people are interested in it. The people that live in New York and around New York, they don't care about it, actually, I don't think.

JW: I think you're right.

04.02.23 BRIAN LYONS: It's true, man, I'm telling you. And you know, there's a lot of people from out of the country that come. That's for sure. (~JW~) Yeah, yeah. They, you know, and they have statistics. They, they publish them once in a while that said like whatever. So many thousands of people visited Ground Zero this year, tourism is up and you know, all that stuff. And tourism is up in general in New York City, you know, massively, since 9-11.

JW: They keep coming back. What will you be doing at 57, in ten years?

04.03.00 BRIAN LYONS: Well hopefully I'm working with the same company and building another buildings in mid-town or downtown or something like that, you know? Is, is what I'll probably be doing.

JW: What about when this particular job is finished, like after the PATH station?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

04.03.31 BRIAN LYONS: Oh, it, well, it depends. See, this is what happens in construction. It's like baseball, like I don't know if you remember. I forgot the pitcher's name but he pitched a no-hitter in Yankee Stadium, ok? He was a hero in New York. Was on every newspaper, every news channel, every game that he did after that was packed, to see if he could do it again. All right?

04.04.00 And the season ended that they didn't go to the World Series or whatever. And then the next season started, and you know, he pitched maybe not opening day, but maybe the third game and the stadium was packed. And two days later he got, he got traded to, to Toronto Blue Jays. And the Daily News and the Post was like hero to zero.

- 04.04.31 You know, for six months he was on top of the world. He pitched a no-hitter. He had eight million New Yorkers screaming behind him or whatever. And in a moment, he was transferred to another team, in another country (LAUGHS). And he was nobody. He ended up coming back to New York like 4 years later. David Wells that's what his name was, right. So that's, that happens in, in my business, in construction, I guess.
- 04.05.00 You know, you, you it depends I, I guess, you know, you know, what jobs are available or how busy the market is, you know? You get put in charge of a job and you're the BMOC, big man on campus. You're in charge, you're the general super. Or you're the executive on the project, and you're in charge of you know, the control of it and so on, and then you finish that project, and there isn't a project for you to go to, or you might have to go and share a project with somebody.
- 04.05.31 You might not have the title that you have, you know, then as you do now. And you know, you might feel differently about your position or your job, and stuff. But what I've learned is that as you get older, you cannot let that bother you, because you know, if you're unemployed when you're 55, you might not get another job. Very hard to, to find jobs when you're older.
- 04.05.56 So you just go with the flow and just keep plugging away and see what comes by you know, your way or whatever, you know what I mean?

JW: Is there correlation between your brother's death here and building this building?

BRIAN LYONS: No, I don't think so.

JW: Really?

- 04.06.24 BRIAN LYONS: No, no, I, I don't think so, you know, because I went to the other, I went from there, I went up to that other building. But it was just (?) it wasn't because you were away from Ground Zero, but you were still in, you were in a different atmosphere. But you had the symptoms all the time while you were still working down there, but they contributed to your success, because the symptoms of (?) post traumatic stress syndrome is that you have rage and you're yelling at everybody.

- 04.07.02 And that's what you have to do to get big (LAUGHS) jobs accomplished. You can't be a nice guy; otherwise, in construction, you lose. If you're a nice guy, nothing gets done, no one listens to you. You have to just be miserable mean guy all the time, 'cos nobody wants to do anything. If you're trying to be a nice guy, don't work. You can be professional about it, yeah, ok. But you, you be a professional asshole is what you have to be.
- 04.07.30 Otherwise, it don't work. Hey, I know about producers, they smoke cigars and they yell at people all day. You're late, you're late, you're late, we're gonna get a new soundtrack, you're late. (LAUGHS) That's what happens, you know what I mean? If you try to be nice, can you come early tomorrow, you know, maybe, you know. We'll have a fluffy pillow for you. That don't work. It's sad (LAUGHS) to say but it's really what happens in life.
- 04.07.59 No, so I figure, I'd be building these projects, and then you're gonna be moving on to another high (?). Our company is growing very big, and like they're building casinos in Las Vegas, entire inner city we're building for like, you know, all sorts of casinos and, and hotels and parks and waterfalls and amusement parks and all sorts of things. And you know, you would be on a project, you know, like that or something like that. You know, so.

JW: Would you want your daughter close?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

- 04.08.40 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, well, now we have lunch together, you know once a week or so, you know? I'm glad you know, she is moving up in the company already and she's you know, they like her at her job and you know, she was in construction stuff before. She worked for like 3 or 4 different construction companies before. She interviewed with the one that she's with now, Tischman. And you know, they're promoting women.
- 04.09.05 You have to have minorities and mixed in with any type of large company has to diversity their office staff. So there's lots of room for advancement for females in, in, in the working industry, you know? In the United States and in New York City. No matter what industry you're in. So. You know, she has some good opportunities ahead of her. You know?
- 04.09.33 And you know, for me, I, I'm just a builder guy, you know, I like building things and invent things. I got like tons of inventions, I have two already patents, right? You know, and, you

know, I had a baby bottle business before this all started, and Michael was helping me with it, and you know, who knows where that would have been by now if, if things worked out right. But you can't work where I'm working and have another business, so you can't, you can't do that.

04.10.01 So I had to, I gave that all up and dissolved the company and stuff like that. But I have like lots of ideas. There's that show, The Greatest Invention, or America's Newest Invention. I have a couple of inventions I could go on there with. But you can't take off of work to go to these shows. I looked it up on the internet. Says if you're gonna come here, you'll have to commit 21 weeks to come to LA and stay there. Who can go to LA for 21 weeks?

04.10.30 And leave your job? How do you do that? I mean, how can you possibly do that? You know, so I, I don't know how these people do it, you know? The guy that won this year, had a really good invention. I don't know if you ever watched that show.

JW: I've heard about it.

04.10.44 BRIAN LYONS: America's greatest inventions. The other show is, if you're smarter than a 5<sup>th</sup> grader. Have you seen that show? Oh, you got to watch that. That's hilarious. What's a rhombus? Do you know what a rhombus is? How many sides does a rhombus have?

JW: I knew it's a figure.

04.11.01 BRIAN LYONS: That's a third grade question. Third grade math, all right? Right?  
(STOPS)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

04.11.11 BRIAN LYONS: (MID-STATEMENT) How many sides does a rhombus have? (~ovlp~) Four. Look he's right, he's a cameraman. Look at him. So we all got it wrong. I don't know, the daughter, my 12-year old got it right. She knows what it is (LAUGHS).

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: What did the guy invent?

- 04.11.34 BRIAN LYONS: He invented a thing that puts out a fire on a real Christmas tree. He's got an angel that he sits at the top of the tree. It's a wax angel that has a fire sprinkler head in it, and it faces down. And there's a fireproof hose that goes down the (?) back, and there's a tank that's full of water, and the CO2 tank, and it's got a horn on it, whatever.
- 04.12.01 And it sits behind the tree so you don't see it. So if it, when it starts off, the first thing that happens is, it's a smoke detector. The alarm goes off, (?) smoke. So it wakes everybody up. And then when the flames come up and it gets hot, it melts the thing, and the water gushes down, puts the fire out. Christmas tree. He's a fireman, volunteer fireman like in LA.
- 04.12.27 And, and if, if you know if you're a fireman, if you ever watch the, around Christmas time they always show you, if you have a live tree and it catches on fire, in like 40 seconds your entire house is on fire. 'Cos it's just, it, it's like you know, the, dead pine, just you know, you ever throw your Christmas tree on a fire? When you're a kid? Just flames up really fast. So that's (?) the guy that won, you know? But they had some other, you know, pretty cute inventions that were on there.
- 04.12.59 One girl invented some type of bra, strapless bra. And she came in second. But some company signed her up, some bra company or whatever, like bought her whole thing, and made a whole line for her and everything. Whereas, he still had to go out and, you know, either make them himself or get some company to make them, and, and market it and everything. So the girl that came in second, made out probably better financially. You know, even though she didn't win. (~JW~)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

- 04.13.45 BRIAN LYONS: (MID-STATEMENT) you know, how many people, first of all, have Christmas trees, number two, how many have real ones? You know, and number three, are gonna spend the money, you know, it's not, it's not five dollars to buy the thing to put on it. You know what I mean? Whereas a bra, you're gonna have to buy at least three or four in a year, I would imagine. How many bras do they wear in a year? (LAUGHS)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: How important is it for the kids to see the pictures of Michael?

- 04.15.20 BRIAN LYONS: No, I, I, I think it's important that, that you know, that there's a picture of him, that, 'cos the 9-11 thing is always gonna be there. I'm gonna be working down there for awhile. And then after the buildings are built, we know that we're gonna go down the city for awhile. Like one of the goals is hopefully if, you know, you know, I become financially successful some way or another, you, we, we would like to live in, have a house or an apartment or a condo in the city. You know? And then you could go down there when you wanted to and see a show or whatever, and then, you know, 'cos me and my wife are from the city. You don't want to, you know, the city isn't all that bad.
- 04.16.02 The kids even get older, and then you know, you go back up to your house in the country, you know, that's where you have to raise them because you don't want the kids going, when I get on the subway in the morning or you come home. Kids take the subway to school. They're 6 years old, they're by themselves. Their parents have to go to work. You go on the subway, there's like two 6 years old, or maybe the, their sister who's ten is with them. There's a 6-year old and a 10-year old on the subway going to school.
- 04.16.33 And the subways are packed now. So it's like who wants their kid to do that? So it's like, you know, that's why we live up in the country. Bus comes right to the corner. On the bus. See ya. Mom's like see ya (LAUGHS). You know? So you know, you'd like to live in the city and, you'd always go down there to visit the place, so of course, you know, the memory of him would have to come up.
- 04.17.02 There'll be a memorial there, you know, that you could go see his name or whatever. But you would always want to have a picture around because you know, he did die as a hero, trying to go into a building and save people. Whether it was the Twin Towers or a building in Harlem. He, he saved a woman's life in Harlem. He gave her CPR. She was dead. And he brought her back to life.

JW: I didn't know that.

04.17.26 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, a black community man, they blessed him a million times, they gave him awards, they gave him all sorts of stuff. They, they thought it was a miracle. This Baptist church, they, they came to his firehouse a hundred times. And they gave him like awards and all sorts of stuff for saving this lady's life. 'Cos she was a member of their, you know, congregation. She was a older lady. But she died about 3 years after that. But you know, he did revive her.

04.17.58 Pulled her out of the bedroom, and she was no pulse or nothing, and he did CPR on her, you know, and he brought her back to life.

JW: Do you think of the memorial as a graveyard, a site for Michael's kids to visit?

04.18.38 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, I, I guess it's just gonna be like another memorial area thing, I guess. I don't know. It's, you know, they're gonna have a memorial, they're having their names there. It's the, the thing that's more aggravating, that's, they're gonna eventually build it like 10 years from now it'll be done.

04.19.00 So 20 years after 9-11, they'll have a memorial, which is stupid. They should have just right away built one down the street, even just a wall with everybody's name on it or something. That people could go and put flowers. But they never did that. I don't, I never understood that. Build a temporary one somewhere, with everybody's name on it so people can put flowers and come visit or somewhere or whatever. Especially the people that never had any, you know, closure.

04.19.34 They have, they're waiting for this memorial to be built which is bankrupt, run out of money. You know, there was donations. They had to cut everything. They cut like floors out of it or something because they ran out of money. And you know, it's all privately funded and stuff like that. And now like nobody wants to give anybody money. They're like, yeah, I'm sure you probably have a hard time getting money. It's like 9-11? You know, that was like a hundred years ago.

04.20.02 I got other things. A guy came by, my daughter's selling frigging Girl Scout cookies, who wants to give you money? He's taking picture, take one picture, what do you want (?). (LAUGHS) You need money for the films? I can imagine how hard it is. (~JW~) I told

you, people don't even know that you're even, there even is a Ground Zero and you building a building. You're trying to get money to tell them we're putting film in a camera every two weeks (LAUGHS) taking a snapshot of like nothing growing down there, pigeon (LAUGHS).

04.20.39 It's a good story there for you, right? Now you have movement, there's people. I always go out there and I tell, I told Tom, didn't you ever see me like stand in front of that thing like this for a couple of minutes, I don't know when it's going off or not, then I'd climb back down the ladder and then I'd go back up. So hopefully like when you develop it, you'd see me in there a bunch of times.

04.21.01 Now that camera's gone, though, so I can't do that no more.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

BRIAN LYONS: No, so the, the memorial thing is (~JW~)

JW: Is it good at the end of the day?

04.21.26 BRIAN LYONS: Oh, it's a good thing. Not bad. You know, but it's just, you know, it's another bureaucracy type of thing. It's take forever to build, it's you know, whatever it is, it is, it's gonna have names. They're not putting the names in the right way. Why, you know, the, the, you know, there's all sorts of controversy around the thing, you know what I mean? Michael was a firefighter. He went down with the firemen, his rescue units, or whatever.

04.21.58 All the police and firemen, they want the names listed as firemen or police officer so and so. The architects are like no. All right? The family members want it that way. Why wouldn't you do it the way the family members want their names? Why does the architect get to pick that, why? Why does the architect or politician get to pick the way the names go? When you got like all the family members saying they want another way.

04.22.29 Don't make sense, so who knows why. So the name'll be there, and the names, you know, in whatever order they're in, random order now or something. I don't even know what the thing is. There was supposed to be a waterfall, now I heard that they'd gonna turn the water off like lunch time, turn it back on at 2 o'clock, you know, whatever. So all these things are

changing. They don't even have enough money like, you know, to buy water now, to put in there. Supposedly. And no one wants to give any more money to the thing 'cos it's like, you know, 9-11's over, who needs money for that thing?

JW: What do you make of it?

04.23.08 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, it, it's the human reality of things, you know what I'm saying? Like am I surprised that they want to put bin Laden's tape all over the news, to make money or ratings? No. 'Cos somebody's making money. Some 26-year old producer or whoever's in charge of somebody, wants to get like better ratings than that guy.

04.23.32 So he's gonna like run someone over with a taxi cab to get a copy of the thing before Channel 11 gets it, so he can get it on his 5 o'clock news, before the other guy gets it on his 10 o'clock news. Am I surprised? No. Not (LAUGHS) at all. They're just a bunch of dopes, that, that don't realize what they're doing. They just, that's what life is, people step over you to get to the top, to get where they're going.

04.24.02 That's why you got to be tough in life. I teach my daughters to be tough no matter, no matter what. They live in the country, but they're tough girls. Life-wise. Why they go hiking, they can follow their way back with a compass. You know? They, they you know, you know, can take a subway, you know, they, I, I teach them like all, all the ways of life. And that's one reason why we keep them in Irish dancing.

04.24.29 Very, Irish dancing has extreme discipline you have to have. Self-discipline, so that teaches them self-discipline. You don't have that when you grow up, you know, it's not good. You know?

JW: Is this America ultimately, or is it around the world?

04.24.49 BRIAN LYONS: No, I think, I think it's a little different, different places, you know? I think Ireland's a little different. It's a little laid back. I think the south is a little different. They have a different lifestyle in the South. You know?

JW: Is it just New York?

- 04.25.06 BRIAN LYONS: No, no. You know, major cities, maybe, yeah. You know? There's major markets, I guess. That, that, that produce things like that. Metropolitan areas and so on, you know? You know, you, you could go to a small town and the, it's a small town.
- 04.25.27 Someone helps, sees you putting something in the back of your pickup truck, they'll come over and help you. Where I live, they'll walk right by you. I built my whole house, I got to do everything myself. Lift up one side of the log, lift up the other side of the log. If I got to move a TV or a refrigerator, I'm in big trouble. I have no one around to help me. You know? I got a couple of good neighbors. One of them's you know, they're older. And ask me to lift up a 250-pound refrigerator or (LAUGHS) or a washing machine, if I got to move one, you know?
- 04.26.00 So now I have to pay someone, now I pay people to do it. 'Cos I, I, I can't do it with somebody else. I used to have my brother, I would call Michael up and say, can you come over, we're gonna move a refrigerator or something. And he would come up or whatever. Or if he needed something, I would go to his house. And, and do it that way. But, yeah, I don't know. America is.
- 04.26.28 You know, you get that guy, Michael Moore, he brings out all sorts of stuff (LAUGHS). You know, I don't particularly care for the guy because of some of the issues that he can edit and bring out a story the way he wants to do it. But you know, if you want to dig into stuff, you, you'll see that every, you don't get nowhere unless you know people, that's for sure. You have to have contacts and stuff to get into doors, to have doors open for you or whatever.
- 04.26.57 Beating down doors, you know, you know, I have to, I don't know nobody. I have to beat down every door I got to go through (LAUGHS). You know what I mean? And, and then you just have to just prove yourself when you get there.

JW: That's kind of American?

- 04.27.14 BRIAN LYONS: No, no, right, right. I mean, the innovative part of it. One of the things, see, you know, I, I've done a lot of stuff in my life. People like my wife like you know, tells me, don't even tell me you did that, too, whatever. 'Cos we'll be driving somewhere and, and like I don't know, like they'll be a thing on TV.

- 04.27.37    There's a walrus what the, I like to watch the Discovery Channel with the kids, to show them different things. Right? And you know, a walrus will be floating by on a piece of ice. And I'll say you know what? When I was on my ship, I used to see a walrus. And my wife would say, will you stop telling them lies and stories like you did everything in the world?
- 04.28.01    I'm like (LAUGHS) oh, listen. I was in Alaska. I was on a ship, and we seen a walrus go by. What do you want me to tell you? So I'm telling the kids. So it's like I had done a lot of things, you know what I mean? Like one of the, this is, this is a very interesting story and everyone should know this. 'Cos I didn't know it, and it's very interesting and, and human nature or, or in nature.
- 04.28.27    It showed, it was on Discovery Channel, a polar bear is up in Polar Bear Land, all right? And this is how he's gonna eat. He sniffs around in the snow, it's a big glacier somewhere, sniffing around. And he stops at this one spot, and it's just this guy with a camera, probably hidden in the snow so he don't get eaten by the polar bear. And the polar bear's waiting there, waiting. Waiting, waiting.
- 04.28.58    And all of a sudden, he smashes through the ice and grabs a seal. Pulls a seal out of the, out of the ice. And then drags it off and that's his dinner and everything. And then they explain to you, this is what he did. He said, they say, not only did he learn what he did, but the Eskimos learned from the polar bears how to eat and feed off of the seals.
- 04.29.28    What happens is, the seals live under the water, but they need air. So they, they break a pocket through the ice, the seals. But the snow covers it over. But there's a tiny hole that goes through the snow, and then into the where the water is. So the, the seal, I forgot what type of seal they call it, he'd go down, swim around, eat, eat, eat, eat, now he needs air. I don't know how long he can stay down there, like 40 minutes.
- 04.30.00    He's got to come back up to that pocket, stick his head up, suck some air in, and then go back down, swim around and then eat again. So the Eskimos had those, had these, have these dogs, those Eskimo dogs. And they go around and they find that, where that hole is, so the Eskimo sees it and he clears away the snow a little and he sees a little hole.
- 04.30.29    And he takes a seal bone, which some type of string or something, and he sticks it down in there, right? And he has a spear, and he waits over the hole, 'cos when the string is here, the seal comes up, hits the string, moves the seal bone, and then he sticks the spear down in

there, and he pulls up the seal. And then they show you him dragging the seal away. So I was explaining to my daughters, you know, look, look what happened.

04.31.00 See, you wouldn't even know that you could feed, you know, if you get stuck up in the Artic, look for a seal hole, and try to make a spear, and then (LAUGHS) you could get a seal, so you can eat. But you would never know that that's something in nature that happens, and then the polar bear lives off of it, and then the Eskimo also lives off of it, and you wouldn't even know it by looking at the glacier or the ice snow. That everything's covered with snow, that there's a seal hole there, that the seal's got to come up and, and, and get air and that's how he gets killed and he gets eaten.

04.31.39 And it was very interesting, how, how, how nature is, you know what I mean? So it was. You know, that's nature there, and then you got nature in a city like we are, where people climb over each other, to get to the top of, of things. That's a, a simple thing that's happened for hundreds and hundreds of years.

04.32.00 And the things that we experience now has happened for hundreds of years, too. The Romans took over some other land with, with swords and, and spears and stuff. To take, to be more powerful. And it seems like that's what happens in the big metropolitan areas, I guess. You go to a small town in Georgia or whatever, people are just picking peaches and want to sit on the porch and help each other. Bring pies to each other's houses and play bridge or something. You know what I mean?

04.32.30 And you know, it's the way I, I, I see it. I was stationed down in the South and you know, there's some people out in the hicks, and they just happy as can be. Live on a farm. Go over to mamma's house for dinner. Go back home. Easy living, easy life, no problems, no headaches. You know? We're you know, from here, so this is what we have to deal with.

JW: Any relate to the topic at hand or to Ground Zero?

04.33.05 BRIAN LYONS: No, no, I don't know. I got to tell you again, though, but you know, I always tell people the four gates, at Ground Zero. You're inside those four gates. If you walk in those, I, I told the plumber this, the plumber started a couple of months ago, contract was awarded for the plumber and, they sent the foreman down he's gonna work. I never met the guy before in my life.

- 04.33.31 Name of the plumbing company, how you doing? You're gonna be the foreman. Seven o'clock, the job starts at 7, so I met him at 7. So I said, listen. Seven o'clock. I'll give you ten minutes change your mind. And just head out the gate and you ain't got to come back. 'Cos this is a hard job. It's not like any other construction job you're ever gonna be on, all right? So, you know, I'm just giving you a head's up, if you can't handle it, I'm giving you ten minutes.
- 04.34.03 After the ten minutes, that's it, you're done, you have to stay. We're not gonna recommend you to leave or nothing after that. And he's like, it's like any other construction job. I've been on jobs for like you don't know how long, whatever. I've been on this job and that job. Eight minutes left (LAUGHS). Come on, you're just joking me, let's get a cup of coffee, go over the plans. So all right, ten minutes is up, you're here.
- 04.34.31 All right, right. Two weeks later, he goes, you know what? I should have took that advice. You gave me ten minutes, you (?) guy, listen. Another, a new guy comes on, he goes, listen. Brian gave me ten minutes to leave. I didn't leave. I made a big mistake. (LAUGHS) I should have left when I left. 'Cos things are so hard inside those gates. It's, there's nowhere to move, you have to walk up and down out of the pit.
- 04.35.00 There's no elevators. It's hot in the summer, freezing cold in the winter. Floods in the rain. You know? It's, you know, big bureaucracy of big huge project, you know? Everyone has their own ideas, this guy's going that way, this guy's in your way. These trucks are blocking that truck who needs to get this truck in, you know? Things are very hard there, very, very hard to work.
- 04.35.30 And it doesn't get easier 'til everything's finished. So you know, I kind of was only joking with the guy, but I was telling him, ten minutes, you can leave, ten minutes to leave. So we always joke about that when we run into problems. Like man I should have (?) ten minutes to leave, I should have left. Should have just called my boss and said you know what? This job ain't for me, which some people do. They're, there are people in the construction industry that do not want to work at Ground Zero.
- 04.35.59 They don't want to do nothing with it. They think it's a sacred place or jinxed place or whatever. The union, like union guys. They get assigned, you know, they, they're out of work, they go to the hall, they get a ticket, oh, yeah, you're going to this building. It's at Ground Zero. No, no, I don't want that one, I'll wait for the next job to come up tomorrow or

something else, 52<sup>nd</sup> street, that's where I'm going. I don't want to go to Ground Zero. So there is people that don't want to come there to work. You know, that's for sure. You know, and then, then there's a lot of people

04.36.31 I want to work at Ground Zero. This one inspector was telling me, his whole office wants to come to ground Zero. They want to be part of history. To build these buildings. So they're coming there to be part of history. That's what they want to be there for. I guess. So some people, you know, are, are there 'cos they want to be part of history. So I'm there, I guess now I'm there, I'm there. I don't know. You know, I, I have the goal to finish everything to, to build, to finish all that stuff.

04.37.03 I put the red light on top of seven, now I got to do the Freedom tower and then tower two, three and four. And I'll be done. Did you ever look at that footage? Did it come out good? Perfect, right?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: Anything else you'd like to share?

04.37.44 BRIAN LYONS: No, I just wanted to, I, I would say that, I would say it to my wife, that she has been angel for the last 6 years to me. For all the things that I've been putting her through and working down here.

04.38.00 There's a lot of hours. It's a long commute. I'm away from my house a lot. We do stay together when we can and stay with our children, but, you know, she has sacrificed a lot of stuff for me, to continue the goal that I had mentioned, you know what I mean? And to continue with it all, you know? You know, early on, we, we're trying to have another child, and then 9-11 came, and that kind of blew all that out of the water type of thing.

04.38.30 'Cos I wasn't home, and the stress, and then you get older, and then, you know, you get too old. And then you miss that opportunity. And I think that had happened with us, so you know, that was a big sacrifice, that, that we made, that she made. You know? You know, I, I would like to say that, you know, that I love her for standing by me for that.

04.39.01 That would, would be about it 'til I turn that red light bulb on, on top of one of them buildings. This time next year, they're out of the ground with some buildings, somewhere along the line. You know?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

04.39.53 END OF TAPE # BL36

**TAPE # BL37**

**Brian Lyons**

**JIM WHITAKER, Producer/director**

**PROJECT REBIRTH**

05.00.03 PICTURE UP

05.00.05 BRIAN LYONS: And you know, he would be there ahead of time, and he would know where the fish are, and then we would go. But then you would go up there, and the fish wouldn't be running, because the, the temperature of the water, as you would know, is very critical. And the speed of the water is very critical. The water isn't flowing properly, like fast enough, the fish won't come in. They want to have like something to push against.

05.00.31 So there's a hatchery at the top of this river. And there's a dam that opens and closes. And it's run by the power authority. So if they need more water or whatever, for cooking their power plant, they open or close the gate. So opening and closing the gate also lets the fish either come in or not come in (~ovlp~) the river. Right, no one knows. It's like a secret, the guy is like top secret. He's like you know, in the CIA or something, that no one knows when the gate's gonna open or close. You want him to open the gate so the water's faster, so the fish will come in.

05.00.58 But no one knows when that's gonna happen. But after a cold rain, or if you see the temperature's gonna drop, then you know the fishing might be good that weekend. But now they have the internet, like I was telling Danielle. So you can look up fishing conditions right away on the site in different part of the Salmon River, or where you're at.

05.01.31 So you keep track, like last week, they were in (?) they're out in Lake Ontario, and in the summer or whatever, they're in 200 feet of water. And then in August they're in like 150 feet of water. The middle of August they're in 90 feet of water. September 1<sup>st</sup>, they're in 60 feet of water. September 15<sup>th</sup>, they're at the mouth of the river. September 18<sup>th</sup>, some of them are in the river, you know.

05.02.02 September 20<sup>th</sup>, there's different holes in the river. They're up to here, you know, so you try to follow, you know, where they are, when they're coming in. What the temperature's gonna be, and especially now if you're gonna go with your kids, you don't want to go when it's like

a pouring rainy weekend. Years ago, didn't matter, we'd be drinking beer, going with a bunch of guys, it's raining and no one cares, you're catching fish. But if you want to bring your daughter, you got, you know, you want to have a nice weekend.

- 05.02.31 So what I do now is I don't fish the river like we used to, 'cos what they used to have is, it was snagging zones. And the fish would be in the river, and you could put a treble hook on the end of your thing. And you throw it in and then you just pull until you get them. (~JW~) it was like jig. (~JW~) So they did away with that like ten years ago, 'cos it was a slaughterhouse thing. But they needed to do it because they needed to weed out some of the salmon.
- 05.03.02 But then they caught up with the population, so they did away with that. And then up in the river, they have like three different fly fishing zones, where you can fly fish only. So there, there's those zones. And then it tells you on the website, there's holes in those zones, 'cos what happens is the salmon, you know, at night, they travel at night. And they go from deep hole to deep hole at nighttime.
- 05.03.30 So the website tells you, and there's all different names. The Black Hole, Treble Hole, Schoolhouse Hole, whatever the names of holes are, whatever. And you know, the website tells you, fish are flowing fluently through the Black Hole up to the Schoolhouse Hole at this time. And the speed of the river is 1000-1500 cubic feet per minute or whatever it is. So it, it gives you a guide so you can plan when you're gonna go up there, 'cos you know, you don't want to go when it, the, the thing tells you, the fish are at the mouth of the river, nothing's happening.
- 05.0.11 Could be Columbus Day, which that's what's happened. And then what (LAUGHS) happens is, up there, in two weeks, they open the thing and it's cold and all the fish went up the river into the hatchery, they're done, you missed the whole thing. I had to work two weeks in a row, I missed the whole run. There's a couple of fish at the mouth of the river.
- 05.04.29 So you don't, you don't know. (LAUGHS) And that's happened to me. I'd go up there, and Jen would say, it's all over, they're all up in the hatchery. 'Cos they count them, they milk them up in the hatchery, so when they count all the fish, they know how many come every year. For example, if 15,000 fish come every year, all right? Fifteen thousand, 14,000, 16000 or if it goes up a thousand every year, and by October 8<sup>th</sup> there's 16,000 fish already at the hatchery, you know there ain't no more coming.

05.05.06 There's a couple stragglers here or there. But at, at on October 5<sup>th</sup> or whatever, if there's only 3,000 up at the hatchery, you know there's still more fish (?) that are gonna come. So I don't know the exact date when I'm gonna go. I have to watch that thing a little bit, but in general, it's from the last week in September to the week before Halloween.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: She likes to fish?

05.05.38 BRIAN LYONS: She loves to fish. She, she's a big fisherman now. She's like I took her out black fishing like the day after Christmas, out in the ocean. And it was rough, she threw up a little but then she toughened up. She was out there with winter coat, caught blackfish. When we went camping, (Hammonassack?) Long Island Sound, me and her fishing together, our fishes are in the sand pole things. Her pole comes flying out of the thing, catches a big striper, like this.

05.06.08 Puts it back in, pull out again, another bluefish like this, two of them, I don't catch nothing, Same exact bait on. I'm like next to her, she's catching all the fish. And then we went to Lake George, she just fished with me every day. I, I have a little 14 foot boat with a 5 horsepower. And that's what we're gonna bring when we go salmon fishing.

05.06.29 'Cos we're gonna go by the mouth of the river, and we're just gonna anchor. And you can fish at night. There's a certain, you're not allowed to fish in the river at night, but you're allowed to fish in Lake Ontario at night. But Lake Ontario comes into the river, there's a buoy and the buoy is the point where the river meets the lake. So if you're fishing on this side of the buoy you're in the river, fish on this side of the buoy, you're in the lake. So the salmon are all right at the mouth of the river.

05.07.02 So you can sit there, and you can they call it lifting, 'cos they're really not biting, right? Or feeding. If you're fly-fishing, you're lucky if you're catching one off a fly. So they call it lifting. You're, you got to tie like a ribbon or something, something has to be on your hook, there's a certain size hook, half inch shank or whatever. And then you just slowly pick it up, and you hoping to capture one in the mouth. And then if you get one in the tail, you got to

fight for awhile, but you might have to throw him back, if, if no one's looking, you can throw him in the bag or whatever, but you know.

- 05.07.36 It's the fun of trying to get one on, and she, you know, she wants to go because we did it a couple of times, and you know, they jump out of the water and they scare the shit out of you. And you're sitting in a little boat like this, there's a big, two big fish jump in front of you, rock your boat, you know, you're like oh. So you know, it's a lot of fun. So I, I don't know what weekend that is, but it, you know, it, it would be good.
- 05.07.59 And then, you know, if you wanted to come, we, we would set it up. We could pick the weekend, and if you want to fly-fish, we could go to the fly-fishing zone, and my friend's a guide, and he knows exactly where the hell they are. You can fly-fish anywhere, but there's specific area just for fly-fishing. So you can't fish with lures in that area. You know? But you can always fly fish in any area that you want. But they have specific zones for that. And I, what I'll try to do is I know the site, but it doesn't have a map on it.
- 05.08.32 Why it has no map on it I don't know, but I used to have a good map of the Salmon River, it showed all the holes and where the fly-fishing zones were and stuff like that, and I lost it. I have to get another one when I get up there. But. I could send you the website and you could even watch it.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: Any lessons from the year or so far you'd like to share?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

- 05.09.25 BRIAN LYONS: I have to eat high fiber diet (LAUGHS). 'Cos I had the near-death experience, which I don't do very well. So I, I do have to watch what I, what I eat, you know? Because you know, that was probably the biggest thing that happened to me in the year, that I got sick. And I had to have two operations. So you, you know, if you don't have your health, you don't have anything. You know, you need your health and you need your family, and everything else is secondary from that, you know?

- 05.09.58 And if you have that, you can have a happy life. You don't need money. Money just, you know, complicates things, I guess. The more money you make, the more money you want. And just spend it on something else, so you need more money. That's what happens. So you just need to be satisfied in life what you're doing. Be happy, and you know, if you have a job, you need to be happy with what you're at. If you're not happy with what you're doing, you need to change that, you know?
- 05.10.30 So and that's what I teach my kids, too, is like we don't force them into dancing whatever, but if you're not happy doing it, let me know. 'Cos I'm paying the teacher a lot of money, but we want you to be happy. If you're not happy doing it, there's no use in doing it. You want to do something that you like. You know, there's no use in, you know, no one's forcing you to go to dance class, or dance in front of people. So I always ask my daughter, you like it? Oh, no, no, I like it, I like it. You know, so.
- 05.10.57 But that's my philosophy.

JW: Thank you.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

- 05.11.39 BRIAN LYONS: They're all over the country. Like people have, have moved away, right?

JW: Some have. Some have changed things for themselves.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

- 05.12.13 BRIAN LYONS: That's why I had to give Tom like the third degree. I come up on my deck, we're pouring concrete, you're standing up here with a camera. And you didn't call me? I should throw you and the camera off the deck right now, ok?
- 05.12.28 It's just, 'cos it just (?) and he probably got some good footage about that, I don't know if you've seen it yet or not, but we, you know, we were building the deck and he was, he, he got to come on the site. I said, they, they let you on the site? 'Cos I know you guys were having some problems getting on the site.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

05.12.52 BRIAN LYONS: I said, so for your penalty, I'll have to tell you, you gonna take your camera down. Otherwise, we're gonna hit it with a backhoe, all right? (LAUGHS). I was just joking with him, but that's what I was saying. Oh, I, I think I told you this before, right? My favorite show is the Friday Night Lights. Did I ever tell you that? (~JW~) The one on TV. I watch, I watched the movie, too, but like, like my favorite television show is Friday Night Lights. I love that show. The actor is good. (~JW~)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

05.14.00 BRIAN LYONS: 'Cos I remember, we spoke about this last time, 'cos I haven't seen you, right in a year, that (~JW~) about the guy, remember you told me the story about the movie? And I guess your director or something went there, and some kid got hurt. And everyone was quiet and the mother stood up (~JW~) and then they wrote that into the pilot.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

05.14.24 BRIAN LYONS: You told me that they were gonna write that in. You said, we're not changing the film, we're, you know, we're not changing the film, we got like two minutes to go, and we're done, all right? Wrap it up, we're done with the money. Get the food cart out of here, and let's go. See, got that on there? So you said, we'll do it you know, another time or we'll write into a pilot or something, so. So you told me they write it in the pilot, so. I, I guess I watched the first show, I wanted to see what it was like. And they, they got the quarterback got hurt. You know, it was, it wasn't exactly like the, the thing, but (?) everyone got quiet and stuff.

05.15.03 And then you know, the guy got hurt, and then he stayed hurt, he's hurt the whole (~JW~)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

05.15.30 BRIAN LYONS: There was silence, and you know, it kind of like went into where he was. And you know, what the EMTs were doing, and then they scanned the crowd quietly, and you know when they put him in the ambulance, everybody clapped or whatever, and then they took him away, and they continued the game or whatever. But, you know, then he stayed, he's crippled or whatever, the whole, the whole show and stuff. But you know, then they leave it at the end where we don't know if he's, he turned down like a college coach job and stuff like that, you know?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

05.18.10 END OF TAPE # BL37