

TAPE # BL 051
Brian Lyons
JIM WHITAKER, Producer/director
PROJECT REBIRTH

01.00.32 PICTURE UP

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: What's going on at Ground Zero?

01.05.25 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, well, today at Ground Zero we're pouring some concrete for Tower Four. So we're getting read to pour the ground level slab. So it's about an 800-yard pour today. So we've been on a pretty good rhythm now, about a 1000 yards or 1200 yards of concrete a week. And that's, that's pretty significant. No one else on the site's pouring that much concrete, and right now it's all about placing steel and pouring concrete to get out of the ground, to get, start getting, you know, above street level.

JW: You seem to be moving really fast?

01.06.00 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, well, one is the foundation area is done now, and you know, the super structure (?) super structure contractor, he's pretty well-organized. But the other things have stopped around us. They were on hold since the summer, so if they were going, you would actually see more stuff being built. But, and we're in the less complicated area now that the foundation is done.

01.06.27 The blasting's done and all that stuff is done. So you, you can kind of build like, like a normal building now.

JW: Will that building continue as fast as it has been going?

BRIAN LYONS: Oh, absolutely, yeah. Yep.

JW: When will you be finished?

01.06.42 BRIAN LYONS: No, no, it's still, it's still, it's on schedule for, it has 45 more months to go. So it's like 2013, March, 2013.

JW: What about the core of it?

01.06.58 BRIAN LYONS: That's, that's when we'll be done. The top, the roof (~JW~). The inside won't be finished.

JW: How many stories is it?

BRIAN LYONS: Sixty-seven stories.

JW: Big building?

01.07.11 BRIAN LYONS: No, no, pretty big building. (~JW~). You'll see, this time next year, there'll be steel, you know, higher than building on the site this time next year, Tower 4.

JW: What's going on with the other politics?

01.07.31 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, well, the contract that was doing the hub and TNM stuff, that has all ceased now. So they're demobilizing and everything's going out to bid again. So they getting different contractors and there's different packages that are broken up – a subway, the hub proper, and the vehicle security center proper. So those are all going out to individual contractors or being manged maybe by one contractor, so that they can be organized a little better.

JW: How's the Freedom Tower going?

01.08.03 BRIAN LYONS: Actually they're doing much better now. They changed some things. They're out of that PATH train area, so they're getting up to street. And you know, by, by the fall or whatever, if they get above street level, and they start just doing the steel, you'll see that to start to progress, you know? But the major complicated work for the Freedom Tower's pretty much done.

01.08.26 All around the, the tracks and the live train, passenger trains and stuff like that.

JW: Does the PATH train go underneath the Freedom Tower?

01.08.33 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, it cuts right through the foundation of it. That's the original Tower Two had this PATH train cut through the bottom of the foundation of that. (~JW~) Tower One stayed clear. It was a little south of the PATH.

JW: What about the memorial?

01.08.50 BRIAN LYONS: Well, that's going well. That's (?) due to open. The, you know, the, the skeleton of it, anyway. Nine-eleven eleven. So they got the steel up, they're pouring concrete, you know, they'll finish off the grade. They'll probably get the water going, you know, that, that kind of thing. So, you know, that, that looks pretty good. See, now that it's to grade, it doesn't go any higher than the street, so it doesn't look like they're doing anything. But they're completing all the bottom sections now. You know, all the little pieces of the puzzle.

JW: How does that work in terms of the platforms?

01.09.30 BRIAN LYONS: Well, there's all different rooms – mechanical rooms and chiller rooms that supply other parts of the site. Piping system, electrical vaults. It's in like the south certain area of the site. And it, you know, has to be connected to the hub and all these other things. So you know, those areas still would need to be worked on. The, you know, the memorial and the museums and stuff that you'll see will be one section of that area that's in the pit area for the, for the memorial.

01.10.06 But underneath some levels and some decks and some other areas are, are designated mechanical rooms and electrical rooms to feed the, the rest of the site. So now they'll be able to get the, the memorial open. But those other areas won't be completed probably 'til, you know, a few years after that, 2013, 14, 15, 16. Whatever. Whatever it takes (LAUGHS)

JW: How does it feel to be working on it?

01.10.33 BRIAN LYONS: Oh, no, no very good, very good. I'm glad I'm there. Luckily in this economy, you know, I still have a job, and at this (?) this work has continued, you know, and hopefully in a few more weeks they'll, they'll start to approve the other buildings and they'll go and some more people will get back to work. So you know it's ironic, like almost 8 years later, that the economy went down and at least we have a (?) little infrastructure in Lower Manhattan to keep some people employed, and, and keep building some stuff.

JW: How are things at home?

01.11.10 BRIAN LYONS: No, everything's good. Working on the house still, you know, it, we're just doing the yard, I got to open the pool, get stuff ready for the summer. Just about ready to open up the other section of the house. You know, I got a few more things and then I'll get my, my CO, that, that's the biggest section with that.

01.11.27 The kids are getting bigger. One is graduating from 8th grade. And you know, one's going into 6th grade. And you know, they got all summer activities coming up now, it'll be the summer soon. So they're all looking forward to that. So it's, things are good.

JW: What else is happening?

01.11.54 BRIAN LYONS: Nothing. The same thing for 8 years. I wake up, get on the 4:30 train, come to Ground Zero, work, get back 5, 6, 7 o'clock. Go home, eat, and either go to a play or a practice or something, and then eat and go to bed. Wake up, do the same thing. The weekends are either work here or you go to an Irish competition or to some type of play

practice, or something like that. That's, that's about it. You know, we, we did go, Memorial Day weekend, obviously we try to, the holiday weekends we camp.

01.12.28 So we went to Hershey Park for that, and we went camping. And 4th of July, we're going camping at Hamanassik. That's the first place that we, we met you guys that day, the Hamanassik State Park so that's for the weekend. And in general, it's a pretty boring life. It's just life in general (LAUGHS) you know what I mean? You raising your kids, you, you know, this takes a lot of your time up. But it's like any other job, you know what I mean? It's just that you got to get up early and you get home later.

01.12.59 It's about a 5-hour commute, round trip.

JW: That's a lot?

01.13.05 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, yep, yep. You know, try to take time off for going fishing. Not, not too much in the summertime, you know, maybe Father's Day there might be a fishing tournament on the lake that we bring the kids to.

JW: What do you fish there for?

01.13.19 BRIAN LYONS: Little bass and sunnies. You got to throw the bass back, they don't count. The little sunnies, they count. They weigh them all up and see who gets the. Elizabeth, the 13-year old, won her, her age group the biggest fish last year, catfish. I don't know it was 3 pounds or something like that.

JW: Was that a fluke?

01.13.36 BRIAN LYONS: No, no, no. Daddy's the guide so I can tell them where to go. But salmon fishing every year, we definitely go to that. We go up to the Salmon River, by Lake Ontario. In northwestern New York.. Last year was good. We, we had like 20 or 25 fish on the hook, but we never got landed one in, because they were just too strong.

01.13.58 They, they got into the rapids and kept breaking the line. But you could fight them. Like one we fought for a good 25, 30 minutes, at least. Kept running up river back into the, into the

rapids. Pull them back down. Then we, we had him about from, from here to there. I had him, and I sent the 13-year old over with the net, and she scared the damn thing and it went all the way back up, all the way up the river, took all the line off the pole, then snapped it.

01.14.28 See ya (?) snap. But that's fun, actually. You get a little aggravated, you lost the fish. But that happened about 4 or 5 times that the fish took all the line, drag on all the way, snap. Line. You know?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: (RE: TOM STORY ABOUT FISHING IN COLORADO)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: How's the Irish dancing?

01.18.23 BRIAN LYONS: Well, Patricia doesn't do it anymore. (~JW~) She does plays and stuff, so she had starred in, she was (Charpee?) in one of the, her school theater's play. So it was very good, she did well. And then she's in another one, High School Musical 2, and she's trying auditioning for Annie and stuff. She does that kind of stuff. And Elizabeth still does the Irish dancing. There's a competition next weekend. And she hurt her groin muscle, so she's been kind of like for 2 months out of commission. She (?) went to practice a little bit, she'd be going to physical therapy. So she's at physical therapy right now. So.

01.19.01 You know, it's (?) good for her like now, you know, she, you know, probably won't be like the champion of Ireland, like very seldom kids get that. But you know, she likes it and she enjoys it and she has lots of friends, and, and you go and you compete and you sometimes you win sometimes you lose, so it's good for them, you know? Keeps them as an activity and focused and stuff like that, so it's good.

JW: You still go to the competitions?

01.19.25 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, yeah, yeah, I drive her pretty much. (?) We try to get, they're either on a Saturday or Sunday, I try to sign up for the Sunday ones so that I know that we probably may not work. You got to sign up like 2 months ahead of time for it. So you don't know if you're working that day or not, so. Or if you do, you got to try to switch, you know, if you can.

JW: How's Laurie?

01.19.45 BRIAN LYONS: Laurie's good, yep, yep. She turned 50 this year. We had a big 50th surprise party for her, and she liked that, so that was good.

JW: At the house?

BRIAN LYONS: No, no, no. At a little place down by the lake. You know, so it, so it was good. (~JW~) Everybody's good.

JW: What were you thinking coming here today?

01.20.14 BRIAN LYONS: The, you know, there's a lot of, when you're busy, and it's hard to come away to these things, you know what I mean? Like even, or the time that you film me, that, that turned into a worse thing than it, than we thought afterwards, for 2 or 3 days later.

01.20.31 All because people are envious and jealous. They started like a whole big thing about that. That (~JW~) that wasn't good. Don't, don't worry about it. It's, it's these people. And then Silverstein guys, they, they get involved, want to shoot me and do interviews. And then it's the same thing. The people that, some people that you work with, they you know, get agitated that you're doing that type of thing. It's I don't know.

01.21.31 You know, it's, sometimes it's hard to do at work 'cos you're working, and then you know, if, if there's a film crew there and stuff like that, you know, everyone's looking at you. Years ago there wasn't as many people you know what I mean? Like we used, when we did the PATH, that was really the only project on, on the site we did that. Now there's all different projects. So, but there's a lot of different medias that come on. But in, in general, not a lot,

like say, you guys and then Silverstein and then the Port, so there's 3. You know, that the Port's always there doing stuff, and Silverstein has its own guys doing things, you know what I mean? Like they filmed one of the pours the other day. And they want to interview you while the concrete's flowing and asking you questions. What's that doing, and, you know, why did that make a pile and what's that thing for, what's that tool, that type of stuff. So.

01.21.59 It's Ok, but it's (?) sometimes it interferes with stuff, and you feel uncomfortable with it, you know what I mean? You know because, because in this economy, people are like, what to do anything to get you fired, you know what I mean? It's very, very, you know, construction's a weird business to be in.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

01.22.29 BRIAN LYONS: It's good that it's not like a week before 9-11. I think it's much better that way.

JW: Why?

01.22.36 BRIAN LYONS: Oh, it's a lot of stress near 9-11. There's all, you know, all sorts of media things, and you know, the anticipation of coming down to the site and it, you know, it's like having Thanksgiving, you know? Aunt Molly's got to come and you're going here and who's sleeping where, and you meeting your brother or your aunt that, you know, whatever. It's a lot of things happen around 9-11. So.

01.22.59 Now it's just a Thursday afternoon.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: What has this journey been like for you?

01.24.13 BRIAN LYONS: (MID-STATEMENT) my concept of the last 7 ½ years is probably still the same as yours, maybe other people have, don't have that. But when I came to the site 9-11,

you know, I had specific goals. Find my brother, get the rest of the people and rebuild Ground Zero.

- 01.24.28 So we did, the first couple kind of, and then now I've been still at Ground Zero trying to rebuild that thing. So it's still ongoing process. So you know, I was lucky enough to be involved with this project, which I love, to have been tracked along that merry way. And you know, sometimes it was uncomfortable or having to get those feelings and stuff like that, as, as it goes along. But you know, this is, is, was a vision and something that actually came true.
- 01.25.04 That you can actually track these amount of people and, and film things the way that you have, such as what I've been doing. It's, it's almost kind of like the same thing. Staying on that one project and, you know, putting the first new piece of concrete there or the first new column for a station and starting the Freedom Tower and moving to other buildings, and trying to get this thing out of the ground.
- 01.25.30 Now, granted, there's many years left before this thing will be in a completed state, but you know, I've tried to stay focused on that, balance my family and your personal life all in one thing. It's just a whole big thing. And then, you know, like to be honest with you, a few months ago, I, you wake up one day and you realize hey, my life's almost over, and you know, what am I doing here.
- 01.25.58 And you know, where am I going with it? And you know, I've been on one thing focused so desperately, you know, what about the rest of my life or my goals that I wanted to do, that I had in the back of my head. So. Some of them are on hold, I guess, if you, you know, some all you can't reach 'cos you don't have the money to do them or whatever you want to try to do. But you know, you know, I'm, a, a construction guy, builder guy, since I'm little.
- 01.26.29 So I'm (?) doing stuff that I like to do. Since I'm a little kid, you know, building buildings or building something or whatever it is. So it's at least it's that enjoyable to do, you know what I mean? You know, it's not like I'm, was a banker and I'm doing this. Then it, you might be a fish out of water. But it's natural for me to do this type of thing. So. You know, it, it's been interesting.
- 01.26.56 I, you know, it's gonna be enjoyable to see the final product that I would assume so. We'll see how it goes.

JW: What do you think you'd be doing if you were not on this path?

01.27.25 BRIAN LYONS: Yeah, but it, I don't know. It's almost the same because I was working in construction in Midtown, so I would have been from one building to another building to another building. So I would have been doing New York City construction still. But now I'm doing New York (?) city construction and, in a once in a lifetime historical place. So it's kind of better, almost, if you look at it. You know, but career-wise, you know, you want to go up the ladder, you know, and stuff. And you've seen all these people around you go up the ladder and you've gone nowhere.

01.28.00 So that's disappointing. You know? Are you a patriot or are you a pawn, which one are you, you know what I mean? It's sometimes you think like that.

JW: What does that mean when you think that way?

01.28.13 BRIAN LYONS: Well, you come there, to, at 9-11, to help people and help find people and try to rebuild everything as a patriot. And as you go along, the bureaucracy of stuff is you work with different contractors along the way, and they use you as a pawn to build or make money for their company.

01.28.35 Everybody, no one's there doing anything for free, that's for sure (LAUGHS). And now, you know, especially now, almost 8 years later, there's definitely the remembrance and the dedication and the patriotism is, that's not there anymore. You know, you, very few people have that, you know? So it's, it's just a regular construction site as far as anyone else is concerned, you know?

01.29.02 If I got to drill, if was told, if I bid on drilling 5 holes and they asked me to drill six, hey, you got to pay me (LAUGHS). It's just like construction, anything else. The union guys says hey, my man can't work like that, you know? So it's, those things are long, long forgotten, so.

JW: How are they with you, how do you feel about those things?

01.29.26 BRIAN LYONS: No, me, I put the extra mile, the extra hour, the extra days, the extra effort in, still, you know? My passion is still there 'til the whole thing is completely done. So. But

like I said, then you wake up and you say well, (LAUGHS) I'm still doing that, but no one else is. And then what happened? You know, so it's (?) difficult sometimes.

JW: Is there a tension still existing on the site?

01.30.18 BRIAN LYONS: No, no, that's, that's long-gone, that type of thing. You know what I mean? (~JW~) No, no, it's like, you know, when people nitpick over little things and stuff like that, type of thing.

01.30.33 And, you know, obviously many people that meet me don't even know my whole story down there. They just treat you like Joe Blow, which they, it doesn't matter to me. But, you know, they're here to save the day, make their company money, get promoted, you know, that's a lot of stuff that goes on with different people, you know what I mean?

01.30.55 So it, it's interesting.

JW: What is your reason for being there at this stage?

01.31.03 BRIAN LYONS: No, I told you, I'm still dedicated in my, to my first statements. I'm there to rebuild Ground Zero, 'til it's finished. Very, very simple thing. You know, there's, there's no, can't make it complicated. So it's, I'm there to make to, 'til, 'til it's done.

JW: What about the emotional side of it?

01.31.25 BRIAN LYONS: My first statement of like I'm saying, plus (LAUGHS) it's the economy also is helping. There's no where else to work, so you're like at least happy you have a job at this point, like you know what I mean? Lots of people laid off and stuff like that. So you're actually involved in a project that at least some of it has funding now to keep people working, you know? There's many jobs that I know guys on (?) in the city that have been shut down. So they are either unemployed or had to go to look for work somewhere else.

01.31.57 So you know, it's not like you can leave anyway. So if you wanted to go somewhere or stop your dream or passion or whatever. But my passion is still there to finish the thing, you know? Try to coordinate, get (?) all of it working as one unit, you know what I mean?

JW: The core passion of your first efforts at Ground Zero are still driving you?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

01.32.43 BRIAN LYONS: Oh, I don't think, you know it's not any more, you know what I mean? Actually. It's more about just the, the memory of everybody down there. You (?) want to rebuild the thing to give everybody the dignity that they, that they deserve, that lost their lives there.

01.33.04 You want to get the memorial done, so there's a place for family members to go, and then rebuild the infrastructure, so it's a acting city again, 'cos the whole city structure down there kind of like kind of got messed up. So, you know, that goal and passion is, is still there to drive that, 'cos I'm a New Yorker. I'm not from Alabama or somewhere else that, you know, I don't care about the subway system connecting to the PATH, because I do.

01.33.31 I want to like walk down the stairs and have to get to a train to, to get where I got to go. This will make it much easier to do that. And then over the 10 or 15 or 20 years it took to do that, it provided jobs. It made the city better, it made the infrastructure better, it's part of history. That type of thing, you know? Rather than, you know, where (?) you know, the whole city has gone through a lot of changes in 7, 8 years. They built two brand new baseball stadiums. They're building a new football stadium.

01.33.59 You know, there's a lot of things in my generation you can look back, since I'm in construction and say look, when I was in construction, the new Yankee Stadium was built, the new Mets stadium was built. The, we've built Lower Manhattan.. You know, they changed a couple of subway lines. There, there was a whole bunch of things. When I was a kid, you know, you couldn't say that. You know, now there's a whole bunch of stuff that has happened in the last 10 years or so, you know?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

01.36.11 ROOM TONE

01.36.37 END OF TAPE # BL 051

TAPE # BL 052

Brian Lyons

JIM WHITAKER, Producer/director

PROJECT REBIRTH

02.00.32 PICTURE UP

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: Is this journey about healing in a way, that Life goes on and changes in the way you see things happen along the way?

02.02.45 BRIAN LYONS: Well, that's what happens. Like you go the first day and you have these goals and then you know, 8 years later, your life has evolved. Your children have grown up, you get older, you have to look you know, ahead a little bit.

02.03.00 And you know, like I was saying career-wise, you want to look at, you know, where your, everybody wants to look at where they are career-wise, you know what I mean? But it's not a deal-breaker for me, because I'm at where I am and see, a lot of people, and, and it's not me, come to Ground Zero to try to put that on their resume. Even if they get there for like a month, they put on their resume - I worked on such and such a project, Ground Zero.

02.03.31 And then people look at that, that stops them, 'cos I've had it, too. And when people read your resume, they stop at that particular thing and ask you about it, because it's Ground Zero. So people come there just to, to make their career better.

JW: How is it viewed?

02.03.54 BRIAN LYONS: They just want to know like what's (?) is happening there, all right, 'cos it's not finished yet. Oh, you worked on such and such, you worked on the, the Tower One or you worked on the memorial, or, how, how did that go, or how is it there, or did you know so and so worked there, whatever, like that. That's basically it. More of a New York thing, because there's New York outfits that are there. The unions and the companies and stuff like

that, you know what I mean? If you had your same resume and stuff and you were in California, I don't think anyone would blink at the thing, you know what I mean?

02.04.33 But if you were out there, and you worked on the MGM-Las Vegas casino, or, or MGM Studios, their whole new studio that they, an 85-acre system that they put in, someone would stop at that because it's in their region or wherever they're at, you know what I mean? So even though Ground Zero's known worldwide, as far as a resume-builder, people try to get that on their resume in the construction field.

02.05.04 You know what I mean? I see, you see that happening a lot. And, and then again, some people don't want to come at all. They will not come and work on the site at all. They just, it's too eerie for them. See, I don't get that feeling, but I've heard people talk. Oh, no, no, my boss was gonna send me there but I told them no way I'm not going. And so the (?) they recognize that and they don't send them there.

02.05.29 And then on the other hand, somebody says, look, I didn't want to come here but my boss made me come here. But I didn't want to, but he's making me. So I'm here. So, no life goes on, that's, that's the thing, but it hasn't changed my (?) I still have this very simple goal of rebuilding Ground Zero to, to where it is, 'cos I'm in construction, so there's like, that's the place to be at. And, and this economy, again, there's nowhere else to be building anything.

02.05.59 You know, there's nowhere else to go to build stuff if you want. Like if they were gonna build a, a new Panama Canal, you know, in the Bronx, you might want to go to (LAUGHS) that project, maybe. But that ain't happening right now, you know what I mean? They're building the city's biggest tower where we're at, and a memorial, you know, and whole infrastructure systems, so as a, as a construction guy and as an engineer, it's, it's interesting and fulfilling to be working on.

02.06.29 There's so many different engineering aspects of stuff, it's very interesting, you know what I'm saying? So you know, that's what it is, it is.

JW: What's the feeling if it's not eerie?

02.06.46 BRIAN LYONS: Exhaustion (LAUGHS). I'm tired. You're tired. Like I've been working you know, every day, you know what I mean? You go on vacations, but it's hard, that place is, Ground Zero is hard work, no matter what anyone says.

- 02.07.00 It's hard. You, there's a deep pit you're always walking down and walking up. There's no elevators, you know what I mean? And it's hard to get around, and it's you know, it's just hard work. It's like, I always tell somebody, take the hardest day of work you ever had: you left, it was raining, you forgot your car keys, the train was late. You stepped in a puddle, you got to work, your boss was mad. Times that by ten, that's the way it is every day at Ground Zero, very hard work.
- 02.07.33 You know, that's, and that's been going on for like almost 8 years. So it's just hard, you're tired. Like I was, the, that day I said you wake up one day and someone said, well, what are you gonna do when it's finished? I'm gonna go to sleep (LAUGHS) I think, I'm so tired. (LAUGHS) you know what I mean? Hopefully I hit the lottery and then I could go to sleep. 'Cos you're exhausted, that's what it is.
- 02.07.59 You get home, 15 years ago I could get home and I could build something or do something. I get home, I can just eat and sit down, that's about it. I can't be doing anything else. You know, nothing else gets done. You know? So.

JW: I have felt Ground Zero felt familiar to me – are there emotional feelings for you?

- 02.08.35 BRIAN LYONS: No, no. You just, I know a lot of people. Like it's like, I can walk around that whole site, I can say hi to 50 people in a day. Hey, how you doing, hey, Jim, hey, Bob, hey, Tom. Hey, Bill. You know? And they're working on all different projects and I've worked either with them or they got transferred or whatever, you know, the Port Authority people, very pleasant, you say hello to them, you know, you.
- 02.09.01 You can, you know a lot of people, (?) so. It's, you know, it's familiar. You know, now there's a lot of changes, so there's a lot of, you know, once again, there's like backstabbing going on, people wanting to get on that project or this project. And I'm not interested in any of that type of thing. You know?

JW: Do you think about 9-11 at all?

BRIAN LYONS: No. Not too much.

JW: Even on the train?

BRIAN LYONS: No.

JW: What about the site?

02.09.34 BRIAN LYONS: No. No, not too many times. Some weird things happen once in awhile. I guess, I don't know. Like you'll look at a clock, says 9-11. Been trying to count them this year, I think I'm like up to 21, when I looked at a clock says 9-11 on it. So I just, you know, I always thing there's, you know, there's a lot of things that have happened to me, and they're in the film eventually, you know.

02.10.05 That was definitely fate or faith or whatever you want to call it, some, something like that. You know, every, every so often, you know, you, you see that or feel that type of thing, you know what I mean?

JW: What do you remember?

02.10.24 BRIAN LYONS: No, meeting Michael Lyons on the subway, finding my brother's halligan. The ID card I found, you know, that kind of thing. You know, St. Patrick's Day.

JW: And more in between?

02.10.41 BRIAN LYONS: No. It was only really the first few years, I guess, you know? I mean, like the safety sticker I got on my helmet the other day. Everyone has a number. My number was 41, that was my brother's fire house number. Is it a coincidence? Probably. You know what I'm saying, but just funny, that, that's happened.

02.11.00 You know what I mean?

JW: How's Elaine?

02.11.03 BRIAN LYONS: Oh, good, good, good. She had her 40th birthday. They gave her a surprise party, too. And the youngest girl just had her communion, Mary. So Mary Michael, that's her name, so that, she's beautiful little girl, so she had her communion, and that was nice. About 3 or 4 weeks ago we went to that. So. You know, it was, they, they're doing good. You know, they're very happy little girls, so their mother keeps their father in their memory, and you know, she's doing well.

02.11.33 And, you know, everything is fine with them.

JW: Do you have chances to talk about their father with them?

02.11.39 BRIAN LYONS: No, no. You know, we don't, we don't really do that. We let her kind of do it. They're still young. I mean, they're this big, so. Later on, when they get a little old, older, probably.

JW: What about the period where you dealt with PTSD? Did it correlate with the time you went back to Ground Zero?

02.12.27 BRIAN LYONS: Oh. Because there was stoppage of work there for like 9 months or so, actually, you know what I mean? No, that's when I left that it happened. You know what I mean? 'Cos you, the excitement was over. And then I went to some therapy for the post traumatic, and then no, when I got back there, it's, I still had it for awhile, for like another year. So I don't think leaving there or coming back - maybe leaving might have triggered some of it, but it was, it, it.

02.13.02 I guess that's the way post traumatic works. If you're in a war or something - while you're there, you still might (LAUGHS) have some of it, but when you leave that zone, it comes more clearer what it is. So they can, they diagnose it better, I think. But then I, I went back because the construction started up again. And, you know, I still had it, you know, so like you, you're tired.

02.13.29 It's, you know a lot of, a lot of different things, you know? You have different facial expressions and stuff like that. Like you're just blanking stuff out. Where, where now I'm like, you know, very, I never got up so early in my life and like went to work. I get up at like,

you know, little after 3 in the morning every day. Get up and go on a train and stuff like that, even when I was in my younger, early 30s working, I, I was exhausted, I couldn't get up at that early in the morning.

02.13.59 I remember I had to go to a place, I started work at 6 o'clock, 5:30, 6 o'clock in the morning, I barely made it there. I lived 10 minutes from the place. Now I get up at 3 o'clock, no problem. You know, so. You know, I guess I'm healthier than I was then, you know what I mean?

JW: Are you feeling better?

02.14.18 BRIAN LYONS: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah. Feel much better. You know? You got to watch your weight. That's the biggest thing. Trying to not eat pizza. It's like ridiculous. (LAUGHS) Oh, man, that's hard to do.

02.14.30 I don't drink anymore. I haven't drank in years and years and years, but trying to maintain your weight and exercise. I mean, I get a lot of exercise, you working, when you walk at work you get a lot of exercise, but it's not the same as like working out or running or jogging, and I don't have time for that, you know? I mean, I guess I could but I really don't have time for it. And, but at work, I'm alive and, you know, energetic and stuff, and but by the time I get home, I'm exhausted, so.

JW: How do you feel about the goal and where you are?

02.15.08 BRIAN LYONS: No, well, it's happening. It's, I mean, there's a lot of stuff. I mean, I anticipated, we have a film, you guys filmed me one day when they opened up the, the site plan at the financial center. The model. The unveiling of the model, this is the new site plan. It had, you know, the memorial, the Freedom Tower with an arm, all these other buildings.

02.15.36 The thing looks nothing like that. And, and (?) I say (LAUGHS) it right on the film, I remember that. They like, well, what do you think of the new site plan? And I was like, well it looks nice, but most likely it's not gonna look like that when we build it, 'cos nothing ever looks like the model when you build it, and there ain't no way that's (?) gonna happen. Just

like anything else. You go to build a shed in your yard or a doghouse, you can make a little sketch; when you're done it don't look like that thing you started with.

02.16.03 I don't care what you are, who you are. So that's (LAUGHS) what happens. You know, so now, you know, the, they have changed so many different things around, it's still gonna, they're still changing it, so. It's all part (?) of the economy and the growth of it all. It's (LAUGHS) a massive thing that happened, you know what I mean? Massive.

JW: What is your feeling of working on it right now?

02.16.26 BRIAN LYONS: No, it's the same, simple. I still have the same goal of coming there and being dedicated to get this thing built. Just pour concrete and put the steel up, for chrissake, already. Let's (?) just keep building it. You know, every day someone says (LAUGHS) oh, we got to do that and that. No. It's very simple. Just get out of the way. That's all there is to it, you know what I mean? So it's, I try to keep everything simple.

02.16.56 You know, I, I have job meetings and stuff like that, and you know, I, we try to keep stuff very simple. You know?

JW: In looking back on 9-11 and the period of time you have gone through, what has the journey been for you?

02.17.39 BRIAN LYONS: Well, it's hard to remember it, so it's good it's on film I can watch it one day. But (LAUGHS) I don't know, it's just part of Life growing up, you know what I mean? I mean, I had, before this, I had other journeys myself. I was in the Coast Guard, I was in the service. I was on this ship and that ship and went from here to there to there.

02.18.01 You know, and then there was an end, I got out. (?) It's kind of like the same thing here. I started there, it was on this section of the project, this section, this section. You know, it's a massive project, and then one day it's gonna end and then it's over, and you go build something else, you know? Another building or, or something else, you know. Or I could be close to retirement by the time the thing ends, I don't know (LAUGHS). You know?

JW: How is that in a word?

02.18.33 BRIAN LYONS: Let's say (~JW~) you know, it's satisfying, you know? That, that you, that you accomplished that, you know what I mean? You know, I don't know what a synonym of satisfied is, but you know, you've completed, you know, one of the goals that you wanted to do, you know what I mean?

02.19.02 And you know, if you want to go back, you know, being a patriot and to yourself, you were a patriot and you stayed there and you helped get this thing back, you know, you know, completed at least, you know what I mean? And, and kept your clear vision and your clear heart, not like other people did, you know what I mean? You actually stayed there and, and did the whole thing, you know, completed the whole thing. You know, as a team with many different teams as it went along. So.

JW: Anything else on your mind?

02.19.42 BRIAN LYONS: No, no. Like I said, it's very, things are simple, pretty much. You're trying to keep life simple. You have your, have you're employed. I happen to be employed at something that I love doing, which is working at Ground Zero to try to get this historical place rebuilt, right?

02.20.00 So that's in it, from I went to a trade in engineering school and to be working in (?) engineer and working on a project like this is, you can't ask for much. Like I said, when I was younger, they built the first towers, but then when I was in my late 20s or early 30s, there wasn't big projects like this that you could be involved with in New York like where you live. I mean, if you want to go to Vegas or South America or Europe or somewhere and build something, that's exotic, I guess in the (?) construction industry, you'd have to go somewhere else.

02.20.37 At this time in my life, it's home, it's a train ride away, so I mean, that's, you're really lucky to have that happening to you, you know what I mean? So you know, you have your job which happens to be this historical process like (?) like I said is, and then you have your family, you know, god bless me for having a beautiful wife and kids that I can go home to and I have a house I built.

02.21.02 And you know, you get to go on some vacations and what, you watch them grow. I mean, you know, now one is going to be, is a teenager and going into high school. Those are challenges (LAUGHS) believe me, 'cos I have an older daughter that we got through high school and it's not easy getting kids, keeping them out of trouble and you know, like I was telling my daughter the other day, you got to remember, I was a teenager already, so I know what happens.

02.21.31 You got to remember that. And your sister was a teenager, and now you are. So I know like all about it. So if like you and your friends think your father don't, your parents don't know, you know, get that out of your head (LAUGHS). So no, I'm actually very lucky to be able to have stayed where I am, you know what I mean? You know, that they didn't transfer you or, you know.

02.21.58 You know, they didn't working for that company no more or whatever it was. You know what I mean? So, you know, I'm lucky to be where I am, so. You know, you, you got to be grateful for your, your things that you have, you know, and, and you know, not worry about what you don't have. Type of thing.

JW: Is there a legacy for your brother?

02.22.26 BRIAN LYONS: No. I, I don't know. Hopefully they, the memorial is a nice place, you know what I mean? That, to go to. I, I I've said this before. Not too many people coming all the way down to Lower Manhattan to go to that memorial, you know, to see my brother's name on a plaque. They'll probably go up to by where he lives at, where I think they got a plot in the cemetery, you know, closer to home, to, to remember him, you know what I mean? So. I'll try to make it down here every 9-11. You know what I mean? You know, we've been coming down and stay a hotel overnight and stuff like that, but that becomes very expensive.

02.22.59 It's like too expensive. If you want to come down and you go out to eat and dinner, it's thousands of dollars just for that day. It's like crazy. This way we can, now we'll just take the train down for the ceremony, take the train home, I think, you know? You know, the first ones were, you know, you wanted to stay down here, there was a lot of excitement around

but then you realize it becomes very expensive. And as the kids get older, there's more and more things for them. You got to save for college, it's (?) like a lot of things happening.

02.23.28 You know, so you got to take care of your family, too, you know?

JW: Is life taking over?

02.23.35 BRIAN LYONS: It always was there. No, 'cos my older daughter was (?) we went through that process already. Saving for college, and you know, getting her cars and paying insurance, and, and then they grew up and she left. Went and got a job. Then the younger kids, when they're little, remember I was saying this to you, when they're little, there's little problems. When they get bigger, there's bigger problems. When there's little, you got to fix, you know, the wheel on their little bicycle that you're pushing them around.

02.24.02 When they're older, you got to go get them in the middle of the night, they ran out of gas, their car don't work, you know, you got to bring their car to a mechanic, you know, that's what happens (LAUGHS) bigger problems. You know what I mean? So, you know, that, that's what happens. You, you can't, what happens is you can't let Life take you over. You just got to go with the flow. Every day, something's gonna happen.

02.24.27 You get up, there was no gas on yesterday, so got to, ran out of propane, all right? Or you get up and there's no water (LAUGHS) you know, the well broke. You know? I, what happen, I got in the car, I was on the way to the train station, I had a flat tire. It was 3 o'clock in the morning. I haven't had a flat tire like in 7 years. I had to get out and change that stupid thing in the middle of a rainstorm. So you know, those things all happen once in awhile. And then you get up and you go to work and you go and you have a good day and you pour a lot of concrete that day and you come home, and your kids are happy, you go see a play that one of the kids are in, and it's like last night, we.

02.25.04 I worked all day, got home, got on a train as fast as I could, got off, ate dinner real quick and then we went to my daughter's orchestra recital. So they played orchestra, the chorus sang and it was nice to see the, you know, the little kids singing and stuff like that. And then you know, we went home. So that's all part of Life, you know what I mean? So that's what happens.

02.25.28 Oh, did I want to work on the pool? Not really, but yeah. I had to get that thing going. So but I went to the recital, you know what I mean? So you know, that's part, you know, you miss that day, you can't, you got to do that tonight or tomorrow night, the pool thing.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

02.25.56 BRIAN LYONS: Jim has more gray hair now than when we started 7 ½ years ago. It used to be all nice black, wavy stuff going on. No kids. I call him up, the kid's peeing on him. He's got gray hair, no job, he's a bum (LAUGHS). He's basically a bum now (LAUGHS).

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: Is there a big picture take away for you over the last 8 years?

BRIAN LYONS: Big picture?

JW: This was a huge thing that happened in your life?

02.26.52 BRIAN LYONS: See, the thing I told you, it's, what's, what happens with me is different than other people is, I, it's a building process, like a rebuilding process, construction and engineering. And that's like right up my alley. So that's what I was born to do, that type of stuff. So and be creative in doing it. So it's very fulfilling to, to you know, I, I guess I've been lucky enough to have so many (?) in the work aspect, fulfilling the needs of your (?) work ethics, ok?

02.27.31 That's a big part of it, you know what I mean? So, you know, hopefully I might be able to say, you know, ten years from now, you know, working here, I met like some very good people, and I got to where I am because I, I actually have met the New York and the New York City engineering people and construction people in a way that a lot of other people probably never would have had the chance to.

02.28.05 But that is also generated because of the city has done other things. We built Yankee Stadium, Shea Stadium, all these things have happened. So, you know, I've had the

opportunity to meet all the major firms and the principles of these things, and go to events with them and, and that type of thing. So it's, it's a fulfilling, you know, career, you know, maker, you know, the whole thing actually, you know what I mean?

- 02.28.33 Has it strained, you know, your family life and your marriage a little bit? Sure, probably. Because you're, it takes a lot of hours, and you work down in the city, it's a 5-hour commute both ways. But you try to balance that. But before I was here, I worked more hours. I was working 7 days a week at a job for 5 years straight. I, I worked 7 days a week, traveling around the country. I wasn't even home when the kids were little. That's why I came to work in Manhattan, so I could go home every night.
- 02.29.01 So if you look back you would say, yeah, well, this is hard work, but I wasn't even home at the other job I was at. You know, I was, I was away, I was in like Colorado or Pennsylvania or Maine or somewhere else like that, sometimes, for the whole, a week or four weekends in a row or, or whatever it was. So that was difficult, too, you know what I mean? So you know, there's someone wrote this thing, life is hard, and then you die.
- 02.29.32 That's (LAUGHS) it, it's like it's not easy, unless (?) and money don't solve anything. You know, there's, you can look the news, there's lots of rich people and they have lots of problems. Their kids die, they drown in pools, they get hurt, they have drinking problems. Then, those are not nice things to have. You know? So. I, I'm just lucky that, you know, I'm grateful for what I have, you know what I mean?
- 02.29.57 You know? I have a, a career or a job that I enjoy going to work, you know? I have a beautiful wife and family I can go home to. I mean, and there's not a lot more you can ask in Life itself, you know what I mean? Unless you're like the King of England. And I don't even know if he's happy. You know what I'm saying? So it's like, you try to get that balance and just, and just keep, you know, you get, good and bad things happen. You know, you, once in awhile you get a guy call you up, I got to do this interview again, you know what I'm saying.
- 02.30.31 It's like hello. Again? (LAUGHS)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

- 02.30.51 BRIAN LYONS: You're running out of material. I have very simple objectives here.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

02.31.05 BRIAN LYONS: For me, it's (?) like a clear path, it was from Day One to now. It's like the same thing, you know what I mean? So it's like, you know, I'm (?) in like the same spot (LAUGHS) I was in like 7 ½ years ago, just the same mindset, and you know, you're still here and that type of thing. You know, it's not like oh, I wish I wasn't on this project, I should be on that one, I should really be building the memorial.

02.31.31 'Cos my brother died there. I, why am I on that building? I should be on that building. If I really wanted to go there, I could probably apply for a job with that company and go over there, if I wanted to. You know? But you know, I'm happy where I am. Any, if you're just part of the whole thing. You just, you know, you can't push too hard in life, you know what I mean? You got to kind of find your way, how you want to do it, you know what I mean? (All right?)

JW: The healing process? Where are you in the healing process?

02.32.10 BRIAN LYONS: Oh, I don't know. I think I'm over that now, I don't know. I guess so. That's all healed up. I don't think about that stuff anymore, so. It's strange. Do I have, like those, those things I didn't do in life - like 3 or 4 years ago, I was really wanted to film like I even wrote scripts, like do short films, like have a, like on a television show.

02.32.45 Like on, like a lot of it's now it's on like this channel 13, like they have Dirty Jobs, and they have Deadliest Catch, or like Axe Men. This, guys go out and film lumberjacks types of things.

02.33.05 I always had a vision of doing like construction, like in New York construction. How they put a crane up, (?) you know, filming that whole operation. That would be like a show. Them drilling piles or whatever, how that works, the drill working and how the men do it, that would be a show. That, that type of thing, you know what I mean? Do I still want to do that? Yeah.

02.33.29 Well, is it possible that someone would put that on television and it would work? Yes and now, depends. It could be already people out there that have tons of those things that nobody wanted to pick up for all I know, you know, and you would have to look into all that stuff,

and you would need time to do it. And the other thing is you would have to get someone to agree to do it, and as you know, it's hard to get permission to film all these things and stuff like that. Everybody's worried about getting sued and you're gonna watch a guy doing something, and someone got hurt and why is he on film.

02.33.58 And it's a whole big thing. It's, believe me. I know all about it. And these union guys, they want to know do I get paid 'cos I'm on it, what, what happened? So you know, you know, you would have to work (LAUGHS) that all out. But I think someone would watch that show, that how they put a tower crane up, how it's actually built. And I haven't seen that on TV yet. You know, or on a film yet, so it's like, you know, you got a lot of it going on here or there, but an actual like show, it was called like the Field Trailer.

02.34.30 You go in, and you're like, hey this is what we're doing today. We're putting the crane up. Fifteen trucks are coming and this is the crew and this is what they're gonna do. And in two days it's done. It's not like they're building the Erie Canal and you got to film it for 7 ½ years (LAUGHS) so that it takes that long. You're out, two days of filming and you're done. The thing's up and it's running, have a nice day. You print that. So I always wanted to do that. I, I would still want to try to do that. But I have no time to do it.

02.35.00 I have no time to go fishing – I live like a block away from the lake. That, it's just all time management. It's just not enough time in the day. See, and you know, I had the baby bottle business at one time and stuff like that. And I, you could do that. But then you would take time away if you had a full time job you, you can't take away from that, so you have that. So the other time you would be taking away is from your family. So you have to make a judgment – do I want to take that time away from my family or do I want to spend with my family?

02.35.31 So I've decided to stay with my family. Go home and hang out with the kids or push them on the swing as much as I could when they were little, you know what I mean? So when they grow up, they can remember that their father pushed them on the swing at least, you know what I mean? That that's (?) important to me, so. You know, maybe when they're older and grown up you, you could do that. I don't know, but you know, if there's enough time left (LAUGHS).

JW: Do you think about mortality a lot?

02.36.01 BRIAN LYONS: No. No. No. But you get older, you know, you only have so much time left to do stuff. You know, the, if you want to do things or whatever. You got to pick and choose what you, what you do in your lifetime, I guess, you know what I mean? You know, there's a lot of time left, but you have to always, you got to plan ahead at least you know what I mean? You have to get life insurance, you got to plan for college, you got to; otherwise you wake up and you're like your daughter comes to you and you're like yeah, Dad, all the kids are filling college applications out.

02.36.33 What college am I going to? And you're like college? Who said you were going to college? Can't afford college. That happens all the time to kids. You know what I mean? I'm already planning, my daughter's going in 9th grade, you got to actually plan now to go to college. My friend, I was talking to him yesterday, he's (?) his daughter got accepted to Fordham, which is a big college in the Bronx.

02.36.59 Not too many people get into Fordham, but it's a good place to go. It's \$45,000 a year. For four years, it's like, you know, \$200,000, you could buy a house for that. He's like I can't afford that. She wants to go, her friends are going. Well, I don't know what their father does for a living, but he can't, he's a construction worker. So she's going to the University of Delaware, two hours away, four hours away, whatever it is. So it's like, you know, what, you know, what, what do you do? You got to plan at least for those things.

02.37.29 You (?) you know, you have to plan now for those type of things, you know, and what you want to do. Did you want to film a tower crane going up or you want to save for college? Ok, which one are you doing? (LAUGHS) You know, what, you got to pick one. You know, that's, that's the reality of it all, you know what I mean? So. It's just, you know, it's normal life, what are you gonna do? It is what it is.

JW: Where is America right now?

02.37.59 BRIAN LYONS: Oh, America? (~JW~) Are you that Moore guy, disguised, what's his name? (~JW~) George Bush ruined everything (LAUGHS). Let's just blame him for everything. No, no. I like George Bush (~JW~)

JW: Where is America in terms of 9-11 and the site?

02.38.21 BRIAN LYONS: (MID-STATEMENT) I was telling you, no one remembers. They're done, they don't care. No one cares about 9-11 America. They don't care, they don't realize the dangers in the world. They, America does not. And my personal opinion since I'm American I have this opinion, is that I believe the administration that's now gives false hope to people. They're like we can just be friends (LAUGHS) with these people. You know what I'm saying? And it's not gonna be a problem. That is not true. People (?) the reason why this had happened and in, probably in the first place, is when you are number one, whether you're the president or you're the best country or you're the captain in the football team or captain in cheerleader people, people don't like you.

02.39.11 And they hate you, and they do stuff to try to hurt you. Now, in the case of a cheerleader or, or a captain of a football team, they put stuff in your locker and they talk about you. Ok? And at that age, that hurts, ok? Now, in the global thing, in America's type of thing, other countries try to do stuff that, that don't like us, to hurt us financially or do something to your citizens or whatever.

02.39.41 And then you have the extremist groups which are like the terrorists, that want to kill Americans. Ok? So that's an reality and that always will be a reality, all right? And over there, like besides America, other people, it's been going on since, you know, humanity.

02.39.59 This guy is one religion, this guy's another religion, whether you're Iraq or Iran, and they want to kill each other for some reason, 'cos they don't like them. And (?) like, you know, where do I think America is on the whole 9-11 thing is I, I think the people have forgotten and, you know, except for the people that were close and a lot of veterans don't forget about it. 'Cos it's like a military action type of thing. A lot, if you talk to a veteran or see a veteran or you know, with those are the people that are interested in, in your 9-11 history or your 9-11 stories or whatever like that.

02.40.38 Just Joe Blow the barber down the block, he's like, here's the fact. Where I live, and I live 80 miles from here, I take the train up. My daughter'll be at dance class. I meet a father there. Oh, your daughter dances? Hi, oh, what do you do? Oh, I'm accountant, what do you do. I work in construction in Manhattan. Oh, where you working? I'm working at Ground Zero, we, we're rebuilding. Oh, they're rebuilding that place?

- 02.41.02 No clue. What are they building there, he wants to know. Clueless. Has no idea. That they're even doing anything at (?). And, doing anything down there. So it's like America doesn't know, really. That's why it's good they're gonna have this museum and a film and stuff really maybe and, and there's a (?) some family member groups and there's one at the tribute center, Lee Eyopee. He is interested and I said I would help him if, if I (?) he could, we want to try to get the, the knowledge of 9-11 into the New York state school system.
- 02.41.43 Ok? Like the American Indian story or you know, you know, Wall Street story or the War of 1812, and those are fine. We want 9-11 to be in there, so that the children know what had happened. You know, 'cos it's a huge historic event of what, why it happened and how it happened, and who it affected, and why it got affected and, and stuff like that.
- 02.42.09 That are very interesting. And that, that probably will happen. 'Cos I was just doing my (?) the homework on my, my 5th grader the other day, and she was learning all about Cuba. Why Cuba went into socialism and you know, when (?) it was a democracy.
- 02.42.33 And you know, when America was there and then it went into sanctions and it's a whole little 2-pages of it in her history book about it. So eventually there'll be a page in the history book about 9-11, why it happened, how it happened, who affected it, you know, that type of thing, you know what I mean?

JW: Why is that important do you think?

- 02.42.55 BRIAN LYONS: 'Cos it's, like I said, it's a big part of American history and it affected America in a, in a huge way. And it has evolved into, you know, wars and, and, you know, ideology of the way people look at America and has changed the whole way we're living. Just try to go home tonight on an airplane and you'll figure that out. You know, you got to take your shoes off, you know, your belt off, or whatever. That never happened before. So that's a, that, that's you know, one reason that it's a nation-changing event that had happened.
- 02.43.29 I.D. cards to get into everywhere, you know, that was, never happened before. People were too complacent about it. So you know, that's, that's important that, you know, the kids, the children know what actually caused all that stuff. While they, why? And, and my daughter,

my 10-year old, Patricia, she is, she's very sensitive and very dedicated to the 9-11 cause. Ok?

- 02.43.58 Because I think we take them out of school every year to go down here, and like one of her teachers, which was, is like 26 years old, whatever, so she was probably 19 when it happened, something came up about 9-11. Like she's very proud that her father works at Ground Zero. And she tells people all the time, and she actually gets bullied and has fights in school and on the bus 'cos her father works at Ground Zero and people don't believe her.
- 02.44.31 Or don't even know of Ground Zero. They're like there's no such thing, and they're not building a big building down there. And she's like yeah, they are. I was there. Ok? I've seen it, I've been there. And they're like you're a liar, Patricia. And they actually say that to her. And call her names and stuff, imagine that? That's why (LAUGHS) it needs to be in the school system. And the teacher said to her, like, she said something like she went down to 9-11, and you know, she seen the construction and the memorials and the teacher was like, that's stupid.
- 02.45.09 They shouldn't even be doing that, and you know, blahblahblah. They had a whole big thing. And Patricia stuck up and said you have no right to say that. You know, and I should go to the principal and report you for saying that to us. She stuck right up for herself. She came home and she was a little sad and crying that the teacher had said that. And she wanted me to call her, and I think I did call her, but she never called me back.
- 02.45.31 But it wasn't the right thing to say, for a teacher to say that to a young child, you know what I mean? Whereas, and now this is a school in New York, where families in that neighborhood were affected. School groups come from all over the place – Pittsburgh, Ohio – in busloads, to take tours of Ground Zero, to learn about it. Whereas, in our own school system, you have teachers that are like, you know, don't even recognize the place.
- 02.46.02 It's very interesting. The different (school?). That's where America's at. You got a 5th grade teacher telling you, you know, that's baloney, you know what I mean? So it's like, and then you would have a 5th grade teacher in another state who thinks very highly of it. Enough to make a class trip for her students to come all the way, thousands of miles to see it. So it's very interesting, the way, you know, the scope of it is, you know?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: What about your brother – what would you say to him if he were here?

02.46.51 BRIAN LYONS: What's up, you want to go fishing? (LAUGHS) Absolutely. You know what I mean? So it's, no, like I said, is you get over him, you don't really want to talk about it. We go to family events, no one really talks about him too much, you know what I mean? My daughter always asks me about him. But (~JW~)

JW: What do you say?

02.47.12 BRIAN LYONS: See, the thing of it is, is like I have other brothers and I haven't seem some like I, I seen Sean at the communion, about 2 or 3 weeks ago. But I hadn't seen him in 4 years. And I've called him a couple of times, never returned my call. So it's like, you know, you see him, but it, when you see him, it's like just like (?) we're with him for like, you know, 10 (years?) every day for 10 years in a row. So it's like you know, it's just like you would just normally like nothing ever happened, like hit the road running.

02.47.43 You know what I mean? Oh, did I curse him many times, in the very beginning, when I had like blisters on my feet and I'm like, you know, when I was looking for him? Yeah, I'm like you fuck, what did you get me into?

02.47.58 You know, you stupid bastard (LAUGHS) when it wasn't his fault, you know what I mean? You know, it's hard work, very hard work, to do and it's like (?). No, we would probably continue what we were doing. I was helping him build his house, we were trying to study for our PE exam. You know, I'd probably be doing stuff like that with him, still. You know what I mean? You know, 'cos he even lives close to me. One brother lives in Massachusetts, (?) you know, it's far away, you never see him.

02.48.31 One lives in Connecticut, it's far away. Michael, at least like his family lived, still lives, like kind of where he lived, so they're close by. So I'm sure, and then, and then he would be a fireman still. he would still be, he would still actually be a fireman. So and I worked in the city, and he used to come to my job sometimes, 'cos he would be, if he was driving around. So and he was an engineer, so he was interested in engineering, so that's why, you know, we would probably be working on some type of engineering thing together. Yeah.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

02.49.10 BRIAN LYONS: Lyon, signing out (LAUGHS)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

02.49.28 END OF TAPE # BL 052

TAPE # 053

Brian Lyons

JIM WHITAKER, Producer/director

PROJECT REBIRTH

03.00.34 PICTURE UP

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

03.04.25 BRIAN LYONS: (MID-STATEMENT) there was a, we had a competition at Grand Central in, in the Grand Hyatt. But it's like, if you ever been to an Irish dancing competition, it's (?) like crazy. There's thousands of people and people are going from one room to the next and getting dressed in the hallway, and it's like it's a mess. (~JW~) So like to be walking around with a camera like that it's like very weird, you know what I mean? (~JW~) So.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS Re: Irish dancing, memorial)

03.13.52 BRIAN LYONS: In, in the very southwest corner of the site is the chiller plant. Now they just put the big tubes of water that are gonna come in from the Hudson river, to cool that thing. That has to be constructed. That's gonna take another five years to do, get the equipment down in there and build it and piping, and that actually is the cooling system for the memorial, the hub and the vehicle screening center. So it all can't be connected until all those are built.

03.14.27 So that's why if those ain't finished, then that thing ain't finished. And then along with that is a big electrical distribution center that feeds the memorial, the hub and the vehicle security center, and the free, some of the Freedom Tower. So none of that can be finished until those are done. So that's why they're below, like on the bottom level and there's some machine rooms up on the next level and the back away from the, away from that memorial area.

03.14.57 But only in that footprint from the subway or the PATH station west, and from the south slurry wall to the Freedom Tower, or to the east-west connector with those (spandial?) beams. It's all in that footprint where the two footprints are. It's all in those little, these little

rooms and areas and cavities and all that crap in there, you know what I mean? That's the way the old Trade Center was. There was two buildings, and then there was decks to the street level, and then in between the two buildings was a chiller plant and electrical (?) distribution center, and then the PATH train went around them and through them.

03.15.38 It's almost the same design as that, you know what I mean? So that's (~JW~) that's why, there's still a lot of complicated stuff (LAUGHS) it's like (?) you're still down below street level for years, five more years. At least. You know what I mean? The whole, that whole vehicle screening center which they're building now is another five or six year things, and that's only to the street level. No one's gonna even see what's happening there. It's, it's a screening center and bus depot or something like that is what they're building over there, you know? So. I mean, there's a lot of work. And (?) if worked picked up and you wanted to stay there, you could obviously stay there. And what I got going for me is that's what was, what the Port Authority guys were interested, that I was very dedicated and you know, some of these people I had spoken don't even know me.

03.16.33 You know, a lot of guys that I know that from the Port Authority retired already. They (?) gone. So some of them just know of me, or know about me, you know? And, and I was thinking, too, is that if I ever got to work with the Port Authority it'd be a whole different thing. They probably might not let you film me anymore. It's a whole. That's a whole 'nother thing. I don't know how that works.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: What do you think about the idea of hope that this film will represent?

03.19.17 BRIAN LYONS: Idea of hope? (~JW~) Well, you got to have a vision to have hope, because (LAUGHS) you know, people have moved on from the 9-11 thing. So you know, I guess if you go to 99-11 and you, well, I try to instill that in people as we're trying to build this thing out of the ground. You know, to have positive attitude and you know, we can get this to work and this should be no issues. And you know, everyone's like no, we can't have that, we need to put a crane in here, no, we can't do that, no, it's like no.

03.19.46 'Cos people lazy, you know what I mean? The, the vision of hope an all that other stuff is like, goes by the wayside (LAUGHS), if you sit where I sit and people that are involved with this thing.

03.19.58 Like I, the only people that have that vision are like the Port Authority people. Have a clear vision and pure heart and have hope for the thing. Everybody else wants to make money. It's depressing sometimes when you think of it, but it is, it's America (LAUGHS) you know what I'm saying? It's, that's, that's what it is. You know? So it's, people have started companies just to support this place.

03.20.29 Supply places ,you know, new, new plumbing outfit or something like that, you know?

JW: Do you share that hope?

03.20.37 BRIAN LYONS: Sure I do, yeah. I have hope. It's all gonna work. It's all gonna be good at the end of the day. All good things are gonna come out of this. All good things – we'll teach our children what had happened. The economy will get better, and hopefully the world will be a better place when we finish.

03.21.00 That's all you can hope for, and that you live a life, nice long happy life. You know, that's all, that's all you can vision, you know? Not a lot of people (LAUGHS) have that, I'm telling you. Very, very small amount of people. You know? The Port Authority people are very modest about it. But if you talk to them privately, they might tell you. But they're very modest about it.

03.21.28 But they have the clear vision and, and the pure hearts about it, they actually do. You know? It's a wrap.

JW: Thank you, sir.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS re: Dance school)

03.29.14 STILLS

03.30.27 BRIAN LYONS: (MID-STATEMENT) I seen pictures, right? Like a year before 9-11, when I was holding my daughter. I had jet black hair and I had a little more hair, but I always had a high forehead, but I had like jet black hair. It was probably a couple little grays, not as much as now. It's like terrible. But I'm not using that Just for Men thing or whatever, like you do, so. (LAUGHS)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

03.31.16 END OF TAPE # BL 053