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Survive DC is a race for your life…

Genre: Documentary

Rating: Unrated, (would be R for language in the US)

Running Time: 85 min

Format: HD

Languages: English

SURVIVE DC

**TRAILER**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vzE3mjSfo8M

**SYNOPSIS**

Imagine yourself in a real-life zombie apocalypse. People you once called “friend” or “ally” now mercilessly hunt you down in the street. And why?

Survive DC is a race for your life… Each year, two thousand participants gather in a secret location at sunset. Some participants have trained all year for this event. They come dressed as superheroes, villains and zombies. Some have even traveled thousands of miles to be at *that* spot at *that* exact moment…

The moment the horn goes off.

*Survive DC* follows four teams as they participate in a one-of-a-kind footrace through the streets of our nation’s capitol. They run, hide, strategize and con their way through the 15-mile, five-hour game. The race is free of charge, totally open-source, and very illegal.

Like a zombie apocalypse, the infection spreads throughout the entire event, starting with the initial five Staff Chasers and infecting nearly all the contestants leaving only a few survivors by the end of the race.

Once “infected,” Chasers can hunt rival teams, keeping their loyalty even though they are out of the competition. Others could turn on their own team members, taking the zombie metaphor quite literally.

THE TEAMS

Ted vs. Ted: For most of the year, Ted Brady and Ted Sim are best friends. However, each year, one hot night in Washington sees them as bitter rivals. Each Ted leads one of the biggest and most athletic teams at Survive DC. *Bros for the Win* (Brady) and *Team Rocket* (Sim). The *Bros* have handily destroyed the *Rockets* six years in a row, but this year the *Rockets* have a new plan: Military-like discipline and a spy, posing as a *Bro* reporting their every move.

Will this be the year the rockets finally prevail? And will they have to cheat to do it?

ROFL House: After Dan leaves his beloved housemates, and the city of Boston for a job in DC, the members of “The ROFL House” pile into a van the day of the race to meet him for one more adventure. But will they end up holding him back as he races for the finish?

Team Burgundy: A group of mothers let loose with their kids in order to show them that adults can still have fun, and the city isn’t so scary after all. But what happens when one of the team leaders gets separated from the group with no map and no phone?

*Survive DC* follows these four teams, as well as staff, chasers and renegades as they journey to the end of the night. Each team has its own adventure, traitors, heartbreak, and triumph. Their stories are intricately weaved together with interviews exploring why, how and the strange history of this gonzo game.

**FILMMAKER BIOS**

AVIV RUBINSTIEN – DIRECTOR/PRODUCER

Aviv Rubinstien is a writer and director living in LA. His first feature, *The Anchorite*, chronicled a fake indie band as they went on a real tour across 33 states.

Apart from zombie tag, Aviv has also written scripts for fun and profit across all genres. His original screenplays have placed high in screenwriting contests such as *Austin Film Festival*, *BlueCat, Screencraft* and *Emerging Screenwriters.* He has worked with several indie producers, writing, rewriting and adapting scripts for production. These works include *Lift Me Up,* Directed by Mark Cartier and Produced by North of Two Productions, *Good Grief,* Directed by Brandon Ford Green and *The Reason,*Directed by Randall Stevens.

Aviv has been teaching screenwriting and filmmaking since 2007. He is currently the Director of Film and Arts at ICL Academy, a performing arts high school in Los Angeles, and a professor of screenwriting at Relativity School.

KEITH BROWN – PRODUCER

Keith Brown is a native Rhode Islander who first started making films as soon as he was old enough to borrow his parent's Super 8 camera. He holds an MFA in Film Production from Boston University. His critically acclaimed short film, Tough All Over, has screened at the Boston Cinema Census, the Antelope Valley International Film Festival, the Georgetown Indy Film Fest, the Syracuse International Film and Video Festival, Film Stock, and the Rhode Island International Film Festival.

Keith developed a film studies course, Representation of Youth in Film, which he taught at Tufts University in 2006. He has also taught at Boston University (his alma mater). Brown has been teaching at URI since 2007, and heads their film department. He produces and directs films in what little spare time he has.

RACHEL MOSSBERG – PRODUCER

Rachel Mossberg, former student of Keith Brown, graduated from URI in 2010. She skipped her own graduation to work in the makeup department of Wes Anderson’s *Moonrise Kingdom*.

Her talents in both creative processes, pragmatism led her naturally to the role of producing. She and Rubinstien first worked together on *The Anchorite,* which Mossberg produced. Her skills of problem solving were crucial to that film, which would not exist without her. She has since worked in development as well as the art department for several independent films.  
  
Mossberg has a passion for media, culture and how the two affect one another, which led her to an MA in Media Studies from *The New School,* which she will receive this year*.* At *The New School*, Mossberg is focusing on Documentary, and non-fiction, Production.

**DIRECTOR’S STATEMENT**

I participated in the Survive DC event in 2011, driving from Boston to Washington DC the night before the race and accidentally making myself sick in the process. So with a head full of cold medicine I was among the nearly two thousand people who ran screaming from Dupont Circle that year.

I hesitate to take the time to explain the inner-workings of the game right now, but suffice to say, as a runner, you have one goal: do NOT get tagged by a chaser. If you make the journey to the end of the night without being caught, you receive the greatest prize of all… a sticker.

There is nothing at stake in this event other than personal pride, knowing you could survive a zombie apocalypse. But something strange happened. When the horn went off, something primal ignited within me. My *lizard brain* took over, and I eagerly darted into traffic. I risked my life repeatedly, daring people who pursued me to do the same, in order to stay untagged.

Hours later, after a torrential downpour, I hid from a group of chasers in the bushes across the street from The White House. It was at this moment that my developed brain resurfaced. I thought, ‘*this is a terrible idea. I’m hiding in the bushes across the street from the White House.’* But instead of letting rationality guide my decisions, I pushed logic away and continued to hide until the coast was clear. I risked labeling myself an enemy of the United States in order not to lose this *child’s game*. It was as that moment, I knew I had to return to Survive DC with a camera.

*That* is the feeling I set out to capture with Survive DC; but moreover, that is the feeling I set out to understand.

**THE FILM**

We went through a months-long screening and interviewing process to find the perfect subjects for our film. I knew we were on the verge of something special when we discovered the deep backstory between the teams *Bros for the Win* and *Team Rocket*. Their captains traveled thousands of miles to (hopefully) lead their teams to victory.

Thanks to Keith Brown we were able to enlist an entire class from the University of Rhode Island. They piled into cars and drove down to DC in order to film the race.

To film the race itself, we created satellite-crews, of three members (two camera operators and a coordinator) who would follow each of their assigned teams. This required Mossberg, Rubinstien and Brown to remain at the finish line and direct the crews via text message.

About 90 minutes into the race, we interviewed Game Master Brandon Schmittling at the finish line about the police presence at the beginning of the event. In the middle of our interview a runner stomped across the finish line. Of the nearly two thousand runners that year, we were lucky enough to have our cameras rolling when Sam Haddaway crossed the finish line and set a Survive DC record.

It was then we knew the documentary gods were smiling upon us. Each satellite-crew had its own version of that moment, and without fail the teams all developed a deep affection for their camera crews and made their crews official members of their teams post race.

**CREDITS**

DIRECTOR

Aviv Rubinstien

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Michael Simon

PRODUCERS

Keith Brown

Rachel Mossberg

Aviv Rubinstien

ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS

Mike Dindoffer

Brandon Schmittling

SECOND UNIT DIRECTOR

Rob Ribera

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

Matt Reuter

Grace Adelson

EDITOR

Rick Chapman

CAMERA OPERATORS

Matt Hedges

Matt DiGennaro

Rob Ribera

Jennifer Callaghan

Amelia Votta

Alexis Mayer

Ryan Ackelsberg

Andrew Munroe

Ryan Gilman

Emma Kougell

Jim McDevitt

ADDITIONAL CAMERA WORK

Katie Reynolds

Nick Millevoi