

A young boy is riding a dolphin underwater. The scene is illuminated with a deep blue light, creating a serene and magical atmosphere. The boy is holding onto the dolphin's back, and several other dolphins are visible in the background, swimming gracefully. The water is clear, and the overall mood is peaceful and adventurous.

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FROM WRITER/DIRECTOR **CHRIS JAYMES**



an ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE
NICHOLL FELLOWSHIP SEMI-FINALIST

IN SCREENWRITING

BASED ON A TRUE STORY

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GENRE

Family Adventure

TONE

E.T., Life of Pi, Jurassic World, The Blind Side

LOGLINE

A boy born with a rare heart defect is paralyzed from a stroke during open-heart surgery and is led to a full recovery by a relationship with a bottle-nosed dolphin.



SYNOPSIS

The Florida Keys. Early 1990s.

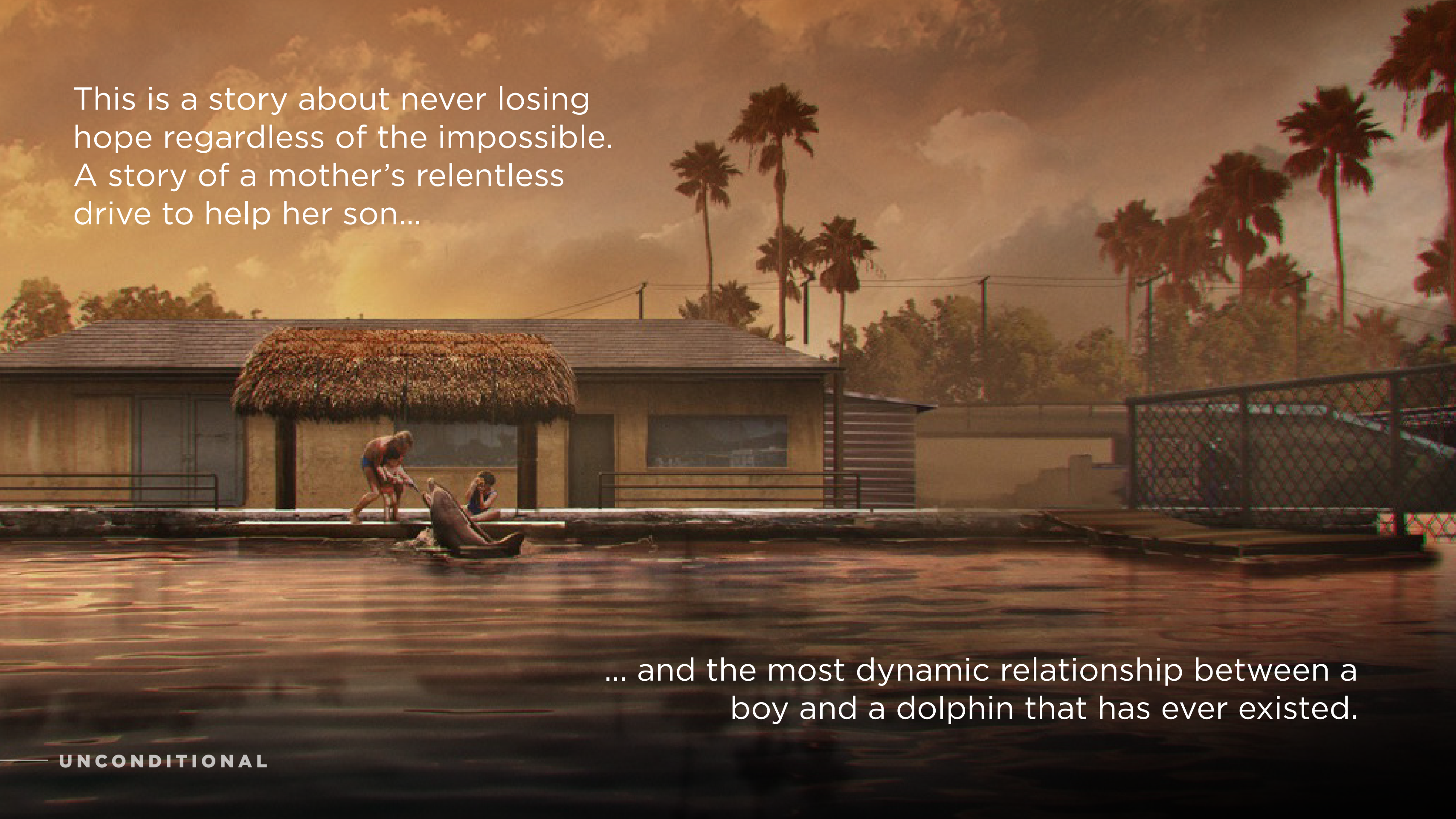
An inspirational story based on the life of Joe Hoagland, who at six years old, during his third open heart surgery, suffered a complete right-hemisphere stroke, which paralyzed the left side of his body.

The medical field had ruled him out until in 1990, his mother brought him to a dolphin research facility in the Florida Keys. As they walked down to the dock, a certain bottle-nosed dolphin beelined straight to Joe, popped out of the water and squeaked in Joe's little face, and for the first time in a year... he laughed.



SYNOPSIS CONTINUED

Over the next year and a half, his mother, Deena would use Joe's enthusiasm towards his new best friend to motivate him to use his body. She explained that Fonzi was a left-handed dolphin, and that in order to play with him, Joe would have to use his paralyzed left hand to feed him. That night, Deena found Joe alone in his room speaking to his hand, urging it to open and close. A year later Joe was fully recovered.



This is a story about never losing
hope regardless of the impossible.
A story of a mother's relentless
drive to help her son...

... and the most dynamic relationship between a
boy and a dolphin that has ever existed.

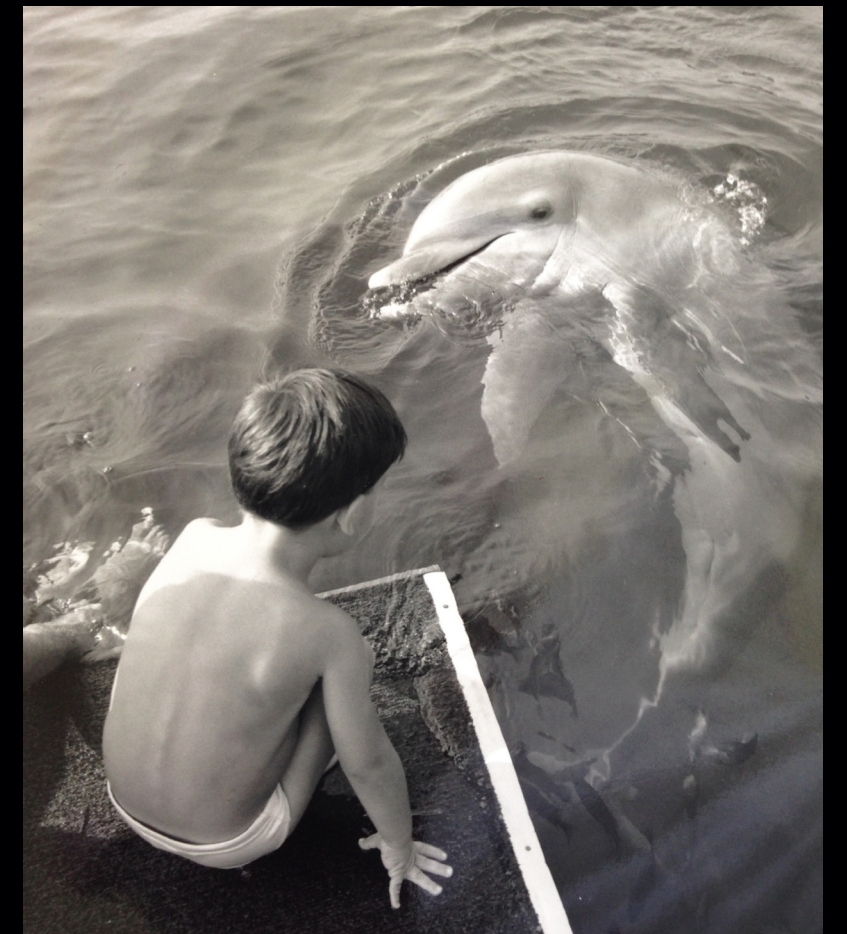
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JOE & FONZI

As Joe began attaining results, the facility couldn't afford the expense of the dolphins and they were going to be shipped off to become show animals. This was not acceptable to Deena, and regardless of the hundreds of thousands of dollars they owed for Joe's hospital bills, Deena found an answer.

Through gracious benefactors, Deena raised the money to acquire the dolphins and launch Island Dolphin Care, a non-profit organization where the Hoagland Family has worked since 1997 developing programs stimulated by the healing process that came about through Joe & Fonzi.

This work has grown into a form of therapy that is now practiced throughout the world, where dolphins work with kids with mental and physical disabilities, as well as, war veterans suffering PTSD, bringing overwhelming results.





OVER 80% OF THE FAMILIES ATTENDING THEIR PROGRAMS ARE GRANTED SCHOLARSHIPS AND A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS FROM THIS FILM WILL GO TOWARDS THE FUTURE OF ISLAND DOLPHIN CARE.

Fonzi & Joe continued working together, bringing joy to thousands of children and families over the next decade until thirteen years after their meeting, Fonzi passed away. During a necropsy it was discovered that Fonzi's heart had a very similar defect as Joe's did.



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