

MARINONI: THE FIRE IN THE FRAME

A film by Tony Girardin

87 min / English - French – Italian w/ English Subtitles / 2015 / Color / Canada



FIRST RUN FEATURES

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Synopsis

Giuseppe Marinoni found his calling when he transitioned from champion cyclist to master bike craftsman. But after years hunched over toxic fumes, his passion almost killed him. Today, at age 75, Marinoni is back in top shape, and decided to attempt the world hour record for his age group, all on a bike he built with his own hands almost 40 years ago.

Filmmaker Statement

When people ask me how long it took to make this film, I often say one year to film, one year to edit, and before all that, three years to convince Giuseppe Marinoni to participate in the project.

It was like luring a mythical creature from its den, and having a camera on hand to capture it.

Well worth all the effort.

– Tony Girardin

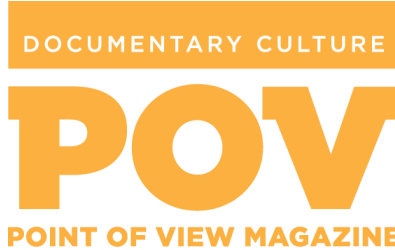
Subject Biography

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Press Quotes

"A True Crowd Pleaser"

POV Magazine



"Deeply Moving"

Toronto Star



"Terrific doc"

Now Toronto



"Quirky and Uplifting"

Maclean's Magazine



"Incredibly entertaining and moving"

Toronto Film Scene



TORONTO'S ONLINE FILM MAGAZINE

DOCUMENTARY CULTURE

POV

POINT OF VIEW MAGAZINE

Hot Docs 2014

By Patrick Mullen • Published May 1st, 2014

Marinoni is a true crowd pleaser. This endearing doc by Tony Giradin (*Hockey Migrations*) charms from beginning to end due to the irresistible curmudgeonliness of its subject, Giuseppe Marinoni. Marinoni, an Italian-Canadian cyclist, is a local hero thanks to the sturdy bikes he produces in his Montreal bike shop. He is equally renowned for his undying passion for cycling, for he still pedals up to one-hundred kilometres per day at the tender age of 75. Marinoni's amiable story shows that aging is all in the mind.

Marinoni, the man, is more fascinating than the film itself, though, for Giradin takes a bare bones interactive approach as he joins Marinoni in his workshop and watches him train to break a world record. The modest digital video lets the cantankerous Marinoni do much of the talking himself, and Giradin presents ample footage of the cyclist's amusing tirades and cranky outbursts. Marinoni doesn't seem to enjoy being on camera, as he says the stress of being watched hampers his craftsmanship and his training, but this respectful portrait of the cyclist consistently marks him as a leader of the pack.

Giradin culls together interviews with famous and everyday Montreal cyclists who have been touched by Marinoni's work and spirit. *Marinoni* inevitably sidesteps any questioning of the costs that arise when one makes such a devotion to cycling, such as the repercussions that his training might have had on his family life, since one could argue that such an all-consuming habit is akin to an addiction. The soft approach of *Marinoni*, however, stays consistent with the relatable joviality of its subject and style, as Marinoni shares a tangible lust for life with the filmmaker, which emerges most strongly in their trip to Italy to beat the world record. The effusive energy of this inspiring sportsman is an undeniable delight.

Selected Credits

Directed and Produced by

Tony Girardin

Co-Produced by

Noah Couture-Glassco

Music by

Alexander Hackett

Story Advisor

Tom Peacock

Associate Producer

Mark Westberg

Filmed and Edited by

Tony Girardin

Mixed by

Jean Vanhaelen

Sound Editor

Mark Westberg

Music Editor

Petros Kolyvas