

SKYSCRAPER PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS



SWIM TO AFRICA



6 SWIMMERS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE
ATTEMPT TO SWIM FROM EUROPE TO AFRICA.
THIS IS THEIR INSPIRATIONAL STORY.



AMY
CANCER SURVIVOR

ALAN
C.E.O.



"It's like running a marathon in the dark"



"Every stroke felt like someone was stabbing my shoulder"



KEVIN
HEART ATTACK
SURVIVOR

BRENDAN
WORLD CLASS
SWIMMER



"It was the most insane thing I've seen in my entire life"



"We all have dreams and this is a huge goal"

KY
OLYMPIAN

JORGE
UNIVERSITY
PROFESSOR



SWIM TO AFRICA
NOTHING GREAT IS EASY.



SWIM TO AFRICA

6 swimmers from around the globe attempt to swim from Europe to Africa. A world champion swimmer, an Olympian, a CEO, a cancer survivor, a heart attack survivor and a professor whose lifelong dream has always been to swim the Strait of Gibraltar. Jetlagged, exhausted and somewhat under prepared, we follow the stories of these swimmers as they battle the freezing elements across two continents. Dodging huge shipping tankers while trying to reach unfriendly Moroccan border agents is just the beginning. This mental and physical "marathon in the dark" will test everyone with surprising results.

SWIMMERS



ALAN: The organizer. A near death accident energized him to create a successful physical therapy business, which in turn, gave him the financial opportunity to create amazing physical challenge events to further his spirit and inspire the people around him.



KY: The Olympian. Ky is an Australian swimming Olympian and Dancing with the Stars contestant who truly questions the ability of the group and himself to achieve success.



AMY: The cancer survivor. Her search to make sense of her disease has led her to Spain. She's a talented swimmer, but with her physical limitations, it's not clear how she will fair. Nervous and under confident, this swim will be a huge milestone to her recovery.



JORGE: The university professor. He's originally from Spain and since he was a boy, made it one of his life-long goals to swim the Strait of Gibraltar. He's trained hard, but turning 40 may prove to be a challenge.



BRENDAN: The world class swimmer. Best friends with Ky, Brendan has the ability to swim the distance, but has a deeper responsibility to shepherd the rest of the swimmers during the grueling crossing.



KEVIN: The heart attack survivor. Best friends with Alan, Kevin is a world class triathlete with more courage than physical readiness. A family tragedy might give him the strength to conquer his demons.

SWIM TO AFRICA

STORY

COLD OPEN: Swimmers are struggling in a huge body of rough water about to swim from Europe to Africa. As they all touch the rock to start, the gravity of the situation hits them as they take their first strokes.

The story begins as we follow our 6 swimmers as they travel half way around the world to meet in Spain. After a 24-hour traveling nightmare they all meet at an enormous villa in the Spanish city of Tarifa. The organizer, Alan is an adventurous and highly successful CEO who explains the genesis of the swim and how he assembled this diverse group of swimmers.

Alan explains how a chance meeting with a swimming enthusiast, Jorge, gave him the “crazy” idea to swim the Strait of Gibraltar. Jorge’s a university professor originally from Spain who’s made it one of his life-long goals to swim the strait. A quick phone call from Alan to his best friend Kevin secures another swimmer. We learn that Amy came on board soon after. Ky and Brendan are two young Aussie professional swimmers recruited by Alan to aid in the crossing.

The group is frazzled after learning that a cyclone will be landing near them and that the only safe time to attempt the crossing is less than 10 hours away. The scramble is on to organize and ready the travel weary swimmers for the challenge of their lives.

A 5am wake up call comes way too early as some wait for the last possible moment to pile into the transport van. A nervous ride to the docks reveals the true dangers ahead. The fears range from enormous marine life, the extremely cold water, the quickly changing weather and currents, the danger of being shot at by ill-informed Moroccan border guards, to their own physical disabilities. Very few swimmers in history have ever successfully crossed this strait and all but Brendan have even swam close to this distance.

As we arrive to docks of Tarifa, the nerves really kick in. They’ve all seen the course on a map, but never in person. The distance seems unachievable by most. Others have a false confidence that seems to have been successful in the past. The weight of the attempt hits all of them as the support boats escort them out to the starting rock. A quick strategy meeting reveals the necessity to stay together for speed as well as a requirement by the officials to ensure wayward tankers don’t run them down. The few support boats available will have a very difficult time pulling someone out of the water if the group is scattered. Jorge’s wife and father are onboard a tiny feeding boat to fuel the swimmers every 15 minutes.

A final few words and the group pushes off the rock headed for Africa. From the start, the group is hanging together with some going too slow and other’s way too fast. Amy and Jorge quickly establish themselves as the slower swimmers. Thanks to a favorable current, all the swimmers reach their first feeding with relative ease. The rest of the group pulls dangerously ahead as Amy and Jorge take a bit longer to get back on pace.

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Towards the middle of the crossing the groups starts to disintegrate. Ky, Alan and Kevin are swimming strong while Brendan is forced to keep the increasingly slower pace with Amy and Jorge. The feeding times are becoming erratic and the now unfavorable current and choppy waters are providing a real threat. Huge cargo tankers are winding their way around the swimmers when one mega tanker is spotted on a collision course with Amy. Kevin makes a last ditch effort to hurry her along, but its up to the support boats and international officials to decide whether to pull her from the water. With support boats scrambling to her rescue, Amy digs deep and finds a way to swim away from danger. Her efforts are becoming labored as she is now alone in the back, far from the others. The angry officials are ready to call off the crossing for everyone if a group isn't established.

The swimmers hastily establish a group for a short time, but with the seas becoming choppiier and the currents pulling some swimmers backwards, they are quickly separated. With a mile to go and the Moroccan coast in sight, Jorge, Alan and the Aussies are running on pure adrenaline. The once confident Kevin is realizing that finishing may not be an option. His shoulder is failing him as he describes the stabbing pain with every stroke. He's using a waterproof ipod that's been pumping hard rock in his ears for hours when a special song comes on that changes everything. A poignant tune played at his sister's funeral gives him renewed strength to make the final push. All but Amy find a rock to land on and push through the current to declare victory. Amy is far behind, but with the encouragement from the support boats and the others she battles on. With the waves crashing around her, she finds a way to use her inner strength and swim to Africa.

The celebrations are brief as the Moroccan border police wield machine guns and command the foreigners to leave their country. Back on the boat, the swimmers rejoice at this unique adventure and call their loved ones with the news. Heartfelt regards are met with hugs and the understanding of a unique bond that can only be created through this amazing experience. Everyone tells of their own unique accomplishment and how this crossing will fuel their soul for the rest of their lives.

OVERALL MESSAGE:

This is a character piece. The drama in the water is the vehicle that gets us to know each swimmer. Everyone has a story arc that leads them to a better understanding of themselves. The overall message and feel is one of inspiration. The viewer will realize that nothing great is easy and be empowered to find their own Strait of Gibraltar.

PRODUCTION NOTE:

Skyscraper Productions has over 12 hours of incredible footage shot in 1080i full HD. We have hours of interviews in various locations and amazing action footage including underwater cams.

View the trailer at : <https://vimeo.com/159289752>

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