



BONECRUSHER

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WEBSITE

<http://www.bonecrusherfilm.com>

TAGLINE

An intimate journey inside the lives and work of coal miners.

SYNOPSIS

In the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, a young coal miner named Lucas Chaffin toils one mile underground. Despite the harsh working conditions, Lucas takes fierce pride in the fact that he's carrying on a family tradition. As a fourth-generation miner, working inside the earth is more than just a job to Lucas. He believes it's his duty; a responsibility symbolized by the old coal hammer that he uses. It is the same hammer that was used for 26 years by the man he loves more than anything: his father, Luther Chaffin.

Luther—nicknamed “Bonecrusher” — was once a strong, handsome man. But now, at 61, he's withered and sick; coal dust has ravaged his lungs. As life slips away, his greatest concern isn't for himself; it's for Lucas's safety.

Bonecrusher is an intimate account of the love between a father and son and the powerful bond they share, a bond that is put to the test. It is also a stark journey to the coal fields of Dante, Virginia where a tight-knit community of miners face life with a toughness and camaraderie as enduring as the earth itself.

AIRINGS:

PBS WGBH WORLD	May 2011
PBS NETA (70% of all US markets, over 712 broadcasts)	April 2011
PBS SCETV Southern Lens	October 2010
Al Jazeera English WITNESS	July 2010
HRT Croatia Television	June 2010

FESTIVALS / AWARDS:

American Library Association 2012	*Outstanding Video for Adults
Black Bear Film Festival 2011	
One World Film Festival 2011	
Sebastopol Documentary Film Festival 2010	*Best Documentary Critics Award
Jack Spadaro Award 2010	*Best Documentary Feature Award
Stephenson Center for Appalachia Lecture Series 2010	
Bradford International Film Festival (England) 2010	
San Francisco Independent Film Festival 2010	
Otterbein College Common Book Program 2010	*Winter Quarter Official Selection
Asheville Film Festival 2009	*Best Documentary Runner-Up Award
Pare Lorentz International Film Festival 2009	
Rehoboth International Film Festival 2009	
BendFilm Festival 2009	
Maryland Film Festival 2009	
Southern Appalachian International Film Festival 2009	
Appalachian Film Festival 2009	*Best Documentary Runner-up Award
Filmfest DC 2009	*Voted in the top 5 for audience favorite
Big Sky Documentary Film Festival 2009	
University of Montana Peace & Justice Film Series 2009	

REVIEWS:

"These are proud, likable, and candid men who don't hide their emotions as they give viewers an unflinching look at the realities of life in and around the mines of their impoverished but close-knit rural town. Nothing is sugarcoated or romanticized in this raw and gritty film, which follows Luther's battle with black lung disease and cancer and Lucas's struggle to come to terms with his father's mortality and the physical and mental hardships of his chosen profession. There are no happy endings here. This must-see film is one of the better recent documentaries on the American South; highly recommended for all audiences.

—Douglas King, Univ. of South Carolina Lib., Columbia

"A dust-covered love story unearthed in Appalachia...Watching father and son negotiate mortality and money, Fountain's documentary tugs at the heart as much as the conscience: In *Bonecrusher*, there really is no such thing as "clean coal."

-Hilary Crowe, *Washington City Paper*

"This intimate program examines the lives of the miners. Cameras follow the men as they travel deep underground, crawl through tunnels, and chip away at coal. It also captures their trash talk, camaraderie, and sense of community. A compelling documentary."

-Candace Smith, *Booklist*

"Bonecrusher compellingly details the dangers of coal mining, the sequences in the dark underground channels where men walk hunched over while breathing coal dust are truly harrowing."

-P. Hall, Video Librarian

"*Bonecrusher* shines a light on our hidden workforce. College students who study law, environment, health professions, government and policy would be well-served to gain insight into the community profiled in *Bonecrusher*. A terrific film."

-Bette Jacobs, Dean, School of Nursing & Health Studies, Georgetown University

" I love this film. I see it enhancing several classes – from the most basic courses to specialized studies in rural sociology and community services – helping educate students who have no knowledge of this part of America's heartland."

-Deborah Abowitz, Professor of Sociology, Bucknell University

"This remarkable film powerfully demonstrates the potential for documentary film to transcend the specifics of class and reach all audiences at the most basic human level.

-Steve Wurtzler, Associate Professor Film and Media Studies, Georgetown University

"In these days of telecommuting and job uncertainty, there's something profoundly inspiring about the Chaffins, and Fountain has perceptively captured this rural sense of family and tradition... *Bonecrusher* is the intimate, reverent, and absorbing story of the relationship between Lucas and his coalminer father."

-Eddie Cockrell of *Variety*

"The story is compelling in its mundanity--and just as compelling are the claustrophobic scenes of Lucas and his fellow miners working in the dark, miles and miles below the earth. A must see!"

-Erin Sullivan, Baltimore City Paper

"Through wonderful cinematography...this documentary takes the viewer to places both beautiful and terrifying."

-Skizz Cyzyk for the Maryland Film Festival

"...top notch documentary...breathtaking cinematography...Bonecrusher mixes the dark and terrifying world deep in the Appalachian mines with the beautiful landscape that covers them."

-Jay Berg's Cinema Diary

"Bonecrusher is the best contemporary portrait of an underground miner that I have seen ever."

-Steve Fesenmaier Charleston Gazette

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

Michael Fountain is the owner of [WriteBrain Films](#). He has been directing and producing television shows for over 18 years. He is the executive producer and director of the award-winning documentary [Bonecrusher](#), selected in 2012 by The American Library Association as a "Notable Video for Adults". The film won Best Documentary at the 2010 Sebastopol Documentary Film Festival and the 2010 Jack Spadaro Best Documentary Award. It was a Finalist for Best Documentary in the Appalachian Film Festival and the Asheville Film Festival.

Fountain has directed several series and documentaries for Discovery Channel including, the award-winning series, *The 100 Greatest Discoveries with Bill Nye, Dr. Know, Emeril Green* and *Man-Eating Sharks: The Truth!*. He has produced for Steven Soderbergh and George Clooney's *K Street* for HBO, NBC's *The West Wing* and for Michael Moore's *The Awful Truth* on Bravo.

Other television and film credits include: Touchstone Pictures' *Armageddon*, *Crazy Like a Fox*, CBS's *The Kennedy Center Honors* and *NCIS*, Court TV's *Gone Bad*, Discovery Channel's *Rameses: Wrath of God or Man?*, *When Disaster Strikes* and *Young Scientist Challenge*, The Military Channel's *My War Diaries*, Disney Channel's *The Jersey*, Dutch Television's *Isaac Babel* and *Salvatore Guillioni*, Guggenheim Productions' *D-Day Remembered*, The National Gallery of Art's *Empire of the Eye*, National Geographic Television's *Angkor Wat*, and Phoenix Pictures' *Dick*.

As a director and producer, his major corporate and commercial clients include: American Express, American Red Cross, America Online, Avaya, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Coca-Cola, Comcast, Ford Motor Company, Freddie Mac, Giant Food, The Hecht Company, Los Angeles Times, Marriott, Maryland Lottery, MCI, Microsoft, MSNBC, NBA, Pfizer, Raytheon, Stryker, Time Warner, United Way of America, Verizon, Virginia Lottery, Volunteers of America, Whole Foods Market and Xerox.

Michael Fountain received a bachelor of arts in philosophy from Bucknell University. He splits his time between Washington, DC and Lewes, DE.

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