

DAZZLING MEDIA

PRESENTS

GERALDINE FERRARO

PAVING THE WAY

A film by Donna Zaccaro

86 minute run time

Official Selection of:

Hamptons International Film Festival

DOC NYC Film Festival

Athena Film Festival (closing film)

PRESS NOTES

Contact:

Janice DeRosa

Dazzling Media

(914) 671-3339 phone

jj.derosa@mac.com

SYNOPSIS

“Geraldine Ferraro: Paving the Way” is a feature-length documentary about the life of this trailblazer who served as role model for women and men across the nation and around the world. The film features never-before-seen archival footage and stills, intimate interviews with Ferraro and commentary by many of the leading political figures of our day, including President Bill Clinton and Secretary Hillary Clinton, President and Mrs. George H. W. Bush, Vice President Walter Mondale, Secretary Madeleine Albright, Senators Barbara Mikulski and Olympia Snowe, Congresswomen Nancy Pelosi, Barbara Kennelly and Jane Harman, Congressmen Vic Fazio and Tony Coelho and many others. Filmmaker Donna Zaccaro creates a moving, powerful and oftentimes surprising portrait of her mother, who changed the face of American politics forever.

Though her history-making campaign as the first female nominee for national office by a major party in America is well known, few know much about her journey from an impoverished childhood, the struggles she endured while growing up, or the hurdles she faced and overcame both professionally and personally in order to achieve what no woman had done before. And though her campaign for Vice President was ultimately not successful, the film explores how Ferraro’s conduct during that campaign changed the national perception of what was possible for women.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Directed and produced by Geraldine Ferraro’s eldest daughter, Donna Zaccaro, “Geraldine Ferraro: Paving the Way” offers a very personal and intimate look at this iconic figure. However, because of Donna’s journalistic background, Geraldine’s story is also presented in a carefully balanced manner.

A year before her mother died, Donna interviewed her about her life. The understanding was that Donna would use the interviews as a basis for a documentary about Geraldine’s life after her death. At the time, Geraldine was physically incapacitated and confined to her home – so this interview was to be her last. In the year after Geraldine died at the age of 75, Donna interviewed twenty-eight of her mother’s close friends, former colleagues, opponents, analysts and family. Donna says she made the film because “I wanted to both clarify and preserve my mother's legacy and at the same time, share the lessons of her life to hopefully inspire others to greater achievement in their own lives. Younger women and men today probably don't know who she was or how much her life affected theirs. Those that did know who she was and remember her historic Vice Presidential candidacy, did not likely know what she had surmounted to get to that point, and then what she had to endure during that campaign and afterwards, in large measure, as a result of her pioneering role.” And though this is the story of Donna’s mother’s life, it is also very much the story of her father’s life with her – a life that he has never before been willing to talk about publicly.

Donna asked her colleague from her NBC News days, Janice DeRosa, to help her produce the film largely because Donna felt she might be too close to the material and wanted an outside professional with distance and a critical eye to further ensure that the story being told was more of an objective and critical look at the individuals involved and the events that took place.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

DONNA ZACCARO (DIRECTOR & PRODUCER)

Donna Zaccaro is Founder and President of Dazzling Media, a New York-based media production company. “*Geraldine Ferraro: Paving the Way*,” is a Dazzling Media film. Donna served as the director and producer of this documentary about her mother. Previously, Donna was a longtime, award-winning producer for the “Today” show at NBC News. She has also worked in other industries including politics, public affairs marketing and communications, and began her career in investment banking.

Donna holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Brown University and an MBA in General Business Administration from Harvard Business School. She lives in New York City with her husband and two teenage children.

JANICE DEROSA (PRODUCER)

Janice DeRosa is a producer of *Geraldine Ferraro: Paving the Way*. This endeavor marks her foray into feature-length documentary filmmaking after a successful career in network television news. Janice began her career at NBC’s “Today” show where she spent nearly twenty years covering world events and breaking news as well as lifestyle and entertainment stories. From there, she moved on to become a Senior Producer for *The CBS Early Show*. She now develops film and television projects that she hopes will inform and entertain audiences. It was while at the “Today” show that she first worked with Donna Zaccaro, resulting in a lasting friendship and now, a newly formed producing partnership.

ANDREW MORREALE ACE: (PRODUCER & EDITOR)

Andrew Morreale is a three-time Emmy Award winning and Academy Award nominated producer/editor who has worked for over 25 years on an extensive list of films for HBO, PBS, ESPN and other independent works. In addition to his role as producer/editor on *Paving The Way* He edited the Emmy-Award winning HBO Sports documentary *Namath*, and produced and directed *Beyond Broken* a documentary short about a Long Island artist suffering from Multiple Sclerosis. He continued his work as co-producer and editor on *The TEAM Makes a Play*, another indie feature documentary about a small independent New York theatre group and their three-year collaborative journey in creating their multi-award-winning production *Mission Drift*. Morreale was a co-creator of ESPN's popular series *The World Series of Poker*. He has operated a small production company since 2003 producing a variety of short films. Other notable credits include: *Wartorn* (HBO), *I Have Tourette's* (HBO), *Nine Innings From Ground Zero* (HBO), *Uncle Frank* (also as producer, HBO), *The Trial of Saddam Hussein* (also as co-writer, PBS), *An Essay on Matisse* (1997 Academy Award Nominee).

CREDITS

DIRECTED BY **DONNA ZACCARO**

PRODUCED BY **DONNA ZACCARO, JANICE DEROSA, ANDREW MORREALE**

EDITED BY **ANDREW MORREALE ACE**

CAMERA: **JIM SICILE**

SOUND: **KEVIN TRAINOR**

MUSIC: **MUSIC BOX INC.**

WORLDWIDE SALES: **THE FILM SALES COMPANY**

WEBSITE: www.ferraropavingtheway.com

TRAILER: www.ferraropavingtheway.com/preview.html

PRESS:

<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/review/geraldine-ferraro-paving-way-hamptons-648558>

<http://blogs.indiewire.com/womenandhollywood/hiff-women-directors-meet-donna-zaccaro>

<http://www.timeout.com/newyork/film/doc-nyc-our-recommendations>