

Awaken the Dragon (Again!)

Written by Editor

Wednesday, 10 April 2013 08:16 - Last Updated Wednesday, 10 April 2013 14:25



Just over a year ago, "Awaken the Dragon" took Audience Choice and Best Documentary awards at the 6th Annual Beaufort International Film Festival. This poignant message of hope, teamwork and commitment has gone on to win numerous well-deserved awards throughout the United States.

This film is so powerful, it's coming back by popular demand on Thursday, April 11, to USCB's Center for the Arts!

Liz Oakley's extraordinary documentary catapults an unlikely crew of Charleston cancer survivors into a new way of being and seeing themselves. Redefining the word 'sick' and re-framing the meaning of their diagnosis, these individuals transform into a single force of power and beauty. Fully engaged in the ancient Chinese sport of dragon boating that is a feast for the senses, it's a record of nail-biting competition and intimate revelations that challenges traditional medical thinking, revealing a path to wellness that holds hope for all cancer survivors.

"Awaken the Dragon" is a moving, inspiring trip. It has been leaving audiences emotionally drained and has even awakened the dragon within many. Before the premier screening, BIFF Director Ron Tucker, warned "this film is going to change your life," pointing to the weird, dragon-headed craft outside USCB's Center for the Arts. Many in the Beaufort audience were deeply touched, emotional and energized by this film.

Several Beaufort cancer survivors were so inspired, they immediately launched DragonBoat Beaufort, the town's first racing and recreational team. Patterning itself on the Charleston model, DragonBoat Beaufort offers male and female cancer survivors and supporters the opportunity to "hit the restart button" by participating in this fabulous, team-centric wellness program out on the Beaufort River.

DragonBoat Beaufort set two powerful goals: to provide cancer survivors the opportunity to heal and regain physical and psychological strength through the camaraderie and competition of dragon boating and to provide one-on-one assistance to local cancer patients with needs they are unable to afford or for which they lack coverage.

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