

Q&A with Director Dana Glazer

(These sound bytes are from a 'news style' video interview with the director and are available for all media purposes. Click [here](#) to view a sample. Requests for downloadable, hi res, QuickTime files of any/all of the quotes can be made at info@evolutionofdad.com.)

1) What do you hope to achieve with your film?

a) "With this film I hope to redefine how we see the role of fatherhood and to get more dads involved with their kids."

b) "I'm here to start a revolution with this 'evolution.' My plan is to have this film spearhead a new fatherhood movement. I want this project to own Father's Day - to redefine it and to make it something deeper than just the Hallmark card that it is currently."

c) "Before embarking on this film, I thought, given that I am a pretty involved dad, that I must know something about fatherhood. Looking back, I'm shocked as to how little I really knew. My hope is that this film will inspire and educate other dads in the same way that it's been done for me."

2) Has there ever been a documentary film about fatherhood before?

"There's never been a documentary before that explores the role of fatherhood – which was both exciting and bewildering for me. It's exciting to be staking new ground but the fact there hasn't been a film before about this really speaks about how deemphasized fatherhood truly is in our culture."

3) Do you plan to emphasize any types of fathers in particular in the film?

"The emphasis will be on fathers who strive to be as involved as they can be with their families and not have the film be about only certain types of dad. This is about all dads and the emotional struggles they are going through."

4) Was there anything you discovered in the research that really surprised you?

"Researching fatherhood really opened my eyes to how fatherhood is truly valued and perceived. Perhaps what made the largest impression was how on the surface our society says 'Fatherhood is important' but if you scratch the surface, the real message is 'back to work dads!'"

5) Who do you think will watch this film?

"I hope this film has mass appeal – at least that's what I'm shooting for. Anybody who is a dad or has a dad, and that's just about everyone, will be able to relate to this film."

6) How evolved do you think dads of today really are?

a) “Dads are definitely more involved with their families now than ever before and that’s good. We’d like to think we’re so evolved, but honestly, thirty years from now, they’re going to look at us present-day dads like we were cavemen. So many dads of today still fall into the ‘50’s traditional mode and between our society and the way many men see themselves, not that much has changed.”

b) “If you never get to really know your kids, aside from maybe the occasional ballgame or vacation, most dads don’t really know what they’re missing. It’s only the dads who have gotten a taste of really learning who their kids are, that can see it. There are certainly more involved dads now than ever before and my expectation is that this will only increase in time.”

7) How do you think change can occur?

a) “If you want to really create change, stop treating parental leave, childcare, work/family balance like they’re women’s issues. They’re not. They’re everyone’s issues and only when we get the men in on the discussion will there be some change.”

b) “Most of society’s problems, like teen pregnancy, substance abuse, gang violence are partly due to a lack of a dad in the picture. The stunning truth is: if we get dads more involved with their kids, many of these problems can be fixed.”

c) “We can cheerlead all we want about how important fatherhood is, but until men are willing to demand more work/family balance from their jobs, things will remain the same. The challenge is that most men’s identities are so wrapped around being a breadwinner, that it’s tough for them to change.”

d) “My hope lies with GenY. I think that they’re going to change things. There’s been a lot of negative press about their being too self involved and demanding more fulfillment with work, but I see a big positive here. I believe that when they start having kids, they’re going to demand more time with the family and this is going to change things.”

8) How do you feel about stay-at-home dads being labeled “Mr. Mom”?

“When I was first starting the research on the project, I put up a bunch of fliers around our building to find other at home dads. I can remember going into the dry cleaners a few days later to check and see if any of the stubs had been torn off – only to discover that someone had scrawled ‘Mr. Mom’ on the flier. It really made me cringe. There are a lot of SAHD’s I’ve spoken with who don’t care about that label but personally, I don’t agree with it. There’s nothing ‘mom’ about being a ‘dad.’ That’s not to say that one is more important than the other, but the roles are definitely different.”

9) What do you think about the media’s emphasis on stay-at-home dads?

“The stay-at-home dad story is a tired novelty that makes feminists and stay-at-home dads feel better about themselves, while working dads watching it think, ‘Thank God that’s not me.’ So, what all these stories really do is support the status quo, because solely focusing on SAHD’s skirts the larger social issues such as parental leave, gender equity and work/family balance.”

10) What is your motivation for making this film?

“Especially for the dads who are more at home, myself included, there’s often a sense of isolation and frustration. I think that part of my interest in making this film is to connect to other dads out there and to validate how being more involved with one’s kids is better for our families and for society as a whole. Imagine how it would be if dads overall spent more time with their kids. It would really change things!”

11) What is the most important factor that determines a father’s involvement?

“The single most important reason why a father is involved with his kids is because his wife sees the value of this and demands that he be this way. If she’s not supportive, typically things generally revert to more traditional ‘50’s idea of parents because it’s so ingrained in us dads that our worth is based on our wallet size. Personally, I’m incredibly lucky to have a wife who believed in my role as a father.”

12) How has being a dad changed you personally?

a) “If you want to learn more about yourself, spend more time with your kids. You will see yourself in their young eyes in ways you’ve never seen yourself before. At least that’s what happened to me and a lot of the involved dads I’ve interviewed.”

b) “Before I became a dad I’d never changed a diaper. I didn’t even feel comfortable holding a baby. Now, it’s like breathing. You don’t think about it. You just do it.”

13) How has making this film changed you thus far?

“After all the interviews we’ve done so far, whenever I’m now in public areas, I look at all the people and wonder whether their dad was there for them or not growing up. The sad truth is that the majority of people out there have either non-existent or bad relationships with their dads. You don’t realize this picture until you go out there and start talking to lots of people about their dads.”

14) Tell us how you found yourself on the journey of making this film?

“You have to understand that I’ve been passionate about filmmaking ever since I was nine years old and shooting little, animated Super-8 movies with my grandfather in my basement. I went to NYU Graduate Film School, won a Student Academy Award for my thesis film, got an agent and then sold a screenplay to some high profile Hollywood producers. But then things started to go south and I fell into a creative funk. When my

first son was born I was at a point in my film career where the phone just wasn't ringing. I can remember feeling alone and worthless. Meanwhile, my wife's career was flourishing and so I became an at-home dad, not even realizing what that was; and even while I was incredibly connected with our son, I had such pangs of frustration about not being out there making a living with my life's passion. Anyway, at some point my wife said to me, 'What are you whining about? You're getting to know your kid better than most dads do. Don't you see what an incredible gift this is?' My God, was she right. It hasn't been easy, but I know that years from now, I'm going to look back on this time and think, as crazy as this may sound, how lucky I was not to have reached the success in my career at that point. And now, with this project, I've finally figured out a way to merge my life's passion with my growth as a dad."

15) Is there anything else you'd like to share?

a) "I look at this film as somewhat of a conundrum. If I get too absorbed in the making of it, it detracts from my being an involved a dad. Talk about a work/family balance challenge!"

b) "I can remember being with my father's father, who was a fairly detached dad and we were listening to "Cat's In the Cradle" on the radio in his car and I asked him what he thought of the song and he told me how much he liked it. It's amazing what denial can do. There are too many dads still out there, like my grandfather, who have missed the boat on this stuff. I'm hoping that "The Evolution of Dad" can help change this."