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Awaken Pictures, Inc.

Biography

TOM SWIFT, CO-OWNER/PRESIDENT

Tom, whose father worked for ABC News, grew up in a home thick with television life. He attended the State University of New York at Buffalo, where he wrote, produced and directed films, videos, and documentaries.

During his senior year he moved into the professional arena interning on ABC shows like 20/20, Good Morning America and World News Tonight.

In an effort to make a move from news to film, Tom took a position as an intern on All My Children in the early 90s. Soon afterward, he was hired as a production assistant on Robert DeNiro's A Bronx Tale. He continued to freelance and gained valuable experience working on commercials, music videos, major motion pictures (like IQ, Miracle on 34th Street, Sleepers, and Die Hard With a Vengeance) and prime time television shows like Law and Order and Cosby Mysteries. Over a short period of time, he managed to work in the majority of departments within the New York film industry: from wardrobe to the office, and from the art department to post-production, to name a few. In doing so, he gained a valuable understanding of the industry, preparing him for a future in studio management. He also had an opportunity to be a production manager on a low budget 35mm trailer and a music video that went overseas to Puerto Rico that further prepared him for producing films and television shows.

While working on the Fox series New York Undercover, Tom realized he'd put his career above God and his family. He was faced with the difficult decision of leaving the film industry and eventually moved his family to North Carolina in order to raise his children near extended family. It was there that he returned to television again in 1999, as a news videographer at the local ABC affiliate, WCTI-TV12.

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Tom served the local news station for seven years, where he sharpened his shooting and editing skills – necessary experience needed to form an independent film company. All of these experiences have culminated into a knowledge and skill that enables him to shoot his own projects, and work quickly, professionally, and inexpensively.

During this period of personal and professional growth, Tom felt a renewed call to again pursue his childhood, God-inspired dream - to be a filmmaker. This renewed call motivated him to start a family business, with his wife Angela at his side, making movies and documentaries with a proper balance to his faith, family, and work. It was then that Awaken Pictures was born, in the early months of 2004.

Since that time, Tom and Angela Swift have incorporated the business, and God has provided them with the resources needed to see Awaken Pictures, Inc. become a reality. Tom enlists the expertise of a handful of professionals who live out their faith and share his vision for family-friendly productions. These include actors, writers, production experts and other artists. Awaken Pictures, Inc. continues to add shooting and editing equipment, expanding the company's capabilities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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