

IN LOVING MEMORY

James Redford

1962-2020





I like film and I like storytelling but
I also like serving something more
than entertainment.

- James Redford, Co-Founder of The Redford Center

FILMOGRAPHY

Amy Tan: Unintended Memoir, Director (2021)

Happening, A Clean Energy Revolution, Director, Screenwriter, Producer (2017)

California Typewriter, Executive Producer (2017)

Resilience, Director (2016)

Paper Tigers, Director + Screenwriter (2015)

Toxic Hot Seat, Director + Producer (2013)

Watershed, Producer (2012)

The Big Picture: Rethinking Dyslexia, Director, Screenwriter, Producer (2012)

Mann V. Ford, Producer (2011)

Quality Time, Director + Screenwriter (2010)

Spin, Director + Screenwriter (2003)

Skinwalkers, Screenwriter (2002)

Cowboy Up, Screenwriter (2001)

The Kindness of Strangers, Producer (1999)



With Jamie came love and contagious joy. He approached everything he did with kindness and warmth, and an openness that spread itself easily among others.

Jamie worked tirelessly to build a healthier world for us all, and particularly for those most in need of support. He always led with his enormous heart and was guided by his curiosity and creative spirit. He was a fierce protector of the natural world and believed that everyone deserved a healthy environment in which they could thrive and play.

As a filmmaker, writer and activist, Jamie was intentional and inspirational. As a father, husband, brother, son and a friend to so many - he was a devout supporter, always full of hope. He will be greatly and intensely missed.

The Redford Center extends our deepest sympathy and love to Jamie's family. We ask that you hold them close in your heart as we move forward in Jamie's name and walk proudly in his footsteps.

Together we will carry forward his big and beautiful legacy.

- Jill Tidman, Executive Director of The Redford Center





“ Some people live a long time & accomplish little. Some people live many lifetimes in one - their work, the proof that lives on. We will never see the last of Jamie because of all that he gave of himself. ”

- Judith Brennan, Friend of The Redford Center

“ I am writing to express our most sincere condolences for your loss, indeed the tremendous loss to the global community of artists, storytellers and change-makers. Jamie Redford was a beautiful human and an extraordinary presence, and he will be deeply missed. I am certain you will carry on the legacy of his commitment to both people and planet with tremendous grace and energy. ”

- Patricia Finneran, DOC SOCIETY



“ I met Jamie around 25 years ago when he invited me to a transplantation summit at Sundance and we’ve been friends ever since. He was a real mensch — kind, spirited, driven by social justice. His work and yours at the Center have made a deep impact and will continue on.”

- Neal Baer, Former Redford Center Board Member





“ I am so incredibly saddened to learn of Jamie’s passing. It comes as a shock, but I trust he is folding back into Creation. What a man — so special, so generous, so whole-hearted about everything. And incredible integrity. I will always remember him with such warmth. So many blessings to you and the team at the Redford Center, and to his family. ”

Heather Rae, Film Director and Producer

“ In the soulful, dedicated Redford Center community Jamie nurtured, there lives a legacy that carries on and expands the artistic work that was intrinsic to who he was. My sympathy and condolences go out to you all. I hope, in whatever crazy way this great mystery works, that Jamie’s spirit and love cradle all of you he held dear and exponentially expand the profoundly urgent causes so essential in his life. ”

- Eva Konigsberg, Redford Center Supporter







“ Do you even remember your life without Jamie’s great laugh? His pure heart and delight in the simplest things? His steady flow – an ease and elegance that was both gentle and determined, strong yet vulnerable. How are such night stars formed without combusting under the weight of all that starlight? How do you find humility, grace and perseverance all in one heart, all bestowed to just one human being?

Watching him play the guitar, sing, direct, lead, mentor, produce and write – this was a man fueled with the pure delight of living. And giving. He knew – well before any of us – that generosity was the currency that mattered – a generosity of spirit, of kindness, of listening, of being wholly present. And he knew a life well lived was one dedicated to service – to make each person’s walk on this earth smoother, easier, and less burdensome. ”

- Rachel Minard, Redford Center Supporter

“His intelligence, kindness, and sincerity came through in everything he did. I feel lucky to have known and worked with him.”

- Clare Major, Cinematographer






“Such a loss. His kindness, his wit, wisdom, and his incredible laugh will be missed. We exchanged emails over the past month about Led Zeppelin cover bands and I could hear his guffaws.”

- Mark Decena, Film Director

“ My WWF colleagues and I are heartbroken. We were so honored to have Jamie on WWF’s National Council and were inspired by his passion and commitment, especially to climate activism.”

Anne Trella, WWF



“ I still remember my first coffee with him so fondly, sitting in a Presidio deli outside under the sun talking about all things film, adaptation and otherwise. It was one of the most valuable conversations I ever had about this (now 6 year long) Adaptation project I’ve been working on. I’ll never forget his reflections on what it means to truly adapt. He asked whether adaptation meant accepting defeat of some kind, but in a generative way, and I still think about that question every day. He provided such rich insight and support. ”

- Alizé Carrère, Redford Center Grantee



“ I remember Jamie’s speech at your first gala. He struck me as an effective and brave leader fully able to carry on the powerful Redford legacy as well as somebody with immense humility. ”

- Marsela Pecananc, Signature NY



“ I had the joy of meeting Jamie twice and felt such warmth, openness and encouragement in those brief moments. I can only imagine how wonderful all the years together working to support films, stories, change, and filmmakers has been. The loss is certainly felt throughout the community.”

- Faith Briggs, Redford Center Fiscal Sponsorship Filmmaker

“ There are no words. I was so heartbroken to hear of Jamie’s passing and I can’t imagine the void and devastation you are all feeling right now. I know his spirit and legacy will live on in the work of the Redford Center and through his work and the wonderful films he gave to the world. All of you were instrumental in the early days of *Inventing Tomorrow* and I’ll forever cherish the memories of that retreat with Jamie and all of you.”

- Diane Becker & Mel Miller, Friends & Redford Center Supporters

“ When I met Jamie in 2017 at Soho House/LA, I will admit, at first, I was intimidated. But he was so kind and gracious. For 3 hours, we spoke about life, his family, and of course, his passionate work with The Redford Center. I was immediately committed to getting INDISTRY involved in supporting his vision for a better healthier world in whatever way we can. That said, we will forever be grateful for Jamie entrusting us in sharing his last and beautiful film, “Happening: A Clean Energy Revolution” at the Virgin Hotel Chicago in 2018, and are honored to have known such an amazing human being.”

- Mary Landaverde + Erroll Angara, INDISTRY Media

“ He always had a kind word for people and a real passion for music and a true desire to be of service to the world. He was a kind human, an excellent film maker and a talented guitarist and someone I was proud to call a friend.”

- John March,
Friend & Redford Center Supporter



“ I feel incredibly fortunate to have gotten to know him a little on Happening. In all of our interactions, it was so clear that Jamie was a mensch. His convictions as an artist dedicated to affecting positive social change were admirable and beautifully expressed in his films. Accountability, understanding, empathy, respect for our environment – we should all be striving for these ideals every day. In addition to being a wonderful filmmaker, Jamie was also a loving Dad and partner. As a younger man striving to balance work with family myself, I was always struck by this. His model has been and will continue to be inspiring. ”

- Jesse Weinraub, HBO







“ I cannot express the gratitude, love and eternal respect that I have for my my lifelong closest friend and collaborator...the incomparable Jamie Redford. When we made the decision to make our film **The Kindness of Strangers** - Jamie was recovering in full from his own health struggles and organ transplant and like so many, soon had a desire to give back – and to do so without expectation. He wanted to engage and inspire others towards a better understanding of the rollercoaster world of organ donation and transplantation through storytelling. The trust, respect and understanding we had as collaborators - and the unwavering faith and awe we had for our film subjects who agreed to tell their stories - brought us closer to understanding the incredible gift of life and to cherish what matters the most. We went on to make other films and tackle other subjects through film both together and apart - and shared endless adventures in our lives and with his wife Kyle and both of our respective children. Jamie lived life to its fullest and filled with humor even in the hardest of times. Importantly he always had an eye towards how to make our world, our planet and our people safer and wiser. His message was one of possibility and action...and to keep that flame flickering and flourishing is to honor his work and his ideals. ”

- Maro Chermayeff, Filmmaker





“Sharing important lessons Jamie helped to shape in me over the years:

Do not rush. Especially conversations. There is always time to listen. And there is always value in your voice.

Everyone has a story to tell. Always thank them for sharing it with you.

Eye contact is important. So are hand gestures.

Laughing is also just as important.

Sweets are perhaps most important.

Go outside and play.

Say yes and see what happens. Worst case, you get a good story out of it.

I will miss my friend. He is so loved. ”

- Celia Byrne, Redford Center Teammate

Jamie's legacy and generous spirit will also live on through The Redford Center's work, and our family of filmmakers remain inspired and indebted to his contributions and our work.

“ While I only met him once – at your fundraiser – it was clear then as it has been all along that he was a very special guy. His dedication to healing the earth was obvious. But what I felt when I met him was a directness and a presence while we were talking. It was a crowded room with so many people vying for his attention so I was struck by how present he was. Not many people are like that. Whether it was because he'd endured so much in his life or whether he was just born that way, it doesn't really matter. I could feel his empathy and caring and those are qualities we need now more than ever. ”

- Mimi deGruy, Director of *Diving Deep*

“ We never met James but, as Redford grantees, we felt extremely grateful, honored and empowered to have our project associated with him. His care for the environment will remain with us as an invitation to keep making beautiful and inspiring films.”

- Benjamin Huguet and Jacob Thomas, Redford Center Grantees

“ Despite living far away and never having been with Jamie personally, it was with great sadness that I received this news, it was as if I had lost a great friend or family member. I always liked his documentaries and how dedicated he was, but what caught my attention the most was his sweetness. I hope you know that on this side of the world he has many admirers! ”

- Luciana Nick, Friend of The Redford Center

“ I only met Jamie twice, but he was so clearly one of the good guys. What a tremendous life he gave the world.”

- Jim Riddell, Friend & Redford Center Supporter



It's a profound thing to be dying. Not many people know what it means to be dying. Right? And not many people know what it means to have a hope that you're going to live and to sit and hope that you get a chance to live. And to realize that that hope depends on the good actions of others up and down the line from everything from doctors and nurses, to other families that are anonymous to ambulance drivers, to plane pilots, to helicopter pilots. To have a hope that you get a second chance of life it depends on a societal web. And then to be given that chance, like I have twice, how could you not be hopeful about our potential to do the right thing or to make the world a better place or to make systems work? To fix problems? It's essentially, for me, I think probably the biggest gift of transplantation aside from seeing my children grow up is to really understand and feel like society is capable of great things. You just know that in your bones, the way I do. It feeds you. It makes you want to call out and invoke that good side of society as much as you can because you know it's there. You owe your life to it.

- James Redford

THE **REDFORD** CENTER

Special Thanks to Lou Bopp, Alan Silfen, and the Film Crew Members
over the years who have captured these images of Jamie