

The Highest Cost

Synopsis

John and Jeff are two 9/11 First Responders that worked for months at Ground Zero, cleaning up the rubbish and debris, as a consequence of the terrorist attacks. Like many other First Responders, they were exposed to an incredible amount of chemicals and toxic substances. A few years later they became sick and developed cancer. Eleven years later they are fighting for their lives, needing very expensive treatments, without any type of insurance from the government. Their illnesses are not included in the James L. Zadroga Health and Compensation Act, the federal compensation law signed by president Obama in January 2010. This law covers just First Responders and people from lower Manhattan with minor diseases like asthma, back injuries or carpal tunnel syndrome but it does not cover cancer. In March 2012, the Scientific Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) recommended 45 different types of cancer to be included in the Act and Dr. John Howard from NIOSH (National Institution of Occupational Safety and Health), who, in 2011, rejected to add cancer to the Act, has two months to make a decision. On June 2, 2012, the decision whether or not to add cancer will become public, as John and Jeff keep fighting.

Director's BIO

Matteo was born in Trento, Italy. He has been fascinated from a very young age by the world of movies and journalism. He started pursuing the print journalism path by writing film reviews for several websites. He graduated in Communication Sciences from the University of "Roma Tre" with a final thesis on the American Sitcoms, the history and the relation between those and the ancient Greek theater. In 2011, he moved to New York City to work at the subsidiary of the RAI (Italian National Television) and then decided it was time to pursue a film career. Matteo was accepted to an intensive documentary film program at the New York Film Academy, from where he graduated in 2012. The Highest Cost is his first film. He is currently living in New York City and working on multiple projects, including his new documentary Few Steps from the Vesuvio [working title] and the second season of the Yahoo! web series Mansome, produced by Mo

CREDITS LIST

- **Director:** Matteo Brunetta
- **Producer:** Matteo Brunetta
- **Cinematography:** Louis Mole, Marco Vitale
- **Additional Cinematography:** Todd Leatherman, Katerina Strazding
- **Editor:** Matteo Brunetta
- **Music Composer:** Eli Bennet
- **Sound Mixing:** Ivan Jullian

Color Correction and Title: John Harrison