

5 QUESTIONS | *with Arielle Nobile, founder and director of Legacy Connections Films*

A family hopes to chronicle their history for future generations. A terminally ill mother wants to leave something of herself behind for her children. A business-owner wants to show the more human side of his company to the community.

Arielle Nobile, founder and director of Legacy Connections Films in Lafayette, helps people like these express themselves through the medium of narrative film.

In projects that take anywhere from two months to two years, Nobile and her company tell people's stories and connect them to their ancestors.

Nobile spoke to the Camera about the inspiration behind her company, the importance and uniqueness of her work, and her current and future projects.

1. **How did you decide to begin making these types of films as a career?**

I have a background in theater and film, but from more the acting and directing side. I decided to make these kinds of films when both of my grandfathers passed away. I was so heartbroken, and I knew that it was too late, that I



Nobile

could never get their stories again in the same way that they would tell them. I wanted to do this for my grand-

mothers. I love doing it. Also, I had three great-grandmothers when I was growing up, which is a bit unusual, so I had an awareness of being in touch with many generations of family. I realized that most people, though not all, get wiser as they get older and have things to share.

2. **How do you put people at ease when delving into their personal lives?**

I think that's where my theater background comes into play. As a director and acting teacher, it's all about creating a safe space where people feel free to be really weird; where people from corporate America can make monkey noises.

It's also about being a good listener and making people forget they are being filmed. I

try to make it more of a conversation. I do have people tell me things they have never told anyone else, or never even said out loud.

I definitely use humor to disarm people. Our lives are serious, but they are also not. It should be a fun, playful experience.

3. **How much time does each project take?**

It really varies because all the projects are so different. We have done things from 15-minute birthday tributes that take two to three months to multi-generational family histories that take up to two years. We don't do things that take only a month or less. We are not cookie-cutter filmmakers.

4. **What are some of your current and future projects?**

Right now we are working on an unusual and heartbreaking project. We are creating a Web site for two teenaged girls whose mother has been diagnosed with terminal breast cancer. On the Web site will be a series of short clips of interviews with the mother in which she will discuss her life and give

advice to her daughters for them to look at when she passes. It's very sad, but it will be beautiful for them to have this to go to.

We're also starting to work with local businesses to help them tell their stories and be a little more human than a lot of typical ads would allow them to be. We are producing a show in June called *Belonging in Boulder: Unexpected Stories from your Neighbors* for Boulder Valley Media featuring local business owners and giving insight into them from a different perspective.

5. **What do you feel is the most important thing about your job?**

What we are combating with our business is the culture of disconnection and isolation. Even though people are so connected today via all this technology we surround ourselves with, it is my job to help people reconnect to each other through good, old fashioned storytelling. In the end, I think our clients, both corporate and families, end up with a greater sense of identity, connection and belonging.

— Erin Dooley