



'The Greatest' is a story that I began writing as a reflection of my own personal experience as a closeted gay man.

I asked myself, if I continue suppressing who I am for the rest of my life what would that look like?

What started out as a short story inspired by my fear of sharing my own truth, evolved into an ambitious execution of a period feature film — a film I am proud to share as my directorial debut.

Setting the film in 1962 was essential in presenting an authentic world where our characters didn't have a choice. Instead they were punished and held back from their natural innocent desires. All they had was hope for times to change.

'The Greatest' isn't just my story. It's a story of millions who feel trapped in a world where love isn't considered beautiful in all forms. It's a story that highlights the emotions individuals in the LGBTQ+ community have experienced, and still are experiencing. This story is important to tell because it shows the evolution of how things would look if one were to go the rest of their life suppressing their authentic self. It begins in a time where fear dominates love and ends in a world where time is all that matters. 'The Greatest' emphasizes the significance of progression and appreciation for how far we've come.

Jay, Ricky and Beverly represent millions of people throughout time who have been punished and stuck in a world who had already written their story. A world where they were prevented from expressing their truth.

If there is one thing I am sure of it's that I know the audience will watch this film and feel pain, sadness, but most importantly love. They will empathize with the emotion we all feel in its many forms.

They will experience a roller-coaster of fear that in time gets let go for love.

Ryan Sarno

Director, The
Greatest