**Terry Beck**

*FSU film student working to promote social justice*

**Major:** Motion Picture Arts

**Graduation:** Spring 2018

**By:** Ali Buis, University Communications Intern

When considering where to attend college, Terry Beck wanted a place that would support and encourage his dream of working in filmmaking. As soon as the Wisconsin native stepped onto campus he was inspired by the ingrained sense of pride that the students and university upheld.

“After one tour of the conservatory-like facilities at FSU’s Motion Picture Arts school I knew I had to find a way into this program,” Beck said. “FSU exudes a confidence and passion that succeeds in doing away with the pressures that come with most big universities.”

As a Motion Picture Arts major, Beck has become an advocate for social justice through his work. He had the opportunity to create a personal documentary called, “Us Thereafter.” Beck used his knowledge of film to share the story of a high school friend’s tragic death and her father’s newfound mission to share her legacy.

“With the topic of the piece being a tragedy that I personally lived through in very close proximity, it presented a unique set of challenges that I had to overcome,” Beck said, “but I’ve learned that people value art that promotes social justice because it can act as a call to action.”

Beck worked alongside Ian Weir and Valliere Auzenne, professors in the major, to professionally execute and edit his film.

“Terry is a very dedicated and talented young filmmaker who has a deep sense of empathy for people, which shows in his work,” said Ian Weir. “It was a pleasure to work with Terry on his documentary film “Us Thereafter”, which was a great example of him putting his heart into his craft.”

Beck’s work though, “Us Thereafter,” awarded him with the Humanitarian of the Year Award for the FSU College of Motion Picture Arts, as well as nominations for the President’s Humanitarian of the Year Award and the FSU Global Citizen Award.

“The recognition from this film motivated me to continue to channel my life experiences into my art,” Beck said. “The darker moments of my life can fuel my desire to create, inform and entertain.”

Beck’s love for performing at FSU started his freshman year when he was a member of the world-renowned FSU Marching Chiefs.

“Auditioning for the Marching Chiefs gave me the opportunity to perform amongst the most talented individuals at FSU and travel the country with my closest friends,” Beck said. “It was a once in a lifetime opportunity to feel a truly unique sense of Seminole pride.”

When Beck isn’t behind the camera, he is front and center on stage with “No Bears Allowed,” an improvisational comedy troupe on campus. Throughout his time as a member, Beck has learned more about the art of comedy as well as assisting in raising money for different charities through their shows and bake sales.

“I became involved with No Bears Allowed as a shy and introverted freshman, but with the leadership and support within the group I was able to embrace my sense of humor,” Beck said. “This group has improved my self-confidence, self-esteem and general outlook on life.”

Beyond his stage presence, Beck dedicates his time to a cause that he has personally been affected by. Beck was diagnosed with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis when he was a child, but is currently in remission and now serves as an advocate for this disease.

Over the past ten summers, Beck has attended Camp M.A.S.H., (Make Arthritis Stop Hurting) as a camper and volunteer counselor. This camp, located in his home state of Wisconsin, serves as a weeklong respite camp and summer getaway for children and teens who have Arthritis or a related chronic condition.

“It’s a privilege to help these children feel a sense of hope, awareness and normalcy in their lives that are so often filled with the opposite,” Beck said. “Camp M.A.S.H. is like a home to me and I’m honored to be able to make it home for the incredible kids that come every year.”

Following his time at FSU, Beck plans to continue learning about the film industry— focusing primarily on directing and producing as potential career paths.

“I’m still exploring my options, but even so, the College of Motion Picture Arts has provided me with the opportunities and tools to jumpstart my career,” Beck said.

Beck thanks Florida State for the opportunities and encouragement to pursue his lifelong dreams.

“The funding received by the College of Motion Picture Arts has been the lifeline in the process of making beautiful stories while also preparing us for what the film industry is really like,” Beck said. “FSU has created such an amazing environment for student creators to run wild with our imagination. I owe all my accomplishments to the amazing network built by the FSU community.”

**Related Links:**

[FSU College of Motion Picture Arts](https://film.fsu.edu/)

[FSU Marching Chiefs](http://fsuchiefs.com/)

[FSU's Undergraduate Humanitarian of the Year Award](https://thecenter.fsu.edu/recognition/presidents-undergraduate-humanitarian-year-award)

[FSU Global Citizen Award](https://cge.fsu.edu/intercultural-programs/global-citizen-awards)

[FSU No Bears Allowed](https://nolecentral.dsa.fsu.edu/organization/nobearsallowed)

**Pull Quote:**

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