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**Director/Producer**

**His Thoughts on the making of the film**

This story is about a forgotten wonder. A dream come true and the inventive people who made it happen.

I'm one of Atlanta's greatest fans and am blessed to spend most of my professional career working here, with the exception of a stint in Los Angeles.

While at my 20th high school reunion in upstate New York, I began to wonder why so many beautiful towns there came into existence. Buffalo, N.Y. was once upon a time renowned as the "Paris of the West." And just exactly how was NYC able to outpace the growth of Philadelphia and Boston?

The answer came while driving to a shoot in Savannah, GA. from Atlanta. Not many towns or cities on the route, yet it's about the same distance as Syracuse, N.Y, my hometown, to New York City. And that area is filled with large towns, villages and small cities.

Reflecting on the other places I'd worked, Alabama, Iowa, Colorado and California, they are more similar to Georgia than New York State.

Suddenly I realized the oddity was in New York and not in the other States. The reason - these towns were founded on the banks of the Erie Canal, which was a major trade route connecting New York City (150 miles down the Hudson River) to Lake Erie and the west.

So what?

Well, it was only 4 feet deep, and that isn't a lot of water to my way of thinking. I became intrigued and found more questions than answers. A ditch, 363 miles long running parallel to many rivers and lakes. Why not use them? A ditch totally artificial built with bridges to carry this artificial waterway over valleys. Why go to all that trouble to build it?

The answers were more intriguing. The Erie Canal, completed in 1825 paid its own 7.5 million-dollar debt in less than 10 years. It also spawned a series of canals that ran 2500 miles and built cities like Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Chicago, just to name a few.

Yet, the Erie Canal's successes in applying the ideals of the "American way" remain forgotten, until today.