

Biography: Chris Dempsey

Framing Stories Where Earth and Passion Collide

In the quiet intensity of a filmmaker's gaze, Chris Dempsey finds the heartbeat of a story—whether in the urban hum of Philadelphia or the windswept silence of North Dakota's badlands. A director, cinematographer, and devoted family man, Chris has carved a career at the intersection of adrenaline and artistry, most recently helping *Pedals of Praise*, a documentary that captures the raw dialogue between mountain bikers and the untamed Maah Daah Hey Trail.



Born with a lens in hand, Chris's love for visual storytelling began early, framing the world through the patience and precision of photography. Over two decades in the film industry, he's honed an instinct for narratives that pulse with authenticity. But it was the call of the Maah Daah Hey—a 144-mile serpent of singletrack slicing through fossil-studded canyons and prairie—that demanded his most audacious project yet. *Pedals of Praise* isn't just a film; it's a meditation on surrender. Through sweeping drone shots and intimate close-ups, Chris reveals how riders trade control for communion with the land, mirroring his own directorial philosophy: "*The best stories emerge when you let the terrain speak.*"

Balancing the grit of filmmaking with the grace of fatherhood, Chris thrives in contrasts. At home in the Philadelphia suburbs, he's "Dad" to two spirited teenage daughters and a steadfast partner to his wife, their shared life a tapestry of soccer games, hiking trips, and movie nights dissecting cinematography. "They're my grounding wire," he says. "When I'm deep in editing, their laughter reminds me why stories matter—to connect, to feel alive."

Chasing light across rugged trails, Chris faced cold mornings, dust-choked winds, and the logistical ballet of remote shoots. Yet, he calls the Maah Daah Hey his collaborator: "*Its rawness strips pretense. You film what it gives you—a storm rolling in, a rider's quiet exhale at sunset.*" This ethos spills into his next ventures, where he aims to explore humanity's dance with wild spaces, from urban cliffs to Arctic tundras.

For Chris Dempsey, life is a series of frames—each one a chance to find beauty in the struggle, whether behind the camera, on a trail, or around the dinner table. *Pedals of Praise* isn't just a film; it's an invitation to pedal harder, look closer, and let the world's unscripted moments take your breath away.
