

Full Send: A Short Film By Connor McDevitt

I (Who Am I)

My name is Connor James McDevitt. My co-workers call me Connor, man, bro, or dude. My son calls me "Daddy." I always told myself that when I had kids they would just call me "Father" or "Dad" because I didn't want them to sound like a baby. But when I actually had a child, I realized that he is my baby. He can call me whatever he wants. I am grateful for him every single day.

I am 26, or maybe 27. I always forget how old I am. I have been a dad since I was 21. It wasn't necessarily on purpose, but I am happy that I am now married with a wonderful son and wife.

II (Early Memories)

I think about being a better father every day. I want to give my son the best life possible. I also find myself constantly thinking about creating: painting, drawing, animation, and storytelling. One of my earliest memories is my mom taking me to the gym. I sat on the ground with a new coloring book and enjoyed filling the pages very carefully. When she told me it was time to go, I just wanted to keep coloring.

As I got older, I would hyperfocus. In second grade, we had to draw flowers to show the life cycle of a plant. I wanted to put so much effort into what I made that I skipped lunch. I was hungry, but I chose to finish my drawings because I wanted them to look good.

In first grade, my best friend's dad was a professional artist. He had a profound effect on me. He made animated TV shows, comic books, and video games. He wasn't stuck in a box. He could switch between styles for different audiences. He also would pay us a few cents to make art.

III (Creative Mentality)

I remember the pride of having a vision in my head and using paper and crayons to make it a reality. But I also remember the frustration. If I accidentally colored outside the lines, I felt full of rage or sadness. I scrapped so many projects because they didn't match the vision in my mind.

As I've matured, I've realized that projects always turn out a little different than the exact vision in your head. It might be because of time, tools, or skill. Regardless, it is better to execute and put it out "full send" than to leave it half-finished. Art is a lonely road where you have an irrational desire to create things that might be meaningless to others. To be an artist, you have to accept the imperfections of being mortal. When you achieve a certain amount of Zen, you even celebrate them.

IV (Connection and Communication)

I grew up moving around. I lived in Madrid for seven years. I went on a mission for my church in the Midwest. I've often felt like an outsider. Because I grew up in another country, I missed a lot of American pop culture references. I remember kids trying to bully me with bad words, and I would just say, "I have no idea what you're saying." It didn't work on me. I think I was too dumb to be bullied.

Even now, I am in a community where I don't always "vibe" with the local culture. That is why I am drawn to creativity. It is a way to work with others. Art is communication. What is the point of only communicating with yourself? I would much rather be friends with the people around me and share what I'm proud of. If I like an idea, there is probably at least one other person who likes it too. I might as well share it with the void of the internet. I'm at University in Idaho now. We moved here right as our son was born. I have been married for five years to my wife, Leah. She is my best friend for life.

V (Balance)

I struggle with the balance. I spend so much energy making stuff that I worry I don't give enough to my relationships. It is a continual battle. When I finish a project, I feel accomplishment, immediately followed by the feeling that I need to be doing more. I've tried to put more focus on my family and my health and things that make me grow as a person.

VI (Conclusion)

I have made over 250 videos in the last few months. I've dived deep into claymation, rotoscoping, and songwriting. I'm finishing my third album. I'm painting again.

I've realized that I don't need to tell extraordinary stories. I just want to tell human stories that people can connect to. If I can make someone laugh or think, then that is cool. I'm Connor McDevitt. I'm an artist. I'm a human. I am looking forward to the present, and I hope to never stop creating.