



## NEW DOCUMENTARY SHARES INSPIRING LIFE OF TAMPA'S SAM PIAZZA, WHO HAS DOWN SYNDROME

***Tampa Theatre to Host 'First Look' Screening, Post-Show Q&A with the Family and Filmmaker on Monday, July 29***

**TAMPA, Fla. (April 12, 2019)** – Tampa native Sam Piazza was born with Down syndrome. The love and support of his family, church and an inclusive school culture, as well as Sam's courage, have helped him accomplish extraordinary things.

***Because of Sam***, a new documentary by Tampa native and University of South Florida Alumna [Renee Warmack](#), takes you along an up-close journey with Sam and his family, from his birth, to winning Homecoming King at Gaither High School, to his rock star status as a team member at PDQ. The movie shows the world that being different can be difficult, but also how the conflicts and triumphs that occur in the life of a person with disabilities can serve as catalysts of positive change for those who cross his path. Sam's positive outlook amid bullying and his desire to achieve more than was expected of him make Sam an inspiration for people with disabilities and ALL people.

The Piazza family, Producer Renee Warmack, and Associate Producers Sandi Eveleth and Tammy Roebuck invite you to join them for a special preview of the film at **7:30 pm Monday, July, 29**. Tickets are \$12.50 general admission / \$9.50 Theatre Members, plus applicable fees.

A limited number of tickets are also available for a pre-film Meet & Greet Reception with Sam and the Piazza family, Warmack and her crew, and other industry professionals from 5:30-6:30 pm in the lobby. Tickets are \$75.00, which includes film admission, appetizers, two drink tickets, and early access to select your seat. **A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Piazza Family.**

All who attend the screening are invited to stay for a brief post-film discussion and audience Q&A with the Piazza family and Warmack.

***This event is sponsored by Film Tampa Bay. For more information about the film and sponsorship packages, visit [www.BecauseofSamTheMovie.com](http://www.BecauseofSamTheMovie.com)***

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Jill Witecki at [jill@tampatheatre.org](mailto:jill@tampatheatre.org) or (813) 274-8287

Built in 1926, Tampa Theatre is a passionately protected landmark and one of America's best-preserved movie palaces. The majestic building is owned by the City of Tampa and operated as a dynamic film and cultural center by the not-for-profit Tampa Theatre Foundation. Programming is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners, the Arts Council of Hillsborough County, and Publix Super Markets Charities. Tampa Theatre is a proud member of the League of Historic American Theatres and the Art House Convergence.

