

# Famie's documentary on men and aging to screen Sunday

By John Monaghan Detroit Free Press Special Writer  
February 20, 2013



Mark Ridley of Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle, right, and former radio host Dick Purtan, inset, talk about getting older in "The Embrace of Aging." - Keith Famie photos.

As a documentary filmmaker, Keith Famie has spent a lot of time interviewing war veterans about life-and-death situations. It wasn't until his 50th birthday in 2010 that he realized that his own mortality was kicking in.

"It was like a light switch went on," says Famie, now 53, who captures the angst experienced by him and millions of other men in a film titled "The Embrace of Aging: A Male Perspective of Growing Old," premiering at 6 p.m. Sunday at the Shriners Silver Garden Events Center in Southfield.

Hosted by WDIV-TV (Channel 4) weather anchor Chuck Gaidica, the evening will include dinner and performances by singer-songwriter Stewart Francke and comedian Bill Mihalic.

Famie, who was a popular local restaurateur and a contestant on the TV hit "Survivor" before becoming a filmmaker, wanted "Embrace of Aging" to be inspirational, moving and entertaining as men ages 47 to 102 share their views on getting older.

"We cover everything from a guy suffering from prostate cancer, which he got through Agent Orange, to a group of guys getting away to Jackson Hole, Wyo., on a ski trip to discover why male bonding is so important," he says.

Though the film travels all the way to Sardinia in Italy to discover why people there live so long, much of it was shot in Michigan. Former local radio personality Dick Purtan is interviewed, along with shopping center mogul A. Albert Taubman and Mark Ridley of Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle in Royal Oak. Kid Rock and Bob Seger are featured on the soundtrack.

Famie envisions this as the first in a trilogy of films about the aging process. A similar film with a focus on women is nearly complete. The film that will screen Sunday runs about 130 minutes, but Famie is editing it into seven half-hour segments for PBS.

Though he expects Sunday's audience to be mostly male, he says women who saw the film at a recent screening in New York were very complimentary. "One woman said she appreciated hearing these things that men don't usually talk about," Famie says. "She said, 'I never knew they felt that way.'"

6 p.m. Sunday, Silver Garden Events Center, 24350 Southfield Road, Southfield. 248-869-0096.  
[www.embraceofaging.com](http://www.embraceofaging.com) . \$75.