

remembering a  
**life**

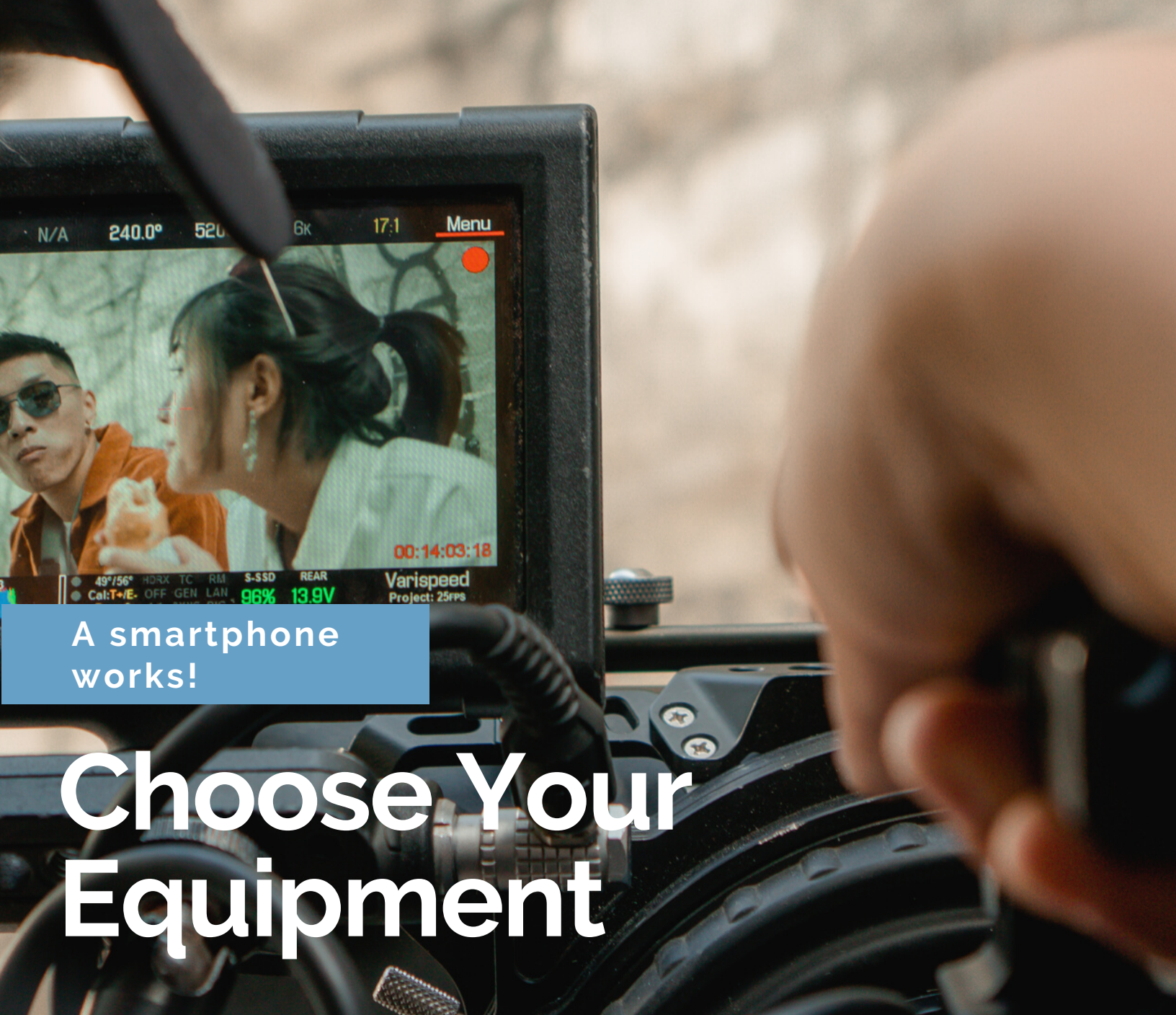
A man with a beard is shown in profile, looking at a camera monitor. The monitor displays a video of a couple dancing in a dimly lit room with warm, bokeh lights in the background. The man is holding the camera, and the monitor shows a live feed of the couple. The overall mood is nostalgic and intimate.

# LEGACY FILMMAKING

A Step-By-Step Guide

A how-to for creating tribute videos of your loved ones





A smartphone works!

# Choose Your Equipment

**While you could use a high-end video camera to create your film, it's not necessary. Many smartphones have excellent video-recording capabilities.**

Before you begin your project, regardless of the equipment you decide to use, test the quality of not only the video but also the sound.

If you're conducting an interview using your smartphone, also keep in mind that you'll want to position your subject close to the camera so the microphone will pick up the audio.

Want to step up the audio quality? Consider purchasing a portable digital recorder. Keep in mind that you'll have to sync up the video and audio files during the editing process.

If you plan to conduct the interviews and do the filming yourself, consider using a tripod to hold your camera or smartphone steady.





# Step One: Brainstorm and Plan

Taking time to plan your film will help ensure it goes smoothly.

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**Not sure what questions to ask?** Visit [RememberingALife.com/cards](http://RememberingALife.com/cards) to learn about Have the Talk of a Lifetime Conversation Cards!

- Determine whom to feature in your film and if there is a particular aspect of his or her life on which you would like to focus.
- Contact the individual(s) you would like to interview, explain your project and establish a mutually agreeable time to conduct your interview(s).
- Determine the location for the interview(s) and consider selecting a location that lends context to the film. If your loved one is an artist, for example, then you might want to conduct the interview in his or her studio. Choose a quiet place to improve the audio quality.
- Create a list of questions.
- Collect mementos, photos and other memorabilia to feature in your film. These might be things the interviewee will hold and talk about and/or you can create a "still life" of several items on a table and pan across them with your camera.



# Step Two: Conduct Your Interview

Lights, camera, action! It's time to shoot the video of your film.

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**First time conducting an interview?** Take a deep breath and relax. Interact with the interviewee like you would during any casual conversation.

- Set up your equipment and explain how the filmmaking will work to the person you are interviewing.
- Put your interviewee at ease by letting him or her know they have the option to decline answering a question if it feels too personal.
- Start your camera and begin asking questions. You'll likely find that you think of more questions as the interview progresses, so don't feel locked into the questions you came up with in advance.
- Take breaks as necessary to ensure your interviewee remains engaged throughout the interview. In fact, you should consider conducting the interview over several sessions if you have a lot of questions.





# Step Three: Edit Your Film

With the interview(s) completed, it's time to compile your footage into a wonderful tribute film!

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**Not sure where to start?** There are a variety of video-editing tutorials available on the Internet.

There is a variety of easy-to-use video-editing software available at little to no cost:

- **Movie** comes installed on all Mac computers, and iPhone and iPad versions are also available for free. iMovie features royalty-free music and sound effects.
- **Microsoft Photos** offers basic video editing and comes preinstalled on PCs using Windows 10.
- **Animoto** is an online editing service that enables you to upload video clips and photos and arrange them in your desired order using a variety of templates. It also features royalty-free music.
- **Final Cut Pro** or **Adobe Premiere Pro** are both software programs you can purchase to give your film a more professional look.



# Step Four: Share Your Film

This is the fun part! Time to share the story of your loved one!

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- Once your video is complete, you can upload it to an online video platform, such as YouTube or Vimeo and share the link; burn it onto a DVD; share on social media; or play it “live” for viewers on a television or projection screen, or on your digital device itself.
- Legacy films are perfect for sharing at family get-togethers, reunions, holiday gatherings, or funerals or memorial services. You might also want to give each attendee a copy of the film on a flash drive or DVD as a memento.





# FAQ

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## **How long should my film be?**

Technically, there is no limit when it comes to the length of your film, but keep in mind that it should be short enough to hold the attention of your audience. A beautiful story can be told in as few as five minutes.

## **Can I hire someone to create my film?**

If you don't have the interest or time to create your own legacy film, there are other creative film or video creators nationwide who offer legacy filmmaking services. Search the Internet for filmmakers or video creators in your area, or contact a film school at a local university, film alliance or film festival for recommendations. There may even be someone in your family who would be interested in helping with your project.



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