

Documentary about Owen Hart Foundation wins big at Monaco International Film Festival

By Eric Volmers, Calgary Herald More from Eric Volmers, Calgary Herald, December 11, 2014

No matter how uplifting it may become, the story of former professional wrestler Owen Hart's legacy will always have a sad beginning.

So telling it requires revisiting some painful days for Martha Hart, Owen's widow and the founder of the Owen Hart Foundation.

Her husband fell to his death in 1999, after a stunt went wrong during a pay-per-view event in Kansas for the World Wrestling Federation (now World Wrestling Entertainment). It's a heart-wrenching incident and the starting

point for Martha Hart's new documentary, *The Owen Hart Foundation: A Look Back*.

"It was an emotional journey to create the documentary," says Hart, in a phone interview from her home in Calgary. "It's sort of like shrapnel in your body that you can't remove. You can live with it most days but it's always there and it can still hurt you. But I definitely have come a long ways since the early days and recovered and been successful in my life and moved in a very positive direction."

Hart founded the Owen Hart Foundation in 2000 to honour her late husband. It has raised more than \$3-million over 15 years through various programs designed to help those with "limited resources and unlimited potential."



Owen Hart | Russell Turiak

The triumph-from-tragedy angle is at the heart of the foundation — which will hold fundraising shows featuring comedian Dane Cook on Saturday — and the focus of Hart's 18-minute documentary.

Initially envisioned as a four to five-minute video to promote the foundation's 15th anniversary, Hart took the helm and decided to tell the origin stories of the foundation. Last week, the film opened the Monaco International Film Festival, which focuses on non-violent movies. The film ended up taking four awards home, including best short documentary film, best short documentary director for Hart, best film editing in short documentary for first-time, 18-year-old editor Wes Beiko and the Humanitarian Angel Film Award.