

## **Flying Pumpkins**

### **The Legend of Punkin Chunkin**

#### **Statement from the Director**

When Ray Tolson looked me in the eye through his bushy gray beard and told me "Sometimes I wake up at two o'clock in the mornin' thinkin' about this machine and I got to write down my ideas," I knew I had to dig deeper into this "punkin chunkin" phenomenon.

Over the course of 18 months I built relationships with 20 teams and followed their developments from New Hampshire south to North Carolina and west to Michigan. I also interviewed a scientist, a philosopher, an artist and a theologian to find out what makes people tick - and, in this case, throw pumpkins! Their passions, their camaraderie, their intensity, their ingenuity, their perseverance, and the incredible sense of friendship and community they share with their fellow "chunkers" is both unique and moving.

These folks are special and I am honored they opened their homes and hearts to me and my camera - and now, the rest of the world. Maybe it's time to slow down and smell the roses - and play with our families and friends. There's something to be said for making something with your hands, working together, and doing it all for charity.

Filming this movie, working with these amazingly passionate people, renewed my faith in mankind and my belief that most humans, say 98-99%, are basically good. I sincerely hope - and believe - this movie "Flying Pumpkins, The Legend of Punkin Chunkin" conveys that message.