



April 2022

## Iron Family

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### Recommended Citation

Blizek, William L. (2022) "Iron Family," *Journal of Religion & Film*: Vol. 26 : Iss. 1 , Article 31.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.32873/uno.dc.jrf.26.01.021>

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/jrf/vol26/iss1/31>

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## Iron Family

### Abstract

This is a film review of *Iron Family* (2021), directed by Patrick Longstreth.

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### Author Notes

William Blizek is the Founding Editor of the Journal of Religion and Film, and is Emeritus Professor of Philosophy and Religion at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He is also the editor of the *Continuum Companion to Religion and Film* (2009).



**Iron Family (2021), dir. Patrick Longstreth**

This charming documentary film is about love. The film follows the story of Jazmine Faries, a young woman with Down syndrome, as she convinces her family to help her write a stage play, “The Double Life,” and then to help her produce it for her hometown audience in Iron River, Michigan. The “Iron” in the title refers to the home of the family, but it also refers to the strength of the family.

There are two stories in the film. The first is the story of Jazmine as she writes her play and works with the family to produce the play. In this story Jazmine falls in love with Billy and cannot seem to get him out of her mind. This is one kind of love. The second story is the plot of the play. In this story Jazmine plays the role of Jazmine Carrington who eventually marries Matthew McConaughey. Jazmine is unfaithful to Matthew McConaughey with Mark Wahlberg.

In season six, Jazmine confesses to Matthew. He forgives her and they move forward, trying to rebuild their relationship. This is a different kind of love.

In both stories, however, we see the love of family. Jazmine's brother, mother, stepfather, various aunts and uncles, as well as people from the community, create a warm and loving environment for Jazmine that allows her to express her creativity and to follow her dreams.

Iron Family is a part of the Slamdance Unstoppable Program. Unstoppable is designed to give artists with visible and nonvisible disabilities the opportunity to express themselves without the prejudice and gate-keeping that have historically kept disabled filmmakers from being represented in the entertainment industry.