Frederick Marx was a little boy when he lost the role model who was supposed to shepherd him into manhood. His father died suddenly of a heart attack, leaving Frederick feeling overwhelmed and confused.

“I couldn’t fathom how death could happen so suddenly and take him away from me forever. On my way to the funeral my uncle said, ‘Well, Freddy, you’re the man of the house now.’ I wanted very much to be that man to my mother, older sister, and younger brother. But I didn’t know how. My uncle didn’t stick around to mentor me and no other men showed up in my life to teach me.”

It was a profound event in Frederick’s life that would start him on a journey to discover the answer to a life-shaping question: how does a boy get to be the man he wants to be?

In high school, Frederick thought basketball would be his entrée to adulthood. But he soon realized he was not good enough to make it a professional career. Years later, he would become a filmmaker and transform his youthful dream of playing basketball into the award-winning documentary Hoop Dreams.

“Making it took me along all the stops of a young man’s journey to the NBA and the success of it took me to the NBA of filmmaking - the Academy Awards.”

In losing his father and, for a time, losing his way, Frederick began to understand the importance of rites of passage and mentorship in a young person’s life.

“There’s no doubt in my mind that if we could reinstitute community-based rites of passage and mentorship… awakening all young people to their own greatness… then we could turn many of the world’s greatest challenges around within a few generations.”

In 2003, Frederick founded Warrior Films to produce compelling documentaries about solutions to the world’s problems. It was a perfect fit, allowing him to combine his filmmaking gifts with his social conscience.
“My life is about two simple things: Art and Service. That’s partly why I got involved in social change. It’s important to me to remain engaged with the realities of the world around me. It’s not only what I make art about, but being of service to others brings me joy and fulfillment.”

Warrior Films specializes in stories of the poor, youth, people of color, and the dispossessed from around the world; everyday people finding ways to overcome oppressive socio-economic barriers. And Frederick says they will begin production soon on a film about the healing process for US combat veterans returning from war.

Frederick Marx is an Oscar and Emmy nominated director/writer and Founder and Artistic Director of California-based Warrior Films, committed to changing the world, one story at a time. Their films focus on the human struggle against oppressive socio-economic barriers and finding solutions to the world’s problems with the goal of inspiring people worldwide to create social change. On the drawing board now... Veterans Journey Home, a film about returning US combat veterans finding healing from the scars of war.

Filming Journey From Zanskar in Northwest India

Frederick is making an impact in the U.S.