

Darius Goes West: The Roll of His Life

By Solomon Guy-Goddard

Darius has Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD), a disease that breaks down muscles in the human body. It has a 100% death rate and shortens the life span to only about twenty years. Darius is now fifteen. He can't move his legs, and his arms are losing strength. Some of his college-age mates had an idea that would change Darius and eventually the world: to embark on a road trip across America to raise awareness of DMD. Their final destination is L.A., to get *Pimp My Ride* to 'pimp' Darius's wheelchair. But the point of the trip is for Darius to have a good time, and, boy, he does.

Darius Goes West is an enjoyable film with a great plot, although it is occasionally hard to follow. The opening of the movie is very well done and clearly explains DMD and thoroughly introduces Darius. It could have revealed a bit more about his mates, and the journey itself could have been expressed more clearly to emphasise the time factor. The ending is satisfying and touching and rounds up the film nicely.

The audio in *Darius Goes West* would be average if not for Darius's raps. Only two songs are played in the film, and they become a bit boring after the third time. Darius's raps to *Pimp My Ride* are clever, different, and catchy and not only set the mood but also reveal some of Darius's character. The filming is average, even for a homebrew documentary. Some angles are very awkward, and the lighting could be a lot better for some of the interviews. This is a shame for such a good film.

Altogether, *Darius Goes West* is a beautiful film. Even with average filming and sound it reaches its goal of raising awareness of DMD.