

FILM

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they had a tea party in February downtown. I was unable to make that one."

Livingston did, however, show up on April 15 for the event in front of Georgia's State Capitol. "It was huge. We had 20,000 people show up."

"I felt the movement needed some good production," he said. "When I saw the type of people that were showing up — it looks more like a Fourth of July parade rather than a protest." He said those attending included the elderly, families with children in strollers, "a pretty diverse demographic, I thought, for Atlanta."

"When I discovered there was no media covering this — except Sean Hannity — I said there's a story here that's not being told. At that point I decided to move ahead and produce a documentary about the movement and all the reporting that I have seen on all the networks about the tea party movement was very shallow, a mile wide but an inch deep."

He said "the people in the movement were being branded by the mainstream media and the media on the left as an abrasive, angry mob and controlled by the GOP." He said that was "not true because I was a part of the movement."

"We need to tell the story of who the activists are and what moved them to action. We started filming the documentary April 15. We started collecting footage at that point and then looked to other people who had been to the earlier tea party in February," Livingston said.

As the organization nears the first anniversary of the Feb. 27 tea party, he said they have been receiving response to the documentary on Twitter and Facebook.

"I knew I was going to start doing a documentary," Livingston said. He decided "to do something bigger," so he set his sights on the rally in Washington, D.C.

"I want to tell the story here; I want to find some activists and meet them where they are in this journey and follow them."

"Everything was pointing to a desire to move from local town hall, city park rallies to a culminating event at the nation's capital." Livingston said there were 800 tea parties on April 15.

He set his sights on the Washington trip by finding these people and getting on board the bus. He said the documentary examines "the elements of a road trip, which will be entertaining." He wanted to spend time with members, find out who they are, how they feel about politics and why they're doing this, as well as any struggles they may encounter along the way and what those are.

"What we shot along the way formed our story," he said.

While Hanover County gets an early showing, a nationwide screening is planned on Feb. 27 to celebrate the anniversary of America's Tea Party. "There is already a groundswell for screenings," Livingston said, "so it's pretty exciting." Based on support, they are trying to schedule group screenings.

Even though he isn't in the film business, he said the project "pretty much consumed my business for six weeks." He does

IF YOU GO

WHAT: "Tea Party: The Documentary Film:

WHEN: Saturday, Feb. 13

TIMES: 1:30 and 3:45 p.m.

WHERE: Historic Hanover Tavern

corporate video productions for large companies.

The cost to produce the documentary was \$20,000, which included travel, promotion and marketing. Livingston said that figure did not include any overhead or his time.

Along the way, he did discover that "the main component of a documentary is access."

"I feel that this movie tells the story of 2009" and offers insight to those who "don't understand the tea party movement or why Scott Brown won in Massachusetts," referring to the Republican's Jan. 19 victory in the U.S. Senate race to fill Ted Kennedy's term.

His documentary has been acknowledged with a Dove award and the Good Housekeeping Seal of Family Friendly Movies. "It's quite a history lesson," Livingston said, noting "the principles of freedom and liberty and why these tea party activists are doing what they do."

He also said the production is entertaining and exciting. At one point in the filming, they found themselves in the middle of a bomb threat. From a personal perspective, he talked about being on the bus with the activists as they travelled to Washington, walking with hundreds of thousands of people down Pennsylvania Avenue, and standing up for liberty, freedom and the principle of

the conservative movement.

The documentary can be purchased online at teaparty-movie.com.

On Feb. 13, the historic Hanover Tavern will offer the 100-minute direct-to-DVD film that opened in Washington over Thanksgiving weekend.

Sponsors of the screening event are Richmond Liberty Alliance, Richmond Tea Party and FreedomWorks.

Organizers selected Hanover Tavern as the site for the event because of the historic structure's ties to Patrick Henry, one of the patron saints of the American Revolution.

The name "Tea Party" references the Boston Tea Party in 1773, a key event on the road to America's freedom from British rule. Tickets are \$7 each and can be purchased at www.hanover-tavern.org through the Event Calendar page.

Tickets must be purchased in advance on the Web site; tickets will not be available at the door.

Copies of Tea Party: The Documentary Film will be available for sale at the screenings.

For more details about the film and to view the trailer, visit www.teaparty-movie.com.

Hanover Tavern is located on U.S. 301 at 13181 Hanover Courthouse Road in Hanover, across from the Hanover Courthouse.

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