

Joey Evans

Introduction

Joey Evans shares a message of determination in the face of insurmountable odds. A master storyteller, weaving heartfelt emotion, humor and gripping adventure. His presentation will leave you with a new perspective on your own challenges and the renewed drive to chase your own goals and dreams.

About

Joey Evans has always been a keen sportsman and up for an adventure. He's run several marathons and ultra-marathons, Hiked the Fish River Canyon in Namibia, finished the Roof of Africa Enduro in Lesotho, raced in the Botswana Desert 1000 and finished the 6000km Africa Eco Race through the Sahara Desert.

He's ridden and raced his dirt bike throughout South Africa as well as 20 other countries. Joey has been married to his soulmate Meredith for over 22 years and they are the proud parents of four teenage daughters, an extreme adventure in itself!

From an early age, Joey had one dream that stood out above the others. A dream to race his motorbike in the Dakar Rally.

A race widely known as the toughest, longest and most dangerous off-road race in the world, a race that has claimed the lives of over 70 people during its 42 year history.

But his dream, along with the rest of his life, was completely shattered in 2007, when during a local race in South Africa he was hit by another biker and amongst other serious injuries he broke his back, crushing his spinal cord leaving him completely paralyzed from just below his chest.

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The prognosis was he would never walk or feel his legs again.

It would take him 10 years, with numerous challenges, successes and lessons learnt along the way, until on the 2nd of January 2017, Joey stood as a competitor on the start of the 13 day, 9000km Dakar Rally in Asunción, Paraguay.

Qualifying to race the Dakar Rally was an incredible achievement in itself but the unimaginable events that he endured through those 9000km across South America tested him far beyond what even he could have imagined.

The unforeseen and catastrophic event of his bike being crushed by a two ton rally car on the second last day, set the stage for an epic final chapter, you simply couldn't make up.

Since racing the Dakar Rally, Joey has written the book on his inspirational journey titled "From Para to Dakar." Published in November 2017, it has become a National Bestseller and is available in print, eBook and audio.

He was awarded "National Off Track Rider Of The Year" by the South African Guild of Motoring Journalists and later honoured by Motorsport South Africa with the "Special Award for Outstanding Contribution to South African Motorsport."

His journey has been a top featured story on Carte Blanche, SuperSport and widespread international publications.

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Keynote Topics

Para 2 Dakar - Motivational Talk

Category Keywords:

- Inspiration
- Resilience
- Mindset
- Motivational
- Overcome Adversity

SPEAKING FEES:

In-Person Only: ZAR50,000 excl VAT & travel from JHB

TRAVELS FROM:

Johannesburg, South Africa

Joey Evans

Author: From Para 2 Dakar

About the Book

"I've realized that when things are really tough and there seems no hope for the future, it's sometimes just Chapter One of a really cool story, and the ending is entirely up to you."

Joey Evans has always loved bikes, from his first second-hand Raleigh Strika at the age of six to the powerful off-road machines that became his passion later on in his life. His dream was one day to ride the most grueling off-road race in the world, the 9000km Dakar Rally. In 2007 his dream was shattered when he broke his back in a racing accident.

His spinal cord was crushed, leaving him paralysed from just below his chest. Doctors gave him a 10 percent chance of ever walking again. Many would have given up and become resigned to life in a wheelchair, but not Joey Evans.

Not only would he get back on his feet and walk, but he would also keep his Dakar dream alive. It was a long and painful road to recovery, involving years of intensive rehabilitation and training, but he had the love and support of both family and friends and an incredible amount of determination.

Joey shares the many challenges he and his family faced, relating the setbacks, as well as successes, along the way to the Dakar start line. But the start line was only the first goal. His sights were set on reaching the finish line, which he did in 2017, the only South African to do so. From Para to Dakar is so much more than the story of one man reaching the Dakar finish line.

It is a story of friendship and respect, compassion and kindness. It is about defying the odds to reach a dream, it is about grit, endurance and raw courage, and it is inspiring in its true heroism.

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