



**Freedom From Choice**

**Guest: Tim Delmastro**

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***Tim Delmastro is a documentary filmmaker. Check out his project at [FreedomFromChoiceFilm.com](http://FreedomFromChoiceFilm.com).***

**WOODS:** *Freedom From Choice* is the name of the film project we're talking about today. What do you mean by "freedom from choice"?

**DELMASTRO:** Well, it's kind of an interesting title for a documentary. If you figure in life, in general, everyone wants the freedom to make choices whether to do this or that, all kinds of different things. When you really boil down to the important decisions we'll find that most people actually want the freedom from making decisions, the freedom from making choices. I am talking about things like whether or not banks should be regulated, or whether we shall be vaccinated, or whether raw milk is good for us, or whether marijuana should be legal or not. Most people, because they are sort of busy with their daily life, they would much rather have freedom from making these difficult choices about whether something is good for them or not, and that's why the film is called freedom from choice.

**WOODS:** What's a good example of an issue you cover in here that involves the freedom from choice?

**DELMASTRO:** There's all kinds of examples in daily life. You can look at basic little, inconsequential examples like whether an individual should wear a seatbelt or not. That's a pretty basic choice that really isn't given to us. It's something that is forced on us. We have to wear seatbelts in most states in the U.S., and where I am, in Australia, you have to wear it in every state here. But then you have more important issues such as whether, for example, marijuana should be illegal or not. I should have the choice of whether I want to inhale marijuana if I want to, particularly if I think that it's therapeutic for me or for my health. But here is an example where the government says, no, you don't have that choice. Raw milk is another great example, where the government says that raw milk is—or unpasteurized milk is too risky to consume, and so you don't have that choice even though one may believe that raw milk has good substances and elements in it. Now I am not advocating raw milk or marijuana

here or not wearing seatbelts. I am just giving some of the examples, where we don't have the choice to make individual decisions in our daily lives.

**WOODS:** Might somebody not come back at you, though, and say that for the most part these issues are really on the margins of our lives, that when it comes to the major questions of life about marriage, or let's say things like choosing my occupation, or choosing where I am going to live, these sorts of life-long questions are up to us. Sure, I get harassed over raw milk, but well, maybe through political action that will go away. Maybe we're getting too worked up about nothing.

**DELMASTRO:** Yeah, you could make that argument until there is something that you really want to do that doesn't hurt anyone else, and you're not able to do it because of some silly law that's out there that doesn't permit you to do it. So you're right, for the most part all the issues have kind of hit me, but you'll find that an idea and example is there might be a situation in your life where you actually need to do something, and you're not able to. A classic example that's given in the film is by a constitutional attorney named Jonathan Emord. This is a gentleman that defeated the FDA I believe like eight times in federal court, and he makes the argument that what if there's a situation where you have a terminal illness, and you need to take an alternate therapy to fix your condition because the traditional medical establishment can't provide the medicines that you need? In that case, you should be able to try other things—herbal remedies, or what have you. But a lot of times you're not allowed to do that, and it's not so much the individual but the doctor is not allowed to prescribe anything like that. So there is an example that it's not pithy anymore. It's actually a life-threatening decision.

**WOODS:** Who is featured in this film? I bet my listeners will be familiar with a lot of the names.

**DELMASTRO:** I went and interviewed quite a few people in the freedom movement. We have Joel Salatin, who is an organic farmer. I'm sure most people would have heard of him; he was featured in the documentary *Food, Inc.*, which is quite a good film. He covers the issue of food freedom. We have Jonathan Emord, like I mentioned, who covers the issue of medical freedom. Then we have Peter Schiff, Gerald Celente, Mike Maloney, G. Edward Griffin is featured in the film, and I had quite a bit of help from the members of the Free State Project up in New Hampshire, so the list goes on. I think I have interviewed 15, or 16 people in this film. Jeff Rhodes is another one that comes to mind that features in the film. So yeah, quite an all-star cast of freedom-loving people.

**WOODS:** So the idea, then, is that you're taking all these people, you're having them tell their stories about their own area that they are interested in with regard to freedom from or freedom of choice, and you're showing that this is not just a scattered bunch of people with a scattered bunch of particular interests but that there's a coherent theme to the whole thing, which is that each one of these people is saying that people ought to be able to make their own decisions whether it comes to food, medicine, their finances, or whatever else.

**DELMASTRO:** That's absolutely correct. You nailed it. For example, Peter Schiff will talk about how choices are limited in the financial industry, because he's an economist and a money manager. He talks about how in order to be a licensed broker you need to have a certain license, and although that sounds like a practical thing—you wouldn't want people out there that are managing your money that's not licensed—you don't have that choice. Perhaps you want to invest in someone that has a fund that invests in Bitcoin, for example, and a lot of times, because Bitcoin is such a grey area out there in the financial world, you don't have that choice of whether you can invest in them or not. So that's just one example. Like you said, Joel Salatin talks about food freedom and experts in each field break down the hidden limitations in their particular field of expertise.

**WOODS:** There is something interesting about the fact that you're in Australia, and that's interesting for two reasons. First, Australia is not known for having a robust libertarian community. So I wonder if you can pause and tell us about that for a minute, and then secondly, what's an Australian guy doing telling Americans the story of their own increasing lack of freedom?

**DELMASTRO:** Sure, (laughs). Okay, well, I am actually not originally from Australia. My mother is Japanese, and my dad is from the U.S. He was actually part of the service, and he was stationed in Japan when he met my mom, so I have lived the majority of my life either in Japan or in the U.S. I live in Australia now because a lot of my work now is creating video game commercials and trailers for the video game industry. I happen to be working with a game developer down here at the moment, but that's why I'm down here, and I have taken out Australia citizenship because I love the country here, but I still consider myself an American deep down.

**WOODS:** Okay, fair enough. What has been your experience in Australia in terms of the kind of the message that you're spreading in this film?

**DELMASTRO:** Yeah, the film is very U.S.-focused, obviously. Australia is a little bit of a different situation. It's more left-leaning, but perhaps it can afford to be because the government runs trade surpluses, and we don't have the mounting debt that the U.S. has, so I guess you could make a case that—with the mining boom that's happening down here, I guess, redistributing wealth is not that bad an issue down here because there is quite a bit of money floating around. It's not like with deficit spending on silly wars and stuff like that. Although Australia does follow the U.S. into many conflicts, but it's a token effort. So yeah, you're right. Australia is a lot more left-leaning than the U.S., and let's face it, finding libertarians down here isn't that easy.

**WOODS:** I have had Ben O'Neill—I was telling you about this before we got on the program today—on the program a couple of times, and he's always told me that in Australia it seems to be the case that when it comes to questions like this people are generally laid back and in the middle. They don't get too excited politically either in one extreme direction or the other. It's

hard to get them really all that interested passionately in one direction or the other. Is that also your experience?

**DELMASTRO:** Oh, absolutely! That just comes down to the culture here and the fact that life in general is just so easy down here. It's not the dog-eat-dog kind of mentality that's in the U.S. Because everything is so easy here and so laid back and relaxed, yeah, you're right. Most people don't really care about politics. They don't care one way or the other, really.

**WOODS:** What are you looking to accomplish with the *Freedom From Choice* film?

**DELMASTRO:** Well, I would like to point out and just shed light on the whole premise that most of the regulations in the U.S. are excessive and oftentimes unnecessary, and this limits the individual's freedom to make individual choices. That's really what I wanted to portray in this film. And I should also add that I am not actually against regulations—regulations aren't bad in and of themselves—but the film points out that most regulations in the U.S. actually have an ulterior motive beyond just protecting the people or that kind of thing. You will find that most regulations are put there because they give an advantage to one company or organization over another. So it's that whole, what would you call it, corporate, the crony capitalist type of system that I reveal in this film, and I give plenty of examples of that throughout the film.

**WOODS:** Now, what state is the film at? Are you doing editing now? All you are all finished with the interviews?

**DELMASTRO:** The film is completely finished. We've actually launched a Kickstarter campaign to raise money to pay for the licenses of the footage and the archival news footage that I have included in the film. Once I can pay for those licenses, then it's just a matter of mastering the film, and then on top of that, before you can actually distribute the film or make it available on Netflix or Amazon or iTunes or anywhere else, you need to take out an insurance policy, which is what's called and errors and omissions policy, and that's a compulsory thing that's put on filmmakers before they can release a film, and that's quite an expensive insurance policy. So I am also seeking funds to raise money for that policy as well.

**WOODS:** Well, I have seen the trailer for your film, and I will try to remember to put it in the show notes for this episode so that people can watch it themselves, and it's very well done. If the whole film looks like this, then it's an absolute winner. It's the sort of thing that would keep people's attention. Of course, you've also chosen, I think, the interviewees very, very well. You have chosen people who aren't just knowledgeable but who are fun to listen to, who are very engaging.

**DELMASTRO:** Yeah, I'd agree with that. Peter Schiff is always interesting. Gerald Celente—the interview we filmed with him, it was just so funny and so entertaining because he just puts such passion and such emotion to everything he says. So yeah, I think we have a great lineup of contributors in this film, and as you said, the quality of the trailer looks great. The rest of the

film does look like that. The film is essentially finished. We've just got to raise the necessary funds to finish, to get the clearances and the licenses so that we can release it.

**WOODS:** Now the Kickstarter campaign is on the verge of ending where you and I are talking today, it is the fifth of June, and it's ending in less than 48 hours, so we want to get people over there if they want to support this project. What's the easiest way to do that?

**DELMASTRO:** Sure, there's a couple of ways to do it. They could go to [kickstarter.com](https://www.kickstarter.com), and then in the search field at the top, they can just type in "Freedom From Choice," and it will be the first hit that comes up, or if they want to find out some more information about the film, they can go to the film's official website which is [www.freedomfromchoicefilm.com](http://www.freedomfromchoicefilm.com), and there is a whole bunch of information about the synopsis and the cast on the website. If they want to fill out our mailing list form, then they can be notified when the film is released.