Speaker 1 (00:00:07):

You're listening to the journey on podcast with Warwick Schiller. Warwick is a horseman trainer international clinician and author who's mission is to help people achieve a deeper connection with their horses and therefore themselves and everyone around them through his transformational training program. Warwick offers a free seven-day trial to his comprehensive online video library. That includes hundreds of full-length training videos and several home study courses at videos.warwickschiller.com

Warwick Schiller (00:00:48):

G'day everyone, welcome back to the journey on podcast. I'm your host, Warwick Schiller. And I have a special guest this week. You know, I had several people reach out to me and ask me, could I get him on the podcast? And then I was presenting at equine affair in Columbus, Ohio here probably six weeks ago now. And I met the guy there and wore an amazing dude, this guy. So his name is Filipe Masetti Leite, and he's a Brazilian guy. And he's written a book called long road home. And it is the story of him writing from Calgary, Alberta to Bartos Brazil. So he rode from Alberta, Canada through the us through Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, et cetera, et cetera, all the way down to Brazil. I'm gonna read and he's written a book and there's also a, a major motion picture coming out about it.

Warwick Schiller (00:01:42):

The book's called long ride home and I'll read you the little blurb from the back of it. It says, how far would you go for your dreams? This is the story of Brazilian student who rode 10,000 miles from Canada through the Americas, to his home in Brazil, two years, three magnificent horses, 10 countries, and a thousand stories of drug cartels, mass migration, the glorious wilderness, the old K ways, the kindness of strangers and the powerful connection between men and beast. This is a tale of grit and inspiration of Felipe and Frenchy bruiser, and dude chasing a dream one hoof at a time. And yeah, so the, the, he documented the whole thing. They filmed the whole thing and he is now going to be a, it's now a, a, a documentary film. That's doing the rounds of all the the film festivals.

Warwick Schiller (00:02:32):

So that was his first that was his first road. So it was from like I said, from Calgary to Brazil, then later on, he took on another journey. He rode from Brazil to the bottom of Argentina. And then at some point in time, he did another journey where he rode from Fairbanks, Alaska back down to Calgary. And so that is so he is basically ridden from Fairbanks Alaska. So the kind of top of Alaska to the bottom of south America on a horse. And I think he mentions on the podcast, but he says, you know, there's only, there's been 11 or 12 men who've walked on the moon. There's only been five men. Who've ridden from the Fairbanks Alaska to the bottom of Argentina and he is one. So I, this guy is such an amazing, you know, such an amazing human and it's such an amazing story. So I can't wait for you to listen to this episode with Felipe Masetti, welcome to the journey on podcast.

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:03:30):

Thank you so much for having me. I'm very excited to be able to tell my story,

Warwick Schiller (00:03:34):

Oh, I've been so excited to have you to have you share your story because you know, when we met there in Columbus, Ohio, we went out to dinner with your lovely wife, Clara, and yeah, the stories you

told me were absolutely amazing, and I'm not even sure where to start, but let's, let's do the bit of a recap here. You rode from Calgary, Alberta to Brazil. Is that correct?

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:03:58):

That is correct. That was my first journey. It was 803 days in the saddle across 12 nations. And once I got to Brazil, I continued on to the Southern tip of Argentina, a small town called O and then when I got there, I decided to go on my last long ride, which was from Alaska back to Calgary. I am today the youngest person to have ridden the Americas in its entirety on horseback.

Warwick Schiller (00:04:24):

Holy cow. That's, that's amazing. So I know, I know quite a bit of these stories, but why don't you, why don't you tell us what inspired you to think about doing this in the first place?

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:04:36):

So it all started with a book, you know, the, the importance and the power of literature. When I was a little kid, I was the most scared kid on the planet. And every time my dad turned the light off in my room, I, you know, was afraid that the boogeyman was under the bed, the end of the closet. And I would cry and, and my dad would come into my room. And, and at that moment he would teach me the, you know, one of the most important lessons of my life, which is that fear doesn't exist. Fear is a monster that hide, inhabits our minds. And he would say, if we don't put that monster aside, you can't do anything with your life. And to kind of show me that he would tell me the story of aim Chile, a Swiss school teacher, who in 1925 rode two Crayola horses from Argentina, all the way to New York city. And he would say, listen, Chifley, wasn't scared. You know, he climbed on these. He crossed these these rivers full of crocodile. He crossed central America on the back of a horse and he would read me a part of that book. And for some reason, I don't know why it just, it became my life's dream to one day, go on my own long ride.

Warwick Schiller (00:05:42):

So that was as a kid. And then, so you ended up so was that in Brazil because you moved from Brazil to Canada when you were younger, was that, were you still in Brazil then?

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:05:53):

Yes, sir. Yes. I was born in the interior of Sao Paulo, two hours from the actual city of Sao Paulo and had an amazing upbringing there. My dad, you know, loves horses. So he used to ride bro and, and cut and, and rope. And I lived in, in Brazil until I was nine. And then my parents ended up moving to Canada.

Warwick Schiller (00:06:12):

Did you, did you speak in English when you went to Canada?

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:06:15):

No, I did not. I went on like an intensive one month English course before I came and, and I learned things like cat and ball and where's the bathroom, but didn't know a lick of English other than that.

Warwick Schiller (00:06:29):

Well, and how was, how was that moving to an, you know, nine years old, moving to another country and not speaking the language. How was that?

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:06:37):

You know, at, at the time it sucked. Like, I remember when my parents told me we're moving to Canada, I was like, I don't know what Canada was. And then my first day of school, I was so scared. You know, it felt like those kids were gonna eat me apart. I, I just looked completely different from everyone. Like I said, I didn't speak English. I was gonna school on a portable with like little chairs with tennis balls at the bottom of them. Like just completely different from anything I'd ever known in south America and Brazil. But, you know, it's ultimately a moment that made me who I am today. You know, it was one of the first times that I faced real adversity. I remember just crying outside of that school. And when my dad was, you know, telling me it's gonna be okay, you're gonna be fine. And, and then by the end of the first recess I had made my first friend already, you know, and and I realized that the kids weren't monsters and, and that, you know, with a little bit of of soccer and, and playing with these kids, it was gonna be okay. And, and, but again, it was the first moment where I realized that, you know, I could get through these, these tough moments in my life.

Warwick Schiller (00:07:45):

Well, it was a great start to a lot of tough moments. So you ended up going to university up there getting a degree in journalism. What, what what attracted, attracted you to the journalism?

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:07:59):

So I've always loved storytelling, you know, like, like I said, my dad used to read me that book when I was a little kid, I've always loved movies and documentaries and books and, and the power that these stories have, you know, to create a more just world to inspire. And from a very early age, I started writing before I even got into university, I had, you know, a bunch of articles that were already printed. I loved taking photographs and, and it just, it was just very natural to me to, to pursue journalism.

Warwick Schiller (00:08:31):

Okay. So let's, let's get you your trip here, cuz it was AB I've, you know, I've, I've got the books here. I haven't on purpose. I haven't read the books yet cuz I didn't wanna, I didn't wanna know all the stories cuz I've, I've heard you on another podcast and I've got quite a few of the stories. So how did you prepare for, did you, what sort of preparation did you do for that, that that initial journey, that initial, what is it? 10,000 miles.

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:09:01):

Yes, yes sir. So I spent two years, the first thing I did was create a war room and you know, it just began planning this beast. It was, you know, 10 countries, it was 10,000 miles. It was two years. It was really hard. So I always say strategic planning for most people. It's a difference between success and failure for me and, and for long riding it's it's life and death, not only for yourself but your animals. So the first thing I needed to do was learn how to travel on horseback. I used to tie down rope grew up rodeoing, but it's completely different for you to, you know, grab a horse from a stall and, and ride it for a couple hours train and put it back and then get on a horse and ride it for eight, 10 hours a day in the middle of nowhere.

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:09:46):

So I really had to speak to long riders around the globe. I had to read as much literature as I could. And I also went to Stan Walch. He's a, a legendary Canadian long rider. I went to his wilderness riding clinic to learn how to, you know, pack horses, how to tie hitches, how to weigh your, your pack saddle and your pans and how to Highline horses and camp with them in the middle of nowhere. So learn an, a abundance from him. The other, the other part of the planning was getting my body ready losing as much weight as possible, building my core. And finally it was drawing the root and also finding the financing to actually undertake this journey.

Warwick Schiller (00:10:25):

You know, that little sentence, that long sentence you said, right. Then there was so much to that you went to the, the wilderness training camp thing. You, you know, lost a lot of weight. You worked on your core. Tell me, let's break that down a little bit because then I don't know, you know, I haven't heard any of this stuff here. So what, how long was the wilderness training camp thing?

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:10:47):

So the wilderness training clinic was two weeks out in Northern BC McBride BC. And it really allowed me to actually test everything that I learned, you know, not, not only spoken to speaking to these long riders, I spoke to Pedro L or legendary Brazilian long ride or KA resilient, long rider. KACO O'Reilly who now lives in France and rode through Pakistan Bernice, Sandy who's American and has written thousands of miles across the United States Gunter German. So all of these long riders gave me skills and tricks. That, you know, I was writing down, I was reading about, I was, I was seeing in videos, but then when I actually got to stands, it was like, you know, I was actually tying that hitch. I was actually throwing that pack on the back of the horse and those those two weeks were detrimental to my success.

Warwick Schiller (00:11:38):

How many people were at this? Was this a, like a one on one thing? Or was there a bunch of people there at this thing?

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:11:43):

No, there was about I wanna say about five people there at the clinic and it's really cool cuz Stan used to be a a teacher back in the day and he's done his own long ride from Northern British Columbia to, to Alaska. And so he's not only a guy that has done it, but he's able to teach it really well. He's developed this textbook. So you do in class learning in the morning and then in the afternoons you go out on the trail with the horses and then you do a longer pack trip through the Northern Rocky mountains. So again, I, I can't I can't thank Stan enough for all of the skills that he passed on to me.

Warwick Schiller (00:12:19):

Wow. And then, so let's talk about the, the losing weight and getting your core, right. What did, what did you do there?

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:12:28):

So, you know, that, that's one of the first things I learned especially speaking to Bernice, Sandy we lost her last year, unfortunately, but she was an amazing long rider and she used to to be a ballet teacher. So she's very, you know, strict and stern. And the first time I met her, she's like kid, if you are, if you're

expecting your horses to carry you all those distance, you gotta lose as much weight as you can and should really instill that in me. And it makes sense, you know, have you ever seen an overweight jockey, like you know, if we're asking these animals to carry us I think that the least that we can do when you're out there for eight, 10 hours a day is be as light as possible, you know, long riding, it's all about, you know, having light gear, your pack, saddle needs to be as light as possible.

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:13:10):

Your riding saddle. I actually developed a saddle using the tree of a barrel saddle. So it's super light. It has the, the seed of a Rainer, but yeah, I lost weight. I worked on my core. I knew I was gonna lose a lot of muscle out there when I was on the journey itself, because you're not able to hit the gym, you know, you're on your horse for a long time. Every day. I tried to walk as much as possible as well to help the animals. But the gym also helped a lot with pushing yourself mentally, you know, sometimes when I was doing reps and, and you feel like your arms can't, you know, lift anymore. And I would start naming our countries, you know, like Guatemala, Honduras, and, and I feel that that was preparation. Not only physically, but mentally as well.

Warwick Schiller (<u>00:13:56</u>):

Oh, that's, that's cool. How you keep mentioning the term long rider. And I know there's a long rider's Guild, cuz you told me that before, when we're at dinner, but what constitutes a long rider? Like how far do you have to ride to say I'm a long rider?

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:14:10):

So a long rider is someone that rides more than a thousand miles consecutively in a single journey. <Laugh> and yeah, it's, it's a long ways and and famous long riders are Marco polo, Charles Darwin aim, Chile the Swiss school teacher who inspired me and there's still people to this day, jumping into the saddle and, and riding off into the unknown.

Warwick Schiller (<u>00:14:34</u>):

Wow. A thousand what'd you say? A thousand miles consecutively. Yep. So people who've done the Mongol Derby are not long riders cause it's a thousand kilometers.

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:14:43):

Yeah, they would. It's about 1,800 kilometers constitutes a thousand miles.

Warwick Schiller (00:14:49):

All right. Wowses that's cool. So you had this big war room set up, so you're planning your route, how much, cuz I know you, you knocked on a lot of doors and said, Hey, can I put my horses up for the night? How much planning did you have as far as where you're going to stay? Or did you just ad lib that whole thing the whole way?

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:15:09):

Yeah, definitely. That was all like the first day when I left Calgary July 8th, 2012, I was so scared. I didn't know how the hell I was gonna survive all this. I felt like I had a, a bowling ball lodge in my throat and I had no idea where I was gonna sleep that night. And I rode about 20 miles that first day and knocked on some, you know, strangers door. And, and that was the reality of most of the journey. You just literally

first you try to find a house or a ranch or a farm. If there is you knock on the door and ask for help. If there isn't, you look for a place where you can Highline your horses and hopefully find some water and, and some grazing ground and, and then you get up the next day and continue on.

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:15:49):

When I was planning. I, the important thing about drawing the route is knowing what you're gonna get yourself into, you know, from the social economic situation of these countries, you know, like in Mexico and du Guatemala, these countries are in war due to the drug traffic. So I had to know that I had to plan for that geography, you know, am I gonna be crossing deserts? Is it mountain? Is what kind of riding will I be doing? Is it through cities? So I drew out an actual route before I left using physical maps and Google maps. But then once you actually started the journey, it's the people that end up guiding you, you know, because you'll know the best 20 mile route for me to take from your ranch to the next place. You might know someone down the road that you're gonna call up and they're gonna take me in. So the local people end up drawing your route.

Warwick Schiller (00:16:37):

Okay. That makes a lot of sense. So tell us about your first day, cuz that's, that's like the slap in the face, like <laugh>, you know, that first 20 miles, how was that?

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:16:46):

Oh, that was terrible. Like it was just so I was like, when did I get myself into I had to do everything, you know, like I was leaving from the Calgary stamp, PE the largest rodeo in Canada, you know, the media were there filming me. There was media outlets from Brazil, from Canada, from the us. So I not only had to be the long rider, I had to be the pub publicist. I was filming everything. So I had to be the journalist. I, I documented everything for a production company outta Nashville. And when I get about five miles outta Calgary, I realize that all my water is tied up in the pack saddle. I'm like, oh my God, I'm such an idiot. It's like a hundred degrees mid July in Canada. I'm like, if I have no water and I I'm just leaving, how, how am I gonna survive Mexico?

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:17:31):

So, and then, you know, by the end of the day, that that feeling of not wanting to ask for help, you know, it's so not normal for us, you know, today to knock on someone's door and ask for help, especially when you have like two horses with you. And I was just so embarrassed and, and it was I'd really fight myself internally. The first house I went to, there was no one there. So I'm like, oh my God, I had worked up all this courage for an hour, you know, talking to myself and then all of a sudden it's like, no, one's off. Then I had to work myself up again and go to the next house. And, but luckily, you know, this journey, one of the biggest lessons I've learned is how kind humanity is, how amazing our fellow humans are. And you know, that first family took me in and, and then the rest was history. That second day got a little easier and we continued. So

Warwick Schiller (00:18:18):

Did you did you average about 20 miles a day? Is that what you were doing?

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:18:22):

Yeah. That's about what you do. That's another lesson I learned from these long riders is 20 miles is a sweet spot. Not only for the horses, but for the rider as well. And you ride about three to four days, rest two ride fi ride five, rest three. You really have to go your horse's pace here and, and everything has to slow down, which you usually do in a car in an hour is gonna take you a week. And that's just the name of the game when you're long riding.

Warwick Schiller (00:18:47):

So tell me that again. What did you say? Ride three, rest two.

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:18:50):

Yep. Ride three, rest two, ride five, rest three. You, you rest a lot. Like people don't realize that they think that you're just gonna get on a horse and ride continuously to finish, but and you know, horses, right? They, they fonder, they, they there's things that happen. And you gotta just, if they're hurt, you gotta wait, stop, wait till they're better. Because without your horse, you're not riding a single kilometer, so you're always gotta be watching out. If they begin to thinkable, losing weight, you stop, you find alfalfa, you find grain. You found them up before you continue

Warwick Schiller (<u>00:19:24</u>):

And you rode one on lead one. Is that right? You

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:19:28):

Had two horses. Yep. So I, yeah, I started with two quarter horses that were donated for the journey both from Montana and I would ride one and the second would take the packs saddle. And then when I got to the Southern part of the us, I was given a Mustang and then I had three horses for the rest of the way to Brazil, which, which helped tremendously because I was able to alternate one horse, always walked with nothing on its back and then one would be, have me on and then the other one would have the back. So that really helped. It was hard at times because you know, it's another animal to feed. It's another animal to find water. Sometimes that'd be next to roads. So now we have three horses. If the ditch is tight that became, you know, really dangerous, but it helps with the riding.

Warwick Schiller (<u>00:20:12</u>):

I bet. So let's, let's talk. Okay. So you, you had said that, and you, you told me even went to dinner that time, that you approached different people to different media companies to, to help fund this thing. And so you filmed the whole thing. What, how was the, tell me about the, the filmmaking process as far as did you just do it on a phone? Did you have GoPro? What did you, what sort of cameras did you use?

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:20:38):

Yeah, so that I, I figured early on because I didn't have any money to actually go on the ride is that I was gonna have to find a way to, to pay for this, you know, this, my dream. But so I reached out to hundreds of, of production companies around the world and, you know, they were all like, oh, it's too long, it's impossible. You're gonna die. You're never gonna be able to do this until finally a production company outta Nashville bought the project for me to film it. And they gave me all the equipment as well. So I had two cannon cameras. I had two GoPros. I had my phone as well. And the cameras would shoot with two cards, a and B. So once a month I would FedEx the footage to them. And I would FedEx cards a and keep

B just in case we didn't lose anything. And then once they told me all, it's backed up on our computers, I would be able to, to film with the other cards.

Warwick Schiller (00:21:30):

And so they've, they've now made a, a movie about this and it's been, you've been taking it around the the film festivals. How's that going?

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:21:40):

Oh, it's going so well. You know, it's it was a dream come true. Like when I started filming, it was 10 years ago, you know, like I said, no one believed in it. Like it was just, it was like, no, one's gonna wanna watch this. It's gonna be too long. You're gonna die anyways. You're never gonna make it. And so our first film festival was the Beaufort international film festival. And when I got to see that film with an audience and, and see their reaction, you know, people were crying and people were laughing. We got a standing ovation at the end. We ended up winning the, the audience award for best film with a festival. It was just like, you know, it's one of those moments where your life, where you'll, you'll never forget it. Like I remember being a 20, some year old kid working two jobs and planning this thing and, and pressing the record button and saying, I'm gonna ride a horse from candidate to Brazil.

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:22:27):

And, and then there, I was watching it and, and just take the opportunity while we're on here. I know you have so many, so many listeners all over the us. We got into one of the best festivals in Hollywood. It's called dances with films. We're gonna be there June 16th at the iconic Chinese theaters in Hollywood. Really? yeah. So I'm just so excited. Wanna invite you as well. 7:00 PM, June 16th, Hollywood baby, the long rider. I'm just over the moon about it, and I'm hoping to find a horse to arrive on horseback and and yeah, I'm so excited.

Warwick Schiller (00:23:01):

Oh, if you need help finding a horse in California, I'll I can help you out.

Filipe Masetti Leite (<u>00:23:05</u>):

Darn. Let's talk about this after.

Warwick Schiller (00:23:08):

Okay. We will. That's that's cool. I'll have to ch I'm just wanting to, I wanna stop the podcast and go and ask Robin, Hey, what are we doing on June 16th?

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:23:15):

Oh, I hope you're around. It would be more for you to be there.

Warwick Schiller (00:23:18):

That'd be super fun. And what, what other film festivals have you had at?

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:23:24):

So we just we just came back from Edmonton this weekend. That was an awesome it's Canada's longest running documentary festival. We went to sunscreen in our, in Florida won the best documentary award there. We'll be heading to Mumbai India. Now we have Wyoming Brazil. We have one in Washington state. We've, we've had a really amazing reaction to the film. You know, you, you apply to these festivals and just to get in is already a tremendous honor because they're getting like thousands of, of of, of films and, and, you know, and we're actually winning awards. And again, this is just a tiny film. Like this is a guy everyone always asks again, who filmed the documentary. I filmed it. I'm the director of photography. So you can imagine how tough it was, you know, when, when horses are falling into holes or when bullets are flying around me, when I'm in the desert, I, I'm not only having to, to keep my animals and myself alive. I'm also having to take out the camera and film everything. So, you know, to be competing against these, these, you know, million dollar productions with like a 30 person crew and, and just little Felipe out there, and to be able to take, be taken awards home is, is tremendous. And I gotta take thank of the director, Sean SU stern here from Canada, NC two media, the production company that believed in me from the beginning mythic productions and, and everyone involved in the film. It it's, it's been tremendous.

Warwick Schiller (00:24:47):

When, when is it gonna be released like publicly?

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:24:52):

So it'll be released in the end of the year. We sold it in Canada to super channel and Amazon prime. And now after we go through the festival run, we'll sell the global, right? So it'll come out in one of the streaming services by the end of 2022, it's called the long rider.

Warwick Schiller (<u>00:25:09</u>):

So it's gonna go straight to streaming services. It's not gonna be in theaters.

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:25:12):

It will, it will also be in theaters. It will be in theaters in the, here in Canada, this summer and in the us probably around September. So I'll announce that

Warwick Schiller (00:25:22):

So cool. I'm excited. So cool. Hopefully I get to, I'd love to sit in the big screen. Hopefully I get to see it in, in the Chinese theater in July, but on June. Sorry, I just gotta figure out where I'm gonna be, cuz I never know where I'm gonna be. I'm all over the place. <Laugh> so you just mentioned something funny indigo, like yeah. You know, when, when horses are, you know, I've gotta try to do all the filming when a horse is stepping in a hole and the bullets are flying and you just kind of grazed over that, like, oh yeah. When the bullets are flying, oh, another thing you said, oh, it's gonna be in Mumbai India. Are you going to India for the, for the festival?

Filipe Masetti Leite (<u>00:25:53</u>):

You know, I, I'm not sure. Yeah. We're trying to figure out scheduling because I, I have to go back to Brazil to do some some motivational speaking and trying to figure out if I can go from Sao Paulo straight there, but I really hope so. I've never been to India and I love to travel. I'm very, obviously, you know,

there's some nomadic gene in my in my system. So yeah, I, I would absolutely love to go to India. Have you ever been

Warwick Schiller (00:26:16):

No, I've I've I want India's on my bucket list. Like it's a place I it's a place. I, I really want to go and, and go and visit. So let's get back to your journey here, cuz I want to hear some of the stories about things that happened along the way. And I wonder if you can relate the story about the ashes. I just thought that was amazing.

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:26:42):

Yeah. It's always the one that hits home to people, especially in the documentary. Like it's crazy, you know, so I get to this guy's house in Craig, Colorado. I'm pretty early on in the journey, still in the nor Northern us. And his name is Peter Lisker and like so many, you know, I've met hundreds, if not thousands of people that took me in, I rode more than 25,000 kilometers from Alaska to AHU and 30 kilometers a day. So you can imagine how many homes I went into and this guy at the end of my stay there, he was kind of acting weird and I'm like, oh my God, did I do something? You know, you're always like blaming yourself. Why was I rude? Did I say something wrong? And he goes, Philippe, I'm gonna ask you something and feel free to say no, but I really believe in the universe, I believe in destiny.

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:27:30):

And I'm not sure why you ended up on my doorstep. You know, you could have asked for help three doors down or three ranches up, but I feel like God brought you to my doorstep. I would like to ask you to take my sister with you on this journey. And I'm like so confused. And I look at him and he says, my sister, Naomi passed away just a few months ago and she loved horses. She was an adventure. And I feel like, you know, the universe, God brought you to my doorstep to take Naomi on one last ride. And I also, you know, I'm a big believer in faith and I was like, oh my God, for sure. So he gives me the ashes and I take it with me and a month goes by and I get really tired to a place called Cuba, New Mexico.

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:28:14):

And I ended up putting the pans, the boxes from the pack saddle in with the horses. I was like, I'll take it out tomorrow. I'm so tired. So I put them in a corral, put the boxes in and wake up at 6:00 AM. When I unzip my tent and look out Frenchie, one of the quarter horses I was riding, it was like, just like a kid. He just did things that he shouldn't be doing at all the times. He had knocked over the ARDS, the ashes had spilled out and now he was eating Naomi's ashes. And I'm like, oh my God. So I jump over the fence, get Frenchie off the ashes, say a hill Mary apologized to Naomi. Well, Frenchie got hit by a truck in Southern Mexico. And as you know, as you know, the horse folks listening to the, this podcast know when a horse is hit by, by a vehicle that either dies right away or you have to put it down, you know, and Frenchie survived miraculously.

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:29:07):

And there were so many moments on this journey where I thought I was gonna die, or I thought I was gonna lose one of my animals. And somehow some way the universe conspired in our favor. And we came out alive on the other side that I started to believe that it wasn't destiny to take Naomi on one last ride, but have her come with me as a guardian angel. And I felt her presence throughout this entire journey and her protection. And when I got to Brazil, I still had the ashes with me and I poured it into my hand and thanked her and prayed for her. And in the pastor where I retired, my kids, Frenchy, bruiser,

and dude I spread her ashes and, and asked for her to continue protecting these animals for the rest of the eternity.

Warwick Schiller (00:29:51):

Wow. You know, I thought that AF cuz I've heard the story before. I thought it wouldn't affect me as like it did the first time. But yeah, that was, that was just as good the second time as it was the first time. So tell us how, tell us the states you went through, so you from Alberta acrossed into Montana, did you?

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:30:10):

Yep. Montana. I got, I I'm blessed, you know, work because I love the United States. And as a cowboy, you know, I don't know if you can relate to this because you were also not from the us, but you know, I'm from Brazil. So Cowboys come from America. Right. And I used to watch all the old Westerners with my dad and I watched Cheyenne and I watched you know, all these huge rodeos and, and for me to cross that region where I crossed was just a dream come true. I went into Montana, glacier national park, and then from Montana, I crossed into Yellowstone national park went into Wyoming and came out in Cody, Wyoming where they have a rodeo every day in the summer. Almost didn't leave there because a cowboy from Texas Len me is roping horse. So I was tied down roping every night. Then from Wyoming, I cross into Colorado, Colorado into New Mexico, New Mexico, Texas, and then from Texas into the Chihuahua desert

Warwick Schiller (00:31:08):

Into the Chihuahua desert in Mexico. So how was it crossing the, the border cuz you had some, you had some interesting border crossings. I know you tell me that,

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:31:16):

Ah, I hate borders. I hate borders. You know, these imaginary lines drawn by men long ago. Just nonsensical and I have a story with, with immigration. Like my parents came to Canada when I was nine years old. As I said in the beginning of this podcast, my dad had a work permit and after 10 years that work PERMA, God denied. And my dad hired a lawyer and got some bad advice and ended up applying for humanitarian reasons from within Canada that took two years in which it got denied again. And we got 15 days to leave the country. You know, I had a horse, I had a life here. I, I never imagined it was never my plans to go back to Brazil and we had to pack up all our things and go back to Brazil. So that's one of the themes of the documentary. You know, we talk about immigration and borders and yeah, like that first border the candidate to the us was super easy. Have all your papers in order you're in. But then from us to get into Mexico, it took weeks. A person can only a foreigner can only import two horses into Canada. So my Mustang dude had to be ridden illegally over the real Grande.

Warwick Schiller (00:32:23):

You mean in the Mexico?

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:32:25):

In the Mexico? Yes, sir. Okay. Yeah. And AI, it was just a bureaucratic nightmare. And then after that it just kept getting worse and worse and worse. Every border I got into,

Warwick Schiller (00:32:34):

You know, it's funny, you're talking about Canadian immigration. I I've had some trouble at the border there. I went to, I was presenting it at a horse expo and I can't remember if it was the one in red deer, Alberta, or it was Chile way, British Columbia one of the other. But anyway, we had, you know, we had two types of government paperwork filled out to say that I'm a speaker at a horse expo. And I, you know, so all the I are dotted and the T's acrossed and we're going through immigration there and they wanna, they wanna look at my computer. So they get my computer at the start going through my emails. The guy says where's your phone? And I pull my phone out and give it to him. And I said, but it's dead. And he goes, well, we'll have to wait till it charges. And so they plug it in and wait for the phone to charge and you know, they're going through everything going through Facebook the whole bit. And about this time my American wife leans across the table and she says, I feel like my rights are being violated. And he leans across the table, knows to knows with her. And he says, and what rights do you think you have

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:33:38):

Welcome to candidate?

Warwick Schiller (00:33:40):

Yes. I mean, Canadian, I think Canadians are the most wonderful people, wonderful people in the world. And if there's a bad egg, I think they give them a job in immigration < laugh > cause they're the only, the only nasty Canadians ever met. But I've, I've talked to two different clinicians who have been deported at gunpoint in Canada. One of them, one of them is a, a, a woman. But actually that's, it's the only place I've ever seen Canadian. Immigration's the only place I've ever seen anybody taken away in handcuffs. And I think that's what, when that guy was going through my stuff someone was taken away in handcuffs there. So yeah. Canadians are pretty serious about the immigration.

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:34:19):

Yeah. It's pretty crazy. You wouldn't think so. Right? Cause there's a reputation of a very welcoming country, you know, they need immigrants, but yeah, those those men and women dressing those Navy blue suits, they can be really mean.

Warwick Schiller (00:34:31):

Yeah, they can. Okay. So Christ into Mexico. So you had to ride, so by this time you picked up the Mustang, you had to ride, take your two and have someone else take the other one.

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:34:43):

Yeah. So this it was funny. I had to pay this kid. His name was Jesus. So I just put, do, do the Mustang into Jesus's hands. And <laugh> he rode him across the real Grande and in like 15 minutes, he's like, yep. Dude is in Mexico. And then the other two quarter horses that I was doing legally, it was paperwork and money and bureaucracy. And basically after a couple weeks we managed to get him in. And this was a really cool, you know, special part of the trip because I inherited this dream from my old man, right. My dad used to read the story to me every night and he loved the story of am Chifley. And my dad met me in OGA, the first town there on the border. And we crossed a Chihuahua desert together. The first stretch, seven days, just my dad and I in the middle of this desert, where 90% of the drugs coming into Canada and the us cross are completely controlled by the drug traffic. And we're pitching the tent in the middle of nowhere. My dad snores like a grizzly bear. So obviously I'm not sleeping cuz everyone can hear us. And it's 30 kilometer radius outside the tank. But you know, who gets to experience an

adventure like that next to their old man. So that was one of the most special parts of the journey for me.

Warwick Schiller (00:35:52):

That's very cool. So tell us about, I know in the book, there's a, there's a part about a, a a cartel the head of a cartel he's that you're coming and invite to his house. What country was that in?

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:36:08):

So that was crossing from Guatemala into Honduras. Very dangerous part of the world. Honduras was the most dangerous country in the America is one of the most dangerous in the world due to the amount of debts per capita. And because of all the problems I encountered, the further south I get at the borders, I ended up crossing almost all of them illegally. There's, you know, there's the physical, real border. And then right next to it, there's always a little path where they cross anything and everything you want. And in order not to eat bullets because not part of the world, they don't ask questions. They shoot first a rancher in Guatemala who was very worried about my safety, put me into touch with the drug Lord on the Guatemala side, he put me in touch with the endurance boss.

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:36:52):

And I wrote in to a episode of narcs, literally, like I'll never forget, like it was this crazy mound to climb. It was the rainy season. So it was muddy and these rocks and I'm fighting my way up. It's 45 degrees humid in the middle of a jungle. The horses can't breathe. Like there's sweating profusely. They can't get their footing. So I have to walk one horse up 200 meters, go back, get the second horse, walk him up 200 meters, go back, get the third horse, walk him up 200 meters. I'm doing this all day. And when I finally get to the other side and Honduras the drug load's waiting for me and this hole in the wall bar. And when I get there, he's like, oh shit, haste you've arrived. And you know, you haven't talked all day and like your voice doesn't come out.

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:37:34):

I'm like, ah, sugar. And he tosses me a beer and it's a blue, can I, I look at it, it's called S lifesaver. I'm like, who is writing the script? And I just like, I just Chu it and I just chugged his beer. And he is like, oh, you're thirsty eight. I'm like, no, man, I'm, I'm shooting my pants. Like, I'm so scared. I didn't tell him that. But I was so scared. And then yeah, he had a petting zoo in his mansion. He had a freaking mansion, a compound and on the top of his mountain in the middle of nowhere everyone heavily armed AK 40 sevens kids as young as nine years old carrying pistols. And but he treated me extremely well. You know, he was so kind to me, I couldn't look into his eyes. It was like everyone that you talked to has a spark in their eye. These people had like matte black eyes. Like you could, you could see how much evil they harbored inside. But it's just, it's a huge contradiction, you know, a man that is, that is so evil treated me so well. And it was all thanks to the horse. The horse is a common language. The horse makes brothers outta men who come from different countries and different realities and, and the horse was the glue that always brought people and made even the worst of people kind around me.

Warwick Schiller (<u>00:38:46</u>):

And so you stayed, didn't you say you stayed with him for a couple days?

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:38:50):

Yeah. I stayed with him for three days and then they rode out with me to kind of keep me safe to that Northern region of Honduras.

Warwick Schiller (00:38:56):

So what, what do you do, what do you do in a drug loads house for three days?

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:39:02):

He, he drank a lot. He was an alcoholic. He would start drinking at like 10:00 AM. He shook real bad but just hung out with his kids. His kids were awesome. His wife is super nice. Talk about life, go to see his cattle. He took me to see the hospital he had built for his community. He was very proud of where he came from. You know, he told me about how he was extremely poor and, and hungry as a child and started transporting you know, this product with mules, the same way that I was riding south. He was walking north packing mules and just kind of grew in the business. And today he is the boss but just like a normal family, you know? And, and that's one of the cool and most important experiences that I, that I've had on this journey is that when you sit, sit down with people at the dinner table, whether they're drug Lords or judges or politicians, and, you know, independent of their color of skin, religion, social, economic background, we're all inherently the same. You know, we all just wanna love and be loved. We all want the best for our families. And, and I gotta see that in, in 12 nations by the end of the trip.

Warwick Schiller (<u>00:40:07</u>):

So it, you know, it was a pretty normal family apart from the AK 40 sevens and the petting zoo

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:40:12):

<Laugh> yeah, exactly. The tiger, the tiger and the heavier chilly,

Warwick Schiller (00:40:16):

Like, you know, what did he have in his petting zoo?

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:40:19):

He had a tiger. He had monkeys, he had deer, he had exotic birds. They very, like, it's an Eagle thing, right? Like they love to show off how much they have, you know, their guns are all have these beautiful plates on them made outta gold and silver and their vehicles are always super nice. They have many nice vehicles and, and he had like a table that was an exact replica of Jesus' last meal that he had spent like thousands of dollars to make and transport up there, chandeliers everywhere in his house. Like it was a real mansion very tall walls, all around it. And, and the craziest thing, like the, the craziest story, which really showed me his power was the first day I arrived. He threw like a little party, a little barbecue in his compound. And there was about, I don't know, 30, 40 people there were drinking, you know, we're eating meat. I'm like, where am I right now? <Laugh> like, my mind's just having, you know, my mind is blown. And every time he had a Blackberry and every time his cell phone was about to die, he'd be like, who has battery in their blackberries? And people would like nervously fumble out their phones and show 'em how much battery they had. And he would pick best one and make them take other battery and put it into his phone and give them his battery. And I was like, wow, that's so crazy.

Warwick Schiller (00:41:37):

Did you, did you ever relax in those three days or were you like this guy could just snap any minute?

This transcript was exported on May 18, 2022 - view latest version here.

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:41:44):

No. I mean, part of me as a journalist, you know, it was just like, oh my God, who gets this opportunity and who gets to to experience this? Like that was tremendous. But at the same time, yeah, I was never, never felt safe. You know, if the army came in I was dead. If the other cartel came in, I was dead. If they, for some reason turned on me and didn't like me anymore, you know, I couldn't have been dead. So yeah, you don't relax with those three days.

Warwick Schiller (00:42:12):

That's, that's scary. And that was in Honduras.

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:42:17):

That was in Honduras. Yeah. Northern Honduras. The border between Guatemala and Honduras.

Warwick Schiller (00:42:22):

You, you told I dunno if I read in the book or heard another podcast, or you told me you know, people, there was some publicity about this, so people knew you were coming ahead of time and, and didn't you say in Mexico that you had like a thousand people rode with you and they had a mariachi band on the back of a truck or something.

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:42:37):

Oh yeah. That was two different times. So yeah, no one celebrated my journey. Like the Mexicans one day, 1000 horsemen and women saddle their horses and rode with me all day. You know, some days it'd be seven. Some days it'd be 10 people, but they just loved what I was doing. And they wanted to get on their horse and ride with me. And, and some of the best horsemen I met one day, a, a mayor hired a mariachi band, made them play the back of a truck all day. Another mayor. This is the craziest story of all. I'm not gonna finish the story. So everyone listening out there long ride home, not the name, the book you'll find the end of the story. I get to a town. The mayor throws me a party that lasts three days, mariachi band, after mariachi band, like one finishes. The other one comes on. Everyone is drinking and copious amounts of alcohol. And the first night he takes me into his house and he says, Felipe, I'm very proud of you. You're like a son to me, what you're doing is extraordinary. I wanna give you a present. And he walks me down this really dark hallway. And when he get to the last door, he opens it. There's a naked woman inside. And he goes, Carla, do whatever Felipe wants and shuts the door.

Warwick Schiller (00:43:45):

And you guys will have to read the book to find out what happened.

Filipe Masetti Leite (<u>00:43:48</u>):

It's not what you guys are thinking. So make sure you read the book.

Warwick Schiller (00:43:51):

Yeah. I, I, I have read that part of the book. I was just flipping through it and I, I gotta find out because you, I think on the podcast, I, the gauge podcast to listen to you, you said that you gotta read the book and I was flipping through it and I saw that and I thought, yeah. And then when I read, when I read that, I, I, I knew that's how it was gonna end out, but <laugh>. Yeah. So, so you've what comes after Honduras

This transcript was exported on May 18, 2022 - view latest version here.

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:44:16):

From Honduras, we crossed into Nicaragua.

Warwick Schiller (00:44:19):

Oh my goodness. What was that like? That's drug cartel central.

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:44:24):

Yeah. Well, on Guatemala and under is, were the worst. Like in, in Guatemala, I saw two people shot dead. Guy had stolen a rooster in a, in a chicken. Second guy worked in the drug traffic in the capital of Hondura Lupa. I was staying in the home of a guy that tried to kill his wife with five gunshots. I was the only person staying there. But Nicaragua, although it is a huge corridor for the drug traffic, it's a little calmer. And it was beautiful. It was very special to me because my mom flew up. She came to ride with me. So she says, my mom has no horse experience. Right. So she's like, if your father rode for three months through Mexico, I'm gonna ride for a week. I'm like, mom, you're gonna die. She's like, no, no, I'm gonna ride.

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:45:07):

So I'm like, go fine. So we get on the horse. First thing she says is like, this is how slow you travel. My mom thought I was like galloping through the America. Right. <a hr

Warwick Schiller (00:46:03):

That sounds amazing. And what's, it's pardon? My south American lack of geography. What's after Nicaragua.

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:46:13):

So after Nicaragua, we went into Costa Rica. Oh, beautiful country as well. Yeah. First time that the horses saw the ocean, I thought they were gonna love it. They were like, so scared of the waves. They thought it was lava. So that was pretty funny. And but yeah, just so many animals and you know, we'd be riding monkeys, jumping from tree to tree and exotic birds. And it was a gorgeous part of the world to ride through.

Warwick Schiller (00:46:37):

Wow. Is this, and so you ended up when you ended up in Brazil, you timed it to end up there at the big festival in rodeo Bartos is that correct?

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:46:48):

Yeah, exactly. And that's something that like, people ask me all the time. It's like, how did you arrive? You know, like when you're riding 10,000 miles, it's 800, three days. How did you arrive the day? You said you would, you know, for the first Saturday of the event. And I have no idea, like that's the moments where I'm like, there's, there's gotta be a God, you know, there's gotta be something greater because you know, horses like anything and everything can happen when you're riding, like in your ranch. You know what I mean? Nevermind crossing towns and cities. And that last stretch took me five days from Heto this small town to Bartos and those five days alone, you know, a million things could have happened. And, but we ended up arriving on the Saturday of the largest rodeo, Latin America, 40,000 people in the stands, a helicopter hovering us, filming everything. I'm there with my kids, you know, doing what everyone said was impossible a couple years earlier. And it was one of the greatest moments of my life. I felt like my, you know, momentarily, my, my spirit left my body and I was seeing everything from very far away. My family was there. My, my 90 year old grandmother, people that had been important to the journey. It was a life changing moment.

Warwick Schiller (00:48:01):

Well, let's talk about that because you, you have, you know, you have this life changing moment. Well, you have this life changing journey really that, you know, that 803 days. And from there, when you, you go back to Canada from there?

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:48:19):

No. So I stayed in Brazil from there. I stayed in Brazil,

Warwick Schiller (00:48:22):

But didn't it all kind of come crashing down on you afterwards.

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:48:26):

Oh yeah. I came down real hard. So let me, so yeah, so I, I do this, you know, lifelong dream, I accomplish it. I get to this, the homecoming party that, you know, with 40,000 people, they take me to see my statue after they build a statue of the horses and I am more than five beaters tall. And then I ride to my home. I retired the horses, spread Naomi ashes. And, and that's when my life fell apart. Like I never would've imagined what was gonna happen the next six months, you know, a huge vacuum was created. I w I lost purpose. Ultimately, you know, I had, I'd fought for this dream for so long. I, I, it was so hard to, to undertake it. I'd seen. So much, you know, it's literally like going to war what I've done. And, and when I returned to my home and was separated from the herd I had symptoms of PTSD, you know, I had depression, anxiety, reoccurring nightmares.

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:49:22):

I, everywhere I went, people would say, oh, this is the guy that rode the horse from Canada to Brazil. And I didn't want to be that guy. Like I lost my identity. I felt like. And and then I went to do a talk at a children's cancer hospital in Brazil. And it was like, God was shaking me, you know, like I had to go in there and I, I saw those kids, you know, a lot of them had lost their hair, many had lost limbs and, and they were fighting for their lives with a smile on their faces. And, and it was like, I was just shaking at that moment. And I was like, man, like I I've done this tremendous thing. I just, I need to get out of this funk. And, and and that's when I started planning my second long ride from Brazil to LAUA to raise funds for that hospital and, and and help those kids.

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:50:07):

And, but I see how dangerous it is today. You know, during that period, I, one day I just started drinking a lot, like a lot of people do. And and one day I crashed my truck almost died, you know, I made mistake of, of getting in it drunk. And and I couldn't talk to people, you know, that's the other thing, like, I, I felt embarrassed. I felt ashamed. I felt like no one would understand I'm a cowboy, you know, we're Cowboys. We don't, we don't talk about these things. So today for anyone that's listening to this podcast right now, if you're going through something like that in your life know that you, you can't, and you shouldn't go through it alone, people will understand people will support you through this. So please speak to people because looking back on my life, I, I realized how dangerous that could have been, you know, and, and I just really felt ashamed. So talk to people.

Warwick Schiller (00:50:56):

Yeah. That's, you know, I've talked about a lot on the podcast before, but when you, when you're ashamed of certain things and you think I couldn't talk to anybody about it, you find that when you do talk to people about it, instead of getting judgment, you kind of get, yeah, me too. I, I, I get where you're coming from.

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:51:13):

Yes, sir. Yes, sir. And then you can lean on these people, you know, because they've been through, you know, what you've been through and you realize you're not alone. Everyone goes through it, you know, you could be looking at someone's life and say, look how perfect it is. You know, like, or even my life at that moment, people didn't even know because, you know, I was all over television. I was about to release my first book. I had a statue of like, who could have imagined I was going through this this extremely hard moment. So like you said, when you talk to people and open up, you realize that it's not just you, you know, everyone goes through it.

Warwick Schiller (00:51:46):

Yeah. And it also, I think, you know, like this was a lifelong dream of yours and you achieved it and then afterwards you went into a deep depression. Did, was that, was that because you achieved that thing and then you kind of have that you know, that realization that, oh, I think I, I thought I'd feel different. One hundred percent. Yeah.

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:52:17):

One hundred percent. Yeah. You feel like like you're gonna, you're gonna become someone different. I think in a way, you know what I mean? Like you're gonna grow a third eye or get the sixth cents or, you know, like it's really crazy. And later, like I, no one prepared me for this. I had no idea, you know, and, and later watching a documentary that MI Michael Phelps did on on Olympic athletes, not comparing myself at all to Olympic athletes, but they could, they go through a lot of the same things. You know, you work your entire life for something you, and then you achieve it, whether it's a gold medal or a bronze, or just to be there, right. Just to represent your country. And a lot of them go through the ion after, because you lose purpose. You know what I mean? Like you forget to think about anything else.

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:52:56):

You focus so much on that goal. And you think that that goal is the almighty end and it's not, you know, that moment gave me perspective on, it's not the end of the road, it's the journey, you know? And I was

always just so focused on getting to mys, getting to mys, I need to get there. I need to get there. That, that was a huge teaching moment for me, that it's just right now, it's today, it's having this awesome conversation with this amazing horse trainer and, and, and it's going back and, and giving my, my fiance a hug and having lunch with her and seeing my friends tonight and, and not worrying about tomorrow or the next day. And definitely not, you know, worrying about the past. All we have is right now today, the present and how we act right now is gonna dictate the outcome of our future.

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:53:41):

And I find a lot of times as well, we really get caught up in the past and things that have happened to us. So again, you know, like this, this, this experience changed me as a person, but that moment hitting that rock bottom was probably one of the biggest life lessons to me. I think that we, as, as people we learn when we're suffering, you know, and things are good, they help us continue, but we don't learn any important lessons, but when you're suffering, I think we learn the most important lessons. And, and that was a huge lesson for me.

Warwick Schiller (00:54:11):

So let's talk about your, your second journey. So from Brazil, and then you went all the way down to Argentina, is that correct?

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:54:24):

Yeah. OUA Argentina, the southernmost city on the planet known as the end of the world.

Warwick Schiller (00:54:31):

Wow. This, what is the, I know in your book, it says you went to, it's a Spanish name. Yeah.

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:54:39):

Flaggo

Warwick Schiller (00:54:40):

Yes. The land of fire. What is that?

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:54:43):

So that is a small island just south of mainland Argentina really close to Antarctica. And that's where this, this small town called OOI is, and it's known as the land of fire because it's so cold there that when settlers first arrived, all of the indigenous people that lived on the island, they had to keep their fires going 24 hours a day throughout the entire winter, like, they'd never let the fires out. So when you were coming in on a ship it looked like the island was glowing with all these different bonfires everywhere. That's why it's known as, as the land of fire.

Warwick Schiller (00:55:18):

Wow. So how long did, how long after your Canada to Brazil journey, did you undertake the second one?

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:55:27):

About a year after I finished the first journey. So I went to that hospital planned the second journey for a couple months and, and then set off.

Warwick Schiller (00:55:36):

Did you, did you use the same horses or did you get different horses?

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:55:40):

No. So because of the borders and because everything Frenchy and bruiser and dude had been through, you know, they're literally like my children. I, I didn't wanna take 'em outta their pasture and my family's home. So I retired them. And then the second journey I did each country with its own horse. So I did bruise Brazil with two quarter horse MAs. When I got to the border with Uruguay, I sent the mayors back to their owners, found two new MAs in Uruguay across that country, send them back. And then when I got to Argentina, how cool is this? The so net family who started the CRE breed in Latin America and Emilio. So net was a vet who lent aim Chile, man Gato in 1925, the horses and the guy who inspired me, that family lent the two horses I rode through Argentina. And CDOs is the same lineage of man and Gato.

Filipe Masetti Leite (<u>00:56:30</u>):

And I started from their ranch in BU where the horses bones are buried and were aim Chile's ashes reside. So that was just so crazy. Like, you know, and it's one of those moments where you like, I'm on the right path. Like I never imagined I would be riding through Argentina. My dream is to go from Canada to Brazil. And then there, I, I am like in the middle of this second journey trying to pick myself up and bring myself together, you know? And then the universe just gives me this gift. So that was super cool.

Warwick Schiller (<u>00:57:03</u>):

So let me, let's talk about Argentina, because if you're going from BU airs down to the bottom, you are basically going through the Andes, aren't you?

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:57:12):

Oh, yeah. Across the Andes. Several times spent months in Argentina, across it from north to south, I spent seven months in Patagonia. I always say for people that haven't been to Patagonia, if heaven and hell could coexist in perfect harmony that place would be Patagonia. It's some of the most beautiful lighting I've ever seen in my life. The snow capped on these you know, just the colors of the rivers and the lakes. They're like blue, just like Jasper and, and and in Canada, for those that have seen those national parks so just a beautiful ride and the Argentina people, you know, the go, they love horses. So just like in Mexico, they really celebrate my journey.

Warwick Schiller (00:57:56):

And is that where you met Clara? Yeah. You gotta tell us that story.

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:58:00):

Yeah. That's the greatest story of my life, you know, so I get to I'm, I'm in Argentina, I'm in Northern Argentina, still, still, and I meet this lady and she gives me a bracelet, a woman's bracelet before I leave her house. And I'm like, so confused. I'm like, why is this woman giving you a woman's bracelet? And

she's like, Felipe, this is for you to give to your soulmate. She's like, you're gonna meet your soulmates on this journey. I'm like, lady, are you blind? Like, look at me. I, my clothes is ripped up. I have a beard, I smell bad. Like I'm riding a horse across, you know, Argentina, if I can't meet a, a woman in my house, you think I'm gonna meet a woman like in this? And she goes, no, take it. So I take the bracelet and sure enough a couple months go by, I get to this little town called elbow sun.

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:58:45):

And a couple days earlier, I was riding with a friend of mine and I had met a park ranger. And he said, Hey, I live in a town a couple days from here. When you guys get there, I'm gonna host show my house. I have two stepdaughters. My wife's gonna love you guys. They love horses and we don't think anything of it. And we continue south. And when we get to this town called Elbo sun, there's this huge billboard outside of town that says welcome to elbow sun this weekend, the beer festival andt. And I are like, yes, we never got anywhere when there there's anything going on. Right. You're always late on horseback. So we're so excited. We're talking about this festival, how gonna be tons of girls there, it's gonna be all call. We're gonna have the time for our lives.

Filipe Masetti Leite (00:59:24):

And sure enough, when we get to the rodeo grounds where we're gonna rest the horses, there's the park ranger and tell, and I look at each other, we're like, oh no, he's here. We're gonna have to go to his house and tell stories to the family all night. We're not gonna be able at the beer festival. So we quickly revised this planned. We're like, okay. So we'll tell him that we gotta shoe the horses tonight. You know, we gotta find shoes and we gotta find nails and we can't go to his house. But we'll go tomorrow. Thank you very much, but we'll go tomorrow. Deal, deal, deal. So we ride up and when I get to the park ranger and I turn the corner, I see Clara my fiance today. And it was literally like love at first sight. And this guy goes, boys, welcome to my town.

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:00:06):

You know we're here. These are my stepdaughters. We'd like to invite you to eat pizzas at our house tonight. And I look at him, I'm like pizzas. I love pizza. And TA's like, look at him, me being like, what, what happened to the plan? I'm like, screw the plan, bro. I'm going after this girl. And yeah, I fell in love with her and she was really real tough, real hard to get. I gave her the bracelet. She gave it back to me. She thought I had like a box of like mating China bracelets. I was handing out from Canada to Argentina and but you know, Cowboys and the harder they buck, the harder we, we wanna ride them. So I, I just fell in love with her and I, I just kept working at it, working at it. And eventually she realized that I was being truthful and, and that she came out to ride with me a few weeks later. And then she was there in AUA when I arrived. And, and she actually went on this last long ride with me. We had a support vehicle from Alaska to Calgary. She was by my side. And, and when I got to the Calgary stampede and finished the Americas in 2020, I, I asked her hand and, and marriage

Warwick Schiller (01:01:06):

That's, you know, that's a great story. And, and I, I can see why it would be love at first sight. She's absolutely beautiful inside and out. Like, there's a light that there's a light that shines outta her. That's yeah. She's amazing. So you just, so you just talked about the, the, the third journey you did. So you went from, is it Fairbanks, Alaska?

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:01:25):

Yep. Fairbanks Alaska to the Calgary stampede. I started that journey in 2019 with two wild horses from the O sous Indian band in the GaN valley of Canada. They're like Mustangs. They have in the us, they called them Wildes or wild horses in Canada. And that was a very hard journey as well. It was the shortest of the three. But it was just through some of the toughest terrain in the world, you know, like the Northern part of Alaska, and then the Yukon and Northern BC. It's just, there's so much Musk egg up there, you know, as soon as you get out of the Alaska highway, so there's no ranches, there's no farms, there's no nothing. You just literally ride, you know, 500 miles get to a town, right. Another 500 miles of nothing gets to the next town and plagued with grizzly bears. I was crossing like three bears a day. Got snow in the middle of summer in the Northern Rockies. The mosquitoes are like the size of helicopters and they just wanna just eat you alive. But I had Clara there with me. We had a support vehicle for this stretch. So we were able to carry hay and water and feed for the horses. So that ended up helping tremendously.

Warwick Schiller (01:02:41):

You said a minute ago, something about Musk egg. Is that what you said?

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:02:46):

Yeah.

Warwick Schiller (01:02:46):

What is that?

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:02:47):

So Musk egg is like that really boggy drain. Like it's pretty marsh. It's like a marsh. Oh, you know, when you, you walk through it and it looks like you're walking on a water bed, cuz there's just so much water. And if you put a horse through, it's just bogged, the horse will just sink and you know, eat it alive. That's all it is up there. There's just so much water, so much marsh.

Warwick Schiller (01:03:07):

And so did you have to, can you go around it or you gotta go through it?

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:03:11):

No. So they build the Alaska highway using like tons of, of, they would cut down trees at first, they would put these logs, then they would just dump a tremendous amount of rocks on top and dirt and more rocks. So literally the only place they could ride was follow this Alaska highway. And as soon as you get like five meters off the highway, you're sinking. So you'd have to stay pretty close to, which was another challenge. Cause I'm on these wild horses and there's transport trucks flying by next to us. And a lot of close calls, a lot of mounds, you know, switch backs and not a lot of space on the road. So that ended up making it super hard as well.

Warwick Schiller (01:03:50):

And that is, that highway goes all the way down

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:03:57):

To, yeah. That highway goes from Dawson Creek Canada, all the way up to to Alaska, to Fairbanks.

Warwick Schiller (01:04:07):

And so you went all the way down through that and then down into British Columbia and then the then across to Alberta, is that how you went?

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:04:14):

Yeah, that's exactly it through Northern British Columbia, the Northern Rockies up onto grand Prairie Alberta and then south towards the Calgary sane. Another huge hurdle that we faced on this last journey was, you know what, everyone has just gone through this pandemic. Nearly ended my ride. You know, I was chosen to be the Calgary stampede grand Marshall, which was like the biggest honor of my life. And and then they canceled the rodeo for the first time in a hundred years and canceled my parade. I'm like where, where, where, but I was like, you know what, I'm gonna keep going. And thank God I did because when I arrived, things were kind of starting to open up and the president managed to get the city to allow me to ride in with him and Clara and the police. And it was the only event that Calgary St ended up having that year. And I was given the keys to the city by the mayor. I was white hated by the mayor of Calgary. And it was a really cool experience.

Warwick Schiller (<u>01:05:14</u>):

Wow. That is so cool. I'm just at the I'm just while you're talking here, I'm just looking at a map on my computer and they're like, holy cow, I'm doing it. Yeah. I

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:05:23):

Encourage, I encourage everyone to do that. That's a, you know, while they listen to this podcast open a map, so you have the dimension of what it, what I've done, you know, to look at Alaska and then look at OUA. And you'll begin to understand, you know, like I always tell people for you to understand what I've done. There's 12 people have walked on the moon more than 5,000 people have summited Everest, but only four men have crossed the Americas on horseback. And I'm young. I'm one of them and the youngest.

Warwick Schiller (<u>01:05:53</u>):

That's amazing. So looking at this map here, I, you didn't mention Columbia. What was Columbia like?

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:06:00):

So I didn't go through Columbia. When I got to Panama, we ended up having some huge problems with the borders. Like we talked about at the beginning of this podcast and they didn't allow my horses in they had a rule where the horse had to stay six months to a year in the country prior to exportation and importation because my horses had to cross so many countries. We didn't get to, to go into Panama. And that's when, like all the problems began. It almost ended my journey. Then I was looking at, how am I gonna shift these horses to south America? And the Brazilian ministry of agriculture was helping me at the time. And they told me that if we went into Columbia or Venezuela, we couldn't go into Brazil because there was an equine virus there that doesn't exist in Brazil.

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:06:45):

So those countries were shot out. We couldn't go into Ecuador because there was no boats or flights that would take us there. The only country we could get into was Lima, Peru, the capital of Peru, but a horse had never been exported from Costa Rica to Peru. So I ended up having to raise \$16,000. I ended

up being stopped there for so many days. I almost pulled my hair out my head. I almost left the horses behind and got new horses to finish the trip. But they were like my kids at this point, right. We had been traveling for more than a year. There was this like, I'm like, how am I gonna, how am I gonna leave my kids behind? You know? So I fought, I raised the funds, did all the paperwork, everything I needed. And we ended up going to Lima, Peru, and then continuing the journey from there, from Peru to Bolivia, from Bolivia to Brazil.

Warwick Schiller (<u>01:07:33</u>):

So Costa, so you were in Costa Rica and that's where you shipped them down to, to Lima per

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:07:38):

Yeah. To Lima, Peru.

Warwick Schiller (<u>01:07:40</u>):

Okay. Cause I was looking at the mappy and I'm like, Columbia, you didn't say anything about Columbia. That's gotta be crazier than, you know, it's,

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:07:46):

It was my dream. That was one of my favorite countries to go through. And unfortunately due to this bureaucracy, we weren't able to, but I'd love to go back. It's it's an amazing country. It's, it's really gotten cleaned up from the eighties and nineties when we hear about all the drug cartels and all that, it's, it's super safe now, which is unfortunate because you know, there's still a demand. So they all just moved to Mexico and central America. And that's why we're, we're seeing what we're seeing in those regions of the world. But I would love to go to Columbia and a huge horse culture as well. The Paso is very the gated horses are very big there.

Warwick Schiller (01:08:18):

Oh really? Okay. Well, I might get to some of these questions before we get too much further, cuz I'm just excited about what your answers might be if that's all alright with you.

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:08:30):

Yeah, for sure.

Warwick Schiller (<u>01:08:31</u>):

Okay. So your first question that you chose was if you could spread a message, what would it say? Like if you could spread a message to the whole world, what would it say? Or your favorite quote, whichever one you whichever one you like.

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:08:47):

So I'll, I'll say both my favorite quote and it has to do with my answer is John Wayne quote, that goes courage is being scared, half the death, but settling up anyway. And that's something I hear all the time from people. Oh my God, you're so courageous. And you know, how did you do this? You're so brave. And, and it's like, what my dad used to tell me when I was a little kid, you know fear is a monster that in habits our mind, and if we don't push it aside, we do nothing with our lives. You know, it's it's an instinct, it's a survival instinct that has built from years and years of survival with a fittest. I

love studying the brain. And, and I know today that literally, it's just trying to keep me safe from when we live in caves and, and there was bears and tigers out there that were gonna eat us.

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:09:28):

It's a part of our central nervous system. And I find that a lot of people don't take that first step because of those little voices in their head, you know, you can't do it. You're not strong enough. You're gonna die. Everything that I was fighting before I took that. So what I'd like to tell people is that yes, you can't, you know, it takes an unforgivable amount of work. It takes focus. It takes strategic planning, determination, but absolutely nothing is impossible when you're willing to work for it. When you're willing to saddle those horses and ride 20 miles a day, you can cross continents, luck doesn't exist. You know, we always have a tendency to look at other people and say, oh, well, if I was a millionaire, I'd be able to do that as well. And you know, that's the way for us to be like, well, that's why I can't do it. Stop doing that, write it down, start planning your dream and live it. Because if there's one thing I learned in this life is that this opportunity goes by really quick.

Warwick Schiller (01:10:25):

Great, great message. So what next question you chose was what do you feel is your true purpose in the world?

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:10:33):

I think that's it, you know, this, I think shaking people up, cuz when you see my documentary, when you read my book, there's no way you can look me in the eyes and say like, oh I can't do this because X, Y, and Z, cuz I was a kid that had no money. I'm an immigrant from Brazil that got a scholarship to go to school, work two jobs, to pay the bills and work on my project at night. Like I should not be here today telling you my story on this podcast. So I just wanna shake people up and tell them, stop giving me excuses. You can't BS me, just go and do it. Everyone has limitations, fears, and problems, but when you want it bad enough and willing to work for it, you can do whatever the hell you want.

Warwick Schiller (01:11:12):

You know, funny. After we met at the, the horse expo Columbus, Ohio between then and now you've you've listened to a few episodes of the podcast. So before we got on here, I asked you which one you'd listened to. And one of the ones was Heather Swan, who, who held the, held the world record for the world's highest wing suit base jump. And she was she, I mean, you and her are very, very similar in, in you know, like you're planning in your approach to things and, and yeah, listening to her, especially listening to her, you know, she was 40 and not an adventurer. And then after that, did all these amazing things and yeah, it's just a, it's a great way of looking at the world.

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:11:57):

I definitely really related to her listening to your podcast and for everyone listening, if you haven't listened to, to that episode, go back and listen to it after this because it's, you're gonna take so much from it. It's such a special episode in her outlook and what she was able to do. And, and another thing I hear a lot, I heard this last night, I had a showing from my film and I hear this all the time is probably what I hear about most. Oh my God, that would've been my dream, but I'm too old. No, you're not too old age is a state of mind look what she was able to do. She was 40, right? When she started training for this. Yeah, she was 40, you know, I know a guy that at the age of 86 went on a thousand mile long ride on a horse, 86 years old.

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:12:35):

So again, we all have excuses that allow us to live this safe, comfy life. But if you truly want it, there's no age. There's no limitation. There is nothing. And just take a second here, Warwick to thank Kadina who put us in touch in Ohio and took us out to dinner. You know, you never know why you're gonna meet people in this life. Like I said, at the beginning of this, I'm a huge believer in destiny and, and everything's already written I'm not sure why I had to meet you. Maybe this will record this podcast. Maybe it's something we don't even know yet, or can't even imagine. And Karina's the same way, but I met her randomly and she put me in touch with you. And today we're here doing this. So how cool is that? You know, life was so awesome.

Warwick Schiller (01:13:15):

You know, I'd had several people contact me about having you on the podcast before even went back there. So your, your name was like, your name was on my radar. And what was funny was going into the horse expert that morning. So I'm outside in my rental car and there's a big line to get into the horse expert. And I'm sitting in traffic out there and Catarina happens to be walking along the, the street. And so I I've met her several times before and I roll the window down. I go, Hey, how's it going? And she sounds good. And so I said, hop in and I'll I'll drive in. So she gets in the car with me. I haven't seen her for several years. I go in, get my booth set up, whatever. And then somehow she meets you. And the booth you are in is basically right behind my booth.

Warwick Schiller (01:14:02):

And that place is huge. I mean, you know, there's, there's multiple buildings with, with trade show booth in 'em all over the place and your booth just happened to be behind me. And the lady that I gave a ride to that morning happens to meet you. And she comes around and she goes, you gotta meet this guy. He's blah, blah. And I'm like, hell, I wanna meet him. I've heard all about him. <Laugh> so yeah, it was meant, meant to be. And, and yeah, I I'm I'm with you. I, I don't think, I mean, this podcast is part of the purpose of this meeting, but I think there's more to it. What, what else there is? I don't know, but that's, that's the feeling I get. Okay. Next question for you. And this is a great question for you. What advice would you give someone about to enter your occupation? And when I ask this question on the podcast, I've always got to say, now you need to quantify what your occupation is because, you know, are you a journalist? Are you a long writer? Are you an in a motivational speaker? Are you a filmmaker? So you gotta kind of quantify. Maybe you're all of those. And maybe you've got advice for people doing all, all of those different things.

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:15:07):

So I, I, I, I will encompass all of it. And but Lauren riding, I think you know, if anyone wants to go into it, but this you can use in all those occupations. And number one is patience. Patience is extremely important. You know, we live in an age today where we think things are gonna happen from today to tomorrow. And you study any success story, any success story out there, whether it's from a musician, a horse trainer a journalist, a long rider, and it takes 10,000 hours. It takes 10,000 days. It takes years. You know, it took me 10 years to go from this idea to my finished documentary, you know, and I find that today people give up way too soon. So if you wanna make it and whatever it is, you're doing have patience and wait it out in persistence.

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:15:59):

And the second is flexibility. You know, you can plan it strategic planning. Like I said, at the beginning of this is the difference between success and failure, but don't have expectations plan for the worst hope for the best, but ultimately take what comes and be flexible, you know? Oh, so what I couldn't get into Panama, I was heartbroken. I couldn't go into Columbia. That was my plan. I had friends there waiting for me. I had contact I'd planned, I'd drawn the route, but all of a sudden, I, I, I encounter, I encountered this huge problem and was I gonna solve about it and cry and let the journey end, or was I gonna throw the plan out the window and find a window, jump through it and draw a new plan. And that's what I did. And ultimately that's why I ended up surviving and, and finding success in my life and my projects. You know, you can't win every battle, but you can sure as hell win the war. And that's what it's all about.

Warwick Schiller (01:16:48):

That's amazing. Okay. So what, what quality do you admire in a person

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:16:54):

Humility? Some of the greatest people I've ever met in my life had achieved extraordinary things, but they were humble. And you know, we all go to the same hole. We all go to the same place at the end of this. You know, we don't know what comes in next, but I meet a lot of people that have done absolutely nothing, but have this, like this thing about them, you know, like this, this attitude, like they're better. And like I said, when you go on a journey like this and you have to literally knock on people's doors and ask for help, you see that we're all inherently the same, you know? And that's why it's so upsetting to see what we're seeing right now with Russia and Ukraine. And, but I feel like if Putin had gone on a long ride, you know he might think twice about killing innocent people. And because they're just like his kids and his, his wife and, and his family, you know, they're just, they flag's different. But so what, so yeah, man, I really value humility and, and people that are humble,

Warwick Schiller (01:17:53):

You know, something you just said in there made me think of a question. So, you know, every once in a while I'll be somewhere, especially at nighttime, like in nature where the sky is huge and it just, you know, like the, the stars are out and I don't know, it just makes you feel small, like very, very small and insignificant. I bet you had a lot of that in cuz some of the places you would've been the scene, you would've been absolutely amazing, wouldn't it?

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:18:21):

You know what work you might have just touched on the central theme of my story. I think that that's that's very interesting what you just said, because I felt like that all the time, you know, whether it was the, the cities I was crossing at three kilometers an hour, you know, or the mountains or the deserts or those skies, like you're just saying, I saw so many of those of those skies, you know, whether I was sleeping in Yellowstone or Wyoming or the Chihuahua desert or Patagonia and the next town is whatever, a thousand miles away. And yeah, you just, you literally, it hits home that were just a graining, a sand. We're so minute and yeah, that might be one of the most special parts, you know, because I think that grounds you, I think, like I said, that keeps you humble. That makes you understand that we're literally nothing, you know, you just like, even if you live a hundred years, what is that based on the history of, of, of the universe, you know, that's nothing, it's like a little part. So yeah, it just yeah, that's very interesting. You said that,

Warwick Schiller (01:19:27):

Well, you, you were talking about humility and, and there's something about, I think there's just something about being places like that, that make you really feel really small, that, that gives you a lot of humility.

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:19:40):

I think horses have a tendency to do that as vault to us. You know, it could be the best rider in the world, you know, when you, when you eat, eat sand that one time, you know, you're like God damnit <laugh> <laugh>, they have a really good, a good way of keeping us humble animals and nature. And, and that was ultimately one of the, one of the goals for this journey. You now it was to inspire people. It was to share the realities of the Americas, but ultimately it was for myself to, to reconnect with nature. You know, we live in the world today where we're, so, you know, we're going deeper and deeper into our, our phones and our computers and that's all fine and dandy, but it really scares me for, for our future when kids don't know where their, their food comes from, when, when kids have never touched the dirt and dug their hands into it and, and seen a plant grow and, and having accountability and, and realizing what kind of footprint you have on this earth.

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:20:28):

And it really upsets me when, when people put all the blame and everything on ranchers and farmers, you know, for, for the changing climate and this and that. And because I feel like those are the real stewards of the land, you know, the people that I met that took me into their homes, hardest working people I've met, but this connection to the earth and to the animals not only keeps them humble, but it, it, it shows them what's actual truth and what's BS. And I think we're missing that a little bit in big cities and in modern society.

Warwick Schiller (01:21:02):

Yeah. There's, there's something, what's, what's the saying, you know, you can, oh, was, it was a like a farming type saying, and it's something you can't plan for a no, it's, I've lost it, but it's, it's all about that connection with nature and yeah. It's yeah, I can't think of the saying, but it was it'll come to me here in a minute, but I'll ask you your next question or your last question. And I really excited about this cuz you maybe having already covered this, but what's the luckiest thing that ever happened to you? I know you don't believe in luck.

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:21:39):

Yes <laugh> I don't believe in luck, but the luckiest thing that ever happened to me, I talked about it was meeting Clara in Patagonia. Like what are the chances? Right. Like I said, I, I couldn't meet the love of my life in a, in my town, like where I could shower and, and shave and wear clean clothes. You know, I never imagined I was gonna fall in love and, and literally meet my soulmate. Like she feels like nothing less than the person I was put on this earth to, to be next to. And, and I had to ride thousands of kilometers to get there and, and meters. So, and again, just a Testament of how important it is for us to follow our instincts and follow our purpose on this life. You know, we all have a path we're all here for a reason.

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:22:19):

I truly believe in that. And when you listen to that little voice in your heart and the pit of your stomach makes the butterflies go off because you're like, oh my God, it's so scary. I can't do it. That's what we're meant to do. And when you do that, you meet the love of your life on a horse in an age where everyone

meets the love of your life through thin, I was meaning it the old fashioned way, right. It wasn't a white horse, but yeah, that was the, I feel so blessed and so lucky to have met her.

Warwick Schiller (01:22:46):

Yeah. You know, the night we went out to dinner and you would tell me this story about the bracelet. And I said to her, are you wearing it? And she said, actually, no, I'm not wearing it right now because she said it, I've got this, this loosely knitted sweater it catches on, but apparently she still wears it all the time.

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:23:01):

Yeah. She wear at the movie premier. She has to wear it. Cause people are like, where's the bracelet. And all the women come up through after wanna see the bracelet and yeah, she still wears it. And, but we're, I'm, I'm afraid gonna lose it. I'm like we need to like make it into a, a necklace or something because it, it comes easily undone. So it's very worrisome at times when she wears it.

Warwick Schiller (01:23:21):

So what is next for you?

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:23:25):

So right now like we talked about at the beginning of the podcast, I'm, I'm going to the festivals around the world with the documentary of the long rider. I'm finishing my third book. It's gonna be called last long ride. That'll be out by the end of the summer. And we're actually working on the narrative version of my first book, long ride home. That's gonna become a movie with actors and the script is done right now. We are location scouting and that's gonna go into production next year in July, June, July, we're gonna start filming it. It's gonna be shot in Canada, Mexico, and Brazil. And I'm super excited about it because number one, the actor is gonna be way better looking than me and rip. So that's awesome. <Laugh> and the, the other part is that when I was out there, like I was doing this all myself, so sometimes I would see this epic sunset off, man. If we could climb that mountain right now and have a beautiful camera, you know, like a red, epic camera shooting, a guy on a horse right here, this will be the most beautiful shot in the world. And now we get to do that with a crew, with a director, you know, with a real director of photography and these actors. So I am super stoked. And hopefully the idea is to make a film for every book. So in the NLB three films about the entire journey,

Warwick Schiller (01:24:43):

You know, every once in a while, someone will get asked a question like if you were to make a movie about your life, who would play you, so who are you gonna get to play you?

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:24:51):

Well, Brad, Pitt's too old, but he's the one, the only one that really looks like me. So it's tough, you know, <laugh> no, we already have our lead actor. I can't announce it yet, but he's a Brazilian superstar. He is beautiful. And the most important thing is that he actually wants to make this film. I gave him the book years ago before it was even gonna become a movie and he's an adventure himself. And that's what attracted me to him to bring him into the project. And I finally convinced our producers and directors that he's the guy and we're gonna announce it very soon. And I'm very excited for him to, to play me on the screen.

This transcript was exported on May 18, 2022 - view latest version here.

Warwick Schiller (01:25:27):

That's that is very cool. I know. So that's that, movie's about the first trip.

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:25:34):

Yeah. Strip. Yeah. That's gonna be just about the first trip, the candidate to Brazil long ride

Warwick Schiller (01:25:38):

Home. Okay. Well, I know who I know who should play Clara in one of the later ones, actually, you can't that, oh, I was gonna say Penelope cruise, but like rewind Penelope cruise back to Clara's age cuz she's, you know, she has that, she has that, that accent talking to her the night we went to dinner, she sounds like, so have you ever seen a movie with Tom cruise and Penelope cruise called vanilla sky?

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:26:06):

Oh yeah.

Warwick Schiller (01:26:07):

And she, she says to him, I will tell you in another life when we are both cats

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:26:13):

<Laugh>

Warwick Schiller (01:26:14):

And I listen just the way she talks, listen to, to Claire that night at dinner was like, oh, you could say that. And it would be so Penelope cruise .

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:26:22):

Can you just record this for me? Yeah, she is. I could definitely see it and you're right. We'd have to go back a couple of years, but that that's the look that we're definitely gonna have to find. Totally

Warwick Schiller (01:26:32):

Agree. Exactly. Yeah. After we met in Ohio, I kind of started following you on Instagram and I look back at some of our old videos and there was a video of you in Patagonia riding along and the winds were, I don't know how fast the winds were, but you just looked like you were absolutely miserable. It was freezing cold. And the, the wind was almost blowing you off your horse. What was the, what was the temperature and how, how strong were those wind?

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:27:00):

Oh, it was terrible. That was sort of the most like the, the most suffering I, I endured on the entire journey. It was just months at a time, 120 kilometers an hour. It's like being in one of those tunnels where they test airplanes. Yeah. The horses stumbled like walking. That's how strong it was. And it was minus 15. I would wear like 30 layers of clothing. I had like a slicker on that had a hood and I would close the hood just so my eyes rode and sunglasses. It was just, just to saddle the horses, you know, you put the, you put the blanket on and go get the saddle of the blankets and chilly, like it was just living was, was hard and surviving and yeah, that was really tough.

Warwick Schiller (01:27:41):

How, how long were the, were the conditions like that?

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:27:45):

Oh, it would last like weeks and then it would stop for a day or two and then the wind would pick up again for another couple weeks. It was I was tested and people ask me all the time. It's like, did you ever think about quitting? And it's like, I thought about quitting every day. Like, this is the hardest thing I've ever done. Like, this is just literally like going to war and you know, you have a problem where 30, but again, that's why it's so important to find your purpose and, and have that with you all the time, because it's easy to give 110% in the easy days when we wake up happy and everything's going our way. But how about when the wind's blowing in 120 kilometers an hour or your horses are hurt or you've had a, an epic fight with your spouse or your kids are in the hospital, you know, what's gonna make you get up and give 110%. And to me, it's that feel, you know, it's that, that goal at the end of the road, it's that, it's that purpose that just, you know, I was doing this for a cancer hospital and for those kids, so I would close my eyes and take 'em there. And I just knew that quitting was never an option and I would continue on,

Warwick Schiller (01:28:39):

You know, that was gonna be my question is when, when it got really, like you just said, I'd, I'd close my eyes when it got, you know, when it got really tough, what did you do? That was gonna be my question. What did you do to, to push through that or

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:28:58):

Get through? I would visualize, visualize you talked about this on the podcast as well. The, the power of the mind, you know, our mind can't differentiate from things that, you know, have actually happened and things that we imagine, like how crazy is that, you know, it's unbelievable. The, this muscle that we have is just, and, and, and like they, they've done studies where I saw, I read an English studies where they got a group of people to actually work out for 15, 15 minutes every day, and a group of people to think that they were working out for 15 minutes every day. And the group that thought they were working out for 15 minutes a day, their muscles actually grew after an extended period of time, you know, just from visualizing it. And, and that's what I did. You know, that first journey when the bullets were flying, when the, the moments were tough, I, I would close my eyes and take myself to my family.

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:29:42):

I would literally transport myself to my family's embrace, to Batos entering that arena. Like I could feel it. I was there before I left, when I didn't have a single horseshoe, no horses, no money, no nothing. I'd close my eyes. And I would imagine myself riding outta the Calgary stamped, like literally feel it like you gotta, you know, if your dream is to like ride a horse outta Calgary, I was on top of that horse in the saddle. I could hear the creaking or the saddle. I could hear the horse's, Hoves sitting the ground. I could hear the announcer. I could feel that Calgary hot summer day, the rains in my hand. And, and on that second journey, it was those kids. I would go to that hospital. I would see their smiles. I would hear their stories. I would, you know, feel their, their embrace. And, and that's what allowed me to, to finish these journeys.

Warwick Schiller (01:30:28):

Yeah. There's a lot, there's a, so back up a bit, a few years for us, but when my wife and I went to the world of question games in 2018, we had a mental coach. And one of the things she had my wife do was imagine the feeling after it happens successfully, like you, you know, you compete and you do really well, you know, you, you, you do what you're supposed to do, and what's that feeling afterwards. And that was, I didn't, she didn't have me do it, but she had my wife do it. And I was Robin said, that was one of the things that, that yeah. Got her to be good. There was, was anticipating that, that feeling of, of how it was gonna feel afterwards. Another question I had for you was when you were riding what's, what's the biggest physical challenge riding that far? Were you like, was it your hips? Was it your knees? Was it your ankles? Were you rubbed or raw? Did you have any of that sort of stuff going on?

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:31:38):

No. It's funny. Everyone always asked, like, how, how was your ass? Like that's first question. But it was my knees, my lower back and on my last journey, my growing, like, I think I'll always have growing problems just because some of those horses were so wide and I was spending so much time on top of them. And those, those were the biggest pains. I felt some of the days the knees would be screaming the lower back. And, and the hardest part is that, you know, it's not actually riding the horse dates 10 hours a day. It's sleeping on top of your saddle blankets in the tent, no shower, get out the next day, do it again, sleep on the saddle blankets at night, get out the next day. You know, you don't, you never really rest. And then after a week, then you finally sleep in a real bed and shower, and then, you know, you, you hit the reset button, but when you're out there on the trail, you know, it just, there's never an easy day. And, and I'd say riding is the easy part. It's setting up tent, it's highlining the horses and finding a place to sleep and going to find water for them. And that, that's the really hard part.

Warwick Schiller (<u>01:32:38</u>):

Yeah. At the end of the day, when you've done all that riding.

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:32:42):

Yeah, exactly. Like now you have to, you know, do another million things before you can actually go to bed on top of the saddle pad.

Warwick Schiller (01:32:48):

<Laugh> right. You know, I dunno if I told you that when we went to dinner that night, but a couple of years ago, my son and I went to Mongolia and rode camels across the goy desert in the middle of winter and oh, wow. And the, the camels, they walk, they try, well, they don't actually trot. They pace. And they will counter every once in a while. But in my experience, the caning only happens right before they're gonna buck, but you spend some time walking, but most of the time you spend trotting and they have like three speeds. And one is this really slow, like Western pleasure jog that you can sit to. And then there's a really fast trot they'll do that actually propels you up and down so you can post easily. But the thing you spend most of the time doing is in the middle, which is a speed that you've really gotta engage your core to sit to it. Or if you wanna post, you actually have to do like squats. You've gotta stand yourself up and sit yourself down and stand yourself up and sit yourself down. And I, for me, it was the, yeah, there were days where my knees and ankles, it was just, you know, really quite painful and, and really had to focus on getting through it. And I was thinking, that's why I asked you, were you walking most of the time?

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:34:06):

This transcript was exported on May 18, 2022 - view latest version here.

I walked, not most of the time, but a lot of the time, like I would walk probably five to 10 kilometers every day. So like about five miles a day, you're riding 20. You walk five.

Warwick Schiller (01:34:16):

No, I mean, sorry on the horse walk was your,

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:34:21):

Oh yeah.

Warwick Schiller (01:34:22):

Walking. Always at a walk. So you're walking the whole time. Okay. Yeah.

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:34:25):

Yes, sir. Yeah. And then you tried to get across bridges and stuff like that, but for the most part you're walking.

Warwick Schiller (01:34:30):

Yeah. Okay. So like, would you take your feet outta the stirs and let your feet dangle and things like that?

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:34:34):

Oh yeah. A hundred percent. I was, I'd always have my feet outta the stir. My stirs were dropped down, you know, I wasn't, I wasn't cutting that's for sure. Yeah. My were as far down as I could.

Warwick Schiller (01:34:43):

No. And I noticed that on the camels, like you get to where, you know, and your knees and your ankles are just killing you, that, that if you have the chance and you can drop your feet out, you just gotta be careful that the camel doesn't spook something more, you go to speed dropdown.

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:34:59):

Oh my God. I can't imagine on a camel. That's epic.

Warwick Schiller (01:35:02):

Yeah, that was pretty cool. So, oh, where am I gonna go now? There's just so many questions I got for you. You did say, you did say what's next, didn't you?

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:35:14):

Yeah. So I talked about you know, these projects that I'm, I'm finishing up, but I would like to say that my ultimate goal, you know, at the end of this is it's all, I'm climbing a ladder right now. Like, I, I hope to one day have a show, like the great late Anthony BOR ding but instead of showing culture through food, like he did so well, I would like to show culture through the horse and, and Western culture, you know? Wow. I find that

Warwick Schiller (01:35:39):

Great

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:35:39):

Idea. Yeah. Thank you. Thanks for saying that. I just find that today with the, you know, this globalization, if you go to Tokyo, so Paulo Melbourne, it's all gonna be the same. The kids are gonna be dancing the same TikTok you're gonna eat. Mcdonald's the music's gonna be the same. But when you go to those small towns, you know, to the rural communities and the ranches and the farmers, you're really able to get a taste of, of culture. So I'm excited to jump into that soon

Warwick Schiller (01:36:05):

That, yeah, that'll be, I'd love to see that, that TV show. So tell us about your motivational speaking. What sort of places do you get asked to go to and what sort of things do you tell people?

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:36:21):

So that's pretty cool. That's something I never imagined would happen. You know, today my, I, I, I pay my bills, motivational speaking. Like I, I speak to large companies around the world usually to sales teams or at the end of the year conferences beginning of the year. And I talk about strategic planning. I talk about you know, working in a team, I talk about resiliency. I discuss several themes that are able to go from the ride to the business world, you know, to their daily, daily life. And, you know, these guys set quotas that sometimes may seem impossible. And then they put, I get on the stage and they realize that holy shit, I'm complaining about having to, you know, sell a million dollars worth of whatever the computer systems. And this guy was able to ride 25,000 kilometers on a horse through the Americas.

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:37:12):

Like I have nothing to complain about and I kind of light a fire under their ass. And and I also do a lot of motivational speaking to young kids and schools. I have different projects on the goal where you know, the kids get to read my book and they study geography through the book and, and in Brazil, Portuguese, and how to write stories. And, and then I also do a talk for them and we talk about their life goal and, and their life projects and what they're doing today to ensure that they're living those projects in the future. So I'm just truly blessed. You know, I get to travel all over the Americas and, and meet cool people and share my story. And, and I get a lot of amazing feedback from people that, you know, maybe didn't feel like they were smart enough to go to university or, or had this dream that seemed really far away.

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:37:56):

But when they heard my talk or read my book, it just kind of gave 'em that little push, you know, I like to be the pusher. I push people over the edge. You know, I always say when you're, when you're gonna jump off a cliff or, or a bridge you know, onto a, a lake, or if you're bungee jumping, you've done this, I know the longer you stand up there and look down the higher it gets. Right. And the more scary it gets. So you literally have to just go there and jump. So when people don't wanna jump, I'm the guy that just gives 'em a little nudge <laugh>

Warwick Schiller (01:38:24):

Yeah. That, that quote that John Wayne quote, you said before is carriage, is being scared to death and settling up anyway. You know that the, and you, you, you know, you kind of suggested people push

through that and it's like, the bungee jumping was one of those things to where it's like it standing there looking over the edge of that thing, and then having to force your body to do it. Cuz you know, like jumping out of a plane the first time you jump out of a plane, you usually strapped to somebody they're strapped to your back and they go and you just happen to go with them. But the bungee jumping, no one's gonna, no, one's gonna push you off that thing. You've actually gotta get yourself to, to push, you know, and it's, you're actually fighting with yourself because part of you is trying to save you and you've gotta, you've gotta, you've gotta override that and that's and bungee jumping and doing a lot of other things too. But yeah, that's the, that's, that's a skill I think. And I think if you can start, start small and work your way up, you know, don't, don't do the thing that you can't do, do something that's outside your comfort zone that you can do. And then what you'll, what I think you'll find is then it's easier to go, okay. I'll, I'll take a big, you know, I'll take a big leap now because exactly you, you, you practice pushing through that stuff is, I don't know what you think of that.

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:39:47):

Yeah, no, I totally agree with that. And it's like, I always use horses as an example, you know, you can't just get on a green horse and ask them to turn a barrel pattern. You gotta train it. And our minds are the same way we are the same way. You know what I mean? You have to train your mind and it's exactly what you said. You know, you started with small things and, and all of a sudden you're able to do these extraordinary things and, but you gotta take that first step. You know, I, I love a quote that is you don't have to be extraordinary to take that first step, but you do have to take the first step in order to become extraordinary. And yeah, it starts with little things and there's a great power in that when you're able to, because we're our worst enemies, right?

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:40:22):

When you're able to silence that voice, when you're able to silence that fear, that monster and actually do it. You come out the other side feeling like Superman, right? Like first time I rode a bull, like I felt like I could fly after the adrenaline was, was just propelling me to greater Heights. You know what I mean? And, and that adrenaline can, can be used for you. You know, you hear about athletes talking about that all the time about soldiers, you know, you get this like extra, you know, almost superhero like power in the last stretch, which is the adrenaline that your body's releasing to keep you alive. Again, it's all goes back to survival. And so anyways, I just, I love the, the human mind. It's unbelievable what we can achieve.

Warwick Schiller (01:41:06):

Yeah. Well, I, you know, what I love about your story is, and you said it on here and you, and you said it the night, I think we went to dinner, you know, you, you did this amazing thing that people go, oh, I could never do that sort of thing. But then you start out your story with, I was a scared little boy. I was scared of everything. And so a hundred

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:41:25):

Percent,

Warwick Schiller (<u>01:41:26</u>):

You know, that, I think that's probably, to me that's probably the most important part for everybody. It's it's not like you are, you're a bit like Heather Swan who, you know, at 40 was yeah. Not adventurous at all and then pushed herself to, you know, break a world, highest wing suiting base jumping record. And,

and yeah, that's, I think that's one of the things that's, you know, apart from your whole story about what you did, but the you know, cuz I think, I think we're all wired a bit different and some people are pretty gungho and, and others aren't and I think the ones that aren't, that gungho the ones that, that have a lot of natural fear think that they're stuck with it. I mean, I'm that way. And I, I, I always thought for the longest time I was, I was oh, I'm just stuck with it, you know, and exactly. Yeah. As you learn to, to push through it. And, and I was later in life when I started to learn to push through things. So you know, it's, it's never too late to start.

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:42:29):

It's never too late to start and you're right. And I think that, that's what makes my story so relatable, right? Is that people see themselves in it. Someone told me the other day when I finished my talk, he's like, man, the other day we got a guy in here. He was the Olympic gold medalist for Brazil volleyball. And like when I, when his talk finished, I was like, I can never be an Olympic gold medalist. Like I'd have to be born again. You know what I mean? But with your story, I feel like I can do it. You know, anyone can do it. And that's, what's cool about it. And I like, you met me. I'm no stronger than anyone else. I'm not more intelligent. I am not more courageous. That's for sure. I'm a, I'm a very afraid I wanna say kid, I feel like I'm an eternal kid. I'm an old man now. But you know, the only difference that I have from anyone else is that I wrote it down, took the first step, pulled you aside planned and executed that's it, which anyone can do.

Warwick Schiller (<u>01:43:19</u>):

I would, I would beg to differ. You have a, you have a an energy, like a vibrancy about you. Like you know, we, we normally, when I, for you guys at home, normally when I record these podcasts on the screen in front of us, we can see each other. And I was really looking forward to, to doing this with Philippe because there's a, there's a light that shines outta you when you you're passionate about, about stuff and our internet connection. Wasn't good. So we turned the screens off just so that we can record the thing and not have an interruption. So I'm of missing that bit. But no, there is a, and I don't know if you've always had that, but you have this, you have this energy, this vibe, this it's like, there's a light shines outta you and energy that comes out of you. And I don't know if, if that was normal for you or that is just something that's happened along the way when you, okay. I guess if you F when you, I think when you find your purpose and you find your passion, that that, that can come out of you.

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:44:21):

Yeah. I think that, you know, looking at you, it's the same thing. I feel the same way looking at you and talking to you, you know what I mean? And I think that you just nailed it. It's, it's that passion it's doing what we love. It's actually taking advantage of this this moment, this opportunity, like we tend to forget, like the only thing we know, folks, everyone listening to me right now is that this life as a beginning, a middle and a man, that's the only thing we know it's gonna expire a ticket is gonna expire. We don't know when and where, but it's gonna end. And I meet so many people out there that are living with these masks and are living for other people and are not doing what the men here to do. You know, they're not living a full, fulfilling, happy life.

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:45:02):

And yeah. So I think that when we do that, when we're able to, again, but that fear aside, I know it's really hard and you know, the butterflies they flopping and, and people around you that you think are gonna push you forward, pull you back. But when you're able to just put that all aside and, and focus on

what is it that I'm here for and what is my purpose? It's just, you know, it's all light, we're all energy. The energy we put out is the energy that comes at its, you know, that's, that's proven fact we're energy. And yeah. So I try to put the best energy out all the time.

Warwick Schiller (01:45:31):

You have. Yeah. You have an amazing energy and, and such an amazing story. So thank you so much for joining me on the podcast here. Can you give us all the details of, of how to find you and all your, all your stuff? So, okay. Let's go over the books. So there's, there's two books so far. Yep. Long ride home and long ride to the end of the world. And where can people find those?

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:45:57): You can find those on amazon.com or amazon.ca Warwick Schiller (01:46:02): Okay. Amazon.Com. Amazon CA what about you on social media? You're on Instagram. My name. Filipe Masetti Leite (01:46:09): Yep. So I'm on Instagram. I'm at Felipe Mati. My name is spelled FILIPE MaSETT. I, Warwick Schiller (01:46:21): I got a question for you about Brazilians in their names. Filipe Masetti Leite (01:46:25): <Laugh> Warwick Schiller (01:46:26): So shoot, your name is Philip Mati LA Filipe Masetti Leite (01:46:31): No, no. My real name Islip Machi. Warwick Schiller (01:46:37): It's true. Oh, the very good. So what is, what it, what is it with the three names? Filipe Masetti Leite (01:46:43): Ah, it's just ridiculous. What's the, what's the names.

Warwick Schiller (01:46:45):

What's the last names.

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:46:46):

There's no middle names. There's no middle names. My name is Felipe. My last name is Mati. The Suza lek because they just wanna bring like, oh, let's pull the last name from your great, great grandfather.

Who's been dead for 300 years to honor him. And then we'll put in the last name from your great, great grandmother who never came to Brazil from Italy. So it's just be, it's a mess. I have so many banking problems and traveling problems as if it wasn't complicated enough. Cuz my name is so long.

Warwick Schiller (01:47:13):

Okay. So they they're, they're kinda like a woman that gets married and keeps her maiden name and has the, the new one. But it's but it's different. Cause like living at all the Brazilian bull riders, they've all got a lot of names and I wondered yeah. Just how, how all that works. Okay. That makes sense.

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:47:30):

Yeah. All last names.

Warwick Schiller (01:47:32):

Okay. So Instagram Philippe me. What about the, what about the movie? Does, do you get anything else you can tell people

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:47:44):

About the movie? So I would like to invite everyone listening to this June 16th, 7:00 PM at the Chinese theaters, iconic downtown Hollywood, Los Angeles. We're gonna start, we're gonna have a little cocktail at 5:00 PM. Red carpet. There's gonna be a real vibe there. I hope people that live in the area that are listening to this in California, please do come out. We need cowboy hats. We need cowboy boots. We need to celebrate the horse. You know, I know California's trying to band rodeo and, and this is the time to, to join together right now and show our power and how much we love these animals. So if you can come out, that would be the big one. And then we're gonna be in Wyoming, Cheyenne, Wyoming. You can check out dates on my Instagram page AF Philippe CEI also gonna be in Washington state and a few other festivals around the us. So you can check it out there.

Warwick Schiller (<u>01:48:32</u>):

Awesome. And my, I just texted my wife and we're gonna be in Australia on June 16th. So unfortunately I cannot make that. I would, that's something I would love to do, but

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:48:40):

Yeah, well we'll, we'll figure it out. We'll get you to see it at some point.

Warwick Schiller (01:48:44):

Oh, we most certainly will. Well, once again, thanks so much for joining me on the journey on podcast a you guys at home. Thanks for joining us and we'll catch you on the next episode.

Filipe Masetti Leite (01:48:53):

Thank you so much for having me.

Speaker 2 (01:48:55):

This transcript was exported on May 18, 2022 - view latest version here.

Thanks for listening to the Journey On Podcast with Warwick Schiller. Warwick has over 850 full-length training videos on his online video library at videos.warwickschiller.com Be sure to follow Warwick on YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram, to see his latest training advice and insights.