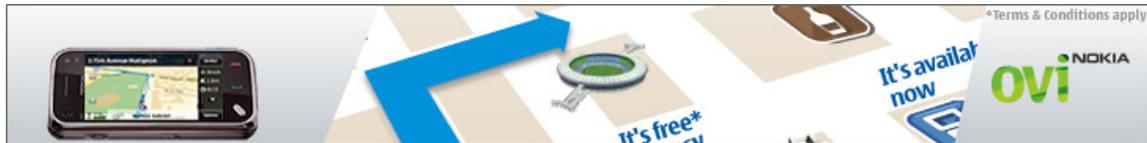




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## Mission possible transcript



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Reporter: Michael Davie

Producer: Fiona Baker

Donnie Fritts: Sometimes I'll be walking where there's shops and you'll look and you'll see in the window and you'll say who's that? And then you realize it's you and it catches you sometimes and like I say I feel like Donnie but I don't look like him.

MICHAEL FAVIE: In August 2003, only two years after he married for a second time, 45 year old Donnie Fritts's was told he had cancer. A rare form of cancer that was literally eating away his face.

Donnie Fritts: I asked my doctor what's the chances of beating this? And I remember him saying I give you less than a two percent chance of living.

Sharon Fritts: The doctors said they were going to remove your forehead, part of your brain, your nose, your top lip, lymph nodes, possibly an eye.

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MICHAEL DAVIE: No one had ever survived this form of cancer.

Sharon Fritts: I felt fear, unlike anything I had felt before.

MICHAEL DAVIE: And so began Donnie's twelve hour operation to beat the odds.

Can you describe what it was like when you took the bandages off?

Donnie Fritts: I couldn't see myself at all to me, I was completely different. I felt like myself inside, but to see my reflection it was like I was looking at a monster. I began to cry – to see everything removed like that.

Sharon Fritts: Donnie couldn't speak right after the surgery because he had a tracheotomy and this is what he used to communicate with me. This day, he wrote – you Sharon would like to just get out of here, are a living thing and I am, I feel like a dead dying thing and I said, why are you saying this? And he wrote, I saw myself today.

MICHAEL DAVIE: How did you feel when you read that?

Sharon Fritts: I leaned over and said I tried to reassure him that I loved him despite of this and he kept shaking his head and pointing and saying dead dying thing – it tore my heart out because how do you tell him when he feels how he feels, that it's not going to be this bad.

MICHAEL DAVIE: Donnie and Sharon Fritts live in Calhoun, Georgia.

Donnie Fritts: We love the town, we have been blessed by the people, they have helped us out tremendously.

MICHAEL DAVIE: Wherever Donnie goes in this town people greet him with open arms. And open wallets.

Sharon Fritts: We're a little town and you have to pump sunshine into us, but we try to take care of ours. If you can't help somebody in need where are we going to be? We have to help each other.

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## Primetime TV Guide

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	7-8pm	8-9pm	9-10pm	10-11pm
SEVEN	7:00 <a href="#">Home and Away</a>		7:30 <a href="#">Australia's Got Talent</a>	
7TWO	7:30 <a href="#">Ugly Betty</a>			
ABC1	7:00 <a href="#">ABC News</a>		7:30 <a href="#">The 7.30 Report</a>	
ABC2	7:13 <a href="#">The Daily Show with Jon Stewart</a>		7:36 <a href="#">The Colbert Report</a>	
NINE	7:00 <a href="#">Two and a Half Men</a>		7:30 <a href="#">Top Gear</a>	
GO!	7:30 <a href="#">The Middle</a>			
TEN	7:00 <a href="#">The 7pm Project</a>		7:30 <a href="#">Masterchef Australia</a>	
ONE HD	7:30 <a href="#">MotoGP</a>			
SBS ONE	7:30 <a href="#">Insight</a>			

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MICHAEL DAVIE: Through the generosity of the townsfolk, Donnie has had numerous surgeries to reconstruct his face.

Friend: Donnie Fritts is a courageous man.

MICHAEL DAVIE: So far the bills are in the region of a million dollars. Donnie relies on the town's help because while American Medicare paid for him to have his face off, they refuse to put it back on.

Sharon Fritts: It's called cosmetic and they won't pay for it.

Donnie Fritts: First it was tears of sadness because I had lost my face, but to see what you people do, I've cried tears of joy.

MICHAEL DAVIE: But there's one final procedure to go - his new nose. Just outside of Washington DC, in Ashburn Virginia, Donnie's new nose is being crafted by an ex CIA spy. Yep, you heard that correctly. Bob Barron was the CIA's equivalent to Hollywood's Mission Impossible, but Bob's masks weren't for the box office... they were the real deal.

Bob Barron: The disguises had to pass the closest scrutiny; their lives depended on the realism of that disguise to keep them alive. If they were penetrating something and they were in an area where that disguise would attract attention their life would be in jeopardy. So there was a lot riding on my shoulders to keep this from happening. And I'm happy to say that I never lost one agent.

MICHAEL DAVIE: For 24 years Bob was the master of disguise, and after retiring, this energetic 66 year old was not prepared to take it easy. He decided to put his skills to another use.

Bob Barron: If you can put someone in hiding then you can bring that person out of hiding with a prosthetic device. If I could change somebody's identity, I could give that identity back to that person with prosthetics.

MICHAEL DAVIE: For 16 years he has done just that, changing the lives of ordinary people...who have been disfigured from congenital diseases, accidents or cancer.

Bob Barron: I know what I'm going to do for everyone who walks in that door - I'm going to make a difference in their life and that's a best feeling.

MICHAEL DAVIE: Today it's 6 year old Micah's turn. Micah Davis has microtia. A congenital ear deformity, it occurs 1 in every 12000 births. His parents had originally looked at surgery but then they saw the results Bob was having with other children.

Mr Davis: We thought we only had one option and when we found out about the prosthetic it made all our problems go away. We wanted to jump for joy that didn't have to put him through several surgeries.

Bob Barron: Si it will go just like that. That's straight on.

Mr Davis: That looks great.

Bob Barron: That's going to be a good fit. Look straight at me.

MICHAEL DAVIE: This silicone ear has taken patience and many hours to sculpt. Every bend, every pore, every vein is added. It's the exact mirror image of Micah's other ear and now it's meticulously painted to match his skin. When completed, Micah will be able to wear it during the day and take it off at night.

Bob Barron: Okay, do you want to go see it? Look straight in the mirror. What do you think?

Micah Davis: Cool.

Bob Barron: Now you can wear glasses.

Micah Davis: Thank you.

Bob Barron: Are you going to give me a hug? You're my buddy, you're my pal. You can put your glasses on now. Can you believe that? Look at that.

Micah Davis: I'm the luckiest kid.

MICHAEL DAVIE: Were there times Donnie when it all got too much?

Donnie Fritts: Yep, and that wasn't very long ago.

Bob Barron: Anyone who has gone through what Donnie has gone through has gone to hell and back...and now he's going to live a different life. I'm going to give him the opportunity of going out in the public without those embarrassing stares and unwanted attention. Once I make that nose for him and put those eyebrows on him, he's going to be a different person.

MICHAEL DAVIE: Donnie's new features will be attached to this permanent gold frame. His prosthetic nose will duplicate the function of a real one. He can simply adhere it during the day and take it off at night. And, the reality of it all has hit him.

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Donnie Fritts: I've got so many emotions running through me. It's going to be worth it.

MICHAEL DAVIE: Now it's just a matter of the eyebrows and the transformation is complete.

Bob Barron: Shall we go to the mirror?

Donnie Fritts: I'm ready.

Bob Barron: Come on big guy.

Donnie Fritts: Wow! It looks great doesn't it.

Sharon Fritts: It sure does. You'll have to learn to kiss me.

Donnie Fritts: I don't have to worry about that big old hole and that slit on my face anymore. Woe. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything you've done. I saw a movie once, The Man Without a Face, well Donnie Fritts has got his face back and I thank you for it. Thank you so much.

Bob Barron: You bet.

MICHAEL DAVIE: Are you ready to go out?

Donnie Fritts: This is so good man, I'm telling you.

Sharon Fritts: You look really good but you always look good to me.

Donnie Fritts: I look good, real good.

Sharon Fritts: I've always seen the way I saw him going down the aisle the day we got married. I think he's the most beautiful man alive.

Sunday 13th 6:30 pm



## 1 Comment

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Show:



**Ann** 06:40am Monday 19th April 2010 EST

What a great story...My husband lost his ear due to melanoma and we were set to have the plastic surgeon rebuild his ear...but the pictures of outcomes were frightening. Our daughter in law mentioned that she had seen a man on TV who could make ears that looked real...we thought RIGHT!...We did rese ...

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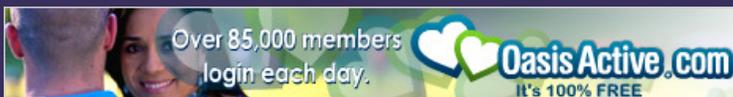
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