

■ Here's a twist: Bully-chef Gordon Ramsay (left) cried on TV last night. Seems he shed real tears when the pigs he'd been raising were put to the knife and made into dinners for a Chelsea restaurant on his British TV series, "The F Word." "Not a nice experience," he said.

TV Thursday

Men of steel

The 9/11 story no one has told: Ironworkers

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A word to Hollywood from this New Yorker: We don't need your fake re-enactments of 9/11 — no matter how famous the stars, and no matter how much money you hope to make on our tragedy. Sorry, we have the real deal right here, right now.

Yesterday I spent the morning with some of the real deals — ironworkers who put in 14-to-16-hour days for months, dismantling 190,568 tons of steel at Ground Zero with temperatures in the hole unbearably hot.

What they did is miraculous and the humility they display is astounding — and the fact that they worked after being refused safety gear by FEMA is unspeakable on FEMA's part and unspeakably brave on their parts.

I know all this because just as Oliver Stone's re-enactment was opening, I was watching a 9/11 documentary called "**Metal of Honor**" by filmmaker Rachel Maguire, which will be shown on Spike TV on Sept. 5.

"Metal of Honor" is at once

horrible and beautiful, terrifying and lyrical.

It's a film about the all-guts-and-no-glory ironworkers who rushed down to Ground Zero and didn't leave until there was nothing left of the mountainous pile of molten steel but a hole in the ground.

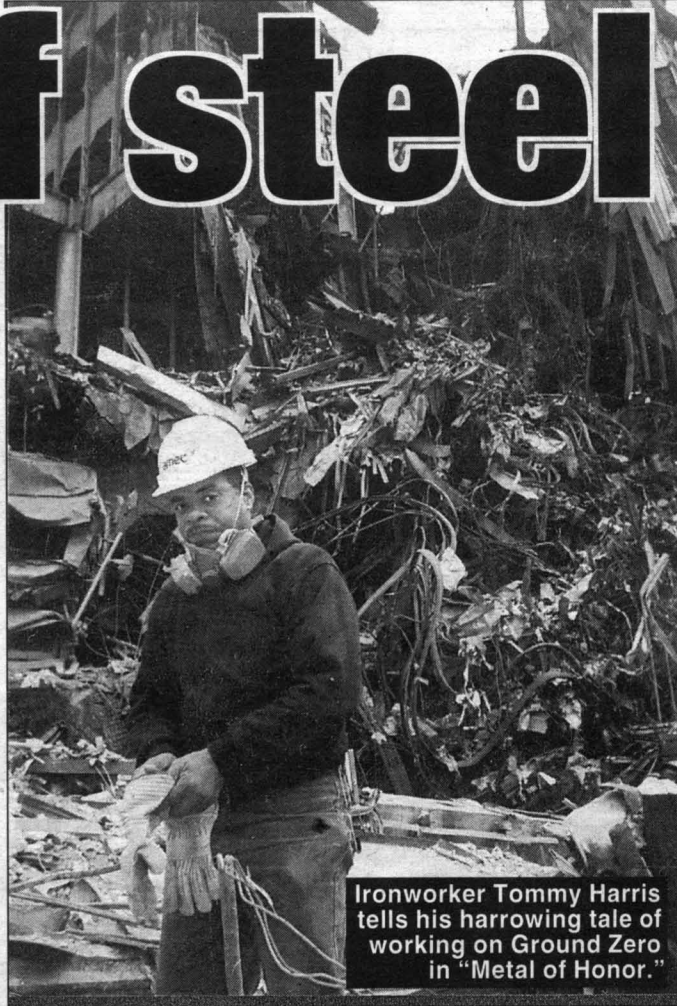
"We didn't go down there looking for work, we went down there because they are the buildings that we put up — that our fathers and grandfathers put up," says one ironworker.

The film shows how they crawled down through and up 100 feet of hot steel, even though sometimes it could explode when the buried ends were exposed to the air.

One of the workers who watched the film yesterday is Paul Gaulden, a retired ironworker whose first job was building the World Trade Center, and his last was dismantling it.

"When we were putting those towers up, in our wildest dreams, those towers were built not to fall... And [after the attack] you know, nobody was getting paid. Our country was under attack, and we just wanted to help..." he said, tearing up.

Ironworker Larry Keating told me, "Everybody was running around like crazy — but you



Ironworker Tommy Harris tells his harrowing tale of working on Ground Zero in "**Metal of Honor**."

could tell who the ironworkers were. They had the blow-torches and they knew what they were there for and what they were doing. We wanted to find people alive."

Another worker, Tommy Harris — an emotional, sweet-heart kinda guy, whose words are lyrically poetic — says of the job before 9/11, "Putting the steel together is a thing of beauty." And after, "For a few

minutes, we were all the same."

When the last steel from Ground Zero was removed, the workers had a ceremony — and didn't allow one politician or any, as they called them, "visiting celebrities" into the pit.

"Even Bloomberg had to watch from above," said Keating.

"Metal of Honor" is, in the words of Tommy Harris, "a thing of beauty."