



PRESS ARTICLE

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“THE FORGOTTEN CITY”

By Asantewa Holley

Talented young filmmakers share a Buffalo story in their powerful debut film. But one thing's for sure, “The Forgotten City” will leave it's viewers with no choice but to remember.



Although they titled it “The Forgotten City,” the mere fact that several talented and visionary young filmmakers actually made a documentary about the reality of their hometown, is proof that they clearly have not abandoned hope for Buffalo.

“There's a lot more to Buffalo than chicken wings, snow and the Buffalo Bills,” stated Corey Green. “There is the good, the bad, and the ugly, but if you are unable to recognize we are living in an environment where all three exist, any movement to better the state we are living in will be ineffective”.

Green is the creative young co-director, who, along with filmmakers/co-director Addison Henderson, associate producer Christian Johnson and producer Melvin Williams make up Knuckle City Films, producers of the soul stirring empowering documentary, “The Forgotten City.”

Knuckle City Films will host a red carpet world movie premiere of “The Forgotten City” on Saturday June 10 at The Market Arcade Film and Arts Center located at 639 Main Street at 8 p.m. on two screens and at 10 p.m. encore screening. It's an event you won't want to miss.

“The Forgotten City” takes place right here in Buffalo and explores race relations, segregation, crime, and politics. Through exclusive breathtaking footage and one-on-one interviews with many citizens and some of the area's most influential leaders, the film seeks to answer how a city that was once booming with life withered and died before our very eyes.

From newly elected Mayor Byron Brown to the struggles of a father in search of employment in a barren town, “The Forgotten City” looks into a direct cause and effect relationship that has plagued what was once known as “the Queen City on the Great Lakes.” Today Buffalo is one of the poorest cities in the country.

“The Forgotten City” is not only the bitter truth about our city, but all inner cities. It effectively challenges stereotypes, encourages change and shakes up the status quo.

It took the creative team about one year to complete the film. And they have already made impressive progress. Their immediate goal is to get the film picked up by a distributor, and according to associate producer Johnson, HBO, Showtime, Oprah and the Tavis Smiley have already shown an interest. In addition, “The Forgotten City” was recently selected to be screened at the American Black Film Festival this July in Miami, Florida.

What inspired screenwriters Henderson and Green to produce the in-depth documentary?

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A tragic murder in the inner city of Buffalo affected both Green and Henderson directly (one was the friend to the victim and the other to the murder). Instead of retaliation the two decided on a power move to create awareness and the push for change, which would prove to be far more powerful.

The reception has been amazing so far. With months of interviews and footage, this documentary will surely leave its mark on Buffalo.

There's history here" stated Henderson "working on this project created awareness amongst ourselves and we want to create a sense of pride and hope for a change within the city."

With the preview trailer showing in venues throughout Western New York the film has created a buzz and has been the center point for numerous discussions throughout the area. "Our purpose was not just to present the problems in the city. This is about education and change," noted producer Melvin Williams. The documentary is made to place it's viewers in direct contact; asking the questions and going to places in search of understanding. We live here; we grew up in these areas. It's not a research project on the inner city. This is everyday life for us."

Added Green: "We would like the audience to walk away with a feeling of hope and renewed spirit."

One thing is for sure, Knuckle City Films' "The Forgotten City" will leave its viewers with no choice but to remember.

Addison Henderson and Maracas Dela Torre formed Knuckle City Films in 2005. The Company's mission is to accurately portray real situations and consequences by creating superior films that are truthful and sincere, which inspire audiences and effect meaningful change.

"The Forgotten City" is a testament to that mission. "We live daily in a world of stereotypes and divided lines; within these lines there is a true story."

"No matter your class experience or situation, you will be able to relate to these universal truths Knuckle City Films brings to the screen," assured Henderson.

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