

DAVID MAGDAEL & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Entertainment Communications

600 W. 9th Street, Suite 715

Los Angeles, CA 90015

Ofc: 213 624 7827 Fax: 213 488 0398

CHANGING THE GAME

Directed by Emmy® Award-winner Michael Barnett

Produced by Clare Tucker

Executive Produced by Alex Schmider, Chris Mosier

Featuring Mack Beggs, Sarah Rose Huckman, Andraya Yearwood



World Premiere - 2019 Tribeca Film Festival

YEAR 2019 | COUNTRY U.S.A. | RUN TIME 90 mins

SALES CONTACT:

United Talent Agency

Grace Royer

RoyerG@unitedtalent.com

PRESS CONTACT:

David Magdael & Associates

David Magdael

DMagdael@tcdm-associates.com

Vince Johnson

VJohnson@tcdm-associates.com

Elisha Gustafson

Elisha@tcdm-associates.com

2019 Tribeca Film Festival Screenings:

Friday, April 26th at 8:30 PM at Village East Cinema - **World Premiere**

Saturday, April 27th at 2:00 PM at Village East Cinema - **Press/Industry Screening 1**

Sunday, April 28th at 2:00 PM at Regal Cinemas Battery Park Friday, May 3rd at 11:30 AM at Village East Cinemas - **Press/Industry Screening 2**

Friday, May 3rd at 3:45 PM at Village East Cinemas

Saturday, May 4th at 9:45 PM at Village East Cinemas

CHANGING THE GAME

Directed by Michael Barnett

ABOUT THE FILM

LOGLINE

Transgender high school athletes from across the country challenge the boundaries and perceptions of fairness and discrimination.

SYNOPSIS

This intimate story takes us into the lives of three high school athletes from across the US – all at different stages of their athletic seasons, each sharing their lives as transgender teens.

Mack Beggs made headlines last year when he became the Texas State Champion in girls wrestling – as a boy. Drawing international media coverage, he was heralded as a hero by some while receiving hate and threats from others. He plays by the rules outlined by the state of Texas, competing as the gender assigned on his birth certificate, but openly confesses he only wants to wrestle boys. The tumultuous press surrounding his success, it continues to pull Mack in multiple directions as he and his family navigate the media and this year's State wrestling tournament, all while trying to prepare for college.

Andraya Yearwood began competing on her high school girls track team in April 2017 as a transgender female. According to Connecticut's state policy Andraya is allowed to compete how she identifies. However, after winning two state titles for the 100 and 200 meter dash, she gained international media coverage igniting debate about fairness. Amidst growing controversy, her bravery and openness has inspired another transgender student athlete to come out and openly compete on her school's girls track team.

Sarah Rose Huckman lives in New Hampshire where she openly competes on the girls cross country ski team – but her eligibility could be challenged at anytime. Her home state requires transgender students to have gender confirmation surgery to officially compete on the team which they identify. But Sarah saw this policy as far too harsh for 15 and 16 year olds, and it launched her into campaigning for policy change. Achieving success with the New

Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association to bring the issue to a local school-by-school decision level, Sarah continues to work with her family to advocate for policy change and transgender rights alongside GLAD and lawmakers. Beyond her heart for policy change, Sarah is active in her student government and hosts her own YouTube channel.

Each story is led by the brave and individual voices of these students, allowing extremely personal and vulnerable access into their journeys. These courageous kids offer us the opportunity to see the world through their eyes – and share their struggles and successes along the way.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

FILMMAKER Q&A

How did this film come about? How did the idea originate? What inspired you?

Having a personal relationship with the transgender community is where this film all started. Wanting to be an ally and an advocate for someone I care deeply about led me to Mack's story. And Mack's story led us to other transgender teens trying to navigate policy and discrimination in varying sports and states all around the US. So after talking with athletes in the transgender community like Chris Mosier, and meeting with transgender media strategists like Alex Schmider of GLAAD, we all thought this story had not been told; certainly not through the eyes of teenage athletes. And with the guidance of Alex Schmider and Chris Mosier the journey began!

How long did it take to make the film - from concept to finish?

This film took just over two years to make. The first year was spent really talking with the athletes and their families. Being very honest about the attention the film might bring. We wanted to let everyone in the film understand the positives, as well as the negatives of participating. Once we had our athletes all lined up, we filmed for an entire school year following each athlete through their sports season and school year - editing all the while.

Did the film change from your original idea for the film as you were filming or in post? Perhaps talk about how making this film has impacted your life, as well.

All documentaries evolve as we proceed through the process. And this film was no different. It is a verite film. Truly. So we had no idea what was going to happen until it happened. We just went along for the journey and were privileged to get a front row seat. I am grateful and honored and proud to share this film. And my life is forever changed for having this opportunity to tell these stories.

Share a story about filming.

The scariest moment of filming came when Mack was wrestling at the Texas State Tournament. After he had won his second state title, the place erupted in anger and hatred and boos. There was certainly cheering as well. The mix of emotion was overwhelming. Mack was rushed out of the auditorium for safety purposes, as the place was electric with emotion. After the emotion settled, Mack came out to take the podium. I was scared for him and could not have been more proud with how he handled himself with courage and poise. Our entire crew was overcome with emotion. We were so proud of him and so honored to be there.

What were the challenges in making this film?

The film was certainly not without its challenges. The very first athlete we began filming with suffered a severe sports injury at his very first meet of the season and sadly, we had to make the tough decision to discontinue filming. Not knowing if our athletes would succeed, or be injured, or knowing anything at all was nerve wracking. Trying to make the film look as beautiful as can be to honor the athletes was tough to maintain with our meager doc resources. Traveling constantly for a year to film was challenging. Raising money was challenging. Editing multiple athlete's story lines into one seamless film was incredibly difficult. The emotion and hatred and bullying the athletes was, at times, terrifying. The reluctance from school administrations to allow us to film was beyond frustrating. But I would do it all again in an instant. It was all absolutely worth every single moment.

What were the successes that you had in making this film?

Getting to spend time with some of the most courageous humans I have ever met will be what stays with me the most. Being a part of a team that had the privilege of sharing these stories is a career high point for me. I hope audiences that experience this film feel just a fraction of this courage. It was so moving and emotional and unforgettable.

Another aspect of the film that made it so successful was listening to our transgender partners and collaborating on every level to ensure not just that we were following the best practices during production, but that our final film was something we could all support and be proud of and be inspired by.

Was there a something special technically that you utilized in making this film - your cameras or sound or editing etc... and why were these important?

We filmed in anamorphic, 4K, on the newest technology available. We filmed on Panasonic Varicam and Arri Mini's, with Vintage Anamorphic lenses (Kowa Anamorphics). This is certainly rare for a documentary. We did this on a tiny budget, with an even smaller crew. Often times just two of us. It was difficult to maintain the aesthetic over the course of a year of filming but the goal was always to create a beautiful film that was worthy of the athletes and their actions. Anything less was unacceptable.

Where do you find inspiration or who/what has influenced you as a filmmaker?

We watched every sports doc, sports commercial, sports film we could get our hands on. Nothing was an exact fit. But it all helped inform a style. We settled on a deeply personal verite aesthetic on long anamorphic lenses. To feel like we were there with the athletes in an intimate way that did not feel voyeuristic or intrusive. The technical constraints we created by adhering to this style were tough to maintain over the course of filming. We are certainly proud of the results. And glad we pushed the "look" of the film to the edge of what was possible.

What do you want audiences to take away from this film?

Love and acceptance are my greatest hopes from audiences who come see our film.

- Michael Barnett

SUBJECT BIOS

MACK BEGGS

Mack Beggs is a freshman at Life University, in Marietta, Georgia. He previously attended Trinity High School, in Euless, Texas where his family still resides. Forced to compete as the gender assigned on his birth certificate, Mack competed in the girls University Interscholastic League (UIL) in high school. His girls UIL accolades include; freshman year (2015 – 2nd place Districts, 4th place Regional), sophomore year (2016 – 3rd place Regionals, 2nd place Districts), junior year (2017 – 1st place in Districts, Regionals, and 1st place State Champion). As a senior in 2018, he repeated his State Title win – achieving 1st place in Districts, Regionals and State for the second year in a row which ignited controversial international press coverage. When not in practice, Mack enjoys being outdoors and spending time with friends and family.

SARAH ROSE HUCKMAN

Sarah Rose Huckman is a senior student athlete at Kingswood Regional High School in New Hampshire. Originally born in Cambodia, she and her identical twin brother were adopted at seven months old by their parents. Sarah now lives with her family in Ossipee, New Hampshire where she competes in girls varsity sports of cross country running, spring track and Nordic skiing. In addition to her athletics, she is active in 4H, is a Ski Instructor, and is a three-year member of the New Hampshire Legislative Youth Advisory Council. Sarah Rose is excited to start her next chapter at the University of New Hampshire this fall, majoring in Social Work with a minor in Psychology. Her passions include; singing in chorus and curating her YouTube channel, where she vlogs about daily life and her transgender journey.

ANDRAYA YEARWOOD

Andraya Yearwood is an American transgender student athlete from Cromwell, Connecticut. She began competing on the girls' track team in April 2017. She is a Shoreline Champion (Indoor: 55 meter dash; 300 meter dash, Sprint Medley Relay) (Outdoor: 100 meter dash, the 200 meter dash) for two consecutive years and an All-State Champion in the (Indoor: 55 meter dash, Sprint Medley Relay)(Outdoor: 100 meter dash, 200 meter dash) for three consecutive years. In addition to her high school accolades, she is the first openly transgender athlete to ever compete at the New Balance Nationals. In her personal life, Yearwood has had to endure many challenges including; being born prematurely, finding out that her father was not her biological father, and dealing with her own gender identification. In order to overcome these challenges, Andraya depends on the support of her friends, family, and community. They have motivated her to speak out and advocate for other transgender students. In addition to track, Andraya enjoys learning multiple languages, shopping, and traveling.

CREATIVE TEAM BIOS

DIRECTOR/SCREENWRITER/CINEMATOGRAPHER - MICHAEL BARNETT

Michael Barnett is an Emmy® Award-winning filmmaker. His films include SUPERHEROS (HBO Documentary Films) which won over a dozen festivals and multiple Emmy® nominations; BECOMING BULLETPROOF (Showtime), winner of over 25 awards; and THE MARS GENERATION (Netflix Original/Sundance premiere), 2018 Best Science & Technology Documentary Emmy® nominee.

PRODUCER - CLARE TUCKER

Clare Tucker is an Emmy Award nominated television and film producer. Her films include; THE MARS GENERATION (Netflix Original/Sundance premiere), 2018 Best Science & Technology Documentary Emmy nominee, ABOVE AND BEYOND: NASA'S JOURNEY TO TOMORROW (Discovery), a documentary that takes an informative and engaging look at how NASA has not only reached out into our solar system since 1958, but has also revealed the changing state of our home planet, RHAPSODY IN BLACK, about a Los Angeles Radio DJ who transports his audience back in time to explore historic Black Los Angeles through music and 605 ADULTS 304 CHILDREN, an immersive and intimate short documentary filmed entirely by The Peoples Temple In Jonestown.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER - ALEX SCHMIDER

Alex Schmider is a media and communications professional, named one of the Forbes 30 Under 30 for Media in 2017. He is a recognized transgender media spokesman, the Associate Director of Transgender Representation at the nation's leading LGBTQ media advocacy organization GLAAD, cultural consultant, and film producer. He is Executive Producer of SuperFilms! Tribeca submission, CHANGING THE GAME, which follows the triumphant stories of transgender high school athletes competing across the country.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER – CHRIS MOSIER

Chris Mosier is a trailblazing athlete and the first openly transgender man to make a Men's US National Team; he is now a men's All-American duathlete and six-time member of Team USA, representing the United States in sprint triathlon and short and long course duathlon. Chris has mentored and inspired athletes around the world after being featured in multiple global Nike campaigns. He is the founder of TransAthlete.com, the leading resource for information on transgender inclusion in sport. Chris consults on inclusive sport policy and speaks around the globe about inclusion, allyship, masculinity, and his journey as a groundbreaking athlete.

SCREENWRITER/EDITOR - MICHAEL MAHAFFIE

Michael Mahaffie has been a film editor since 2010. He has worked on over a dozen films including HOLY HELL, THE MARS GENERATION, and BECOMING BULLETPROOF. His films have premiered at Sundance, Tribeca, Slamdance and other film festivals. He has been a Documentary Programmer at Slamdance Film Festival since 2014. As a high school athlete Michael played varsity volleyball.

SCREENWRITER/EDITOR - AMANDA GRIFFIN

Amanda Griffin, a film editor based in Los Angeles, has edited multiple award-winning feature length and short films. Her feature credits include ANIMALS (2014) SXSW Film Festival Special Jury Award Winner, A LIGHT BENEATH THEIR FEET (2015), AMERICAN FABLE (2016), ALL CREATURES HERE BELOW (2018), and JAWLINE (2019) Sundance Film Festival Special Jury Award Winner. In addition to features she edited the short documentaries ICE BREAKER (2018) commissioned by Vogue, and THE 414's: THE ORIGINAL TEENAGE HACKERS (2015) which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and was acquired by CNN.

CINEMATOGRAPHER - TURNER JUMONVILLE

Raised in Houston, Texas, Turner's filmmaking journey began in 5th grade with a few friends & a JVC GR-C1 - the same video camera Marty McFly time-travelled with. Upon graduation from the University of Denver in 1996, Turner moved to Los Angeles. He worked his way up as a Camera Assistant for Cinematographers Kent L. Wakeford & Daniel Pearl, ASC. Turner shoots lifestyle & commercial content, documentary & narrative features & music videos. His work has premiered at The Sundance Film Festival, The Tribeca Film Festival, AFI DOCS Film Festival & Hot Docs Film Festival. He has shot commercials & branded content for Toyota, AirBnB, Logitech & M&Ms. He won an Emmy Award for his contribution to the 2014 Disney Christmas Day Parade.

COMPOSER - TYLER STRICKLAND

Tyler is a film composer based in Los Angeles. Since his departure from life as a touring musician in 2013, his compositions for film have accompanied over twenty acclaimed documentaries such as the Emmy-nominated Netflix Original Documentaries; HOT GIRLS WANTED (Sundance) and THE MARS GENERATION (Sundance), as well as Peabody-Award Winning, AUDRIE & DAISY (Sundance), and Emmy-nominated, THE RETURN (Tribeca). Tyler has scored half a dozen Netflix Original Documentaries, as well as films for HBO, Showtime and National Geographic.

PRODUCTION COMPANIES

SUPERFILMS! Is a full-service production company creating Award-Winning feature documentaries, narrative film, television and commercial/branded content. At SUPERFILMS! we tirelessly pursue the most timely, authentic, and complex stories. We aim to inspire, challenge, and captivate. SUPERFILMS! was founded in 2012 by Michael Barnett and is located in Los Angeles, California.

PARTNERS

IT GETS BETTER is a nonprofit organization with a mission to uplift, empower, and connect lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer youth around the globe. Growing up isn't easy, especially when you are trying to affirm and assert your sexual orientation and/or gender identity. It can be a challenging and isolating process – but, the good news is, no one has to do it alone.

<https://itgetsbetter.org>

CHANGING THE GAME

Directed by Michael Barnett

GLOSSARY of Terms Courtesy Of GLAAD

<https://www.glaad.org/reference/transgender>

GLAAD's Media Reference Guide

<http://www.glaad.org/sites/default/files/GLAAD-Media-Reference-Guide-Tenth-Edition.pdf>

CHANGING THE GAME

Directed by Michael Barnett

FULL CREDITS

Director: Michael Barnett

Producer: Clare Tucker

Screenwriter: Michael Barnett, Amanda Griffin, Michael Mahaffie

Cinematographer: Turner Jumonville

Editor: Michael Mahaffie, Amanda Griffin

Composer: Tyler Strickland

Executive Producer: Alex Schmider, Chris Mosier, Jeffrey Pechter, Carlos Cusco, Emerson Machtus, Jeffrey Ellermeyer, Andrew Davies Gans, Allen Orr

Associate Producer: Jess Berry, Jenn Roman

Cast: Mack Beggs, Sarah Rose Huckman, Andraya Yearwood