

GR FILMS INC. PRESENTS:

TitleShot



Directed by Gaylen Ross

Feature Documentary
90 minutes

Publicity and distribution inquiries

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From boxing's world-famous Gleason's Gym in Brooklyn, New York to the world class Great Western Forum of Los Angeles, ***TitleShot*** tells the truest of stories as it focuses its lens on sides of the sweet science rarely seen at once — the triumphs, heartbreaks, and intimate behind-the-scenes realities of navigating the harsh realm of professional boxing.

TitleShot follows a Ugandan immigrant's struggle to rise from the unknown and achieve what's nearly impossible: to become a champion.

TitleShot is an all-vérité documentary feature film, a stunning time capsule shot between 1995 to 1997; like the best vérité, it takes the viewer behind the spotlight to a hidden real world. And now a vanishing one. It unveils a touching, difficult, and beautiful truth, uncensored.

Godfrey Nyakana has come from Africa to the south Bronx, hoping to win enough fights to challenge for the junior middleweight title. He's an archetypal hero, stoic yet vulnerable, and the ally/mentor is the memorable Bobby Cassidy, an aging Irish-American fighter turned trainer. Bobby fought 17 times against top-ten fighters, but he never got his title shot; what he has left now is wisdom, memories, and the still-burning ambition to enable a champion.

Like *20 Feet from Stardom*, ***TitleShot*** is about the edges of fame. Godfrey's friend says about him, "This guy is the future, right here. Gonna be the future." But the film pairs the wish for stardom to a hard-scrabble immigrant story, the story of a guy who comes from nothing and works so hard he gets close enough to taste it. Godfrey's struggle to win is a metaphorical version of every immigrant's hope to make it in America. You need to work hard enough to show who you are and what you can do.

Like millions of others, Godfrey takes on the most basic and naked and noble human pursuit there is: to stand up and fight, so you can live. We hear Bobby Cassidy's mantra as he trains Godfrey: "Keep your hands up." It means, Don't let them hit you. You drop your hands, you're gonna get hit. Story of every immigrant's life.

The title shot is the fight of Godfrey's life. Literally.

We watch Godfrey rise to the title shot itself, training in Brooklyn's world-famous Gleason's gym, and find ourselves in a fighter's world. We see cameos from

famous fighters and trainers like Shane Mosley, Kevin Kelley, and Angelo Dundee, manager Tom Loeffler, but this is a real-world place of human struggle and endless work and physical pain, miles from the flash and the blaring promotion of bigtime sports. The cold-blooded business of boxing and money is juxtaposed against Godfrey's physical courage and the tight emotional bond between Godfrey and Bobby.

It's a roller-coaster story as Godfrey fights, loses, rises, and fights again. He's the guy who coulda been a contendah, and then, surprisingly, finds that he is. But how good is his best shot – and what does it feel like to emerge from shadows into spotlight, and give all your strength and soul there? Can he come to the south Bronx and become, against the odds, the champion of the world? And still may not be good enough.....?

Boxing after all is the place where dreams go to die. No one ever gets out of the ring unbeaten, It's not just about triumph or failure, but life or death.

Traditionally films about sports escape into the triumphs of heroes. *TitleShot* instead doesn't take its gaze away from the one who dares to try to become a champion; and of the human will to get off the floor and back in the game.

Website www.titleshotfilm.com

THE FILMMAKERS



GAYLEN ROSS Director, Writer, Producer of documentary films for over 25 years, premiering in national and international film festivals. She has had two films previously in the Berlin International Film Festival: the Emmy award-winning "Blood Money: Switzerland's Nazi Gold," a feature-length documentary on the Swiss Banks and the Holocaust accounts, and the film she directed on diamond dealers" Dealers Among Dealers" aired on PBS' P.O.V and is considered the only inside look into this very cloistered world. Among her films she directed, "Killing Kasztner: The Jew Who Dealt With Nazis," was an official selection of the Toronto International Film Festival, broadcast BBC Storyville, shown in 11 countries and has enjoyed an unprecedented theatrical release in the US, Israel and France. It was named by the LA Times as one of the best documentary films of 2010. And as director, her film "Caris' Peace" about an actress who lost her memory premiered at the Hamptons International Film Festival, won first place Athens Film Festival, Ohio; and presented as the featured film for the Rubin Museum of Art's Brainwave series in New York. Most recently she co-directed two documentaries about China, "Beijing Spring," and "Ximei," also

Executive Produced by Ai Weiwei, and in development on a documentary about “Aaron Sapiro: The Jew Who Sued Henry Ford.”



Robert Cassidy, Jr. (Consultant) has been a sports journalist for more than a quarter century. His career began in 1987 as a reporter in *Newsday*'s sports department. In addition to *Newsday*, his writing has appeared in the *New York Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Baltimore Sun*, *ESPN.com* and *The Ring*, long known as the Bible of Boxing. Cassidy has also authored or co-authored four books - two on boxing. Cassidy has covered 124 world title fights, 37 Stanley Cup playoff games, 13 U.S. Opens, eight Belmont Stakes (including American Pharoah's triple crown win) and two Super Bowls. In 1994, he was among the first team of journalists at *Newsday* to publish the newspaper's content online.

Cassidy was a senior sports producer for *Newsday*'s interactive department and now serves as the Deputy Editor of the multimedia department. In addition to *Newsday*, his work as a videographer has appeared on **NBC**, **ABC**, **WB11**, **Fox News** and **CourtTV**. Cassidy has directed and produced feature length and short documentaries that have screened at The Coney Island Film Festival, The Hamptons Take 2 Documentary Film Festival, Doc Lisboa International Film Festival (Portugal), The Moscow Sports Film Festival and The Shadow Box Film Festival.



Bruce Silverglade (Consultant)
President, Gleason's Gym Over the last thirty-five years, Bruce Silverglade has been busy keeping one of boxing's grandest traditions alive. He is the driving force behind Gleason's Gym in Brooklyn, a boxing treasure since 1937. One of the last of New York City's thriving boxing gyms, Gleason's has been the training headquarters for such legends as Jake LaMotta, Muhammad Ali and Roberto Duran. In all, 133 World Champions have trained inside the gym's hallowed walls.

Currently five active title holders workout at Gleason's as well as numerous contenders and dozens of Golden Gloves champions. And yes, women train at Gleason's too. The Silverglade name has been associated with boxing for over 70 years. Bruce's father Edward, was one of the founders of the National PAL. He also worked for the National Olympic Committee and was the team manager for the US Olympic teams of 1980 and 1984. In 1976, Bruce found himself in the middle of a divorce and sought refuge in boxing. While one marriage ended, another one was just beginning. Silverglade caught the boxing bug and quit his job of 16 years with Sears Roebuck and Company. He began refereeing and judging amateur bouts but because he liked

“all” fighters he learned quickly that he could not be an impartial official. That’s when he turned to the administrative side of the sport. From 1980 to 1985, Silverglade held some of the most prominent positions in amateur boxing. He was president of the Metropolitan Amateur Boxing Federation, a chairman of the National Junior Olympic Committee and a member of the National Selection Committee. By the early 1980’s, Silverglade began devoting his efforts full-time to Gleason’s. In 1987, he started running live boxing cards at Gleason’s Arena, which was located one block away from the gym. That lasted until 1990, but Silverglade remained involved in the business side of boxing as a matchmaker and booking agent. He helped to promote the first world title fight in Russia as IBF cruiserweight champion Al Cole defended his title against Glen McCrory. He has also made fights for some of the game’s top attractions: Arturo Gatti, Paulie Malignaggi, Yuri Foreman, Mark Breland and Zab Judah. Silverglade lives in New York City. He graduated Gettysburg College in 1968 with a degree in economics. He also holds a master’s degree in the Sweet Science.



Robert Richman (Producer/DP) began his film career working with vérité pioneers Albert and David Maysles, quickly transitioning from production assistant to camera assistant then operator. Finally he made the leap to director of photography on the Maysles’ *Umbrellas*, which chronicled artist Christo’s installation of three thousand umbrellas north of Los Angeles and Tokyo. Today, Richman is an Emmy-nominated and Sundance award-winning cinematographer on almost a hundred documentaries including: Gaylen Ross’ *Dealers Among Dealers* and *Killing Kasztner*, Davis Guggenheim’s *An Inconvenient Truth* and *Waiting for Superman*, Nathaniel Kahn’s *My Architect*, Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky’s HBO films *Paradise Lost 1, 2 & 3* and *Metallica: Some Kinda Monster*, RJ Cutler’s *The September Issue*, Oprah’s *Master Class* and Sundance Channel’s *Iconoclasts*. As a director, his films include *Ahead of Time*, *7 Days Out* and *A New Traviata for the Met*.



Paul Gibson (DP) After fifteen years as one of HBO’s hottest cinematographers, New York-based cameraman, Paul segued into feature film and commercial production. His credits include cinema-verité work such as *Paris Is Burning*, one of the highest grossing theatrical documentaries of all time; and award-winning excursions into real-life human drama such as the Oklahoma tornado, Iowa floods, Kentucky ice storms, and Hurricane Gustav.



Eric Friedman (Producer) is founder, chairman and CEO of Edward Holdings LLC, where he provides early stage funds and advice to socially responsible enterprises. To date the company has held interests in 4Tell, a SaaS platform solutions and infrastructure performance management software company, where he served on the board, Ministry of Supply, a fast-growing performance/fashion clothing concern with a strong national presence, where he serves on the advisory board and Hemisphere Development LLC, a

prominent Brownfield think tank and redeveloper of contaminated properties, where Friedman is a Senior Managing Director. Edward Holdings LLC also invests in the medical field. Friedman is also founder and principal of E.D. Edwards Consulting, a strategy and operations consulting firm operating largely in the public sector. Friedman's fascination with boxing began as a boy when he read *Victory Over Myself* by Floyd Patterson. Lucky enough to meet Patterson years later at an exhibition in Cleveland, Friedman recalled the story of the strong, humble quiet guy who did all his talking in the ring. Friedman considers himself fortunate to have sat ringside at momentous fights including Ali vs. Wepner, Hagler vs. Hearns and Sugar Ray Leonard vs. Hagler. Friedman frequently travelled to the Catskills to watch various fighters train including Mike Tyson, who trained with the legendary Constantine "Cus" D'Amato.