

truly*indie
presents

the first saturday in may

Running Time: 100 Minutes

Not Rated

www.thefirstsaturdayinmay.com

www.trulyindie.com

WINNER - AUDIENCE AWARD FOR BEST DOCUMENTARY

****2008 DURANGO FILM FESTIVAL****

WINNER – BEST DOCUMENTARY

****2007 SAVANNAH FILM FESTIVAL****

WINNER – HBO PRODUCER AWARD

****2007 SAVANNAH FILM FESTIVAL****

WINNER – SPECIAL JURY AWARD

****2007 AUSTIN FILM FESTIVAL***

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SYNOPSIS

40,000 horses are born each year. Only 20, however, will make it to the gate in the Kentucky Derby.

Known as "the most exciting two minutes in sports," the Kentucky Derby is racing's holy grail and every horseman's ultimate goal. Just to get a horse to the gate in the world's most prestigious race defies all odds.

The path to the first Saturday in May remains long and unpredictable. Euphoria and heartbreak abound. But as a race tracker, you're prepared for everything.

Follow six diverse trainers – as well as the mighty Barbaro - as they jockey for position along the 2006 Kentucky Derby trail. From Hot Springs in Arkansas to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, you're along for the ride with the dedicated men and women that make the "sport of kings" tick.

DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

After working for others for too many years, we got sick of it, quit our jobs and started working for ourselves on a project that we truly believed in. Our goal: to make horse racing cool again by telling the stories of the hard-working, dedicated and resilient individuals who dedicate their lives to the horses they love. It's a great sport that has gotten progressively less attention over the last 30 years. If we could bring attention back to the sport that has played such a huge role in our lives, then we will have accomplished our mission.

From a personal standpoint, our journey turned out to be more than we bargained for as we became involved with one of the most famous race horses of the last 60 years: Barbaro. Since May 2006, he was featured on the cover of the New York Times over fifty times as well in Time, Newsweek, Sports Illustrated and publications all over the world.

Although the rest of the world might consider Barbaro the heart of the 2006 Derby trail story, our diverse cast of compelling characters makes this rollercoaster ride unforgettable. It's "SPELLBOUND at the Racetrack". So make your bets, cross your fingers and mark your calendar because it will all be settled come "The First Saturday in May".

-- Brad and John Hennegan, March 2008

CAST

Frank Amonte - Assistant Trainer

Horse - Achilles of Troy

The New York-based horseman is a lifelong assistant looking for his big break as well as his first Derby horse.

Michael Matz - Trainer

Horse - Barbaro

The retired “Michael Jordan of equestrian” guides the mighty Barbaro down the Derby trail.

Dan Hendricks - Trainer

Horse - Brother Derek

The California-based Hendricks deals with not only training the best horse of his career but with his recent paralysis.

Kiaran McLaughlin - Trainer

Horse - Jazil

Training for the Royal Family of Dubai, McLaughlin refuses to let a recently diagnosed nerve disease get in his way of his burgeoning career.

Bob Holthus - Trainer

Horse - Lawyer Ron

In the twilight of his career, the Arkansas-based 73 year-old eyes Derby glory with his best horse ever.

Chuck Chambers – Groom

Horse - Lawyer Ron

Chuck treats his job – a caretaker of horses - as a true art form. Lawyer Ron is his horse of a lifetime as well.

Dale Romans - Trainer

Horse - Sharp Humor

With his colorful family by his side, the Kentucky-bred son of a trainer looks to fulfill a childhood dream and qualify for his first Derby.

CREW

THE HENNEGAN BROTHERS

Growing up on Long Island, the Hennegan Brothers developed a passion for horse racing at an early age. As the sons of a New York Racing Association placing judge, John and Brad spent much of their youth at the racetrack. Their first jobs at the track included everything from ice cream vendors, ushers and security guards to horse handlers on the backstretch.

Horse racing is in their blood and they are fortunate to call many racetrackers close friends. These ties enabled them unprecedented access to the racetrack. The result is unique behind-the-scenes glimpse into the true heart of horsemen.

BRAD HENNEGAN

Brad has worked consistently in television for the last decade holding positions such as the Director of On-Air Promotions at CSTV (College Sports Television), the Director of On-Air Promotions and Branding at the Independent Film Channel and the Director of Special Projects at USA Broadcasting in Miami. Prior to working at IFC, Brad worked as a writer, producer and director for several brands including HBO, ESPN, Showtime and Bravo. He began television career as a production assistant on feature films and commercials before landing a job at Martha Stewart Living as the Assistant Director of her syndicated television show on CBS.

A native of Huntington, LI Brad holds a BA in Sociology from Roanoke College in Salem, VA.

JOHN HENNEGAN

John started his career working in radio, landing on-air talent positions at stations in North Carolina and New York. He then moved on to the Washington DC bureau of CNN where, during the O.J. Simpson trial, he helped launch the show entitled BURDEN OF PROOF featuring legal analyst Greta Van Susteren. From there, John moved to Los Angeles to begin his career in film development and production. He has worked for directors Betty Thomas and Mark Pellington and for Ted Field's company Radar Pictures (formerly Interscope Films). Now based in New York, John works as a free-lance writer/producer/director,

counting CSTV, ESPN, ABC, the NBA, 20th Century Fox and TBWA/Chiat/Day as clients.

Also a native of Huntington, NY, John is a graduate of the University of Virginia.

This is the first feature length film for Hennegan Brothers.