A KID FROM CONEY ISLAND

OFFICIAL SELECTION - WORLD PREMIERE
TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL 2019

A film by Coodie & Chike

Featuring Stephon Marbury, God Shammgod, Chauncy Billups, Ray Allen, Fat Joe, and Cam'ron

Running time: 95 mins

US Press Contact: TBD

SYNOPSIS:
Coney Island, New York is famous for a few things: Nathan's Hot Dogs, Spike Lee's He Got Game, and a kid from the housing projects named Stephon Marbury. A boy, who at the ripe age of 5, was told that he was going to the NBA. He had the weight of the world on his shoulders given that his three older brothers, who were elite basketball players in college, never made pro. For Stephon, there was no choice, but to redeem his family name and build a legacy in the sport of basketball, globally, but not without its downfalls...

DIRECTORS STATEMENT:
After our first documentary, Benji, premiered as the Gala Film at the 2012 Tribeca Film Festival, then worldwide on ESPN, a ton of producers and athletes started to approach us about doing their sports documentaries. So, when Jason Samuels called about directing Stephon Marbury's story, we were hesitant. We had the same misconceptions about Stephon that the media created before he left the NBA and went to play ball in China. It wasn't until Jason said that Nina Yang Bongiovi was producing that we were interested. We felt that she really understood filmmaking and admired how she and her producing partner, Forest Whitaker, took risks on first-time directors like Ryan Coogler and Boots Riley. We knew that if they were involved, there had to be an amazing story ahead of us. After meeting Nina and then Stephon, who shared the same ideas about life and religion that we had, we felt we had to be a part of this team.

A Kid From Coney Island is the story of Stephon Marbury and how he started as a promising athlete from the projects, pressured to be great, and became an NBA star. Fame, death and depression lead Stephon to a place on the other side of the world that accepted and humbled him.
ABOUT STEPHON MARBURY

Stephon Xaiver Marbury was born on February 20, 1977. He grew up in the housing projects of Coney Island and is the sixth of Don and Mabel Marbury’s seven children. As a teenager, Stephon was given the nickname, “Starbury” as he was Abraham Lincoln High School’s point guard and star basketball player. During his senior year, he was named New York State Mr. Basketball and McDonald’s All-American right before Georgia Tech recruited him for college. However, Marbury was Georgia Tech’s starting point guard for only one year, as he was drafted by NBA in 1996. From 1996 to 1999, Marbury played for the Minnesota Timberwolves before transferring to the New Jersey Nets. In 2001, he began playing for the Phoenix Suns until 2004 when he returned to New York and joined the Knicks. In 2004, he also played for the U.S. in the Summer Olympics, bringing home the bronze medal. After playing for the Knicks for 5 years, he did a brief stint with the Boston Celtics before retiring from the NBA in 2009 following the death of his father and years of bad relationships with coaches made public by the press. Afterwards, Marbury fell into a deep depression, one that he was not able to climb out of until he was offered the opportunity to play ball for the Chinese Basketball Association (CBA) in China. He moved to China and joined the Shanxi Zhongyu Brave Dragons in 2010 and then the Beijing Ducks in 2011. He led the Beijing Ducks to three CBA championships and retired from the CBA in 2017, playing his last season for the Beijing Flying Dragons. Marbury is an international basketball star, pop culture icon, and philanthropist, having donated funds to victims of September 11, Hurricane Katrina, and the city of New York. He continues his charitable efforts in China as well, giving back to the Beijing community and focusing his efforts on the city’s youth.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

COODIE & CHIKE (Co-Directors). Chicago native Coodie Simmons began his professional career doing stand-up comedy, where he hosted a public access show called “Channel Zero” that cultivated his love of producing and filmmaking.

In the early 2000s, Coodie started documenting an up-and-coming music producer and rapper named Kanye West. While producing a segment on Kanye for MTV News, Coodie met his directing partner, New Orleans native Chike Ozah. Chiike had worked at MTV as a motion graphics designer after graduating from Savannah College of Art and Design.

The duo's first project was creating and directing Kanye West's 2004 breakout music video, “Through The Wire.” Critics applauded the video's innovative visual style that soulfully and skillfully incorporated archival footage with mixed media elements. Coodie & Chike continued their collaboration in producing video projects for other high profile artists including Erykah Badu, Pitbull, Mos Def, The Black Keys, Christina Aguilera, Ed Sheeran, Gil Scott-Heron, Wale, Joey Badass, and others.

In setting their sights beyond music videos, Coodie & Chike formed their own production company, Creative Control, and in 2009, they launched the digital network, Creative Control TV. Since then, Coodie & Chike have produced and directed several award-winning documentaries and narrative films, including the critically acclaimed ESPN 30 for 30 documentary “Benji,” which premiered at the 2012 Tribeca Film Festival, and the BET documentary “Muhammad Ali: The People’s Champ,” which won a 2016 NAACP Image Award for best television documentary. Most recently, Coodie & Chike executive produced and directed the original documentary “Martin: the Legacy of a King,” which premiered on BET in January 2019.
NINA YANG BONGIOVI (Producer). With nearly two decades of experience in the motion picture industry, Nina has gained a positive reputation for having an in-depth knowledge of film financing, creative and physical producing, and a knack for discovering talent, like that of Ryan Coogler (Marvel’s Black Panther), whose first film, Fruitvale Station (2013) was produced by Nina and her producing partner, Forest Whitaker.

Together under their banner, Significant Productions, Nina and Forest have produced a number of critically-acclaimed films by auteur filmmakers of color, including Dope (2015) by Rick Famuyiwa, Songs My Brothers Taught Me (2015) by Chloe Zhao, Roxanne Roxanne (2018) by Michael Larnell and Sorry To Bother You (2018) by Boots Riley. Nina’s mission is to create opportunities and inclusivity for underserved and underrepresented storytellers by producing culturally significant films and television shows. She is currently executive producing the premium series, Godfather of Harlem, which will premiere on EPIX this fall. She’s also in active development of the Angela Davis feature biopic with Lionsgate alongside a slate of projects that she loves.

Nina is a board member of Film Independent, The Oscar Grant Foundation, Coalition of Asian Pacifics in Entertainment (CAPE), The Producers Guild of America (PGA), as well as a member of The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences’ (AMPAS) Producers Branch. She is fluent in Mandarin, Chinese, and received her graduate degree in Entertainment Management from the Annenberg School at the University of Southern California.

FOREST WHITAKER (Producer). As one of Hollywood’s most accomplished figures, Forest Whitaker is known internationally as an extremely talented actor, producer, director and humanitarian. Although he has starred in iconic films such as “Ghost Dog,” “The Butler,” and “The Last King of Scotland,” the latter for which he won an Emmy, BAFTA, SAG Award, Golden Globe, and the 2007 Academy Award for “Best Actor,” Forest is also a visionary director having made monetarily successful films such as “Waiting to Exhale” and “Hope Floats.” With the total box office sales generated from his involvement being over 1 billion dollars gross, Forest is a truly talented individual, who uses his vast knowledge and experience in the industry to support young filmmakers of color.

Since founding Significant Productions with Nina Yang Bongiovi in 2010, Forest and Nina have made it their mission to develop and produce high quality diversity-driven films by auteur storytellers of color, whom the industry repeatedly neglects. Their films include Dope (2015) by Rick Famuyiwa, Songs My Brothers Taught Me (2015) by Chloe Zhao, Roxanne Roxanne (2018) by Michael Larnell and Sorry To Bother You (2018) by Boots Riley.

Forest co-founded the international institute for Peace at Rutgers University and was designated an UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Peace and Reconciliation in 2011. In 2013, he founded the Whitaker Peace and Development Initiative (WPDI) and today, he sits on the Board of the U.S. President’s Committee on the Arts and Humanities (PCAH).

Jason Samuels (Producer). Jason Samuels is a multiple Emmy Award-winning broadcast news and documentary producer, and an associate professor of journalism at New York University.
In addition to developing independent documentary projects, most recently Jason has led the production of several award-winning primetime news specials and original documentaries for Black Entertainment Television, including Stay Woke: The Black Lives Matter Movement and Through the Fire: The Legacy of Barack Obama.

Jason joined BET from HBO, where he was a senior segment producer for the newsmagazine Real Sports with Bryant Gumble. Before HBO, Jason wrote, produced and directed several acclaimed primetime documentaries for CNN including Obama Revealed, Black in America: Silicon Valley, and Unwelcome: The Muslims Next Door. Jason also spent several years as a senior producer at the ESPN and ABC World News Tonight, where he developed and managed the first original network newscast for the web.

As a producer at NBC News from 1995 to 2006, Jason produced several broadcast documentaries including A Pattern of Suspicion. This groundbreaking data-driven examination of racial profiling was awarded several of the most prestigious prizes in broadcast journalism including an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award, an RTNDA-Edward R. Murrow Award and an Investigative Reporter and Editor Award.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Directed by
Coodie and Chike

Produced by
Nina Yang Bongiovi
Forest Whitaker

Produced by
Jason Samuels

Executive Producer
Stephon X. Marbury

Executive Producers
Michael Y. Chow
Michael K. Shen

Director of Photography
Jason Harper
Beto Lopez
Fernando Ortega

Editor
Jason Harper
Max Allman

Co-Producers
Marjorie Clarke
Chike Ozah
Coodie Simmons

**Associate Producer**
Marli Lee

**Line Producer**
Marjorie Clarke

**Music Composer**
Roger Suen

**Featuring**
Aura White
Isaac Espinal
Jermaine Donald
Ronald Stewart
Keith Robinson
Mabel Marbury
Stephanie Marbury
Marcia Marbury-Kilpatrick
Don Marbury
Cam’ron
Stephen A. Smith
Kaimon Jasper
God Shammgod
Chauncy Billups
Set Free Richardson
Fat Joe
Bonz Malone
DJ Clark Kent
Chris Lat
Ray Allen
Tasha Marbury
Stephon Marbury
Xavier Bell

**CREW**

**Field Producer**
KENNETH R. CLAY

**Production Manager**
HONEY LATHAN
MICHELE B. ARMSTRONG

**Talent Booker**
MELANIE MASSIE

**First Assistant Camera**
TAYLOR DEKKER

**B-Camera Operator**
CHANCE MILLER
RYAN VOISINE
MICHAEL MAZUR
CHRIS WILLMORE

Drone Operator
CHANCE MILLER

DIT
STEVE PERALTA

Locations Manager
RAFAEL RIVERA

Make-up
RACHELLE LACEFORD
SHARON RICHMOND

Visual Effects/ Claymation by
WILLIAM J. CHILD

Sound Recordist
CHRIS DOWNING
EDWIN DIAGON
PETER GETZ
BRIAN JOSEPH
DYLAN LAPPIN
JESSE STUBBLEFIELD

Production Counsel
COHEN & GARDNER LLP

Archival Research & Clearances
KATHERINE COE

Production Assistants
JERON BLACK
GREGARY GRIFFIN
ASKIA MILLER
AARON PEREZ
CARMELLA RAMERIEZ
AIRANNE SOLOMON

CHINA UNIT

Field Producer
ANDY CHAN

Second Unit Director
BETO LOPEZ

Drone Operator
BETO LOPEZ

Sound Mixer/ Recordist
RAY KENDERDINE

POST PRODUCTION

Assistant Editor
JOANNE VO
Sound Mixer: SCOTT CANNIZZARO
Sound Designer: SCOTT CANNIZZARO
Dialogue Editor: KRISTEN CATUOGNO
Post Production Sound Facility Producer: LORI SHIN
Post Production Sound Facility: SOUNDTRACK FILM & TELEVISION
Score Producer: PRODUCER DNA
Synth Programmers: MARK LEWIS, NOLAN LIVESAY, JASON LIVESAY
Score Mixer: PHILLIPS MCGOWAN
Score Mixed at: MCGOWAN SOUNDWORKS
Colorist: PEDRO HERNANDEZ
Graphic Designer: MATT CHOI
Editing Facility: EAST COAST DIGITAL, BLUE TABLE POST, NICE DISSOLVE NYC
Finance & Distribution Counsel Provided by: COHEN GARDNER LLP
Clearance Counsel: DONALDSON + CALIFF, CHRIS PEREZ, DAVID LOVE
Global Sales Representative: ENDEAVOR CONTENT, MARK ANKER

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KEVIN THOMSON
LIVELLE COLLINS
MENG “ROCK” WANG
NAVELL SHORTER
RICH JOSPIRE (TERROR SQUAD)
SAMIR HERNANDEZ
STEVE D. YANG

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