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Press Materials & Images: <http://bit.ly/2x6WyKm>

Private screener link available upon request for coverage, review and interview purposes.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Long Time Coming: A 1955 Baseball Story

The Players of The First Racially Integrated Little League Baseball Game in The South Reflect on This Revolutionary Event in New Documentary, Building a Bridge to Heal the Social Divide That Exists in Our Country Today

Featuring Major League Baseball and Civil Rights Icons Hank Aaron, Cal Ripken, Jr., Gary Sheffield, Davey Johnson and Ambassador Andrew Young

Film Opens Theatrically Oct. 23rd Nationwide, Week of the World Series

Special One-Night-Only Screening Event in New York Oct. 23rd at SVA Theatre



September 24, 2018, New York, NY – In 1955, when racial segregation defined the South, two teams of 12-year-old boys stepped onto a baseball field in a non-violent act of cultural defiance that would change the course of history. Florida’s 1955 Little League State Championship between the all-black Pensacola Jaycees and the all-white Orlando Kiwanis moved beyond fears, threats and the unknown to break with tradition and show the world what was possible—breaking the color line in youth sports. Featuring interviews with Major League Baseball and Civil Rights icons Hank Aaron, Cal Ripken, Jr., Gary Sheffield, Davey Johnson and Ambassador Andrew Young, ***Long Time Coming***, directed by first-time feature documentary filmmaker Jon Strong, captures this shining moment in our nation’s history when children led us all toward a better way.

Long Time Coming will open theatrically nationwide on Oct 23rd distributed by NAGRA Kudelski Group in [myCinema](#)-enabled theaters, just in time for the World Series. A

special one-night-only screening in New York City featuring some of the original team players will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 23rd at 7:00 p.m. at the SVA Theatre. For tickets to the event, visit Eventbrite at: <http://bit.ly/2PYIVK7>

The release comes off the heels of the film's festival run and screenings with prestigious institutions this past year with the Hank Aaron Chasing the Dream Foundation at the Carter Center, Derek Jeter's Turn 2 Foundation, MLB All-Star Week, The Library of Congress and The Global Peace Film Festival. For more information about the film, visit <http://www.longtimecoming.film/>.

Jackie Robinson had broken the Major League color barrier in 1947, but segregation still prevailed. Our future hinged upon local Southern communities to either embrace Robinson's pioneering efforts, to redouble its longstanding commitment to segregation, or to remain quietly complicit in a system of racial inequality.

More than 60 years later, team captains Will Preyer (Pensacola) and Stewart Hall (Orlando) and the players explore how this game changed their lives and why it was more than just a game. They embark on personal journeys back to the game in 1955 and find that the forgotten event becomes a bridge to embracing the turbulence of today's social landscape.

"I wanted to dig into the uncomfortable, real stories that many find difficult to share," said director Jon Strong. "Black and white children who grew up in the South, now grown men in their 70s—how can we see them, know them, and most importantly, what can we learn from them for our own lives? Through conversation, I wanted to learn the histories, experiences and truths in their lives. What do they have in common? What makes them drastically different? And how do you bridge that gap in the real world, and not just angrily disagree?"

"*Long Time Coming* shows us the historic context for segregation and sports as a catalyst for the courage to embrace healthy change for the common good," said producer Ted Haddock.

About the Director:

Jon Strong has spent the past 11 years directing films that have reached hundreds of millions of people, directing and editing both original and advertising-based projects. To date, his most successful work is *The Thank You Project*, which has more than 150 million views online and was featured on "The Today Show" on Thanksgiving morning. In addition to *Long Time Coming*, his first feature-length film, Strong is now making a documentary (shot in Iraq in March 2017) about the stories of Iraqi and Syrian refugees.

Credits

Directed by Jon Strong
Produced by Ted Haddock
Producer John King
Producers Tighe Arnold & James Spradlin
Executive Producer Michael Tollin
Edited by Jon Strong & Drew Tearpak
Editor Mike Quinn, Jr. & Andre Bohrer
Director of Photography Christopher S. Towle

Original Score by John Arndt
Music by Mervyn Warren & John Arndt
Music Featuring Keb Mo
Music Featuring The Brilliance
Music Supervisor Linda Cohen

Film Partners: Common Pictures, Strong Films, The Edward E. Haddock, Jr. Family Foundation

Legacy Partners: Hank Aaron Chasing The Dream Foundation, Orlando Together, Institute for Sport and Social Justice

USA Theatrical Distribution: NAGRA Kudelski Group (myCinema)

USA - 2018 - 87 mins - Color – myCinema HEVC and Blu-ray
<https://mycinema.live/content/long-time-coming>

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