

**Film Press Contact:**

[Brian Geldin Public Relations](#)

Brian Geldin, [brian@briangeldin.com](mailto:brian@briangeldin.com), 917-549-2953

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

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

**New York Edge Press Contact:**

Lisa Serbaniewicz

[lisa@marinopr.com](mailto:lisa@marinopr.com)

212-402-3496

**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**

**New York Edge Kids After School Program to Screen the Film in 63 NYC Schools for Local Students on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Monday, Jan. 21, 2019**

**Followed by National VOD/Streaming Release  
During Black History Month Starting Feb. 5 via Gravitass Ventures**



**Jan. 9, 2019, New York, New York** – 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.

[New York Edge](#)—one of the metropolitan region's largest providers of afterschool programs—has coordinated screenings of *Long Time Coming* at 63 New York City schools on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, Jan. 21, 2019. The screenings will take place on-site at schools that are open for "OST" or "Out of School Time" programming, which is supported at public schools nationwide. For more details on OST, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/ost.htm>. It will then be released on demand during Black History Month on Feb. 5, 2019 via Gravitas Ventures, a Red Arrow Studios company.

“Baseball is more than a game. *Long Time Coming* takes students on a journey through six decades, exposing them to issues of race, culture and equity,” said Margie Baker of New York Edge.

The film previously screened at such 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 and The Library of Congress. For more information about the, 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.

In addition to interviews with surviving members of the 1955 Pensacola Jaycees and Orlando Kiwanis, the film includes personal conversations with Major League Baseball and Civil Rights icons Hank Aaron, Cal Ripken, Jr., Gary Sheffield, Davey Johnson and Ambassador Andrew Young who offer insight linking the past, the present, baseball and human dignity.

The film inspires through questions of race, equality, forgiveness and healing. More than ever America is hungry for a positive story that brings us together. *Long Time Coming* highlights a moment in history where courage overcame destructive social norms to establish a better way together. Join the LTC players' legacy of freedom, opportunity, respect and common ground.

“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.

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

Legacy Partners: Hank Aaron’s 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

<https://mycinema.live/content/long-time-coming>

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### **About New York Edge**

New York Edge, formerly known as the Sports & Arts in Schools Foundation (SASF), is a non-profit organization and one of the largest providers of school-based afterschool programs in New York City and the metropolitan region. With more than 36,000 students from over 130 sites in grades K-12, the organization provides under-resourced students with year-round programs to give them the edge needed to succeed. [www.newyorkedge.org](http://www.newyorkedge.org).

### **About Gravitass Ventures**

Gravitass Ventures, a Red Arrow Studios company, is a leading all rights distributor of independent feature films and documentaries. Founded in 2006, Gravitass connects independent filmmakers and producers with distribution opportunities across the globe. Working with talented directors and producers, Gravitass Ventures has distributed thousands of films into over a hundred million homes in North America - over one billion homes worldwide. Recent releases include *Score: A Film Music Documentary*; *California Typewriter*; *Legion of Brothers*; *Katie Holmes’* feature directorial debut; *All We Had*, Colin Hanks’ *All Things Must Pass*; *Being Evel* from Academy Award winning director Daniel Junge and producer Johnny Knoxville; and *For The Love of Spock* from Director Adam Nimoy.

For more information, please visit [gravitasventures.com](http://gravitasventures.com), and follow @GravitasVOD on Twitter and @gravitasventures on Instagram.

**About Red Arrow Studios**

Red Arrow Studios is one of the world's leading creators and distributors of entertainment content. Red Arrow Studios is comprised of 20 production companies in seven territories, including 10 companies based in the United States; world-leading multi-platform digital network Studio71, based in six countries; and global film and TV distributors Red Arrow Studios International and Gravitas Ventures.

The group's significant output includes scripted, non-scripted and formatted content and IP, from TV and film to short-form and branded content, made for an array of global networks and platforms.

Red Arrow Studios is part of ProSiebenSat.1 Media SE, one of Europe's leading media groups. For more information, please visit: <http://www.redarrow.tv>

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