

THE BUFFALO NEWS

Entertainment

[Front Page](#) > [Entertainment](#) > [Movies](#)

Street violence that inspired film is far from forgotten

By EVAN PARKER PIERCE
News Staff Reporter

6/12/2006



Derek Gee/Buffalo News

Viewers at the premiere of "The Forgotten City" said that Addison Henderson, left, and Korey Green, directors and executive producers of the film, captured the realities of poor neighborhoods.

A documentary about a 2001 Buffalo murder made its debut Saturday to a sellout crowd in the Market Arcade Films and Arts Centre.

Since last August, filmmakers Addison Henderson and Korey Green, both 24, have been developing the film, "The Forgotten City," which casts a critical eye on race relations, economic injustices and desperation in Buffalo.

One East Side resident on hand for the premiere said the film is accurate.

"It's not beating around the bush," Rameer Green, 30, said. "A lot of what some people say in the movie, it's ignorant, it's not right and it's seriously wrong - but it's reality."

Green added that the film was moving because it asks why these conditions exist.

"You see people say and act this way, but they also ask them the reasoning, the why," he said. "They need to understand when people say, 'Well, this is my environment, I can make as much money sitting on the street as I can working at Burger King.'"

Inspired by tragedy, "The Forgotten City" focuses on the slaying of Jermaine Cross, a friend of Henderson's, who was killed by Lemorris Jones, a friend of Green's. In the wake of the murder, the two men decided to root out the underlying conditions that led to it.

While making the movie, the filmmakers again experienced the pain of street violence when another friend of Green's was killed.

"These stories affected our personal lives," Henderson said.

"It's crazy," Green added. "Every time I get hope, something like this comes and brings me back to reality."

Others on hand for the premiere called the film moving.

"Being a retired police officer, it was very real," said Pamela Bennett, 40, of Buffalo. "Those are things you experience on a daily basis."

David Workman, also of Buffalo, said the movie showed the realities of poor neighborhoods but missed an chance to compare them with other areas in Buffalo.

"A lot of things on the East Side are neglected, but they could have compared it to North Buffalo or the West Side or anywhere else in Buffalo - it could have been that much stronger."

Herman Capello, a Lewiston resident who grew up in inner-city Chicago, said he hopes the film attracts a sizable audience because it could inspire action on many problems in urban Buffalo.

"If this can be seen on public television all over the country, then there would definitely be hope for Buffalo's inner city," he said. "The message was really good, especially about building within our own neighborhoods."

He added, "If we aren't strong in our own neighborhood, then there is no hope."

e-mail: epierce@buffnews.com

This material is copyrighted and is for your exclusive personal use only.
Republication or other use of this material without the express written consent of The Buffalo News is prohibited.
Copyright © 1999 - 2006 The Buffalo News™

