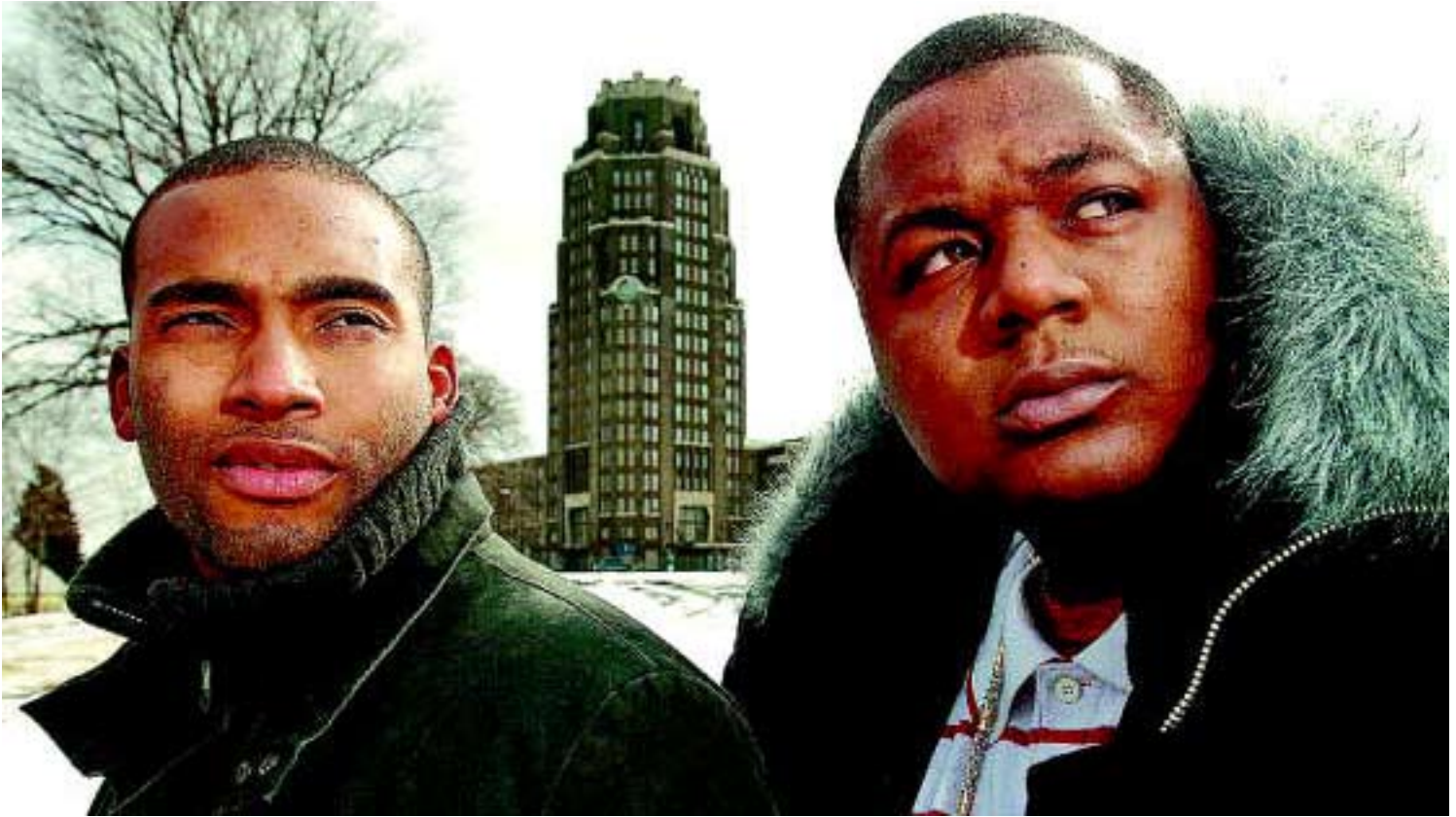


# Two native sons hope their documentary paints a portrait of Buffalo that goes beyond stereotypes

DOCUMENTARY MAKER ADDISON:

*“I want to show the bad and the ugly, but also let people know there’s hope out there.”*



Addison Henderson, left, and Corey Green collaborated on a documentary about problems - and hope - in Buffalo after being touched by a 2001 murder from different perspectives. PHOTO: Harry Scull Jr./Buffalo News

By JANICE L. HABUDA  
Buffalo News Staff Reporter  
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One young man was a friend of the victim, the other was a friend of the killer.

Instead of perpetuating bad blood following the murder in 2001, Addison Henderson and Corey Green are working together on a documentary to bring hope to Buffalo, “The Forgotten City.”

Filming started last August and will continue for another month or so. While the finished product won’t premiere until May, the 24-year-old partners are screening a trailer to raise more money for the project.

The trailer, which will be shown periodically, started showing Thursday in Squeaky Wheel, 712 Main St.

Henderson estimates the film’s budget will run approximately \$20,000; they already spent about \$10,000 and need another \$10,000 to finish it.

Acquaintances since the late 1990s, it was a robbery and shooting death in the summer of 2001 that got the two men talking about the state of the city. Henderson was a friend of the victim, Jermaine Cross. Green was a friend of the gunman, Lemorris Jones.

“In the murder, you lose two people: the person who gets killed and the person who did the killing,” Green said.

That case is part of the plot in the documentary, along with other problems facing the city, such as unemployment, poverty and racism. Many Buffalo locations already have been filmed, including Central Terminal, which Henderson describes as “one of my favorite places.”

Henderson, a Buffalo native who studied acting in New York City and now calls Los Angeles home, also has experience in directing and producing. He started Knuckle City Films early last year.

“I’ve been fighting to get what I want from the entertainment industry from the beginning,” he said, explaining his production company’s name.

Green, an East Side native, is a filmmaking novice who contributes his share of the writing and creative ideas.

“It was like a match made in heaven,” Green said.

Both said they want the film to open people’s eyes to the realities of Buffalo.

“I want to show the bad and the ugly, but also let people know there’s hope out there,” Henderson said.

Some reasons for hope: election of the city’s first African-American mayor, different ideas being proposed by the school superintendent and development of the Michigan Avenue corridor, which played a significant role in the Underground Railroad for slaves seeking freedom and in the civil rights movement.

Henderson is the son of Bishop William Henderson, whose congregation is in the historic Michigan Street Baptist Church. Father and son traveled together to Ghana, where Addison Henderson worked on “The Harvest of a Continent,” a documentary about slavery.

“I have been all across the world,” Henderson said. “People don’t know anything about Buffalo, New York.

“This city is rich in history and culture,” Henderson said, but outsiders’ perceptions often are limited to chicken wings, cold weather and four Super Bowl losses. “That’s why the title is such - “The Forgotten City,’“ Henderson said.

After the May debut in Buffalo, “The Forgotten City” is headed in July to the American Black Film Festival in Miami, according to Henderson. He plans to enter it in other film festivals around the country.

Without the time or budget to distribute the film themselves, “Hopefully, somebody will take notice and pick it up,” Henderson said.

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[To watch the movie trailer, double-click on the picture below.](#)



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