

102 YEAR OLD RETIRED COACH HAS STORY FEATURED AT THE BURBANK INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

1st Forgotten Champions: The Legacy of Jerry C. Johnson chronicles a black coach's journey to winning a national basketball championship in segregated times.

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, UNITED STATES, September 7, 2020 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The spotlight is on Memphis sports once again as the independent film "1st Forgotten Champions: The Legacy of Jerry C. Johnson" by native son Morreco Coleman makes its debut in the Burbank International Film Festival September 10 – 13. The documentary chronicles the life and times of award-winning Coach Jerry C. Johnson, who served for 46 years as the head men's basketball coach at LeMoyne-Owen College (LOC), the only HBCU located in Memphis. During his career, Coach Johnson led the Magicians to many victories but his most notable one was the 1975 NCAA Division III Championship. He became the first African American coach to do so and LOC the first HBCU. Coach Johnson, who is now 102, retired from coaching in 2005 and left a legacy that remains unmatched. The Burbank Film Festival is virtual this year and the film will be broadcast Sunday, September 13th only. The community can help bring home the prize by purchasing tickets to view the documentary. To add to the excitement, the Jerry C. Johnson Foundation is purchasing tickets for the first 100 people to email them at [jcyjfoundationmemphis@gmail.com](mailto:jcjfoundationmemphis@gmail.com). The email must contain the person's legal name, email, and phone number. Only one request can be made per person.

The Burbank Film festival began in 2009 in Burbank, California to highlight filmmakers who focus on social and environmental subjects. "1st Forgotten Champions: The Legacy of Jerry Johnson" is in the category of featured documentary and will be competing against six other films. "1st Forgotten Champions: The Legacy of Jerry Johnson" contains interviews with Coach Johnson,



The poster features a basketball in the top left corner. The main text reads "BURBANK INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2020" with the dates "September 10th - 13th". To the right, it says "You Can Help Us Win!". The central image is a film still showing a basketball team and a coach. Below this, it says "1ST FORGOTTEN CHAMPIONS the Legacy of Jerry Johnson" and "From Filmmaker Morreco Coleman". At the bottom, it says "BURBANK INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2020 SEMI-FINALIST". On the right side, there is a portrait of Coach Jerry C. Johnson with the text: "Coach Jerry C. Johnson First African American Coach to win NCAA Div. III Championship and LeMoyne-Owen College Legend". At the bottom, it says "Help us win by purchasing tickets to view the documentary online Sept. 13th. For more info, visit www.facebook.com/jcjfoundation1."

Everyone Should Watch The Film
September 13th

other legendary professional athletes and current and past University of Memphis head basketball coaches Anfernee “Penny” Hardaway, John Calipari, and Josh Pastner. Former Memphis Mayor Willie Herenton also shares his thoughts on Coach Johnson and his rigorous basketball program.

Morreco Coleman is a filmmaker, animator, and graphic artist who graduated from Memphis College of Art. He relocated to Los Angeles, CA in 2015 to further pursue his dream. This is Coleman’s second film festival feature. “Gansta Walking The Movie” competed in the 2015 Memphis International Film and Music Festival bringing light to the Memphis hip hop-rap and dance culture. He recently found out that “1st Forgotten Champions: The Legacy of Jerry C. Johnson” was accepted into the Nashville Black International Film Festival being held September 30th – October 4th.

“This film is an important part of not only Memphis sports history but also African American history and winning the documentary division of the Burbank Film Festival would be a great way to pay homage to a great man who helped shape many boys in Memphis into awesome men. He taught them how to win on the basketball court and life,” said Coleman. “It was an honor and pleasure to tell Coach Johnson’s story, and I hope everyone will find it in their hearts to not only buy tickets but view it with family and friends who may not be familiar with Coach Johnson and LOC mens basketball team’s story of hard work and triumph,” said Coleman.

Former Jerry C. Johnson Foundation Chairman Jessie Chapman is excited about the possibilities this honor presents. “We’ve been working with Morreco to complete this film for a couple of years. Several of the interviews were shot during Coach Johnson’s 100th Birthday Celebration. The film has gradually progressed and the finished product can be seen during the Burbank International Film Festival. If Memphis and the students, staff and alumni of LeMoyné-Owen College get behind it, I know we can win. The Jerry C. Johnson Foundation is trying to do our part and we welcome the assistance of anyone else who wants to donate tickets to others,” said Chapman.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/jcFOUNDATION1. You can also visit the Burbank Film Festival page directly, <https://burbankfilmfest.festivee.com/1st-forgotten-champions>.

Jae Henderson

Put It In Writing PR

+1 901-359-6629

[email us here](#)

Visit us on social media:

[Facebook](#)

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/525656287>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire,

Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2020 IPD Group, Inc. All Right Reserved.