

**TWO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS  
STRUGGLE TO STAY ON TRACK IN THE  
NEWARK PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**



A THIRD WORLD NEWSREEL RELEASE

**2016 NEW RELEASES**

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# BEYOND THE BRICKS

A documentary by Derek Koen

BEYOND THE BRICKS follows African-American students Shaquiel Ingram and Erick Graham as they struggle to stay on track in the Newark public school system. Fifteen year-old Shaquiel is a bright student who enjoys writing poems and playing the trumpet, but finds himself a ward of the court system when he can longer take the chaos of his local high school and stops going to class. Erick, a nineteen year-old high school dropout, realizes that the freedom he sought from his former daily school routine is not all it's cracked up to be. Unemployed and unable to find a job, he spends most of his days bored at home and watching TV.

In danger of becoming just another couple of statistics on the "school to prison pipeline", the boys find a lifeline with support from compassionate community leaders and alternative education programs that address the root causes of their problems with staying focused in school. Weaved into the boys' stories is commentary from some of the country's foremost scholars and experts focused on African-American boys and their education. Newark Mayor Corey Booker, Schott Foundation President and CEO Dr. John Jackson, and the Reverend Al Sharpton, among others, weigh in on three areas that have a major impact on the success or failure of African-American boys in school: public policy, the public school system and the role of the larger community.

(2010, 31 min, US)

Derek Koen's credits include producing and directing the feature film GHETTO FABULOUS, and the short films WHEN GOOD FOOD GOES BAD and WHEN DOES IT STOP, a visually poetic portrait of a parent's pain when losing a child to the never-ending cycle of violence in the street. WHEN DOES IT STOP was screened at several film festivals and has been screened by public school children in New York and New Jersey. Derek's short documentary MORE THAN 41 SHOTS on police brutality was winner of the IFP/Current TV film contest. Derek is also an experienced Digital Videographer and Editor with credits that include music videos, commercials, short form documentaries, short films and television.

Ouida Washington is an accomplished producer working in a range of film and video fields that include the documentary components at the National Civil Rights Museum, short form documentaries for non-profit organizations, foundations and television. Ouida's career also includes several feature films, award winning music videos, commercials and short narratives. In addition to her producing credits, Ouida was Director of the CAS Intel Computer Clubhouse, developing a creative technology program for children 10-19 years, which lead to her participating on the Advisory Board for the After-School Technology Instructor's Guide at the American Museum of Natural History.



*"BEYOND THE BRICKS allows us the ability to experience the world of brilliant young males who made a reasoned decision to disengage from school, and their brave journey to return. With powerful commentary from experts, community leaders, school administrators and politicians, BEYOND THE BRICKS demonstrates that the problem of school failing Black males is too grave to ignore, and the solutions are too basic to neglect."*

DR. IVORY TOLDSON  
HOWARD UNIVERSITY  
PROFESSOR AND AUTHOR OF  
BREAKING BARRIERS

*"BEYOND THE BRICKS helps us to understand where the system has failed our children."*

DR. ADELAIDE SANFORD  
VICE CHANCELLOR OF THE NEW  
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2016 NEW RELEASES COLLECTION  
Educational Release: Fall 2015  
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