



RUBBLE KINGS

Saboteur Media Presents

RUBBLE KINGS

DIRECTED, PRODUCED & EDITED BY **SHAN NICHOLSON**

NARRATED BY **JOHN LEGUIZAMO**

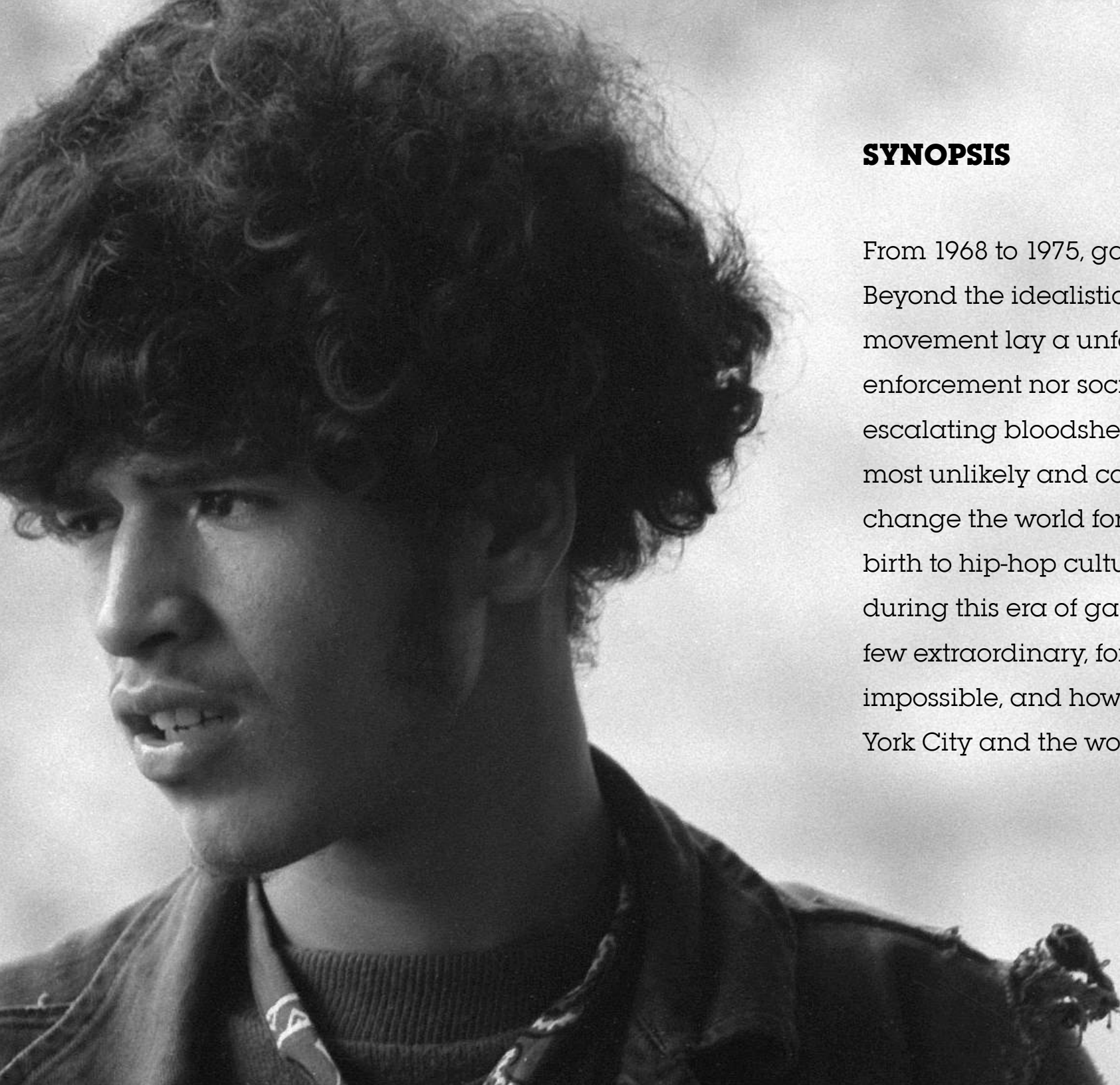
PRODUCED BY **DITO MONTIEL** **MICHAEL AGUILAR** **JIM CARREY**

PRODUCED BY **CRISTINA ESTERÁS-ORTIZ** **BEN VELEZ**

ORIGINAL MUSIC BY **LITTLE SHALIMAR**

CINEMATOGRAPHY: **SHLOMO GODDER** **DAN RIBAURO**

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: **NICK QUESTED** **DAVID KENNEDY**



SYNOPSIS

From 1968 to 1975, gangs ruled New York City. Beyond the idealistic hopes of the civil rights movement lay a unfocused rage. Neither law enforcement nor social agency could end the escalating bloodshed. Peace came only through the most unlikely and courageous of events that would change the world for generations to come by giving birth to hip-hop culture. Rubble Kings chronicles life during this era of gang rule, tells the story of how a few extraordinary, forgotten people did the impossible, and how their actions impacted New York City and the world over.

Director's Statement

I was instantly drawn to the story behind Rubble Kings. It was the backdrop to all I knew as a kid growing up in New York City during the 1980s. Hip-hop was my world- it was a movement growing on every stoop in every borough throughout the city. As kids, we would hear the echoes of generations past and the stories of the outlaw gangs that ruled the streets. Looking back, the tales seemed almost folkloric in nature filled with names like the Savage Skulls, Seven Immortals, and the Black Spades. We had no idea that these gangs played such an integral part in the birth of our generation's song.

Later in life, I started producing music and DJ'ing throughout the city. Record collecting became a daily ritual. On one of these missions, I ran into one of the holy grails of record collecting- a Latin funk album called "Power Fuerza" by the Ghetto Brothers. Not only was the music amazing, their story would haunt me for months to come. The fact that The Ghetto Brothers chose peace over violence after the death of one of their own brother's resonated with me deeply. I too had lost my best friend to an act of senseless violence. It shattered my world and here I was faced with this story of extraordinary courage in the face of adversity. I knew I had to tell this story.

I went into production with a very definite focus on exploring the socio-economic conditions of the time. I knew these kids were a product of their circumstances and not inherently violent. I really wanted to get to the root of it all and understand why these gangs came to be. Interviews with historian Marshall Berman and former mayor Ed Koch told a story of a city in collapse and the people who were left to pick up the pieces. Shortly after, we interviewed our principal characters- Karate Charlie and Yellow Benji, who painted a vivid picture of the South Bronx and the gang culture of the time. Their charisma, passion and intensity jumped off the screen and really set the pace for the film. We had something special.

For me the story really came together with the archive material. The footage and photographs I unearthed over the course of 8 years of research, was some one of the most exciting aspects of developing the story. Music also played a major role in keeping the flavor and integrity of the time. I was fortunate enough to work with a good friend and incredibly talented composer, Little Shalimar, on the original score.

Most importantly, the key ingredient to telling this story successfully were the people who lived it, and who so graciously gave their time, energy, and life experiences to helping me complete this film. I am so honored to have been invited into their lives and trusted to tell their extraordinary story. My hope is that this moment in time will resonate with the public as much as it did me, and that this connection will lead to some significant and positive change.

RUBBLE KINGS



Credits

Directed By

Shan Nicholson

Narrated By

John Leguizamo

Produced By

Dito Montiel
Michael Aguilar
Jim Carrey
Shan Nicholson
Cristina Esteras-Ortiz
Ben Velez

Executive Producers

Nick Quested
David Kennedy

Cinematography

Shlomo Godder
Dan Ribauro

Original Music

Little Shalimar

Motion Design & Finish Edit

Hugh Gran

Associate Producers

David "Shadi" Perez
Louis Stravinsky
Roxiny Rivas

Research Consultants

Jeff Chang
King Klast

Participants

"Yellow" Benji Melendez
Afrika Bambaataa
Blackie
Carlos "Karate Charlie" Suarez
D.S.R
Ed Koch
Felipe Luciano
Harlem Cody
Jazzy Jay
Jee Sanchez
Kool Herc
Lorine
Marshall Berman
Nono
Red Alert
Rolando Ruiz
Topaz

Art Direction

Savior Sanquiche

Illustrations

Ryan Hanson

Archival

Michael Holman
Fenton Lawless

Photography

Alejandro Olivera
Glen E. Friedman
www.George-DuBose.com
Jay Dukes
Joe Conzo
Jonathan Mannion
Perry Kretz
Steve Salmieri

Consulting

One9

Clearances

Donaldson & Callif

Legal

Gray Krauss Stratford
Sandler Des Rochers LLP

Rerecording Mixer

Michael Suarez

Digital Intermediate Producer

Claire Entrup

Additional Finishing

Colin Travers

Finishing Artist

Michelle Ambruz

Colorist

Scot Olive

Post Production Services Provided By

Goldcrest Post NY

Very Special Thanks

Ana Maria Nicholson
Andre Des Rochers
Benji and Wanda Melendez
Bobbito Garcia
Craig Kestel
David Viola
DJ Eli Escobar
Evan Krauss
Freddy Anzures
James & Kate Nicholson
Jean Daval
Kat Diehl
Liam Pilotin
Martha Diaz
Michael Holman
Petra J. Ortiz Rivera
Richard Boccato
Samil Peña
Sara Newkirk Simon
Stretch Armstrong
Samuel & Ylonka Peña
Trevor Engelson
Zev Greenfield

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Mariyah Masales
Mischa "MR MISH" Hill
Topaz One

In Memoriam

Peter Nicholson
Esko "SEUS" Vukelj
Thomas Viola
Michael S. Armstrong

Special Thanks

Angel Rodriguez
Basil Tsiokos
Ben Perez
Brian Coleman
Danny Castro
DJ Moma
DJ Rok One
DJ Tahleim
DOC NYC Film Festival
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Kenny Rodriguez
Koe Rodriguez
Larry Gordon
Luis Schwartz
Manny Del Castillo

MG&HKM
Michaelangelo L'Acqua
Okay Player
Quindell Willis
Ray Voodoo
Restless PR
Ricardo Cortés
Robert Aloia
Sara Lundgren
Sacha Jenkins
Seth Buncher
Sergio Mims
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Trez One
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