

STARLINE FILMS PRESENTS

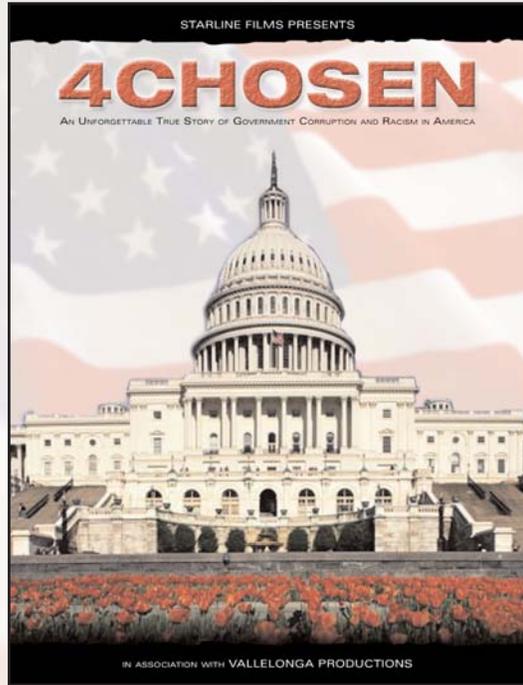
4CHOSEN

AN UNFORGETTABLE TRUE STORY OF GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION AND RACISM IN AMERICA



IN ASSOCIATION WITH VALLELONGA PRODUCTIONS

4CHOSEN



“They did not choose this path, they were chosen for it.”

Perception dictates everything. It influences an individual's poise and belief of the system of right and wrong, loss and triumph, and pro and con. In essence, perception sways the direction an individual's life will take based upon their whims; forging an identity that not only exhumes a person, it exalts them.

On the rain soaked New Jersey turnpike, on the evening of April 23, 1998, perception altered the lives of two acclaimed police officers cast in the line of duty, four young men who dreamed big for their families, one ambitious governor trying to make a difference, one district attorney caught between the hypocrisy of his work, the morality of the American legal system itself, and every individual sitting in their living room in America – and beyond.

Eclipsing the notion of race, **4CHOSEN** presents an ensemble cast in a series of historically based characters that were immediately and entirely affected by the tragic incident of racial profiling that occurred regularly in the state of New Jersey. Four boys of African-

American and Hispanic descent who loved the game of basketball decided to take a trip from their homes in New York to North Carolina for a camp where they could be seen by collegiate and professional scouts in the hopes of making a difference in their lives. Fate would also have two Caucasian and highly decorated young troopers patrolling the turnpike that night just one month after they were involved in a harrowing incident where their heroics not only saved lives, but also brought a criminal to justice. Two sides. Two perspectives. One collision course that results in tragedy.

With the boys driving an unmarked and rented van, with the driver operating the vehicle under a suspended license, and with his nervous slip of hand forcing the car in reverse, ultimately backing into the police cruiser, the pair of young officers eerily reminisced to their previous incident the month before and immediately took aggressive action. They began to fire into the van. They engaged in self-defense. Or did they?

4CHOSEN presents the audience a unique opportunity to see this incident that altered the landscape of the American legal system from the point of view of all of the characters involved at the behest of District Attorney Michael Jenkins, a young and ambitious single father who found his efforts to reform the interior corruption and practices of the New Jersey Internal Affairs futile; ultimately leading him to a cynical life of law in a diminished hope of making his four year old daughter's life better. Immediately after the incident occurred, discrepancies on the police report become sketchy at best, and Jenkins is brought on board by his solemn duty and under the direct scrutiny of the governor's office. Public outcry turns what would seem a typical case of a potential drug stop into a mistake gone horrifically wrong – a mistake that many within the state would like to sweep under the proverbial rug. Jenkins finally finds himself in a position to do what he has always wanted to do: to make a difference. The only question is: what really did happen that night? It's Michael Jenkins's job to figure that out.

For more information contact:

Kevin Leckner, President, **Starline Films**
1357 Broadway Suite #544 • New York, NY 10018 • 212-751-7827

4CHOSEN

Imbuing the enigmatic characters and emotion of Crash with the political intrigue of Oliver Stone's JFK, **4CHOSEN** presents a scenario and truth to this day that is disputed. Shadowed by the concept of a socio-political cover-up, with relevancy to the current political climate, **4CHOSEN** takes us beyond the incident; opening with the characters lives before the incident, during, and dealing with the aftermath and the subsequent search for justice that we all search for in our lives during troubled times.

Seen from the perspectives of Ralph Menar, the St. Johns University basketball star who exudes discipline upon the notion of doing things "the right way" by serving as the boys' personal mentor and coach; struggling attorney David Ironman who later becomes the boys' legal counsel but must deal with his own demons and monetary problems within his split household; Governor Christine Todd Whitman who is caught in a soul search for what is best for her constituency versus best for her own career; and young New Jersey state trooper James Kenna who optimizes the awkward inner battle by being thrust onto the force by a closed minded, yet loving father who takes issue with listening but has no problem articulating his method on handling life by partnering his reluctant son with a super cop.

All of these characters, fighting their own personal problems, are thrust together into a pot that is nearly boiling, and must reckon with one another to determine what is right and what is wrong, not only for themselves, but for everyone. What really did happen on that fateful night, and just who was right, and who was wrong? Questions like that are never easy to answer, but with all of these characters having a major stake in the resolution, answers find themselves coming at a premium.

This falls to the hands of Michael Jenkins to ascertain the truth. But as emotion becomes involved, the public revolts, and soon enough spreads like a cancer. As the stories change, altered by time or crooked means bent on a political agenda, Jenkins's investigation begins to not only uncover the truth about April 23, 1998; but also the realization and revelation of a practice undertaken by those who were meant to protect all Americans. Originally brought in to pursue justice against four boys of his own ethnicity, Jenkins soon realizes things are not nearly what they seemed. Suddenly, two successful officers who have contributed to keeping the streets safe for their populace find themselves under fire for doing the very practice they were taught. By coming before the court, Jenkins must assess which reenacted version of the events is the truth – for this case has become bigger than just four boys and two officers.

Right, and wrong. The truth is, perspective dictates everything. One man's hero is simply, another man's villain. But the only way to determine anything is to seek the truth. That is Michael Jenkins job. Soon enough, he realizes that none of these events are coincidence. Soon enough, he realizes, that everyone, including the four boys, were **4CHOSEN**.

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Narrated by

MONTEL WILLIAMS

4 CHOSEN™

THE DOCUMENTARY

**"They did not choose this path,
they were chosen for it."**

— Reverend Al Sharpton



WINNER
BEST DOCUMENTARY-Short
GARDEN STATE FILM FESTIVAL
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4CHOSEN™

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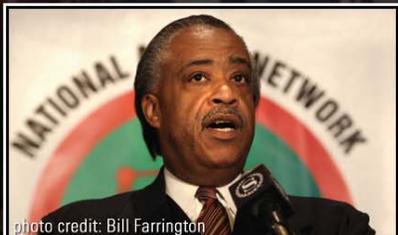
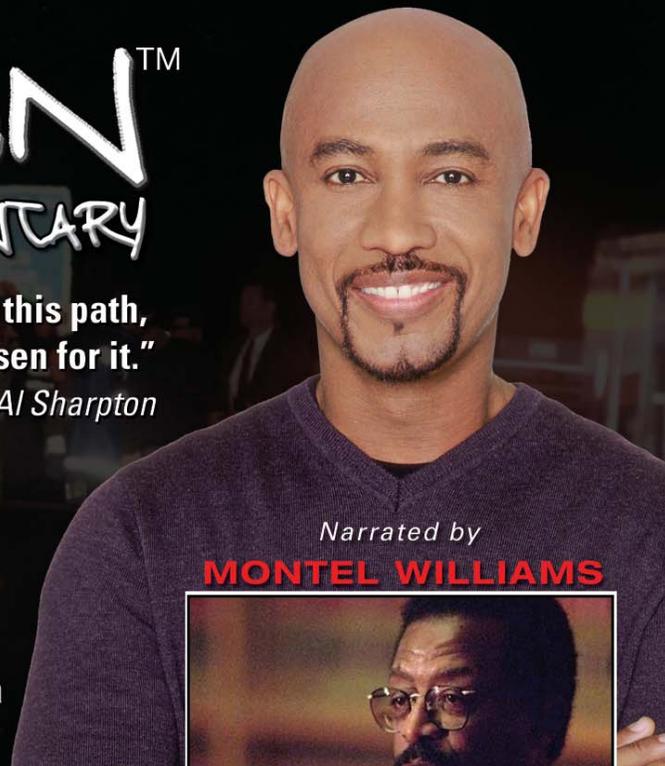


photo credit: Bill Farrington

Four young minority basketball players from New York City are traveling to North Carolina for a college basketball showcase when they are racially profiled by two NJ State Troopers and then shot 13 times. The 4CHOSEN must struggle to overcome their injuries, adversity and controversy. The powerful team of attorneys led by **JOHNNIE COCHRAN** assist them as they rebuild their lives and influence major law changes.

THIS IS THEIR STORY!



Narrated by

MONTEL WILLIAMS



Danny Reyes

Jarmaine Grant

Rayshawn Brown

Keshon Moore



48 Minutes, Not Rated

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RECAP of Red Carpet Premiere & After Party

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THE DOCUMENTARY



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ENTERTAINMENT

D3

Director calls '4Chosen' a human interest drama

By ELEANOR O'SULLIVAN
MOVIE WRITER

Jon Doscher, producer and director of the documentary "4Chosen," says "it's not a Disney film."

Hardly.

"4Chosen" chronicles the story of four young minority basketball players from New York who, while traveling in 1998 to North Carolina for a college basketball showcase, were "profiled" by two New Jersey state troopers, who fired 11 shots.

Three of the players were wounded.

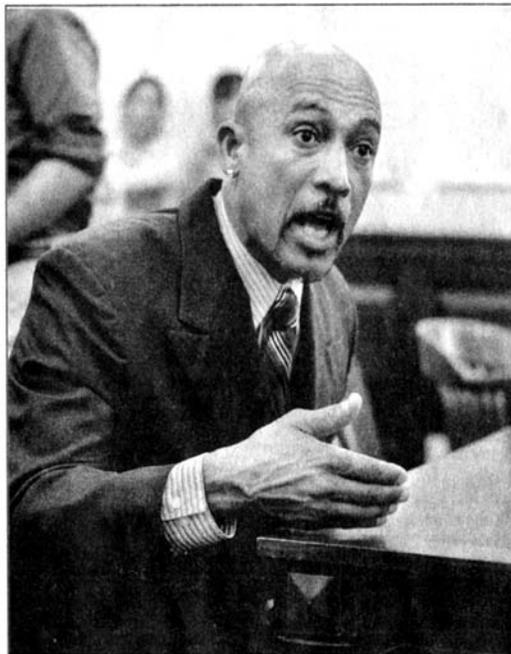
All survived, and the state of New Jersey awarded the victims \$12.9 million in damages. The late Johnnie Cochran was one of their lawyers.

April 23 marks the 10th anniversary of the shooting. The documentary is narrated by talk show host Montel Williams, whose company owns the film. It includes interviews with the Rev. Al Sharpton, lawyers Peter Neufeld and Barry Scheck and musician Wynton Marsalis.

New Jersey State Police Troopers John Hogan, 38, of Florence, and James Kenna, 37, of Hamilton Square, fired 11 shots into a van carrying the unarmed black and Latino men. They stopped the van near Exit 7A of the New Jersey Turnpike in Burlington County. The troopers publicly acknowledged later they stopped the van because its occupants were black and Latino, having been trained that these minorities were more likely to be drug traffickers.

Both troopers said the shooting was self-defense. They said they opened fire after the van backed up toward Hogan and knocked him to the ground. Keshon Moore, Daniel Reyes, Leroy Jarmaine Grant and Rayshawn Brown were the victims.

Doscher, who also is an actor, said he stepped in to direct the movie after it had languished for a while under another production company. Williams is promoting the film to raise money for the founda-



Montel Williams narrates the documentary "4Chosen," which will be shown today at the Paramount Theatre in Asbury Park. Williams will co-host tonight's red carpet arrivals. (FILE PHOTO)

tion he heads researching multiple sclerosis; Williams suffers from the disease.

Doscher is a principal in Starline Films, the company that produced "4Chosen."

"When I first approached making the film — I know this will sound strange — I didn't really see it as a racial profiling movie," Doscher said. "Of course, that is an element of the story, but I envisioned it as a human interest drama."

Doscher interviewed the four victims first and then the state troopers.

"I invited the troopers to my office and said, 'You were involved — what is your story?' It just so happened that their stories matched identically (to the victims' stories). That is fascinating. There was no discrepancy."

Doscher says the film shows how the shooting incident be-

came highly incendiary politically and racial issues.

"The politicians pointed fingers at the state troopers; the troopers explain they were trained to act as they did; minorities point fingers at the politicians and the state troopers, and then it's a complete train wreck," Doscher said.

Doscher said he has received threatening comments on the film's Web site, www.4chosenthemovie.com.

"We've been accused of trying to exploit the troopers negatively. In essence, it's the complete opposite," Doscher said.

Feature film is next

With a possible start date of spring 2009, Doscher plans to make a feature film about the incident as well. He has approached David Anspaugh ("Hoosiers") to direct and Laurence Fishburne to perform in the narrative version. Doscher

said Starline Films will produce with Universal Pictures.

Doscher said cast members will include Fishburne, Cybill Shepherd, Billy Zane and Danny Aiello, a partner with Doscher in another film venture who is appearing at tonight's "4Chosen" event at the Paramount Theatre in Asbury Park.

"We were very happy that Diane (Raver, founder of the festival) reached out to us to be in the Garden State Film Festival. She realized what we could bring to the festival, as far as celebrity contacts and help in promoting the festival," Doscher said.

A portion of ticket sales will benefit the Montel Williams MS Foundation (www.montelms.org) and support the sixth annual Garden State Film Festival.

An "After After Party" will begin at 11 p.m. today at Mattison Park, Mattison Avenue and Bond Street. Admission is free; a limited number of reservations are available to the public. To reserve a space, call (732) 298-3559.

Eleanor O'Sullivan: (732) 643-4256 or eleanor@app.com

4CHOSEN

8 p.m. today

• Paramount Theatre, Asbury Park • Montel Williams and Starline Films will host red carpet arrivals at 6:30 p.m., with Danny Aiello singing at 7:30 p.m. • Reception follows screening with performance by Brian Kirk and the Jirks • \$25; a portion of the proceeds benefits the Montel Williams MS Foundation • (877) 908-7050 or www.gsff.org

REVIEW

Rinando and MSO do fine at the Basie

By CARLTON WILKINSON
CORRESPONDENT

Lucian Rinando, the Monmouth Symphony Orchestra's new assistant conductor, led the ensemble Sunday afternoon in warm, sumptuous performances of turn-of-the-century compositions by Delius, Bruch, Chausson and their Russian contemporary Kalinnikov.

The program at the Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank opened with British composer Frederick Delius' "Walk to Paradise Garden," a beautiful, atmospheric piece from his 1901 opera "A Village Romeo and Juliet." The ensemble got off to a rough start here but had warmed up by the end, turning in a resonant, gushing climax. Rinando's gestures seemed graceful and confident in his interpretation, yet appeared to be wrestling for control of the orchestra through most of this single movement work.

The second work was the Double Concerto for Clarinet and Viola of Max Bruch, played with extraordinary tone and agility by guest violist Dorothy Sósiecki. The MSO's director, Roy Gussman, was highly effective in the solo clarinet part and the joint interpretation of the two soloists was at times inspired. Premiered in 1911, the Bruch concerto is a gorgeous, lyrical piece of music, harking back to the height of the Romantic era. Rinando handled the balance of orchestra and soloists expertly and the orchestra's playing was superb.

After intermission, there was a performance of Ernest Chausson's symphonic poem "Viviane." While written 30 years before the Bruch, it is more

progressive in many respects, blending the tonality bending techniques of Wagner with a decidedly French accent, a mix that would later blossom into the Impressionist style of Debussy and Ravel. Again, the orchestra had some rough patches, particularly at the opening, but overall it was a moving performance of a fascinating work.

The high point of the evening was the surprisingly refreshing, clean and punchy Symphony No. 1 by Vasily Kalinnikov. I confess, I know next to nothing about this composer. Few people do, it seems. He had an apparently promising career as a conductor that was cut short due to illness and he retired to the seaside town of Yalta to rest. He died at age 34 in 1901 of tuberculosis, having composed two symphonies, some songs and solo piano works and little else.

This symphony was popular in the early part of the 20th century but fell out of favor. Perhaps the Cold War and a growing animosity toward Russia intervened. Or maybe tastes changed. Whatever the cause, the work languished in the dusty bins of orchestral libraries. An exciting piece of music, it is now being rediscovered by orchestras and has been recorded by several.

In this last performance of the evening, Rinando was completely at ease with the orchestra. His interpretation was right on target, and the ensemble played extremely well. The audience interrupted after each movement with applause and the gave the orchestra a standing ovation at the end.

TOPS ON THE TUBE

DAILY NEWS

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NEW YORK'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

nydailynews.com

HAPPY EASTER

BY EBENEZER SAMUEL
DAILY NEWS SPORTS WRITER

KESHON MOORE and his passengers weren't sure why they'd been pulled over. It was raining like crazy on the New Jersey Turnpike and Keshon hadn't been speeding. It was late, but Danny Reyes had been keeping him awake. So it wasn't reckless driving.

"I had a suspended license, though," he says. "I figured they'd just tell me that somebody else had to drive."

So he was taken aback when the Jersey State Trooper walked over to the minivan with his gun already cocked. So taken aback that he accidentally started the van in reverse.

Bad call. The officer and his partner opened fire on the van. Confused, Keshon covered instead of stopping the van. A bullet tore through Danny's arm. Another ran through Jarmaine Grant's knee. Another lodged itself in Rayshawn Brown's wrist.

Somehow, Keshon escaped unscathed. At least until he understood why he'd been pulled over in the first place.

"I'd been on a military base my whole life," Keshon says. "I'd always been around blacks, Latinos, Filipinos, whites. I was native. I didn't know what was going on."

Almost eight years after that April 23, 1998 incident, Keshon finally gets it — the cops were practicing racial profiling. Three blacks and a Latino in a rented minivan? That read drug bust.

"At least we got out of it," Reyes says. "We didn't know each other until that night. That was the first time we all met each other. If it hadn't happened to us, it would have happened to somebody else. And they could have ended up dead."

These four didn't end up dead. They brought a civil suit against the state of New Jersey, landing a \$12.95 million settlement. In January 2002, troopers James Kenna and John Hogan pleaded guilty to official misconduct and providing false information under a deal to avoid prison time. Kenna and Hogan originally claimed that Moore was speeding and had tried to back over the troopers approaching on foot. The two officers later admitted that the state police practiced racial profiling.

"There's been some improvement, but let's be real, in reality it's not been dramatic."

That's why Danny and Jarmaine went to the United Nations two weeks ago to speak about racial profiling. And why Rayshawn goes to New York City elementary schools to talk about the same issue. Danny believes that they were "chosen for this, to speak against racial profiling." So that's why the documentary of their experiences, due out this summer, is aptly named *4Chosen*.

What you're chosen for isn't always

Profiles

8 years later, ex-hoopsters

easy. These players didn't even know each other until they stepped into the van. They just wanted to play ball.

All four were in their early 20s, and had bounced around JUCO's and community colleges for a few years. All four had failed to capitalize on above-average height, talent and heart. They all knew their open try-out at Division II North Carolina Central represented their last, best shot at playing serious ball.

Central was a meeting point for coaches and scouts from the triangle schools — UNC, Duke, N.C. State — to evaluate talent. Vince Carter once worked out there. These guys weren't Vinsanity, but they still had professional aspirations. They so badly just wanted to play ball.

"I was thinking USBL or CBA or something," says Rayshawn.

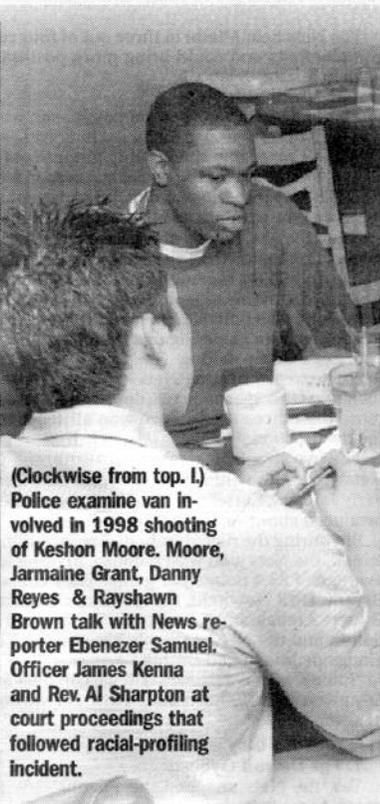
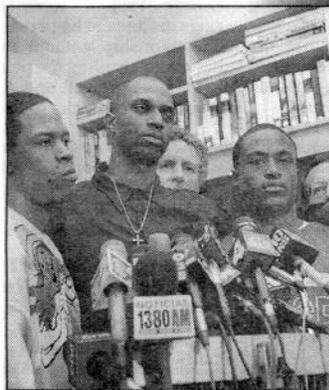
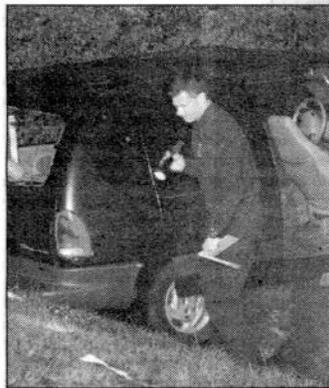
Then suddenly, he was wondering whether he'd ever shoot the ball again. He could pull up his shirt and show off a gunshot wound by his ribs. But he'd rather flash the lengthy scar around his right elbow and show people what nerve damage has done to his right hand. His pinky finger is hooked and doesn't move. It wiggles only when he moves his whole hand.

Righty Rayshawn learned to shoot the ball with his left, but his pro dreams fell apart, replaced by nightmares. For a year, he couldn't sleep.

"I'd close my eyes and the whole thing would flash before me," he says. "I had to start seeing a psychiatrist."

Jarmaine can't drive past the area on the Turnpike without slowing down. He gets quiet when he approaches the area, and his facial expression turns grim. He had wanted out of the inner city. The trip to Central was a ticket, not a chance.

"Central was going to give me a scholarship," Jarmaine says, "but then Fairview State started calling. It was the first time I was being fought over. My family knew I would come back with a scholarship."



(Clockwise from top.) Police examine van involved in 1998 shooting of Keshon Moore. Moore, Jarmaine Grant, Danny Reyes & Rayshawn Brown talk with News reporter Ebenezer Samuel. Officer James Kenna and Rev. Al Sharpton at court proceedings that followed racial-profiling incident.

Instead, he came back with a souvenir bullet in his right arm. It had lodged itself near a nerve, and the doctors said taking it out would cause only more damage. Thanks to a mangled left knee, he could barely walk through most of 1998.

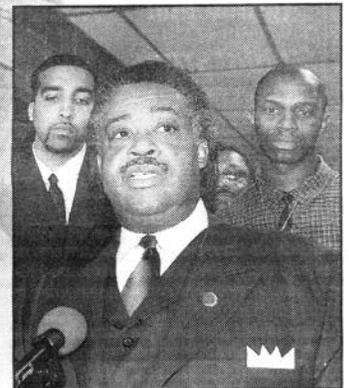
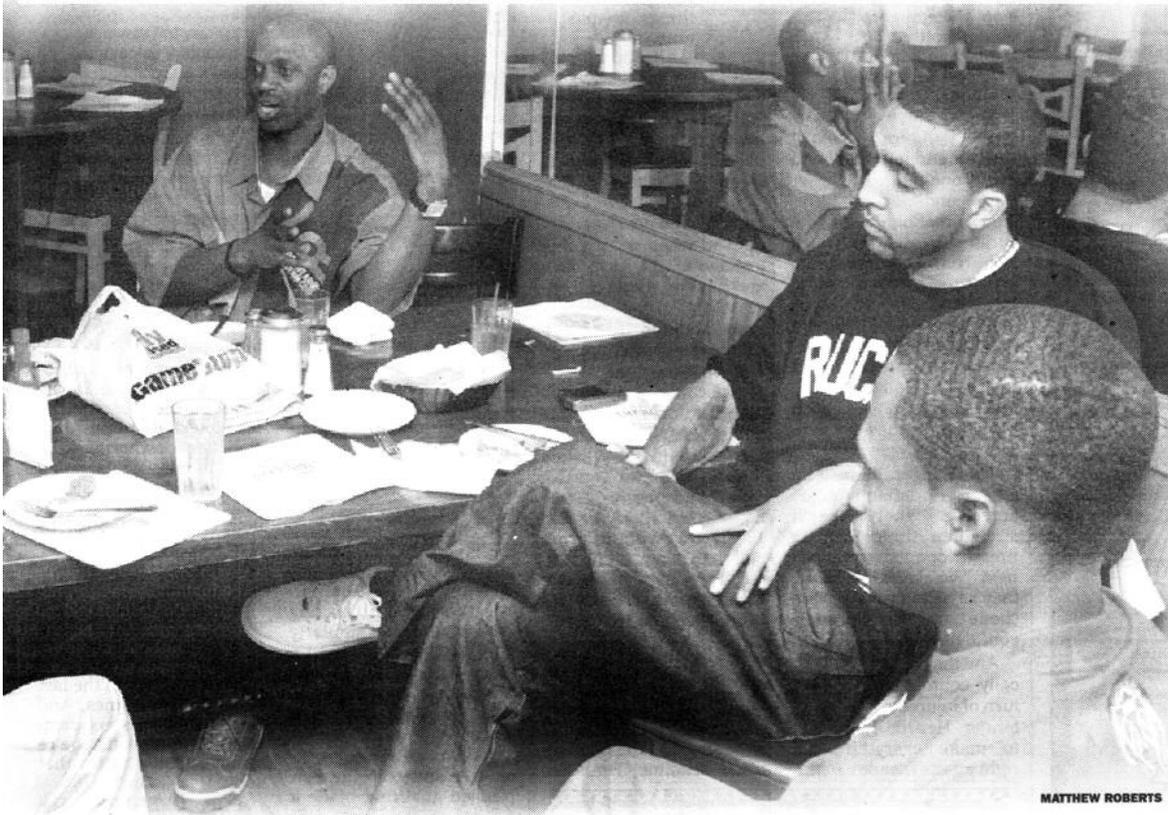
"I could see the hurt on his face," says

fiancée Gail Sutton. "It was like 'Wow, I'm never going to be able to walk again.'"

He joked about it, but it hurt inside. Basketball was "my religion," he says. Now he had to worry about walking. The headaches he could deal with. The scars he could deal with. The worst thing? The col-

in courage

remember Jersey Turnpike cop horror



MATTHEW ROBERTS

leges stopped calling.

They stopped calling Danny, too. He had a scholarship offer from D-1 Hofstra before leaving for Central. He went because it was a holiday weekend. And it wouldn't have hurt the former honorable mention McDonald's All-American to have Coach K watching him.

"I was starting to get a lot of looks," he says.

He had foreign ball on his resume (Puerto Rican Superior League). He faced solid AAU comp (Felipe Lopez, Stephon Marbury). And at 6-7, he had height.

And then, at 20 years old, he was learning to write again. A garish skin graft runs the length of his right forearm. The nerves inside his arm were reconstructed, but for a year, he could barely hold a cup in his right hand.

"No blood was getting to my hand," he says. "It hurt. And it still hurts now."

It still hurts Keshon, too. He sits with the group at Amy Ruth's in Harlem, talking and laughing and trading PS2 video-game barbs. He talks about racial profiling and how he can't see it ever stopping because "it's the system, not the people." But he grows silent when he talks about April 23, 1998, and he sneaks peeks at his reflection in the restaurant's full-length mirror.

"I dealt with a lot of guilt," he says. "I was depressed. I was about to give up ball."

He wasn't shot, he could have played for

Central. But he moved to Virginia, unsure of himself. He's only since started to finish college.

"We didn't get the chance," he says. "Somebody basically wrote our script."

They've all tried to rewrite the script. All four have invested and saved their share of the settlement. That, they say, has helped make the transition easier to a life after basketball.

But some things will never change.

They say they're smarter players, with slower steps and crossovers, but brighter upstairs. They keep playing, with equal parts frustration and fight.

Jarmaine told everybody he lit it up at the Y on Thursday, but he left something out. He got "scorched on D." He couldn't move laterally the way he wanted. When his knee buckled, he just left.

Danny can't play everyday because his

arm starts to throb, and he can no longer dunk because his back hurts. Rayshawn will play semi-pro ball this summer, but he knows he's not the explosive Rayshawn anymore. He can't drive hard to his right.

"My game is good," he says, "but it's just not the same. Two years ago, I didn't even want to play anymore."

He played college ball anyway, at Bloomfield in New Jersey, and now he runs a record label, GUNGAME Recordz. They're all helping Danny with 4Chosen, trying to spread the word about racial profiling.

— Samuel

"We just need to let people know that the issue is really big," says Rayshawn. "We got to cut that out for one another."

A week ago, Rayshawn says he was pulled over in New Jersey again. The officer said there was a warrant out for his arrest. He

cuffed him and put him in the back of the squad car. Rayshawn started to argue, but he stopped when the cop said, "I don't see why you're making a big deal."

Rayshawn says that the officer ran his name and eventually let him go after no warrant showed up. A routine background check done on Brown by the Daily News turned up no outstanding warrants or violations.

"I just said, 'It's not worth it,'" Rayshawn says. "As long as he's not inflicting tremendous physical harm. Cops be bugging. But times are changing."

Slowly, says Danny. More states are passing laws against profiling, he says.

"And just the fact that New Jersey admitted to racial profiling was big," he says. "They have cameras and radars in every car because of us."

And because of 4Chosen, they all played together last weekend. Hip-hoppers ran against Hollywood stars at Basketball City in Chelsea. Danny, Keshon, Jarmaine and Rayshawn teamed with the Hip-hoppers for the win.

Danny scored 20 points, none on dunks, to take home the MVP award. Jarmaine rained down threes ("He was on a mission — you could see it in his eyes," quips Danny). And Keshon got to the hole with ease, penetrating and kicking to Rayshawn, who nailed threes — with that banged-up right hand.

They were finally just playing ball.

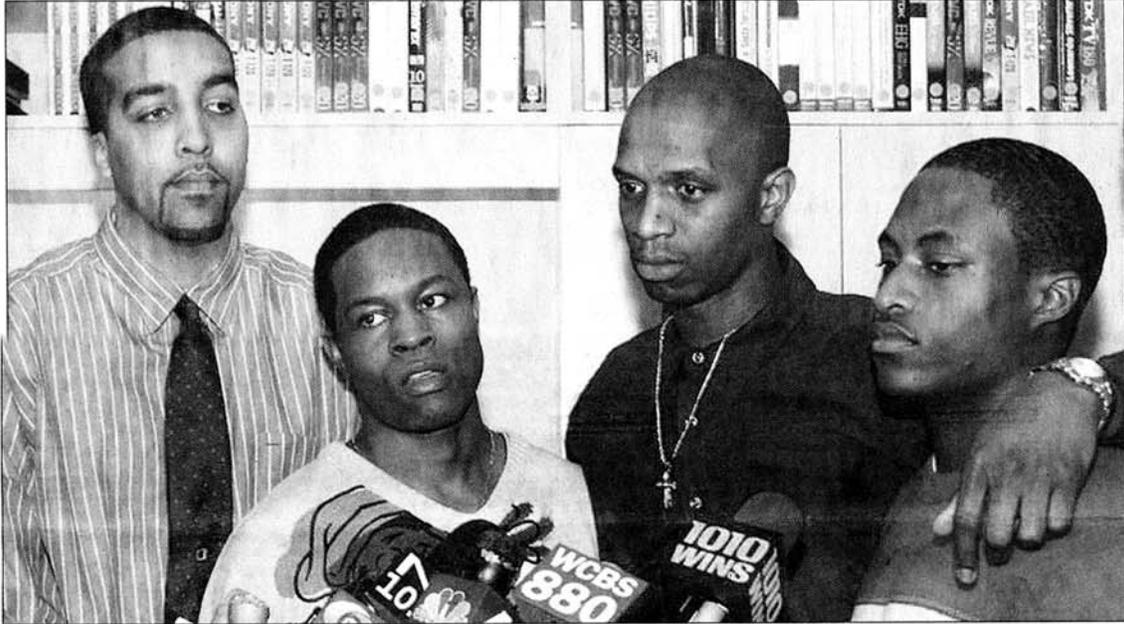
Documentary coming in June

4 CHOSEN, the documentary about the April 23, 1998 racial-profiling incident that took place on the New Jersey Turnpike involving four college students on their way to a basketball tryout at North Carolina Central has been in production since 1998. It will be released on DVD in June.

Produced by Danny Reyes, in associ-

ation with Starline Films, it features live news footage of the events and ensuing civil suit that netted the victims \$12.95 million in an out-of-court settlement with the State of New Jersey, as well as interviews with family members and the "4 Chosen." Starline Films begins shooting a feature film this fall. It is scheduled to be in theaters in early 2007.

Are we past profiling?



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS

The turnpike shooting victims after they received a \$12.95 million settlement from New Jersey. From left: Danny Reyes, Keshon Moore, Jarmaine Grant and Rayshawn Brown.

An investigator marking evidence near the state police cruiser and the van at the scene of the April 23, 1998, shooting on the New Jersey Turnpike, near Exit 7A. Two troopers fired 11 shots into the van, which carried four young black and Latino men en route to a basketball tryout in North Carolina.



End federal monitoring of state police, officials say

By **WILLIAM LAMB**
STAFF WRITER

A decade after a shooting on the New Jersey Turnpike exposed a culture of racial profiling among state troopers, Governor Corzine and other officials say the state police have made enough progress to be freed from federal monitoring.

A committee that Corzine appointed to evaluate a 1999 consent decree ruled late last year that the state police had "become largely self-regulating" in the 10 years since troopers fired 11 shots into a van carrying four young black and Latino men from New York City on their

■ Woodcliff Lake filmmaker discusses his documentary about the shootings in Tuesday's **Better Living** section.

way to a basketball tryout in North Carolina.

That incident sparked a national debate over the use of racial profiling as a policing tool and prompted a series of radical changes that fundamentally altered the way the patrol division of the state police operates.

The committee acknowledged, however, that "questions remain about the racial disparities" in some recent traffic stop data. There is evidence

See **SHOOTING** Page A-9

Timeline

April 23, 1998: Two state troopers stop a van on the New Jersey Turnpike carrying four black and Latino men on their way to a basketball tryout in North Carolina. Troopers James Kenna and John Hogan fire 11 shots into the van, injuring three of the occupants.

April 1999: Kenna and Hogan are indicted on charges that they lied about the race of drivers that they pulled over in the four months before the shooting. A state Attorney General's Office report concludes that charges of racial profiling by troopers are "real, not imagined."

September 1999: Kenna and Hogan are charged with attempted murder and aggravated assault.

December 1999: A consent decree is imposed, mandating federal oversight of state police patrol operations.

February 2001: New Jersey settles a lawsuit filed by the four men, paying them \$12.95 million.

January 2002: Kenna and Hogan are spared prison time in exchange for pleading guilty to official misconduct and providing false information.

December 2007: A committee appointed by Governor Corzine rules that the state police have "become largely self-regulating" under the consent decree. Corzine says he will ask the government to end its oversight.



HOGAN



KENNA

Shooting: 10 years later

From Page L-1

dence, the committee reported, that minority drivers continue to be stopped more frequently than white motorists, leading some critics to complain that state officials are rushing to end federal oversight before the issue has been resolved.

Deborah Jacobs, executive director of the ACLU of New Jersey, said last week that progress has been made. But she argues the consent decree is a "flawed device" that should be replaced with a strong and permanent monitoring system.

"It did a lot of good things but it didn't solve all the problems, and we need a better system to replace it," Jacobs said. "In light of the fact that the numbers of African-Americans stopped on the southern end of the turnpike are still grossly disproportionate to their representation in the population, it would be foolish to stop any oversight and not continue strong systems of professional accountability."

Racial profiling emerged as an issue after April 23, 1998, when Troopers James Kenna and John Hogan pulled over the rented van that Keshon Moore was driving to the basketball tryout at North Carolina Central University. Startled that one of the troopers had his gun drawn, Moore accidentally put the van in reverse. The troopers opened fire, striking each of Moore's passengers — Danny Reyes, Jarmaine Grant and Rayshawn Brown. Moore was not injured.

\$13 million settlement

The troopers initially claimed that Moore had been speeding. Eventually, they admitted stopping the van because its occupants were black and Hispanic — a trick they said they learned from their supervisors to spot likely drug suspects.

"They were looking for guns and drugs but all they could find was a Bible and the complete works of John Steinbeck," Peter Neufeld, one of the attorneys who represented the four, said last week.

The men received a \$12.95 million settlement from the state in 2001. The following January, Kenna and Hogan were spared prison time in exchange for pleading guilty to official misconduct and providing false information.

Neufeld said the case was "the perfect storm for illustrating to the American public for the first time the very serious consequences of racial profiling of drivers. They put the whole issue of 'driving while black' or 'driving while brown' on the front pages, where it had never been previously."

The state police agreed to federal monitoring under the terms of the consent decree, which went into effect in December 1999. Cameras were installed in cruisers to record each stop, and troopers are required to note elements such as the time of the stop, the race of the driver and any action taken. That information is entered into a database that is reviewed by supervisors and by a federal panel.

"[Police] were looking for guns and drugs, but all they could find was a Bible and the complete works of John Steinbeck."

PETER NEUFELD, A LAWYER WHO REPRESENTED THE FOUR MEN IN TURNPIKE SHOOTING CASE

Col. Rick Fuentes, the state police superintendent, said the system is "a great management tool for the supervisors to both reward good behavior and to recognize bad behavior that needs to be changed."

Because of turnover, most state troopers assigned to patrol duty have never known any other way of doing business, Fuentes said. Of the 46 troopers assigned to patrol duty at the Troop B headquarters in Totowa, 37, or about 80 percent, were hired after Dec. 30, 1999, when the consent decree was imposed, said Capt. Al Della Fave, a state police spokesman. Statewide, 756 of the 1,059 troopers assigned to patrol duty, or about 71 percent, were hired under the consent decree.

"We have the consent decree now embedded in our standard operating procedures that are crucial to our patrol practices [and] the way we conduct our training and the way we conduct our internal affairs," Fuentes said. "The organization is just completely comfortable from top to bottom working within that new architecture."

Corzine said in an interview last week that racial profiling "is unacceptable under any circumstances."

"More broadly, we need to guard against it," he said. "I think the committee on police standards laid down a lot of checks and balances that, if generally implemented, will end up giving the public assurance that people are treated equally before the law."

Jacobs, the ACLU state director, said Corzine is acting hastily

by asking the federal government to suspend oversight.

She cites an ACLU study that showed black drivers accounted for nearly 31 percent of traffic stops between Exits 1 and 7A on the turnpike in August and September 2005, even though they accounted for just 17 percent to 19 percent of the traffic on that part of the highway.

New documentary

Corzine's committee commissioned a panel to review the study. It found "a number of limitations in the data," but reasoned that "these limitations did not appear to undermine the ... report's conclusions."

Moore, Reyes, Grant and Brown, whose dreams of basket-



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Troopers James Kenna, left, and John Hogan pleaded guilty to misconduct and providing false information. They were spared prison.

ball stardom effectively died on the turnpike shoulder in Mercer County that night in April 1998, declined an interview request.

A new documentary film about their ordeal, titled "4 Chosen," reveals that Brown, a 2004 graduate of Bloomfield College, is a per-

sonal trainer and has started a record company called Mpire Entertainment. Moore is married with a daughter and coaches basketball in the Amateur Athletic Union. He and Reyes have a stake in a professional basketball team in Puerto Rico. Grant is married with a daughter.

In the film, the four take stock of the impact that they have had on policing in New Jersey and beyond.

"A lot of laws got changed throughout the country," Moore said. "In time, hopefully racial profiling will be eradicated. It's systematic and it's something that's been going on for years and years and years, and that's hard to change. What those two troopers did that night didn't stop us from living our lives the best way we could."

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TV personality Montel Williams is interviewed at Thursday night's opening of the Garden State Film Festival. (STAFF PHOTO: KEITH J. WOODS)

Film festival focuses on indies, N.J. themes

By **STEPHEN BOVE**
STAFF WRITER

ASBURY PARK — The gathering crowd shuffled inward toward the Grand Arcade Thursday, eager to celebrate in grand fashion the opening of the sixth annual Garden State Film Festival.

In honor of the "4Chosen" premiere at

The Paramount Theatre later that evening, the red-carpet event was hosted by the film narrator, Montel Williams, and featured a special vocal performance by actor Danny Aiello.

"My grand vision when I started was to be where I am today 10

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Film fest

FROM PAGE **A1**

years from now," said Diane Raver, festival founder and executive director. "It's just astounding to me that we have come so far so fast."

"4Chosen" chronicles the story of four young basketball players from New York who, while traveling in 1998 to North Carolina for a college basketball showcase, had an altercation with two New Jersey state troopers, who fired 11 shots. Three players were wounded but survived, and the state of New Jersey later awarded the victims \$12.9 million in damages.

A portion of the film ticket sales will benefit the Montel

Williams MS Foundation (www.montelms.org).

"The long-term goal with this festival is to stay true to our mission of being a community-based organization," Raver said. "I think that's the difference between us and a lot of the bigger festivals. They just aren't a celebration of independents anymore."

"I want to stay true to the indies, to the next generation of filmmakers," she added. "I just don't think that making another studio festival is necessary."

Raver said the festival has achieved a level of 95 percent of its feature-length films being picked up by a distributor, and of the 153 films being screened this year, 57 are New Jersey-related in some way.

"When I started in this business and didn't know anything, some very, very kind people were there to help me along," she said. "Thanks to them, I was able to be successful in a relatively short amount of time. Now it's our turn to help the next generation have their launching pad."

Ex-cop behind camera

And many of those next-generation filmmakers aren't as young as many would think.

"I started my filmmaking career in my late 40s," said Donna Roman Hernandez, a Newark

"The long-term goal with this festival is to stay true to our mission of being a community-based organization. I think that's the difference between us and a lot of the bigger festivals. They just aren't a celebration of independents anymore."

— *Diane Raver, festival founder and executive director*

native who founded Blue Force Films in 2005 — after retiring as a police captain with 26 years on duty.

"It's never too late to pursue a passion," Hernandez said. "And if that passion is filmmaking, then go for it."

Hernandez said Blue Force Films specializes in New Jersey-based documentaries and docu-dramas.

"I love New Jersey, so I support New Jersey," she said. "All my films are based here."

Hernandez will screen two of her films, "Closure" and "A Call For Valor," at 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Saturday, respectively, at the Stephen Crane House.

The festival isn't only beneficial to those on the business' production end.

Actor Kevin Interdonato of Howell was honored as this year's Robert Pastorelli Rising Star Award winner.

"It's all indie filmmakers here, and those are the types of jobs I'm getting right now. So basically, I came here prepared

to meet some people and watch some good movies," Interdonato said. "Everybody in this business talks about making it; well this is making it in my world."

Interdonato's film "Leeds Point" will premiere at 9 p.m. Saturday at Asbury Park's Fifth Avenue Pavilion.

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N.J. indie flick puts focus on racial profiling

BY CLAUDIA PERRY
STAR-LEDGER STAFF

"4Chosen," a 48-minute documentary about the 1998 Turnpike shootings that led to a national examination of racial profiling, opened this year's Garden State Film Festival, which continues through tomorrow in Asbury Park.

The screening was held Thursday at the Paramount Theater on the boardwalk, complete with celebrity sightings. Randy Jones, the original cowboy in the Village People; Danny Aiello and his actor-son, Ricky; "Sopranos" cast members Vincent Pastore and Artie Pasquale; plus talk show host Montel Williams were among the notables snapped on the red carpet.

The premiere was a benefit for the Montel Williams MS Foundation. Williams, who is battling the disease, spoke from the audience. His production company, Letnom, has teamed up with New Jersey's Starline Films in hopes of making a feature film based on the events surrounding the incident.

On April 23, 1998, Keshon Moore was driving three friends — Danny Reyes, Rayshawn Brown and Leroy Jarmaine Grant, to North Carolina for a basketball tryout. Their van was pulled over near Exit 7A on the Turnpike by State Troopers James Kenna and John Hogan. After

the van bumped one of the troopers (Moore shifted into reverse and it rolled), the troopers fired 11 shots into the vehicle, wounding all except Moore.

Williams urged the audience to have conversations with friends after seeing the film.

"Talk about 'driving while black,'" Williams said, using a well-known expression to describe racial profiling. "Some of us are thinking about voting a black man into the White House. This is an issue that is still timely."

The screening followed other Starline film promos and a short concert by Danny Aiello. Reyes, one of the four men wounded in the encounter, co-produced and co-wrote the film.

The documentary makes liberal use of news footage from the original coverage, including interviews with friends and family of Reyes, Moore, Brown and Grant. Activist Al Sharpton and jazzman Wynton Marsalis are also featured. The troopers pleaded guilty to official misconduct and making false statements. The four received \$12.9 million from the state.

Jon Doscher, the director of "4Chosen," began Starline Films about four years ago with the proceeds from the sale of his power washing business. Doscher, who lives in Woodcliff Lake, met Danny Aiello when his company worked at

Aiello's Bergen County home. Doscher, who studied acting at the Lee Strasberg Institute in Manhattan, performed a monologue for Aiello, who helped him get small roles in some independent films.

"Our company has gone from nothing to being worth \$5 million," Doscher said. "I'm very proud of that."

Doscher said there was little interest in the documentary from film studios. He made it to bring attention to the feature he hopes to make someday. "What gravitated me to it was that it was certainly timely with the 10th anniversary coming up and all," Doscher said. "I was anticipating it being revisited by the press. Their basketball careers may have ended, but they took the settlement money and made some good come of it."

"4Chosen" will also be screened at 4 p.m. today at the Fifth Avenue Pavilion as part of the festival. A discussion will follow the screening. Admission is \$10. DVDs are available at the festival for \$20, and for \$24.99, which includes shipping and handling, at starlinefilms.com. Five dollars from every DVD sale goes to Williams' MS Foundation.

Claudia Perry may be reached at cperry@starledger.com or (973) 392-5954.

N.J. shoot probe sought

Victim asks feds into trooper case

By GENE MUSTAIN

Daily News Staff Writer

One of the three college basketball hopefuls shot by New Jersey state troopers who pulled over their minivan has asked federal authorities to investigate the incident, his lawyer said yesterday.

David Ironman, who represents former Curtis High School star Danny Reyes of Staten Island, asked the U.S. attorney's office in Newark to step into the widening controversy surrounding the April 23 shooting, saying he doubted the impartiality of local officials.

"I have concerns that the state police in New Jersey are predisposed to make this a justified shooting," Ironman said. U.S. Attorney Faith Hochberg will evaluate Ironman's request and respond later, a spokesman said.

In a related development yesterday, the Mercer County prosecutor withdrew from the investigation to avoid a possible conflict of interest; he has a business relationship with the father of one of the two troopers involved in the shooting.

The state's attorney general appointed a top prosecutor from a neighboring county to replace him.

Reyes, 20, and three friends — all top basketball players from New York City — were



JEFF ZELEVANSKY

CAGER Danny Reyes, shot by troopers, is comforted by his mom, Anna, in Camden, N.J., hospital.

en route to tryouts at North Carolina Central University in Durham when they were pulled over for speeding on the New Jersey Turnpike near Exit 7A. The troopers said they opened fire when the van rolled backward and struck one of them and their cruiser.

The troopers fired 11 times, wounding Reyes, who was a passenger in the front seat, and two men in the back seat, Rayshawn Brown, 20, and Leroy Grant, 23. Reyes, the most seriously injured, and Grant remain hospitalized in Camden, N.J.

A state review of one of those shootings is pending. In the other, the trooper was cleared. In both cases, suspects were arrested.

A state police spokesman said investigators have not finished their work in the latest incident and that in any case, a final determination will be made by a grand jury.

"There has been no pre-termination about this case whatsoever," said the spokesman, John Hagerty.

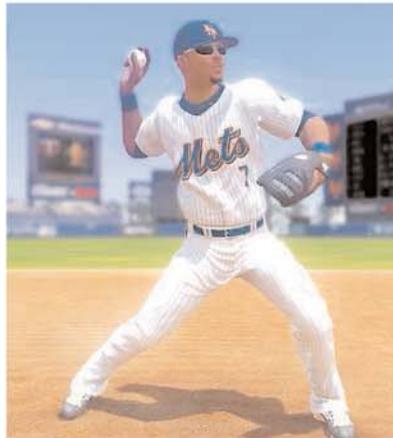


JEFF ZELEVANSKY

HOOP STAR Danny Reyes in Staten Island playing days.

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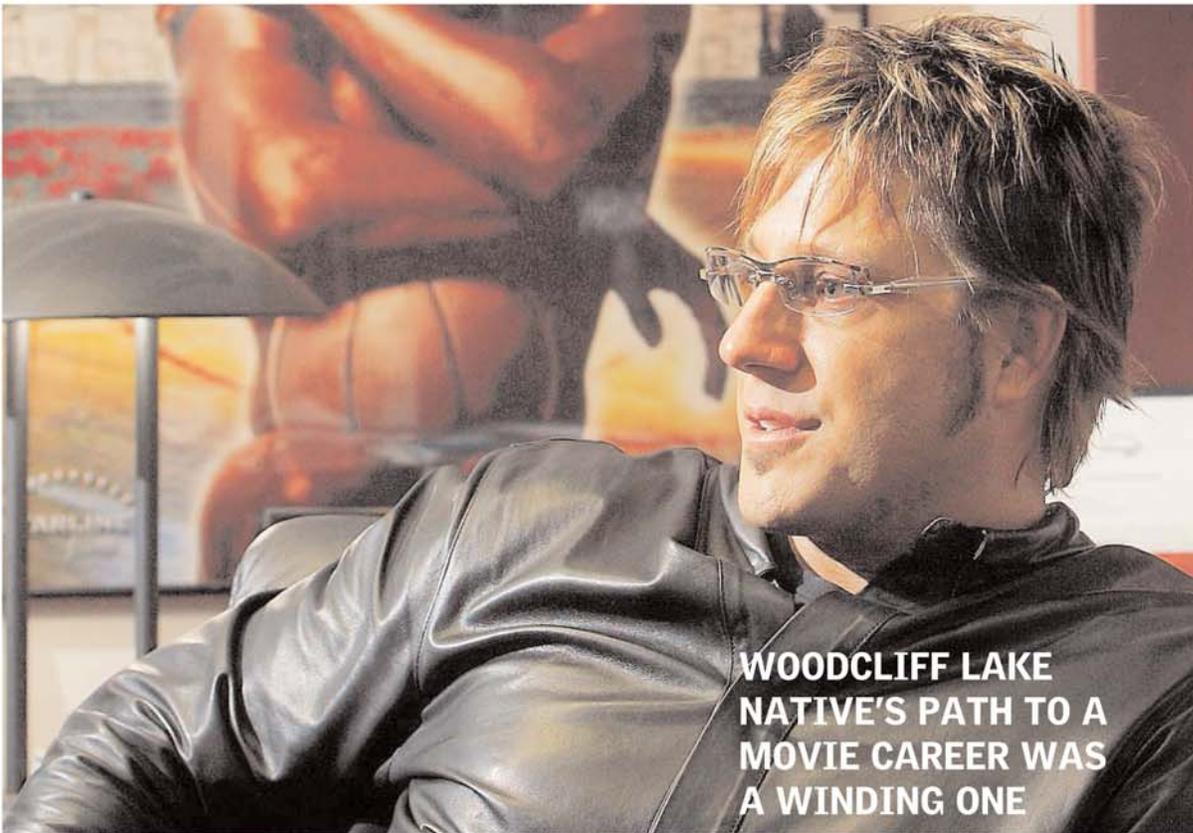
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"Alvin and the Chipmunks" is among the new releases on DVD today. **6**

Get into the baseball season with the Hit-N-Run video game tour. **2**

FROM DROPOUT



WOODCLIFF LAKE
NATIVE'S PATH TO A
MOVIE CAREER WAS
A WINDING ONE

TARIQ ZEHAWI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Sixth Annual Garden State Film Festival

When: Thursday through Sunday.

Where: Asbury Park locations include the Paramount Theater, 1300 Ocean Ave.; the Berkeley Hotel, 1401 Ocean Ave.; Synaxis, 660 Cookman Ave.; and the Stone Pony, 913 Ocean Ave.

How much: \$10 per two-hour block of films.

Red carpet event: There will be a special showing of "4Chosen: The Documentary," 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Paramount Theater. Director Jon Doscher, actor Danny Aiello and talk-show host Montel Williams will be present. Tickets for "4Chosen" are \$25, with proceeds benefiting the Montel Williams MS Foundation.

For more information: gsff.org.

TO DIRECTOR **PAGE 3**

COVER STORY

He doesn't believe in luck; timing is everything

By MIKE KERWICK
STAFF WRITER

On the wall beside Jon Doscher's desk hangs a photo of a fleet of white trucks. It is Doscher's proxy for a college diploma. Without those trucks, he would not have a black director's chair, an Upper Saddle River office on Route 17, or a poster of "4Chosen: The Documentary" — his directorial debut.

Without those trucks, the Woodcliff Lake native would not be introducing his film at a red-carpet event that kicks off the Garden State Film Festival at the Paramount Theater in Asbury Park Thursday night.

"I left college very early," Doscher said on a recent afternoon. "I went to a local school. I was there, realistically, for maybe half a semester. I was taking business classes and political science [classes]."

How Doscher came to produce and direct a documentary about four African-American basketball players who were shot by state troopers while driving south on the New Jersey Turnpike in 1998 is a unique narrative.

He dropped out of college, scraping together the cash to start his own power-washing and painting business. He put ads in newspapers, left signs on lawns, sent brochures through the mail. He was tapping into a wealthy residential market that was new to the power-washing scene.

"Six trucks, 20 men," Doscher said. "We were generating revenue. What I liked about the business at the time was I got in at the right time. I'm not a believer in luck at all. But I am a believer in timing. I think at the time when I started creating that company, the economy was starting to turn positively, and I kind of caught the wave a little bit."

By day, Doscher worked on houses and dabbled in magazine publishing. By night, he took acting classes. His two worlds crashed into each other when he was hired for a job at veteran actor



TARIO ZEHAWIT/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Woodcliff Lake native and Starline Films co-owner Jon Doscher credits his success with his determination and business savvy.

Danny Aiello's home. According to Doscher, Aiello urged Doscher to forget the classes and just plunge into acting.

But Doscher had grander schemes. He continued to build his power-washing business, which eventually evolved into Doscher's Restoration Co. He sold the company and used the capital to start Starline Films with his friend Kevin Leckner.

Starting their own company allowed Doscher to selectively choose interesting roles and projects. If he wanted to work behind

the camera, he could do that. If he felt like acting, he could do that, Turmpike — wanted to tell their story. They were interested in making a documentary.

Doscher wanted to make a feature film. Veteran talk-show host Montel Williams agreed to narrate the documentary. "We didn't get a lot of support for the documentary," Doscher said. "Industry people were more interested in the motion picture, so the documentary, you know, it was a passion piece."

Doscher admits the documentary is "more of a slanted view."

Leckner concedes the documentary is not Starline's most polished piece of work.

"I look at it as a 7 on a scale of 1 to 10 because we had a shoestring budget," Leckner said.

So Doscher decided to make two movies — a documentary and a feature film. Veteran talk-show host Montel Williams agreed to narrate the documentary.

"I think it's important because this is really the story that defined racial profiling in America," Williams said. "And it defined an era in America that even 'til today, still has remnants. It's a powerful

By day, Doscher worked on houses and dabbled in magazine publishing. By night, he took acting classes.

story of community and people stepping up seeking justice, though I'm not sure if justice was ever really, really, really satisfied in this case." Portions of the proceeds from Thursday's event will benefit Williams' MS Foundation.

Williams still hasn't seen the final version of the documentary, but he's confident leaving his voice work in Doscher's hands.

"I met [Jon] after the project started moving forward," Williams said. "I really believe his heart's in the right place."

Checking in at 48 minutes long, the documentary features interviews with the four basketball players, lawyers from both sides and the Rev. Al Sharpton.

"It's very well done," said Diane Raver, the executive director of the Garden State Film Festival. "It's a real New Jersey story."

The players have tried to shy away from publicity, declining several interview requests from The Record.

"One of them seems to be more bitter than the other three," Doscher said. "I think they've taken on the high road overall and said, 'Well you know what, we're lucky to be alive.' ... But they were paid handsomely, and they were given an opportunity not only to live but to do other things."

Doscher was given a similar opportunity. He has other projects in development, including the motion picture version of "4Chosen." Will it ever make the big screen? If that photo of white trucks is any indication, Doscher will figure out a way to get it there.

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