

Announcing the Release of *Boys to Fame*

For Immediate Release

Philadelphia, PA

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History Making Productions, the Philadelphia-based documentary film production house, today announced the release of its latest film, **Boys to Fame**. The film is being made available for rental or purchase direct-to-consumers on the website, www.boystofame.com.

You can screen the film's trailer [HERE](#).

Logline: When a ten-year-old boy asks his childhood football hero for an autograph, he begins a forty-year journey that will change both of their lives—culminating in Canton's most unforgettable Pro Football Hall of Fame enshrinement speech and a confession, decades in the making.

Boys to Fame explores how we memorialize our heroes, whether strangers, family or friends and the value those memories and relationships bring to our own lifelong passions and pursuits.

Summary: Every kid has a childhood hero. For Ray Didinger, that hero wasn't a poster on his bedroom wall or a trading card—it was Tommy McDonald, the undersized dynamo who helped the Philadelphia Eagles win the NFL championship in 1960.

At Eagles training camp in Hershey, Pennsylvania, a ten-year-old Ray asked Tommy for an autograph. What he got was so much more: Tommy called Ray "little brother," inviting him to carry his helmet to practice every day. Those two weeks each year for seven years became the foundation of a unique and loving friendship between a working-class kid from Southwest Philadelphia and the then most electrifying receiver in pro football.

Ray grew up to become an Emmy-winning sportswriter, an NFL Films producer and a TV and radio commentator, while Tommy's post-career years brought business success together with a painful wait. Despite Hall of Fame-caliber statistics, he watched Hall of Fame class after class enshrined without him. When Ray was appointed to the Hall's Board of Selectors, he faced a choice: maintain professional distance or fight for the man who had shown such kindness to a boy with an autograph book.

Ray chose to fight. His campaign culminated in 1998, when Tommy finally received the call—and delivered an acceptance speech for the ages, dancing to the Bee Gees and tossing his 35-pound bronze bust into the air. But backstage, before Tommy took that stage, Ray finally revealed a secret he'd kept for decades: he was that little kid from training camp.

Boys to Fame is a story about hero worship, intergenerational fandom, the personal sacrifice of playing the game, and what happens when a childhood dream comes true for both the boy and the man he idolized.

Accolades: **Ron Jaworski**, Eagles Hall of Fame Quarterback, called the film "sensational" and a "heartwarming story". For former Eagles coach, **Dick Vermeil**, said the film "brought tears to my eyes". **Angelo Cataldi**, former WIP Morning Show radio host, called *Boys to Fame*, "truly a masterpiece". Longtime 6abc Action News Anchor **Jim Gardner** called it "a story about adoration that ... strikes a chord in all of our lives". **Rich Gannon** who spent 17 years in the NFL called the film "a must see film for the entire family!" Former Pro Football Hall of Fame Executive Director, **Joe Horrigan**, noted "It's about heart and compassion, perseverance and reward."

ABOUT HISTORY MAKING PRODUCTIONS. History Making Productions, founded in 2008 by Sam Katz, creates award-winning historical documentaries. The company's portfolio includes the 13-part series *Philadelphia: The Great Experiment*; *Beethoven in Beijing*, a 2020 finalist for the Library of Congress Lavine/Ken Burns Prize for Film; *Gradually, Then Suddenly: The Bankruptcy of Detroit*, winner of the 2021 Ken Burns Prize for Film; *Urban Trinity: The Story of Catholic Philadelphia*; among many others. The company is currently producing *In Pursuit*, a 10 part/10 hour docuseries on the history of America told through the lens of its first city, Philadelphia; and *Soul of the City: Philadelphia's Musical Century*. Both films will be released in 2026. For more information visit www.historymakingproductions.com.