

A person wearing a red baseball uniform is looking through a chain-link fence. The person's face is partially obscured by the fence, and they are holding a baseball bat. The background shows green foliage and a clear sky.

THE  
LOST × BOYZ

OF CHICAGO



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# 01 SYNOPSIS

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**FROM THE AWARD-WINNING TEAM** that brought you *For Aaron: The Documentary* comes the inspiring true story of the Lost Boyz of Chicago - a youth baseball league playing to reclaim their community from gang violence within one of the of the most violent neighborhoods in America.

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## 02 ABOUT THE FILM

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**THE SOUTH SIDE OF CHICAGO** is one of the most violent places in America. LaVonte is no stranger to the day to day gang violence, and he has chosen to continue to surround himself in the thick of it. We met with Lavonte Stewart and were immediately fascinated with his story. We knew this was a story we had to tell. This short film tells the story of a man hardened by the streets of South Shore, who, after a short term in prison, devoted his life to helping the community's youth through coaching a youth baseball league, the **Lost Boyz of Chicago**. Our crew followed Lavonte and his team for three long days and immersed themselves right into the world of South Shore Chicago. As a teenager, LaVonte was no stranger to holding his own in South Shore gangs. He roamed the streets with a firearm looking for his next victim. This was and still is the lifestyle in the community. Once you're pulled into it, it is really hard to break away. Now twenty years later, he carries a baseball bat and glove, seeking kids out in the very same community. His sole duty is to keep them from going down his same path and showing a positive life in return.





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# 03 ABOUT JUSTIN JARRET

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**Justin** is an award-winning writer, director and creative entrepreneur who's visionary storytelling style has manifested itself in the form of JTWO over the past ten years. He has directed both original and branded features, commercials and documentaries on four different continents in addition to collaborating with clients such as *ESPN, Comcast, NFL Films, Under Armor, University of Pennsylvania* and the *United Nations* while guiding the creative direction and growth of JTWO, which he co-founded in 2009.

A creative chameleon, Justin's directing style is unique in that he has the ability to seamlessly weave in and out of genres, because he stays true to his personal mantra – the story is everything. This has proven invaluable time and time again throughout his career as he continues to hone his directorial skill set whether he is filming an emotional human interest piece or collaborating with actors or athletes like Shaquille O'Neal (it's been about 14 projects at this point, but who's counting?).

Both **JTWO's** renowned non-profit collaboration program, The Projects That Matter Initiative and the successful young filmmaker's Incubator Project are also two of Justin's brainchildren.





# 04 ABOUT LOST BOYZ INC.

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**Lost Boyz Inc.'s** mission is to decrease violence, improve the social and emotional conditions, and provide financial opportunities among the youth in Chicago's South Shore community. With baseball training and competitive participation as our core drivers, our mission is achieved through high-intensity mentoring, intervention, and social entrepreneurship activities. We also incorporate cultural awareness, service learning, and civic engagement. We use this combination of programming and direct interaction to positively and permanently impact the lives of school age youth, resulting in life-altering character development and improved decision making.

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# 05 LINKS

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Lost Boyz Documentary:  
**[The Lost Boyz Of Chicago](#)**

Lost Boyz Inc. Official Website:  
**<https://lostboyzinc.org/>**

JTWO Films Website:  
**[jtwo.tv](http://jtwo.tv)**

JTWO Films Instagram:  
**[jtwo instagram](#)**

JTWO Films Facebook:  
**[www.facebook.com/jtwofilms/](http://www.facebook.com/jtwofilms/)**

Press:  
**[reelchicago](#)**



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# 06 FAQ

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**Q: What software did you use?**

A: Adobe Premier, Photoshop, Audition, After Effects, DeVinci Resolve.

**Q: How long did it take to make the film?**

A: About a year, working mostly on weekends and evenings.

**Q: What equipment was used to film the documentary?**

A: Red Weapon 8K Helium Cinema Camera

**Q: Why was this Documentary made?**

A: We wanted to tell Lavonte Stewart's story, a lifelong south side resident and founder of Lost Boyz Inc. He served a short term in prison, then became inspired to give back to his community's youth after seeing gang gun violence during the middle of his kids baseball game and saw how the team wasn't phased the least by it. Through baseball and softball training, he helps provide a safe space where he can teach leadership and life lessons to neighborhood kids.

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# 07 ANECDOTE

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**OVER THE COURSE** of shooting the Lost Boyz of Chicago Documentary we were faced with many unforeseen challenges. Our film crew was stationed on the South Side of Chicago which is a tough neighborhood to adapt to not being a local in the community. We were stopped multiple times by gang members who told us we need to leave certain streets as gang violence was just minutes away from occurring. On the third day, as we unloaded our equipment, all production came to a halt as gun violence between rival gangs came less than 100 feet from our crew.

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## 08 CAST

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--- **LAVONTE STEWART**

--- **KIANTE PARLOR**

--- **NYASHA HARRIS**

--- **LOST BOYZ INC. BASEBALL &  
SOFTBALL ORGANIZATION**

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# POSTER

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# 09 CREDITS

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**PRODUCTION BY:**

JTWO Films

**PRODUCTION PARTNER:**

Laureus Sport For Good USA

**DIRECTED BY:**

Justin Jarrett

**PRODUCED BY:**

Conor Hare

Travis Capacete

Brittany Bonnano

**DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY:**

Maria Vattimo

**ASSISTANT CINEMATOGRAPHER:**

Aaron Preusch

**SOUND:**

AJ Olstad

**EDITOR:**

Justin Jarrett

**SOUND MIX:**

Jelani Thomas

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