



September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016

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## **NBA Hall of Famer Spencer Haywood Comes Home to Michigan**

*New Documentary about His Life to Show at Detroit Area's Royal Starr Film Festival*

Film Highlights Contributions Detroit Basketball Legend Made to Today's NBA Stars

**September 21st, 2016 (SEATTLE, WA.)** True Productions is proud to announce that *Full Court: The Spencer Haywood Story*, the poignant and gritty new documentary about the legacy of former NBA superstar Spencer Haywood will make its Michigan premiere at Detroit's [Royal Starr Film Festival](#) on Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> (7:00 pm & 9:30 pm) and Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> (5:00 pm). Spencer, a Michigan native, will be there immediately after Friday's show, answering questions from the audience.

The documentary, narrated by rapper Chuck D, examines the untold story of a basketball legend who changed the face of professional basketball forever. This historic journey took Spencer Haywood from the cotton fields of Mississippi, all the way to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. It's been brought to life through interviews with former NBA stars Charles Barkley, Kenny Wilkins and former U.S. Senator Bill Bradley among others as well as beautifully stylized footage and archival photographs. [See sizzle reel.](#)

Haywood says, "It's great to be coming home to premiere this movie for my hometown. This is where I went to high school, college. This is where I raised my kids. It's really historic and I'm honored. It's a beautiful thing."

Royal Starr Film Festival's Charlie Haviland says, "Spencer's story needs to be told here in Detroit." Film festival President Larry Kantor says, "We're thrilled to have the Michigan premiere of Spencer's story right here in his own backyard." *Full Court: The Spencer Haywood Story* premiered world-wide at the Seattle International Film Festival in May. Seattle is where the Detroit Pershing High School graduate landed in the NBA after a protracted journey, including earning an Olympic gold medal in 1968.

Haywood started his pro career in the American Basketball Association in 1969 and began his NBA career a year later with the Seattle Supersonics in 1970. He led the team to their first-ever playoff berth. But when NBA lawyers tried to bar him from playing because he hadn't

completed four years of college, he began the fight of his life, a long legal battle that would finally end up in the Supreme Court.

The film, produced by Seattle CEO Dwayne Clark, founder of True Productions, tells the story of how Haywood, a young, black basketball player from the racially-charged South, overcame extreme poverty in the cotton fields of Mississippi and became a basketball star. But Dwayne Clark says, "This is a story that goes way beyond basketball. Spencer overcame so much. His story is so inspirational and that's what True Productions is all about."

The True Productions produced the documentary with award-winning AMS Pictures. The documentary looks back at how Haywood's court battle in the 1970's led to years of backlash, fame, fortune, drug abuse, recovery and finally ... recognition.

**About True Productions:**

True Productions is a Seattle-based film, theatre and media production company owned by Seattle area CEO and entrepreneur Dwayne Clark and his wife, Terese Clark. True Productions produces inspirational films and theatre based upon real life stories. Dwayne Clark is a playwright and published author of several inspirational books. Clark is CEO at Aegis Living and a philanthropist who supports many nonprofits locally and nationally.

**MEDIA AVAILIBILITY:** Spencer Haywood is available for phone interviews before the festival and for on-site interviews after the Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm show

For more info: <http://www.RoyalStarr.org>

The film be shown at the Emagine Royal Oak Theatre 200 North Main Street, Royal Oak, MI 48067  
Phone: 248.414.1000

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