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WWW.GHOSTPLAYER.US

GHOST PLAYER

THE DOCUMENTARY

SYNOPSIS & PHOTOS

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SYNOPSIS

GHOST PLAYER is a documentary that chronicles what happened in a small farming community after Hollywood came to make a movie about baseball, relationships and dreams. Told through the lens of a local appliance salesman, the film follows the fate of a group of aging Iowa locals who were given a second chance to revive the dreams they had long since abandoned in order to make ends meet in a flailing rural economy.

BACKSTORY

In 1989, the Hollywood Blockbuster, FIELD OF DREAMS was shot in a cornfield in Dyersville, Iowa, a small town of 3,700 that relied on a limping farm economy to survive. Little did anyone know this blockbuster would transform Dyersville and the lives of a handful of middle aged baseball lovers. Following the movie's release, Dyersville became one of the nation's hottest attractions as tourists flocked to the field carved out of the corn. A surprise game meant to thrill tourists on a summer Sunday in 1990, became a fun-filled family show that the Chicago Tribune dubbed "one part baseball and two parts vaudeville." Memories of exhibition games, baseball camps and traveling the world from Iowa to Turkey to Japan is the legacy of these second chancers.

THE PLOT

GHOST PLAYER chronicles the birth, 18-year life, and final days of the Ghost Players through the lens of Joe Scherrman, the local appliance salesman who always dreamed of making movies. The film focuses on three main characters whose dreams were revived and lives transformed along their journey with the Ghost Players. Each episode weaves an intimate portrait of one player against the backdrop of the team's adventures as they traveled the world, bringing the comfort and familiarity of baseball to military personnel stationed in the far flung corners of the globe and families everywhere.

A window has been opened onto the lives of the players on and off the field. We meet a furniture upholsterer, an educator and a hog farmer, all of whom had abandoned their dreams in order to face the prosaic realities of life in rural Iowa. Against the backdrop of the team's adventures and misadventures, the story weaves an intimate, sometimes tragic and often hilarious portrait of a rural community determined to indulge in this piece of the American Dream.

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THE PLAYERS & THEIR DREAMS

HANK LUCAS [PITCHER]

Hank Lucas has a quiet, teddy-bear demeanor that belies his fierce knuckle curve ball. When he's not on the baseball diamond, he upholsters furniture in a factory that's been hit by one downsizing after another and struggling to survive.

Lucas grew up playing baseball and doing odd jobs in Holy Cross, Iowa, population 350. Like nearly every other boy he knew, Hank dreamed of playing baseball in the major leagues. But unlike most everyone else, Hank got to live this dream. Briefly. Hank was signed as a free agent with the Los Angeles Dodgers straight out of high school in 1967. But after two years, he was in a car wreck that nearly ended his life and shattered his budding dreams of baseball greatness.

Hank returned home to work in the factory, and live out his days with his dream deferred. Until, one morning in 1988, when the manager and scout for the movie FIELD OF DREAMS called the old Dodger to play again as the New York Yankee pitcher in the FIELD OF DREAMS. An original Ghost Player, Hank dedicated the next 18 years of his life to playing the game that revived his childhood dreams.

DENNIS RIMA [MANAGER/PLAYER]

"Coach" Rima is not your average ball player. He's gets down on his knees and prays before every ghost player show. He won't drink or smoke, and gives God the glory for everything he does. But that does not mean Rima is reserved. As the Ghost Players' manager, Rima had his microphone on at all times, eagerly encouraging his players and audience with hilarious jabs throughout the comedy routine and carrying these antics into the competitive games.

Coach Rima dreamed of life as a comedian. In fact, he had been offered jobs for his comedic talents. But the jobs meant leaving Iowa. And Coach Rima's mission was and is in Iowa. His mission led him through coaching college baseball, working as an athletic director, and now at the local pregnancy center. The Ghost Players and the Field of Dreams gave Rima a second chance to live his humorous hopes.



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THE PLAYERS & THEIR DREAMS [CONTINUED]

MARV MAIERS [MANAGER/COACH]

As road manager of the Ghost Players, Marv gave the opening welcome at all GP events. With his big handle bar mustache, Marv was a star on the field. It was a stark contrast to his life as a hog farmer. As a kid, Marv dreamed of two things - playing ball and traveling the world. He gave up those dreams for decades to hold a variety of jobs while also working to save the family farm. Marv's dreams to travel and play ball were fulfilled, in the end through the team. As a Ghost Player Marv came to life, bringing joy and laughter to children, parents and fellow teammates who see him, as he now sees himself, in a whole new light.

JOE SCHERRMAN [PRODUCTION ASSISTANT/ARCHIVIST]

Filmmaker, occasional narrator, and Ghost Player Joe Scherrman, was never good at sports. Despite his talent for and love of movie making, Joe put down his camera early in life to take over the family appliance business. That is until the FIELD OF DREAMS came to town and inspired him to pick it up again. He has since documented the Ghost Players and their antics. The culmination of Joe's work is this documentary on the GHOST PLAYERS. His longtime friendship and involvement with the Ghost Players afforded an intimate vista of the team from the Field of Dreams. The documentary itself is a testament to the dreams fulfilled through a grassy field in Iowa--an inspiring story of the real life impact that one movie had on a community and a group of men determined to defy the odds and reclaim their dreams.

PROJECT STATUS

Filmmaker, Joe Scherrman recorded the Ghost Players for 18 years, gathering hundreds of hours of material, which has been logged, digitized and archived for future projects and historical access. The project is currently at the cutting and assembly phase. The rough cut will be completed in March, 2009 and a pre-screening is set for mid-April, 2009.



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**DreamCatcher
Production LLC**



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Ghost Player Intern Staff Sorting Through Footage



Ghost Player Studio Production Staff



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Ghostplayers HDTV Appearance



Ghostplayers at The Field of Dreams Movie Site



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Ghostplayers Greeting Kids in Japan



Ghostplayers Entertaining Japan Fans



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Ghostplayers Left Their Mark With Many People Worldwide



Ghostplayers Marv Maiers & Dennis Rima Appear From Corn



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Ghostplayers Make Their Final Appearance to Thousands of Fans in 2007



Ghostplayers Team Tip Their Caps to Crowd One Last Time