MIND/GAME:
The Unquiet Journey of Chamique Holdsclaw

A film by Rick Goldsmith

CONTACT BOTH ON ALL PRESS REQUESTS:
Rick Goldsmith, Producer/Director
rgoldfilm@gmail.com
(o) 510-849-3225; (cel) 510-919-0756
2600 Tenth St. #628, Berkeley, CA 94710

Lauren Kawana, Associate Producer
lauren.akie@gmail.com
(cel) 808-386-2565

* Nashville Film Festival– “Tennessee First” AUDIENCE AWARD, 2015
* VOICE AWARD, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Svcs. Admin. (SAMHSA), 2015
* Frameline Film Festival (San Francisco), 2015
* San Francisco Jewish Film Festival, 2015
* Knoxville Film Festival- AUDIENCE and JURY AWARDS-Best Documentary, 2015
*Out On Film (Atlanta) Film Festival- AUDIENCE AWARD-Best Documentary, 2015
*Gold Coast International Film Festival- AUDIENCE AWARD-Best Documentary, 2015
*Da Bounce Urban Film Festival, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 2015
* The Carter Center, Atlanta – special screening with Rosalynn Carter, 2015
*Honolulu African-American Film Festival, Honolulu, HI, 2016
* DC Independent Film Festival, Washington DC-AUDIENCE AWARD-Best Documentary, 2016
* Queens World Film Festival, Queens, NY, 2016

Prod/Dir: Rick Goldsmith, rgoldfilm@gmail.com, (w) 510-849-3225;(c) 510-919-0756; mindgamefilm.org
TESTIMONIALS AND REVIEWS:

“Terrific...a remarkable and important film.”
--Dr. Kay Redfield Jamison, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, foremost expert on bipolar disorder, author, “The Unquiet Mind”

“A must-see for anyone who cares about mental health and suicide prevention, especially among our youth.” --Alison Malmon, Executive Director and Founder of Active Minds, Inc.

“Chamique’s voice shatters the silence of stigma that prevents those suffering from reaching out to seek the treatment and recovery that is possible.” --Richard Lieberman, Psychologist, Los Angeles County Suicide Prevention Network

“Mind/Game is an accurate and vivid portrayal of the unique challenges that athletes face when they have a mental health condition. Society tends to minimize mental health concerns of athletes and elite performers. Mind/Game opens the door to further exploration, dialogue, and resolution strategies for athletes with psychological health concerns, and can facilitate the development of proactive psychological resources for athletes and the overall sport culture.” -- Chris Carr, Ph.D., Sport & Performance Psychologist, St. Vincent Sports Performance

“A powerful film that destigmatizes mental health issues, so young athletes feel free and empowered to ask for help without fear of being seen as weak.” --Jim Thompson, Founder and CEO, Positive Coaching Alliance

“This film has all the essential ingredients needed to put a face on mental illness. Viewing the film benefits people from all ethnic and cultural communities.... It can make a huge difference in reducing mental health stigma and discrimination.” – Gigi Crowder, LE, Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services, Ethnic Services Manager

“Mind/Game is at once a particular and deeply personal story and a vehicle that addresses more universal issues on multiple levels—personal, social, cultural, institutional. The film is both one woman’s story and a catalyst for change.” – John Emmons, LMFT, The Psychotherapy Institute, Berkeley, CA

“Mind/Game brings awareness to mental illness, the importance of speaking up, and lets people know that they are not alone. A beautiful film.” -- John MacPhee, Executive Director and CEO, The Jed Foundation

“Mind/Game presents a heartbreaking and inspiring story that highlights an important issue [and] will appeal to athletes and others grappling with the pressure to achieve as well as those concerned with mental health.” - Library Journal [Sara Holder, McGill Univ. Librarian, Montreal]

“[Mind/Game] sheds light on this likable athlete and provides a glimpse into the insular world of sports, where coming out — of any sort — remains a heavy burden.” – SF Chronicle
Mind/Game: The Unquiet Journey of Chamique Holdsclaw

MEDIA:
- NPR’s Michel Martin interviews Chamique on “All Things Considered”:
- Hawaii Public Radio: interview with Rick Goldsmith on Mind/Game and mental health public policy:
- Edge of Sports Podcast with Dave Zirin – “A Chamique Holdsclaw Christmas”
  http://www.edgeofsportspodcast.com/post/135851989295/a-chamique-holdsclaw-christmas-david-steele-on (go to 8:10)
- THE EAST BAY MONTHLY: Interview with Rick Goldsmith on Mind/Game
  http://www.themonthly.com/culture1507.html
- ESPN: Chamique Holdsclaw Embraces Role of Mental Health Advocate (Mind/Game review)
- SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE: Interview with Chamique Holdsclaw on Mind/Game
- AFTER ELLEN: Chamique Holdsclaw on opening up to cameras for Mind/Game
- SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE: Review of Mind/Game (and other films at Frameline Festival)
- KPFA: Interview with Rick Goldsmith on Mind/Game for “Living Room” with Kris Welch
  https://kpfa.org/player/?audio=208647 (scrub to 44:45)
- THE COLLISION with Dave Zirin: Interview with Chamique Holdsclaw on Mind/Game
  http://yourlisten.com/bubzbeats/wpfw150402100000collision (scrub to 35:10)
- BUZZFLASH: Interview with Rick Goldsmith on Mind/Game:
- INDIEWIRE: The finishing stages of Mind/Game:
- CHAZ EBERT BLOG on Mind/Game:
- SLAM MAGAZINE on Chamique Holdsclaw and Mind/Game:
  http://www.slamonline.com/the-magazine/features/chamique-holdsclaw-slam-magazine/#oi22bMsjZkAiTo1.97
- NASHVILLE FILM FESTIVAL red carpet interview with Chamique Holdsclaw & Rick Goldsmith:
  https://youtu.be/98hq4AqnXbc

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SYNOPSIS – MIND/GAME: THE UNQUIET JOURNEY OF CHAMIQUE HOLDSCLAW

She was the greatest women’s basketball player the world had ever seen: seven consecutive championships from high school through college, moves and flair comparable to the best men’s players, the “female Michael Jordan.” But inside, something was not right.

Six years into her career as a pro with the Washington Mystics, Chamique Holdsclaw left the team under a cloud. She was, it turned out later, suffering from both clinical depression and the shame of her illness, hidden by a mask that she had worn for years. Two years later Holdsclaw attempted suicide by overdose. She had hit rock bottom. Only then did she seriously accept professional help.

As Holdsclaw progressed in apparent recovery, she began sharing her story, first with friends and then publicly, as a way to help address and reduce the stigma of mental illness that had once kept her silent. Placing her own struggles in the spotlight was rare for an athlete, even rarer for a superstar, and Holdsclaw became widely admired as a courageous mental health advocate. It was an inspiring and heartwarming tale—except that the story was far from finished.

In November, 2012, Holdsclaw made headlines again, but this time she was in handcuffs. The event involved an attack on her ex-girlfriend, and suddenly Chamique was looking at a possible 65 years in prison. Skewered in the media, she faced social ostracism, financial hardship, months of legal travail, and—just when she thought she was on the road to mental health recovery—a new diagnosis: bipolar disorder, aka manic depression, a disease that results in suicide for 3 out of 20 who have it.

Holdclaw’s personal struggles to identify, cope with and recover from her mental health challenges provide a gripping and revealing tale. The film explores mental illness on several fronts: the mysterious and elusive nature in defining it; its stigma, both internal and external; the discomfort people—even sufferers, close friends and family members—have in discussing it; all set within the context of mental health public policy in the United States. The film also explores the special challenges and contradictions of mental illness within the competitive sports world and African-American and young adult communities. Ultimately, it is an intensely intimate portrait of one exceptional woman battling the kind of demons experienced by millions.

THE SOCIAL ISSUE

Untreated mental illness is arguably the greatest social crisis facing this country. One in four Americans experiences a mental disorder in any given year. Almost every family is touched by mental illness but most are ill-equipped to deal with it. It is poorly understood and difficult to talk about. Stigma leads to millions of individuals and families being reluctant to seek treatment for themselves and their children. As both Holdsclaw and Dr. David Satcher, former U.S. Surgeon General, address in our film, these challenges are doubly difficult among African-Americans. And yet, despite the obvious crisis, intelligent, well-informed discussion and debate concerning mental illness is largely absent in this country—it is one of the last social taboos.
Most public discussion of mental illness is driven by headlines of horrific events, like the Newtown school massacre, the Aurora (Colorado) movie shootings, or the recent Lufthansa pilot’s crash into the French Alps. The resulting discussion in the media, by the general public, and in policy circles inevitably revolves around efforts to prevent violence by the mentally ill, and to fear them. But the far more important issues involve the great suffering of millions of individuals and families, who are already subject to great stigma and discrimination. What they need is reduced stigma, better information, more support, and, ultimately, adequate and accessible services. For that to happen, the public needs a better understanding of mental illness and the country needs to develop more humane and effective public policies.

*Mind/Game* provides an opportunity to reach large and important audiences and to deepen understanding by going beyond headlines. It presents a rich character study that debunks myths and misconceptions, and reveals a more complete and truthful picture of mental illness and the toll it takes. On a social level, it addresses the necessity for better policy based on understanding the nature of mental illness and the needs of the mentally ill. On a personal level, it addresses specific issues such as overcoming shame, resistance to taking medication, what is needed for recovery, and the possibilities of living a full life.

By building our narrative specifically around Chamique Holdsclaw, we have the opportunity to attract broad audiences, as well as selected populations, whom might not otherwise seek out mental-health-themed films: athletes, sports fans, African-Americans, college-age youth, teenage girls and young women. By exploring mental health issues directly with useful, concrete information, we offer a film that is of great practical use to individuals with mental disorders and their families, which can also be used to support the work of mental health professionals, mental health educational and advocacy organizations, and to influence public policy.

THE FILMMAKER

Rick Goldsmith (producer, director, editor, co-writer) specializes in documentaries that tell intensely personal stories and address important social/political issues. *The Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers* (2009) (co-produced and co-directed with Judith Ehrlich), was an *Academy Award nominee* for Best Documentary Feature, and won the *George Foster Peabody Award* for its POV/PBS broadcast. (PLEASE SEE FILMOGRAPHY AT THE END OF THIS DOCUMENT.) It tells the story of how a Pentagon insider put his career and freedom on the line to expose government lies and help stop the War in Vietnam.

Goldsmith produced, directed, edited and co-wrote the Academy-Award-nominated documentary feature *Tell the Truth and Run: George Seldes and the American Press* (1996), which was broadcast nationwide on public television and cablecast on the Sundance Channel. The film is a piercing look at censorship and suppression in America’s news media, and influenced a generation of aspiring journalists. Goldsmith also co-produced and co-directed (with Abby Ginzberg) *Everyday Heroes* (2001), a behind-the-headlines documentary feature about AmeriCorps, and an incisive look at youth, race, and national service. The film was broadcast nationwide on public television.
Goldsmith has been making social-issue documentary films for more than three decades. He is a member of the Documentary Branch of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), of Writers Guild of America, West, and of New Day Films, and filmmaker coop that distributes social-issue films to the educational market.

**DIRECTOR’S STATEMENT**

My uncle endured 60 years of schizophrenia that began when he was in the Navy during World War II. He was a gentle soul, a creative artist and musician, but interacted little with others and lived a life of inner turmoil. Aside from medication, he got very little help. I always wondered, why?

I was drawn to Chamique Holdsclaw’s story from the day I read a piece on her in The New York Times in early 2012. She’d been the best of the best, took a great fall, but emerged in recovery as a mental health advocate who was remarkably candid about her own story. She was fighting the good fight about something very few are comfortable with talking about. Indeed, mental illness comes with great stigma—it is perhaps the final taboo of America’s pressing social problems.

I approached Chamique with the help of Lon Babby—my close friend since childhood, who was also Chamique’s agent when she played professionally. At first glance, you couldn’t find a more unlikely pair to collaborate on a film: Chamique and I are diametrically opposed on just about every demographic: sex, race, religion, generation, family background, sexual preference. About the only things we have in common were our places of birth—Queens, NY. And a passion for bringing discussion of mental illness out of the shadows.

The first task was to establish trust. I knew instinctively I had to be as open with myself, my own personal life, and my motives for doing the film, as I expected Chamique to be on camera. It takes courage to reveal the most intimate and sometimes painful parts of your life to a relative stranger, and by extension, to the world. So I give her credit for trusting me with her story. But a critical event—“the November incident”—six months after we started production threatened to torpedo the project for good.

Chamique faced six felony counts, the possibility of prison, and very public attacks on her character and reputation. Such an incident might have derailed her life and, quite understandably, the film. But Holdsclaw never wavered from her determination to rebound, nor her willingness to reveal her personal struggles on camera. After several discussions, we both agreed that her deepening journey could be more powerful, more revelatory, more instructive, and more REAL, for what it says about mental illness and the way we as friends, family and society, deal with the associated challenges, than either of us had first envisioned. And so we moved ahead. I followed her recovery for more than two years after the incident, with a final sit-down interview with Chamique only weeks before locked picture.

Along the way I took part in a Rosalynn Carter Mental Health Journalism Fellowship, which provided me with invaluable help in shaping the mental health aspects of the film, and developed the beginnings of many partnerships with mental health advocates, professionals, and organizations—
all working to fight stigma, educate the public, and help steer our society to a much more enlightened attitude and public policy concerning mental illness.

Throughout the project, I had envisioned Glenn Close as my narrator. Glenn founded the organization Bring Change 2 Mind and has been in the forefront for years of bringing discussion of mental illness out of the closet. When my long-time writing colleague Sharon Wood and I were ready with a script that I felt worthy, I approached Glenn, and she was more than willing to help out. I will remember our subsequent recording session for her terrific read—heartfelt and passionate—and for the beginning of an alliance with yet another warrior on the front lines of change.

I bring this film out to the world, with the hope—and expectation—that it not only moves audiences, but gives those living with mental illness and their families both practical information that will help them navigate their own difficult journeys, and the inspiration and courage to do so.

CAST OF CHARACTERS (In approximate order of appearance)

Chamique Holdsclaw – professional basketball player: 4 state championships in a row with Christ The King High School in Queens, NY. Named New York City’s player of the year for three consecutive years, a feat unmatched by any male or female player; won 3 NCAA championships in a row with Coach Pat Summitt’s University of Tennessee Lady Vols; Four-time Kodak All-America; Two-time James Naismith Award as Best Player of the Year; 1999 Sullivan Award as top amateur athlete (male or female) in the United States; first draft pick of the 1999 WNBA draft; Rookie of the Year, 1999; US Olympic team, Gold Medal winner, 2000; WNBA player 1999-2010; 6-time WNBA All-Star.

Metta World Peace – NBA player, 1999-2014; Defensive Player of the Year and All-Star, 2004; Born Ron Artest, played youth basketball with Holdsclaw in Queens, NY; founded The Artest Foundation, concerned with gun violence and mental health among other issues; mental health advocate.

William C. Rhoden – Sportswriter and “Sports of the Times” columnist, The New York Times; Covered Holdsclaw for The Times when she was still in high school, as well as her mental health advocacy in recent years.

Vincent Cannizarro—Holdsclaw’s coach at Christ the King High School, Queens, NY.

Bonita Holdsclaw—Chamique Holdsclaw’s mother.

Raquel Higgs—Plays “young Chamique” in Mind/Game.

Pat Summitt (in archival interviews and footage)—Head coach, University of Tennessee Lady Vols basketball team when Holdsclaw played at UT. Won 8 championships as head coach, won more games (1,098) than any other NCAA coach (male or female); The only woman (at #11) on the
Sporting News list of the 50 Greatest Coaches of All Time in all sports; retired in 2012 due to early-onset Alzheimer’s disease, and is outspoken about her own struggles with the disease.

Antonio Brewer—Friend of Holdsclaw’s since their days together as student-athletes at the University of Tennessee.

Jenny Moshak – Trainer, Lady Vols basketball team when Holdsclaw played at UT.

Holly Warlick—Current Head coach, University of Tennessee, Lady Vols basketball team, assistant coach when Holdsclaw played on the team.

Dominique Canty—Opponent (while at University of Alabama, and later in the WNBA) and teammate (in the Polish league) of Chamique Holdsclaw.

Lon Babby—Chamique Holdsclaw’s agent when she graduated from University of Tennessee and throughout most of her professional career. President of Basketball Operations, 2011-2015, for the NBA’s Phoenix Suns and currently Senior Advisor.

Cheron Scales—Holdsclaw’s cousin, who grew up in the same Astoria housing project as Chamique when she was being raised by her grandmother; Chamique’s roommate in Washington, DC when she played for the Washington Mystics.

Dr. David Satcher—former U.S. Surgeon General under President Clinton; head of the Satcher Health Leadership Institute at Morehouse College; worked with Holdsclaw together on the NFL Community Huddle, addressing brain injuries and other mental health issues in professional sports.

Rita Davis—Close friend of Chamique’s, lives nearby in Atlanta, GA.

Dorian Lee—Chamique’s trainer in Atlanta during the time she made a comeback in the WNBA with the Atlanta Dream in 2009 and subsequently.

Asia Lampley—bodybuilder diagnosed with bipolar disorder; friend, workout partner and confidant of Chamique’s in Atlanta.
MIND/GAME CREDITS

Produced, Directed and Edited by Rick Goldsmith

Narrated by Glenn Close

Written by Rick Goldsmith and Sharon Wood

Associate Producer: Lauren Kawana

Original Music: Miriam Cutler

Directors of Photography: Pete Wages, Vicente Franco

Principal Sound Recordist: Greg Linton

Graphic Design: Mat Baldwin, Bay Area Film Company

Audio Post-Production: Berkeley Sound Artists

Sound Designer and Rerecording Mixer: James LeBrecht

Colorist: Gary Coates

Online/HD Conform Editor: Jesse Spencer

Made possible in part by a Rosalynn Carter Mental Health Journalism Fellowship

Carter Center Mental Health Advisers: Dr. Kay Redfield Jamison, Bill Lichtenstein,

Caroline "CC" Clauss-Ehlers, Ph.D., John Head, Susan Ford Bales

Carter Center Mental Health Executive Director: Rebecca Palpant-Shimkets, M.S.

Additional Mental Health Consultants:

David Fariello, LCSW
Dr. Jennifer Bahr, ND
Connie Briscoe, Ph.D.
Andrea Lappen, Ph.D.
Alison Malmon, ED, Active Minds
Donna Holland Barnes, Ph.D.
Paul Quinnett, QPR

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The Berkeley FILM Foundation
The Nathan Cummings Foundation (With support and encouragement from Richard Cummings and Roberta Friedman Cummings)
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RICK GOLDSMITH - FILMOGRAPHY

MIND/GAME: The Unquiet Journey of Chamique Holdsclaw (2015), Producer/Director/Editor/Co-writer. The story of Holdsclaw’s journey from broken home to basketball superstardom, through depression and near-suicide, and her roller-coaster attempts at recovery. “Tennessee First” Audience Award, Nashville Film Festival; VOICE Award (SAMHSA), Awards at 3 other film festivals.

THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN IN AMERICA: Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers (2009), Co-producer/Co-director/Co-writer/Co-editor. Former war planner risks life in prison by leaking 7,000 pages of a top secret Pentagon report to The New York Times to help stop the Vietnam War. Academy Award nominee for Best Documentary Feature. Winner: George Foster Peabody Award (for POV/PBS broadcast); John O’Connor Film Award (American Historical Association); Erik Barnouw Award (Organization of American Historians); Freedom of Expression Award (National Board of Review); Special Jury Award (IDFA); Audience and Jury awards, 12 other film festivals.

TELL THE TRUTH AND RUN: George Seldes and the American Press (1996), Producer/Director/Co-writer/Editor. Academy Award nominee for Best Documentary Feature. The story of muckraking journalist Seldes is a piercing look at suppression and censorship in American journalism. John O’Connor Film Award (American Historical Association), Golden Spire (San Francisco International Film Festival), Gold Apple (National Educational Media Network). Broadcast/cablecast nationwide on public television, The Sundance Channel, Free Speech TV; short theatrical run and featured at many film festivals.

EVERYDAY HEROES (2001), Co-Producer/Co-Director, Editor. Documentary feature. This real-life look at youth, race and national service is a behind-the-headlines look at AmeriCorps, the “domestic Peace Corps.” Broadcast nationwide on public television, featured at many film festivals.


TAKING CARE: CNA’s First 100 Years (2003), Director/Writer/Editor. History of the formation, achievements and struggles of the California Nurses Association. Distributed nationwide.

ANATOMY OF A MURAL (1983), Producer, Director, Editor. Award-winning documentary short on mural painting and cultural arts in the Latino Mission district of San Francisco. Broadcast on PBS San Francisco (KQED-TV) and nationwide on cable television (The Learning Channel). Winner, Best Short Film, Hemisfilm International Film Festival, San Antonio and awards at six other festivals.

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PRIZES, AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS

For **MIND/GAME: The Unquiet Journey of Chamique Holdsclaw (2015)**:
- Rosalynn Carter Mental Health Journalism Fellowship, The Carter Center, 2013
- **VOICE Award**, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Svcs. Admin. (SAMHSA), 2015
- “Tennessee First” **Audience Award**, Nashville Film Festival, 2015
- **AUDIENCE and JURY Awards- Best Documentary**, Knoxville Film Festival, 2015
- **AUDIENCE Award- Best Documentary**, Out on Film (Atlanta) Festival, 2015
- **AUDIENCE Award- Best Documentary**, Gold Coast International Film Festival (Great Neck, NY), 2015
- **AUDIENCE Award- Best Documentary**, DC Independent Film Festival, 2016

For **THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN IN AMERICA: Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers (2009)** (partial list):
- **Academy Award nomination**, Best Documentary Feature, 2009
- **George Foster Peabody Award**, University of Georgia’s Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, 2011
- **Erik Barnouw Award**, Organization of American Historians (OAH), 2011
- **Emmy Award nomination**, Exceptional Merit in nonfiction filmmaking, 2011
- **John O’Connor Film Award**, American Historical Association (AHA), 2010
- **History Makers Award**, Best History Production, nextMEDIA, 2010
- **Tikkum Olam (“Heal the World”) Award** - Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival, 2010
- **Audience Award, Best Documentary** – It’s All True Film Festival 2010 (Brazil)
- **Best Documentary** – Sydney Film Festival 2010 (Australia)
- **Audience Award, Best Documentary**—Traverse City Film Festival 2010
- **Freedom of Expression Award** and one of **Five Best Documentaries** – National Board of Review 2009
- **Special Jury Award** – International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA), 2009

For **TELL THE TRUTH AND RUN: George Seldes and the American Press (1996)**:
- **Academy Award nomination**, Best Documentary Feature, 1996
- **John O’Connor Film Award**, American Historical Association (AHA), 1996
- **Golden Spire**, Golden Gate Award, San Francisco International Film Festival, 1996

MEMBERSHIPS

- Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences (AMPAS)
- International Documentary Association (IDA)
- Writers Guild of America, West
- New Day Films, educational films distribution co-op

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