



ABOUT THE FILM

BOYS OF SUMMER is a feature documentary about a scrappy band of Caribbean boys who dream of the big time: winning the Little League World Series at Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

On the tiny island of Curaçao, Manager Vernon Isabella has sent his Little League All-Stars to the World Series for seven consecutive years, routinely defeating such baseball powerhouses as Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic to win a spot in Williamsport.

How do they do it?

This film tries to crack the code of Curaçao's phenomenal success. We explore what baseball means to this tropical paradise where tourists enjoy beautiful beaches while residents deal with the harsher realities of a country still struggling to define itself economically and politically.

At its core, BOYS OF SUMMER is a film about the universally beloved pastime of baseball, examined from a unique perspective. It's about children carrying the privilege and burden of a nation's pride. It's about athletes competing at the highest level and having the time of their lives.



THE STORY

Our crew followed the team through their dramatic 2008 season – a year in which Curaçao was expected to end their winning streak. Through five months filming on the island, we share the highs and lows of team selection, rigorous training, regional tournaments and ultimately the Little League World Series itself. We also delve into the personal lives of our Little Leaguers, with unprecedented access to their homes, schools and close-knit Curaçao community.



Specific story lines include a dream-crushing injury, a star player singled out for a professional future, culture clashes when the team meets their rivals in America, and a visit from the boys' favorite Major League player, Atlanta Braves pitcher and Curaçao native Jair Jurrjens.

THE STYLE

To best capture the authentic experience of our Little Leaguers, the film is shot verite-style, relying almost exclusively on hand-held footage in full HD, which we interweave with broadcast game footage and amateur video shot by the team members on a smaller HDV camera.

Although our use of traditional "talking head" interviews is minimal, the film features appearances by a few high-profile subjects: Emily Elhage, the Prime Minister of Curaçao; Frank Curiel, the iconic "godfather" of Curaçao Little League who lives above home plate at the local ball field; well-known sports broadcasters Brent Musburger and Orestes Destrade; and MLB pitcher Jair Jurrjens.



We use subtitles during the first two sections, which include team training in Curaçao and the regional tournament on the nearby island of Bonaire. Our team speaks Papiamentu, a rare island language combining Dutch, Spanish, Portuguese and other dialects. Once we arrive in America, the film continues in English. We consider this an international story with a built-in US sports audience but also cross-cultural appeal for viewers abroad.

A major element of BOYS OF SUMMER will be the music, drawing flavor from local Caribbean bands and contemporary world music to keep the energy high, especially during competition sequences. We also feature an original score composed for the film.



VIDEO SAMPLE

Click here to watch a promotional video of the film:

<http://boysofsummerfilm.com/promo.html>

CONTACT

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