

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Tom Dierolf (Filmmaker)

Email: [tsdierolf@yahoo.com](mailto:tsdierolf@yahoo.com)

Skype: tsdierolf



## Can Football Cure Racism? Indie Doc Premieres at Chandler IFF.

**HAIFA (5 January 2018)** – The new indie documentary short, [Almost Cured](#), kicks off its 2018 film festival tour with a World Premiere screening at the [Chandler International Film Festival](#) on Martin Luther King Day and February screenings at the [Flagstaff Mountain Film Festival](#) and [Beaufort International Film Festival](#).

“After the first touchdown, the crowd was a little less racist, and after the second touchdown, they were Almost Cured” recalled player Lloyd Fisher. *Almost Cured* is an honest, personalized account about racial integration in a small North Carolina Appalachian community during the thick of the U.S. Civil Rights Movement in 1963. Against a distressing backdrop of the South in tumultuous upheaval with widespread protests, bombings, deaths, and thousands of arrests, player Dr. Keith Elliott said that the teenage African-American players on the newly-integrated high school football team had the “weight of the world on their shoulders” as the team and community navigated the season to the championship game. Firsthand recollections by Coach Cliff Brookshire, players, and local experts are combined with archival media in this heartfelt and engaging film. The 30-minute documentary suggests that although we were and still are just ‘Almost Cured’, there is a glimmer of hope if we focus on what unites us.

“Soon after we moved to Brevard in 2004, I heard about this team and that Brevard was the first public high school to racially integrate in North Carolina in 1963. I could not help but wonder how such a historic event could happen in this small, almost all-white mountain community. Ten years later I began working on the film”. Directed by Tom Dierolf, a first-time filmmaker, *Almost Cured* recently garnered a [Silver Award](#) by Spotlight Documentary Film Awards and [Best Documentary Non/fiction of the Month](#) (Dec. 2017) by the Direct Short Online Film Festival. A successful [Indiegogo Crowdfunding Campaign](#) supported professional finishing editing and film festival submissions.

### Screenings

Chandler International Film Festival. Jan. 15, 2018. 2:15p (MST). Crowne Plaza Resort Phoenix. Chandler, AZ

Flagstaff Mountain Film Festival. Feb. 15-18, 2018. (Time & location TBA). Flagstaff, AZ

Beaufort International Film Festival. Feb. 24, 2018. 4:30p (EST). USCB Center for the Arts. Beaufort, SC

### Further Information

Press Kit: <https://filmfreeway.com/AlmostCured>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/almostcured/>

IMDB: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt7495960/>

Website: <http://almostcured.com/>

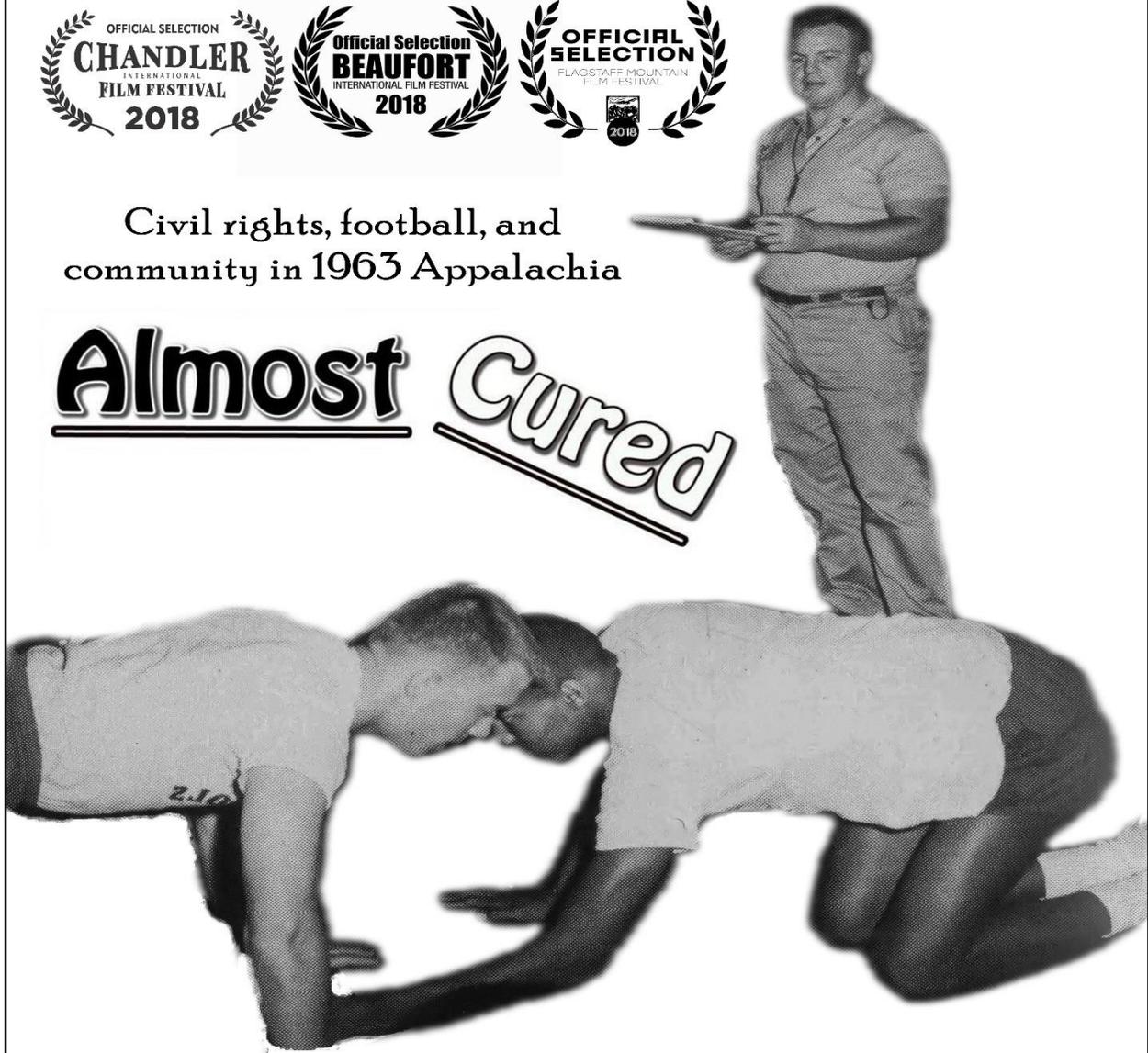
Indiegogo: <https://igg.me/at/almostcured/x/1949121>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AlmostCuredFilm>



Civil rights, football, and  
community in 1963 Appalachia

# Almost Cured



A FILM BY  
TOM DIEROLF

As told by  
Coach CLIFF BROOKSHIRE Dr. KEITH ELLIOTT LLOYD FISHER PAUL GARDIN SCRUGGS  
and others