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Press Release

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“Ballhawks” to have World Premiere at Athens International Film and Video Festival April 27

Documentary Showcasing Wrigley Field Ballhawks will Premiere in Chicago at Gene Siskel Film Center May 28-30

CHICAGO, April 19, 2010 – “[Ballhawks](#),” a feature documentary produced and directed by Mike Diedrich, will have its world premiere at the [Athens International Film and Video Festival](#) on April 27 in Athens, Ohio. Narrated by Bill Murray, the film tells the story of the Ballhawks who have been chasing baseballs and dreams just outside the ivy-covered walls of Wrigley Field for the last ninety years. “Ballhawks” will premiere in Chicago at the [Gene Siskel Film Center](#) May 28-30.

“I made my first visit to Wrigley Field with my dad in 1969 and met my first Ballhawk many years and Cubs games later,” comments Diedrich. “Until then, I knew that Ballhawks patrolled the inside and outside of the park, but I never fully understood their level of dedication and athleticism. I saw a deeper story develop with the Ballhawks during the Cubs’ ugly 2004 demise, and that was the impetus for creating this documentary.”

“Ballhawks” begins in 2004, when the Cubs had put together a team that could contend for its first World Series title since 1908. These increased expectations also heated up the competition for home run balls hit onto the street to a fever pitch. Also looming is the shadow of Wrigley Field bleacher expansion, which when completed, will be yet another

obstacle testing the Ballhawks' resolve. Will the Ballhawks handle the pressure or will they wilt under the August heat, crush of the crowds and the impending expansion?

"This is a very unique film that deals with a side of the sporting world most people don't even know exists," says Executive Producer Joel Murray. "It is both comic and heart touching, and it is beautifully shot in and around one of the prettiest places on earth, Wrigley Field."

"Ballhawks" was produced by Diedrich and Joel Murray; edited by Randy Palmer and [Optimus Chicago](#) (post-production and editing); and written by Kyle McCarthy, Terry Cosgrove and Joe Sciarrotta. Music was composed by Eric Sproull and produced by Tom Wiebe at [Earhole Studios](#), Chicago.

"Ballhawks" also stars Ron Santo, former Chicago Cubs star and current radio color broadcaster; Harry Teinowitz, ESPN Radio; and Mike Leonard, NBC Today Show correspondent.

For more information, please visit www.ballhawksmovie.com and become a fan on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ballhawks/21532404538?ref=search&sid=597081786.2409542860..1&v=info>.

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