**“Gunland”**

Updated 2/1/14 10:44 AM

***LOGLINE: Going behind the epidemic of gun violence. A look behind the guns and beyond the headlines.***

**OUTLINE:**

In 2013 the gun violence that plagues Black America was brought front and center. Around the globe eyes were tuned to a case about a young murdered boy named Trayvon Martin. As the country watched his killer walk free it became very clear to many that the broader society does not care about young black boys and girls dying in a barrage of gun violence. In one decision the world was rudely awakened to a fact that has been present in the black community for a long time; black life is not as valuable as it should be. Many of us are dying at the hands of gun violence and though this is an epidemic it is not a new one.

Our audience is then emotionally transported to Chicago where gun violence has turned the streets into a city of death. Funeral homes have become big business. The first family has visited yet still the death toll rises and innocent babies are being caught in the crossfire.

The new poster child of Gun Violence was once called the windy city but now its hip-hop natives call it Chi-Raq. A city that gave birth to the Obama Campaign and Oprah Winfrey has lost its inspirational luster. Truth be told, It has become cool to carry a gun and even cooler to fire one. At the surface most would believe that hip hop and its glorification of violence, guns and carnage is to blame; however, this film purports that something lies beneath the surface. Yes, young black boys and young black girls are dying at the hands of their peers but the truth is that they did not make or originally sell the guns. This begs the question, Why Chicago? This film will tackle the real reasons that no one is telling you and the straight talk about what our solution is.

About 65 Billion dollars worth of Narcotics enters the United States via Mexico and about one half of that can be traced back to the Sinaloa Cartel who’s leader, “Jaoquin “El Chapo” Guzman calls Chicago home. Apparently the days of Al Capone are not over. Chicago sits directly in the cross hairs of a 30 Billion dollar drug trade. As the saying goes where there is smoke there is fire and where there are drugs there must be guns. Simply put this epidemic of Gun Violence also relates back to our country’s obsession with cocaine, heroine and marijuana. This is not just a black issue. However, it is way easier to ignore a problem when it mainly effects predominantly people of color.

Rapper King Samson claims that the guns are originally coming from a higher source but where? Are the police to blame? A city fraught with corruption can explain why guns are allowed to hide in the inner city. This doc will study the stats and statistics that prove why Guns are prevalent in Chicago.

Lastly we must examine the solution. Yes there's tons of violence in Chicago, but how do we solve it. Many civil and academic groups have formed in the shape of poetry or protest but is this enough to make a difference?

Are our lawmakers to blame? With all this talk about Gun Control Chicago has some of the strictest Gun laws in the United States, so clearly mandating gun licenses is not the issue. At the core, the high unemployment rate, inherent racism, and lack of educational resources are issues that have created a place called gunland.

Or are Black Americans to blame? Are we not doing enough to protect each other. In a largely Christian society we’ve somehow lost the idea that we must love and look after our neighbor. Somewhere we lost our social responsibility. The man can not sell you a piece of pie that you never take a bite out of.