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Award-winning Filmmakers of Early Light Media Present ‘R.A.W.’

Dr. Richard Antoine White Went from Homeless to Performing in Symphony Halls All Over the World

BALTIMORE, MD - The award-winning filmmakers of [Early Light Media](#) (ELM) will pre-screen their newest short documentary, *R.A.W.*, at [Baltimore School for the Arts](#) (BSA) on Friday, February 8, at 7 pm. *R.A.W.* chronicles the journey of BSA alumnus Richard Antoine White who survived an early life on the streets of West Baltimore to later make history as the first African American to receive a doctorate of music in tuba performance. *R.A.W.* celebrates the remarkable resilience of the human spirit, as well as the transformative power of arts and urban education. You can view the unofficial trailer [here](#).

“After just a few minutes speaking with Richard about his story, we knew we had to make a film,” said David Larson, one of the co-founders of ELM and co-director of the film.

“Dr. White has a rare talent,” said Darren Durlach, ELM co-founder and *R.A.W.* co-director. “But he has also pushed through what should have been insurmountable obstacles to succeed. It’s a message of hope, that should be seen by school children across the country.”

At the tender age of four, in the hardscrabble neighborhood of Sandtown, Dr. White slept on the sidewalk and ate from trash cans. Later, legally adopted by his grandparents, he played sports while he was growing up. However, his football dreams were shattered after a bad injury on the field, so he turned to music. He hobbled up to the front entrance of the prestigious BSA on crutches, with an old sousaphone, without an appointment, after auditions had been completed for the day. Dr. Chris Ford, now director of BSA, happened to be there and he gave Richard the opportunity that would change his life. He was skillfully guided and professionally mentored by BSA faculty and later by the prestigious Peabody Institute, where he studied under long-time Baltimore Symphony Orchestra tubist, David Fedderly. On the advice of Fedderly, Dr. White traveled to Indiana University, Bloomington, to continue his studies, where he received both his master’s and doctoral degrees in tuba. He currently holds the position of principal tubist with the New Mexico Philharmonic and is a tenured professor at the University of New Mexico.

“We’re incredibly proud of everything Richard has accomplished,” said Dr. Ford. “He is one of the hardest workers I know. His story is an example of what is possible when urban youth receive a holistic and supportive education.”

The limited pre-screening release date of *R.A.W.* for film festivals and private showings is February 2019 with a wider distribution later in the year. There will also be a special pre-screening for Baltimore City Public School students on Friday, February 8.

Baltimore School for the Arts is located at 712 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, MD, 21201. Free tickets can be reserved through [Eventbrite](#).

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About Early Light Media

Early Light Media (ELM) is a video production company in based in Baltimore, Maryland, founded by Darren Durlach and David Larson, filmmakers with a journalism background who aim to inspire people through the power of film. ELM’s Invisible Thread short documentaries series highlights inspirational figures; its first Invisible Thread film, [Throw](#), was the recipient of multiple awards, including a Capitol NATAS Emmy Award (2017), Webby Award (2017), Mountainfilm Director’s Choice Award (2016), Vimeo staff pick (2016), and multiple film festival selections across the country. It has been viewed millions of times across television, Internet, and live screenings. Visit www.earlylightmedia.com for more information.

About the Baltimore School for the Arts

Recognized as one of the top five public arts high schools in the country, Baltimore School for the Arts provides its students with intensive pre-professional training in the arts in conjunction with a rigorous academic curriculum. BSA graduates go on to the most selective arts and university programs nationwide and achieve prominence in theater, film, music, dance, and the visual arts, with alumni including Christian Siriano, Jada Pinkett Smith, and Tupac Shakur. Additionally, the BSA’s highly acclaimed TWIGS program offers free after-school arts instruction to 750 city elementary and middle school children from schools across Baltimore, as well as other outreach initiatives to thousands more. Founded in 1979, the school is an integral and vibrant part of Baltimore’s educational and cultural communities.

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