

FAIR GAME?

TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY FOUNDATION

Presents

AN MVP FILMS PRODUCTION OF A FILM BY MARIO VAN PEEBLES

Produced By MARIO VAN PEEBLES and KAREN WILLIAMS
Directed by MARIO VAN PEEBLES

The election of America's first Black president — Barack Obama — has given many people the impression that the Black man's struggle for equality or simply the "level playing field" has been achieved. Black men can strive to be anything they choose, and opportunity and the pathway to it has been made free and clear of obstruction. Sounds great, right?

However, is it the truth?

Twenty-First Century Foundation (21CF) asks this question and more of a number of prominent Black males from diverse fields in its innovative documentary film, *FAIR GAME?* Some of the interviewees in the film include Amar'e Stoudemire, Chris Rock, Spike Lee, Dr. Cornel West, Lou Gossett Jr., Hill Harper, Melvin Van Peebles, and Geoffrey Canada.

Produced in partnership with actor-director Mario Van Peebles (*New Jack City*, *Baadaasss*, *Panther*) and producer Karen Williams, *FAIR GAME?* is a new tool in the work of 21CF's Black Men and Boys Initiative (BMB) aimed at shining a national spotlight on the issues affecting this segment of the population.

FAIR GAME? speaks to adults, and enlists Black men to add their voices to the discussion around education, employment, criminal justice, fatherhood and mental health and share their personal stories of success, the setbacks, the preparation, and the sacrifices they made that brought them ultimate success in their fields. It deals with the complexities in the age of Obama and why the 'Game' still isn't fair.

The BMB Initiative was created in 2004 to identify, highlight, and support strategies that address the crisis confronting America's Black men and boys. It currently operates in six (6) local coalitions across the country (New York, Chicago, New Orleans, Oakland, Los Angeles, and Atlanta) around the major themes of education, criminal justice, organizing, advocacy and leadership development. Additionally, 21CF provides grants, technical assistance, and collaboration/coalition-building support to all organizations in the local coalitions.

Learn more about 21CF and its BMB Initiative at www.21CF.org. For more information on *FAIR GAME?* contact Denise Blake at 404.758.1292 or agame@21cf.org.

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So, what's happening? Well, to hear some folks tell it, the struggle for racial equality, at least in America, is over. It's done. And we have all overcome. The glass ceiling has been broken. Barack Obama is President of the United States of America. There are plenty of reasons for all of us to be proud. We voted for the person we thought could best lead us through a time of economic crisis and war. And in doing so, we showed the world and we showed ourselves that we were ready to move past the isms, especially racism. But what's happening in the rest of Black America? Although we're no more monolithic than any other group of people, you can tell we're in crisis if you examine certain phenomenon like the graduation rates of young Black boys from high school.

Mario Van Peebles