

Bigger, Stronger, Faster 2008

Friday, July 25 - Thursday, July 31, 2008



Film Information

Directed by
Chris Bell

Language
English

Running Time
105 minutes

Film Notes

In a documentary packed with information, there's a fact in Chris Bell's *BIGGER, STRONGER, FASTER* that almost gets glossed over en route to a larger point, and it's this: in 2004, the U.S. government devoted eight days of congressional hearings to the subject of steroids, and in particular steroids in baseball—more time than was given to the subject of national health care, more time than was dedicated to the tragic aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, more time than was granted to even the Iraq War. Such an obvious misallocation of energy would be enough to frustrate any American, but as Bell's film points out, the time spent on the issue is only part of the rub. In eight days, they managed to learn almost nothing.

Not so for Bell. It was during those hearings that the director, then a film student at USC, witnessed Senator Joseph Biden's furious condemnation and fist-pounding declaration that steroid use in baseball was fundamentally "un-American." It was a statement that stayed with Bell and eventually served as the impetus for *BIGGER, STRONGER,*

FASTER, a film that pokes so many holes in the conventional wisdom surrounding steroids and performance-enhancing drugs that the film itself should be required viewing for anyone wanting to weigh in on the subject. That it's as entertaining as it is informative is a bonus, but the real payoff comes on the personal side. Bell interviewed more than 200 people for the film, including everyday gym rats, professional athletes, Olympians, medical experts, and U.S. Congressmen, but nothing in the documentary brings the issue home as much as the talks he shares with his own brothers.

—Casey



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More Information

Written by

Chris Bell
Alexander Buono
Tamsin Rawady

Cinematography by

Alexander Buono

Film Editing by

Brian Singbiel

Original Music by

Dave Porter

Distributor

Magnolia Pictures

Country of Origin

USA

“What I got out of [watching CAPTURING THE FRIEDMANS] was the fact that you let people speak. If I did a movie about the presidential race right now, and I slanted it one way, it would just be a propaganda movie. That’s the way a lot of documentaries are. They could still be great movies, but I wanted to tell the truth about something, as told by the experts, the people doing it, everybody involved. I think we’ve accomplished that by letting people speak. Some guys are saying steroids will kill you and others say they’ll make live longer. Who’s telling the truth? We tried to study the truth so that, as an audience member, you can draw your own conclusions.”

—Director Chris Bell

Also Recommended

Sherman’s March 1986 (Dir. McElwee)
Roger & Me 1989 (Dir. Moore)
Bowling for Columbine 2002 (Dir. Moore)
Capturing the Friedmans 2003 (Dir. Jarecki)
Sicko 2007 (Dir. Moore)