**NEWS**

**For Immediate Release**

**August 29, 2024**

**“King of Kings: Chasing Edward Jones” launches official theatrical release in Chicago**

*Award-wining documentary about the boss of Policy, the precursor of the lottery, to enjoy a weeklong run at Harper Court Theater*

CHICAGO – Producers of the documentary **“King of Kings: Chasing Edward Jones,**” the untold story of the other Chicago boss who built his $25 million empire from the business known as Policy, announce its official theatrical release on September 20 at Harper Court Theater, 5238 S. Harper Ave., in historic Bronzeville. It will screen at least three times daily for seven consecutive days, which will qualify the film as an Oscar contender in 2025.

Jones’ legacy had been all but erased. By exploring the rise and fall of the most famous Policy King of all time, European filmmaker Harriet Marin Jones, Edward Jones’ granddaughter, uncovers an unparalleled story, while showing the lasting repercussions, both within her family and for Chicago's South Side where he once embodied the American dream. Industry titans Quincy Jones and Debbie Allen serve as Executive Producers. Freestyle Digital Media, the digital division of Byron Allen’s Allen Media Group, has acquired the documentary. The theatrical release is being supported by the Obsidian Collection Archives, a nonprofit dedicated to preserving and sharing Black history founded by Chicagoan Angela Ford. In addition, a limited theatrical release will also occur in Los Angeles starting September 20.

**About the film:** Gangster for some, hero for others, who was really Edward Jones? In the 1930s and 40s, this descendant of slaves became one of the richest men in the U.S. thanks to the Policy business, a numbers game that ultimately became the modern Illinois State Lottery. Edward Jones went head-to-head with Al Capones’ “Outfit”, hobnobbed with celebrated artists like Josephine Baker, Frida Kahlo and Duke Ellington, and rose to financial and political prominence in Chicago. But in times of segregation, his success and unfailing support of the African American community are a problem. In conflict with both the mob and the Feds, he is forced into a life on the run. Love, success, violence, revenge, mafia, murder, betrayal, prison, kidnapping . . . Edward Jones’ story has all the best ingredients of gangster movies. Add segregation and you have a very explosive cocktail.

The film uses lively animated sequences and features interviews with Quincy Jones, whose father used to work for Edward Jones, the late Chicago historian Dr. Timuel Black and others who knew Jones’ story. It has earned critical acclaim, winning 25 awards at 30 film festivals around the world. It premiered at the 58th Chicago International Film Festival, earning the Chicago Award.

Freestyle Digital Media, the digital film distribution division of Byron Allen’s Allen Media Group, has acquired the documentary.

“Since I have been living most of my life in Europe, making this documentary was not only an amazing personal and professional experience, but it also allowed me to plunge into the history of the United States,” said Marin Jones. “As Quincy Jones says in the film, ‘It is so important to know and understand your history, because if you know where you come from, it helps you get where you're going.’ ”

**Harriet Marin Jones will be available for interviews in Chicago starting September 18.**

An invitation-only screening will be held on September 19. Advance tickets can be purchased at [King of Kings: Chasing Edward Jones (2024) Showtimes | Fandango](https://www.fandango.com/king-of-kings-chasing-edward-jones-2024-237456/movie-overview).

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**Follow the links for more information:**

KING OF KINGS: CHASING EDWARD JONES trailer (YouTube):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9kcNmv_qt5I>

KING OF KINGS: CHASING EDWARD JONES key art/poster:

<https://app.box.com/s/j8f0h8vu7ai9tqdt5urydai3tikfqi5h>

KING OF KINGS: CHASING EDWARD JONES still photos:

<https://app.box.com/s/q5u7mm5xncb9dihmhgw8ve8ooudhc651>

KING OF KINGS: CHASING EDWARD JONES website:

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/chasingedwardjones>