

# Trenton Youth Wrestling: **Beyond the Mat**

## Contact

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At Pollen Productions, we believe that stories should inspire audiences by exploring challenges, highlighting excellence, and capturing the human spirit. "Beyond the Mat" is more than just a documentary, it is a testament to the power of opportunity and perseverance.

This film delves into the heart of Trenton Youth Wrestling, a program that has helped over 1,000 youth, teaching them lessons far beyond the wrestling mat. By following the journeys of its student-athletes, alumni, and founders, we aim to highlight the profound impact that mentorship, discipline, and community support have on individuals and society.

As the CEO of Pollen Productions, I am excited to bring this story to life alongside our skilled team. Through compelling visuals, powerful testimonials, and a focus on themes of growth and resilience, I hope that this documentary will resonate with audiences everywhere.

Thank you for reviewing this treatment. We hope you'll join us in championing this inspiring story.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luke Owen".

Luke Owen  
CEO, Pollen Productions LLC

## Logline

A feature-length documentary exploring the transformative power of Trenton Youth Wrestling and Learning Center (TYWLC) through the stories of its key figures, from its founding to its ongoing impact.

## Synopsis

The documentary follows key characters involved in Trenton Youth Wrestling and Learning Center, showcasing how the program empowers youth to succeed in sports and life.

As the documentary unfolds, viewers witness how the program has shaped each character, both in wrestling and in their day-to-day lives. Through moments of triumph and adversity, the film explores the power of community, mentorship, and perseverance.

## History

The Trenton Youth Wrestling and Learning Center, founded in 2017, has served over 1,000 youth, focusing on citizenship, competitive greatness, and scholar-athleticism.

Recently, the center has launched a capital campaign to build a permanent facility, aiming to expand its impact on the Trenton community.

# Story Arc

**Act I**

Act I introduces the history of TYWLC, the characters involved, the goals and motives of each, and community validation for the need of programs like this one in the city of Trenton, NJ.

**Act II**

Act II invites the audience into the operations of the organization, allowing them to see for themselves the highs, the lows, the challenges, and the impact that TYWLC has on both the leadership and students involved. The audience is along for the ride through the small wins and hard-fought losses, both on the mat and beyond.

**Act III**

Act III reframes the audience's perspective, shifting focus from the minutiae of the day-to-day aspects of the program to the bigger picture. This act highlights student outcomes, community impact, and the importance of investing in one's community sustainably.

# Approach

**Narrative Style**

The documentary employs non-linear storytelling interweaving past and present, highlighting human striving, community giving, personal growth, and successful outcomes.

**Cinematography**

The film employs a verité style for documentary elements, with natural lighting and handheld camera movement. It prioritizes a polished, cinematic style for sit-down interviews.

**Music & Sound**

The film will feature an original score and sound design, complementing the film's realism and captivating its audience.

**Editing Style**

The documentary employs dynamic pacing, with faster cuts for high-energy scenes and slower cuts for emotionally impactful scenes. This technique allows the film to capture the ecstasy and gravitas of the characters and their experiences.

Transitions between past and present storylines will be triggered through sit-down interview content to facilitate a smooth narrative flow.

# characters



Mark R.  
McLaughlin, MD

A Board-Certified neurosurgeon practicing in the greater Princeton area who has been a youth wrestling coach for over two decades. Mark helped create the Princeton Wrestling Club and co-founded Trenton Youth Wrestling and Learning Center.



Ray Bethea

A Trenton-born-and-raised wrestler whose success training under Mark in the Princeton Wrestling Club allowed him the opportunity to attend an Ivy League institution. Ray is now the Director of Operations at TYWLC.



Najay Sinclair

Born in Jamaica, Najay moved to Trenton at a young age, where he became involved in TYWLC. By leveraging the resources the program provided him, Najay has become a scholar in college, where he is presently pursuing a degree in international business.



Princessstorm  
Woody

A current high school athlete, Princess has seen great success in and beyond the TYWLC program. Princess aspires to continue wrestling in college and potentially even the Olympics, hoping to eventually become a surgeon herself, following in the footsteps of Mark.



# characters



Current Student 1  
(TBA)



Current Student 2  
(TBA)



Content continued on the following page

# Locations

**Practice Locations**

Feature each of the locations where practices are held to show the grassroots level of the program.

**Tournament Locations**

Capturing the competitive spirit and excitement of the matches.

**Alumni Tournaments**

Highlighting the progression and impact on former participants.

**New Center Location**

Showcasing the upcoming permanent facility to emphasize the growth and future vision of the organization.

**Local Trenton Businesses**

Featuring various community locations that reflect the city of Trenton and highlight the broader community within the city.

**Trenton Youth Wrestling Operations Office**

Highlighting the office and administrative elements that happen behind the scenes and make the program possible.



Budget

Project Cost	
Pre-Production	Completed
Remaining Production	\$20,000
Post-Production	\$55,000
Total	\$75,000

# Distribution

## **Distribution Strategy**

This film will premier at film festivals prior to seeking a wider theatrical and/or streaming platform release.