

WRITER + DIRECTOR

JOHN KOURIS

Known to friends as Johnny, Kouris is a passionate director, producer, and screenwriter; currently based in Chicago. As the principal creative director at Saturday Sun Productions, Johnny is the driving force behind the company's current featured project: *Demetrius DuBose, All American*. The company was founded upon his unwavering dedication to getting stories like Demetrius' told.

Kouris was born in Northwest Indiana a few hours after Hank Aaron broke Babe Ruth's all-time home run record. Aaron's spirit and what he overcame stayed with Johnny all of his life. His passion for advocacy against social injustice was nurtured in a household led by a no-nonsense attorney and a compassion-driven teacher. He learned the importance of hard work and dedication to his community at an early age, working as a football coach in the underserved community of Englewood in Chicago.

He studied film at the Academy of Art in San Francisco after graduating from the University of Notre Dame in 1996, where he earned his degree in American Studies. It was at Notre Dame where Johnny met Demetrius on the football field playing for the University. The brotherhood grew stronger from that initial bond.

After the police killing of Michael Brown in 2014, Kouris began relentless research about the tragic death of Demetrius in 1999. As an advocate for Demetrius and other victims of police brutality, his work continues to fight not only for awareness but for change in the way their stories are told. To bear witness, seek justice and ultimately find strength and expression through the art of film.

Johnny is known for his fortitude and grit, love for music and poetry. He is the dedicated and doting father of Lucius (15), Lola (9) and Kittyhawk (6).

