



THE
PUBLIC
LIBRARY
of Cincinnati
and
Hamilton County

800 Vine Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-2071
www.CincinnatiLibrary.org

Phyllis Hegner
Assistant Manager
Phone (513) 369-4571
Fax (513) 369-4565
Phyllis.Hegner@CincinnatiLibrary.org

Richard Helmes
Press Officer
Phone (513) 369-6959
Fax (513) 369-4565
Rick.Helmes@CincinnatiLibrary.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Press Release

November 14, 2005

***True Fans: A Basketball Odyssey* with author Dan Austin at the Main Library on Saturday, December 10, 2:00 p.m.**

What would you do if three guys on bikes with a basketball in tow showed up and camped on your lawn? That's what happened when Dan Austin, his brother Jared, and best friend Clint Ewell hopped on their bikes and pedaled east, headed for the NBA Hall of Fame. *True Fans: A Basketball Odyssey* by Dan Austin tells the tale of their pilgrimage. He will appear at the Main Library, 800 Vine Street, on Saturday, December 10 at 2:00 p.m. for a program and book signing afterwards.

Based on the nationally touring film of the same name, Dan Austin's *True Fans: A Basketball Odyssey* (The Lyons Press, Guilford, CT) details the journey Dan, Jared, and Clint started when they headed east from the pickup court at Venice Beach--handlebars pointed toward The NBA Hall of Fame. It was a basketball pilgrimage: shooting hoops on sandlots across the country and looking for enlightenment under a net. In their bicycle trailer, which they called "The Ark of the Covenant," they carried a few gallons of peanut butter and an unused basketball, on which they collected the signatures of those who helped them on their journey--from the Reverend Kenny Shaw, who let them sleep behind his church, to Dick Simmons, a coal miner who offered them five dollars he could scarcely afford to part with. They would bring this ball to the Hall of Fame, and ask that it be included in the permanent collection.

Not everyone was friendly--the strange "owner" of Amboy, California, makes for a fairly spooky villain--but most of the country, they found, would do just about anything for them. Doors were opened from California to Springfield, Massachusetts; hamburgers chomped, hot tubs proffered. Austin and his crew knocked, and for 100 days, America answered. The result was a classic odyssey.

About Dan Austin

Dan Austin is a filmmaker and writer based in New York City. The documentary of his trip (also titled *True Fans*) has screened in over 150 cities in North America, and 16 film festivals. It was the winner of the People's Choice Award at the Banff Mountain Film Festival. Austin has recently directed a film about street kids in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, worked

on a feature-length documentary with Angelina Jolie, and produced film projects in Iceland and Paraguay.

✓ **Our goal is to make our programs accessible to everyone. Please request ADA services one week in advance at 513-369-4400 (TTY 369-4409).**

✓ **Information about events at the Main Library and 41 branch libraries is available on the Internet site: www.CincinnatiLibrary.org.**