

BLACK CHEROKEE *Synopsis*

One sentence

A meditation on family, inspiration, sanity and success, **BLACK CHEROKEE** documents the life and work of Otis Houston, Jr., a self-taught artist from Harlem who found his audience in the slow and steady stream of car-bound commuters passing through a renowned bottleneck on Manhattan's FDR Drive.

50 words or less

For over a decade, Otis Houston, a self-taught artist from Harlem, has performed before car-bound commuters along Manhattan's FDR Drive. A meditation on family, inspiration, sanity and success, **BLACK CHEROKEE** is a lyrical window onto Houston's deep sense of duty, his raw charisma, and the dynamic beauty of his art.

75 words or less

Fifteen years ago a self-taught artist from Harlem named Otis Houston Jr. uncovered a captive audience in the slow and steady stream of car-bound commuters passing through passing through a natural bottleneck on Manhattan's FDR Drive. A documentary short that pays homage to a New York City icon, **BLACK CHEROKEE** opens a lyrical window onto Houston's deep sense of duty, his raw charisma, and the dynamic beauty of his art.

100 words or less

For over a decade and on a near-daily basis, Otis Houston Jr., a self-taught artist from Harlem, has performed before a captive audience of car-bound commuters passing through a natural bottleneck on Manhattan's FDR Drive. A documentary short, **BLACK CHEROKEE** explores this unique artist's work at a time of great productivity and significant challenge as he's charged with caring for his beloved father who had recently been diagnosed with Alzheimer's. A meditation on family, inspiration, sanity and success, the film opens a lyrical window onto Houston's deep sense of duty, his raw charisma, and the dynamic beauty of his art.

200 words or less

For over a decade and on a near-daily basis, Otis Houston Jr., a self-taught artist from Harlem, has performed before a captive audience of car-bound commuters passing through a natural bottleneck on Manhattan's FDR Drive. A morning ritual that began as a means for meditation and escape from the associations of his past days as a drug dealer and user, the performances have evolved into a kind of a stage to become a central focus in Otis' life. Shot more than a decade after Otis began to develop this uniquely homemade craft, **BLACK CHEROKEE** documents the artist's life and work at a time marked by great productivity and also challenge when Otis is charged with caring for his beloved father who is suffering from Alzheimer's. A meditation on art, inspiration, sanity, legitimacy, family, addiction and success, the film pays homage to a New York City icon and opens a lyrical window onto Houston's deep sense of duty, his raw charisma, and the dynamic beauty of his art.