

***WELCOME TO LIFE IN THE SMALL LANE...***



# ***CARPET RACERS*** ***A CRASH COURSE***

**CARPET RACERS: A CRASH COURSE** an MRP FILM

**EXECUTIVE PRODUCED BY MICHAEL ROONEY** EDITED BY **OLIVER NOBLE** AND **JONATHAN WALLS**

**PRODUCED BY MICHAEL ROONEY** AND **JAY THAMES** DIRECTED BY **JAY THAMES**

## **Carpet Racers: A Crash Course Synopsis**

The feature length documentary *Carpet Racers: A Crash Course* explores a year-long journey into the subculture of grown men and women that make a living, or try to, racing radio control cars... Professionally.

Whether at their local carpet tracks, or on the biggest and brightest of stages, these competitors are almost exactly like those celebrated individuals that race NASCAR or FORMULA ONE. Almost... Except for two huge differences: the cars are the size of a shoebox, and no one has a clue as to who these people are.

But these cars are no joke; they reach velocities of 60 miles per hour. And when the best of the best get together in places like Orlando, at the Snowbird Nationals, and Las Vegas at the International Indoor Championships, the level of racing takes the competition, grit, determination and desire to a whole new level. Speed and control is the goal. Some of these racers have it, and some don't.....both in racing and their personal lives.

*Carpet Racers: A Crash Course* documents the ultimate victories and crushing defeats of five of the top carpet racers in the world in their quest to be the best that they can be. The film delves into the struggles they have to endure at home, and the sacrifices they must make to race for a living. Life on the road racing toy cars takes a tremendous toll.

In addition, the filmmaker is pulled into the proceedings, as he re-discovers a love he thought had disappeared forever, and attempts to recapture some of his lost youth that's tied up in radio control cars.

Life in the small lane... It ain't easy.

## **Carpet Racers: A Crash Course**

### **Director's Statement**

Unlike any other film I've produced, written or directed, short or feature, narrative, documentary or experimental, *Carpet Racers: A Crash Course* has been the most purely independent filmmaking experience in my life. From its conception over a late evening/early morning phone call, to its completion in my apartment edit bay, the process has been raw and improvisational in its evolution. For me, this very essence is what inspires and exemplifies the art of filmmaking, and also to the art of living. Our film, *Carpet Racers*, embodies this formula.

The concept of *Carpet Racers* came to me from executive producer, Michael Rooney, a self-professed radio control junkie. It explores a subculture of individuals that I never even know existed. Once I began to immerse myself in this hidden world of radio control ('RC' to the initiated), I started to realize why these racers were so committed to this sport. Not only is it addictive and on many levels intoxicating (both literally and figuratively) it's extraordinarily tough and competitive. It was this spirit that intrigued me to no end, and I wanted to tell the story as real as possible with the camera.

Since I had only done narratives at that point in my career, I was excited and honored to be involved in the world of non-fiction filmmaking, where I could explore and discover the real moments that make true, human stories so powerful and honest. There was an element of storytelling in post-production where my feature experience aided me a great deal, but what you see on the screen is what happened during my year long journey into the world of carpet racing.

*Carpet Racers* has been an overwhelmingly difficult, yet fulfilling process for me not only as a filmmaker, but as a person. I hope audiences can laugh and learn from what transpires in the film, and absorb the stories that gripped us during the filmmaking process. I found out the world of radio control is all around us, and the people that spend their free time, or in this case, their careers, in RC are a very entertaining lot. Before I took this journey I thought RC was an activity reserved only for kids, but that is clearly not the case, and where (I believe) the film succeeds is in creating a feeling of youth and innocence; an emotional state that is extremely contagious. *Carpet Racers* relates to anyone who can recall those simpler times, and anyone who may want to re-live them.

Jay Thames  
323.253.1588  
[bigindiafilms@yahoo.com](mailto:bigindiafilms@yahoo.com)

**Carpet Racers: A Crash Course**  
**Technical Fact Sheet**

Film: Feature length documentary  
Total running time: 81 minutes, 56 seconds

Country of Origin: United States  
Original language: English

Production company: Michael Rooney Productions  
Company type: LLC

Production format: HD  
Production cameras: Sony HVR Z1U

Production sound: Sony, Lectrosonics & Sennheiser lavalier microphones, ME66  
Shotgun microphone, Rycote Softie, K-Tek Boompole with Universal Shock Mount.  
Sound mix: Stereo

Submission format: Region 0 DVD  
Exhibition format: HDCAM

Video format: 16:9