



## **Synopsis**

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The independent feature film *Madison* is a father-son action/drama based on the inspiring true story of the tiny, dying river town of Madison, Indiana and its legendary, come-from-behind win in the 1971 race for the Gold Cup of hydroplane boat racing. In addition to the thrills of 180-mph flat-bottomed boat racing, the picture captures the spirit of small town America and its turbulent struggle to transition from the 60's to the 70's.

In 1971 JIM McCORMICK (Jim Caviezel) has left the dangers of hydroplane boat racing behind him in favor of a wife, a family and a job as the town's air-conditioner repairman. But deep inside, the dream of piloting the community-owned *Miss Madison* to victory in the Gold Cup, the sport's most celebrated race, lives on. Sadly, like the town of Madison itself, the *Miss Madison* is a shadow of her former self. Several years old and in constant disrepair, the boat has become the laughing stock of hydroplane racing. And the town has no money to fix it- especially in light of the dwindling river-supported economy. To make matters worse, Madison's competitors on the circuit (such as the infamous *Miss Budweiser*) have rich corporate sponsorships, top-of-the-line equipment, round-the-clock maintenance and huge, well-paid crews. The *Miss Madison* struggles to even make an appearance in the distant cities of Seattle, Chicago and Miami where the boats must race.

But when *Madison*, on a fluke, is offered the chance to host the prestigious Gold Cup championship, it's too much for McCormick to resist. Even though nobody else on the circuit wants them to do it- or thinks they can pull it off- McCormick rallies the community and together they show the rest of the world just how far drive ingenuity and passion will take you.

Along the way, Jim must deal with a skeptical town, a demoralized crew, a wife, BONNIE (Mary McCormack), eager to move the family to a big city economy, and a progressively more disillusioned son, MIKE (Jake Lloyd), tired of always being the underdog and watching big money win out over big heart at every race.

But McCormick is not to be deterred. With the help of his right hand TONY (Brent Briscoe), and a reluctant favor from long retired boat mechanic HARRY VOLPI (Academy Award nominee Bruce Dern) he stubbornly marches toward the big race.

Not only does the town step up to the plate and host the race with aplomb; they offer the rest of the teams a glimpse at small town charm and hospitality. And while for Jim McCormick a victory may be sweet, sweeter still is getting the chance to show his son the importance of being proud of who he is and from where he comes.

In addition to Caviezel ("The Passion of the Christ," "The Thin Red Line" and "The Count of Monte Cristo"), McCormack ("Private Parts" and "Dickie Roberts") and Lloyd ("Star Wars: Episode I"), *Madison* boasts an all-start supporting cast including Chelcie Ross ("My Best Friend's Wedding"), Brent Briscoe ("The Green Mile"), Paul Dooley ("Runaway Bride") and the aforementioned Dern ("Coming Home").

In the inspiring tradition of screen favorites such as "Rocky," "Hoosiers," and "Breaking Away," *Madison* is a slice of Americana. High-speed, heart-stopping thrills meet pride, perseverance and an all-or-nothing shot at greatness on the banks of the Ohio River in a town called Madison.

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