

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE
WORLD BOXING COUNCIL (WBC)



FORGOTTEN

THE SAM LANGFORD STORY

THE UNCROWNED KING OF BOXING

"Langford was the toughest little SOB who ever lived."

Jack Johnson, First Black World Heavyweight Champion (1908 to 1915)

"The hell I feared no man. I was afraid of Sam Langford."

Jack Dempsey, World Heavyweight Champion (1919-1926)

BASED ON CLAY MOYLE'S BOOK SAM LANGFORD:
BOXING'S GREATEST UNCROWNED CHAMPION



LOGLINE

At the turn of the 20th century, a Black Canadian prodigy named Sam Langford fought over 300 times and became the most feared boxer of his era, praised by legends, denied a title by racism, and nearly erased from history. This hard-hitting documentary uncovers the Hall of Famer's rise, fall, and the journalist who kept his legacy alive.



SAM LANGFORD

Boxeur nègre né en Nouvelle-Ecosse en 1886
Poids 75 kilos - Taille 1 m. 67 - Envergure 1 m. 83

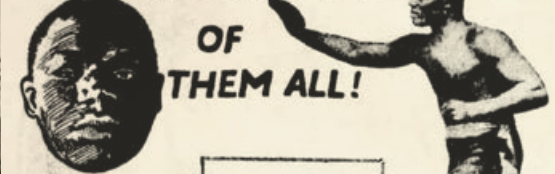
This historical documentary brings to life the extraordinary story of Sam Langford (1886–1956), the Canadian boxing legend many consider the greatest fighter of all time. Based on Clay Moyle’s acclaimed biography, this film delves into Langford’s remarkable rise, his unmatched skill, and the heartbreaking reality of a career stifled by racial injustice, and the sheer fear he struck in potential opponents. Though denied a title, Langford’s legacy was too great to ignore, earning him a rightful place in the Boxing Hall of Fame in 1956. A testament to undeniable greatness and relentless spirit, this is the story of the champion the world refused to crown.

THE STORY



Sam Langford, The Boston Tar Baby

GREATEST FIGHTER



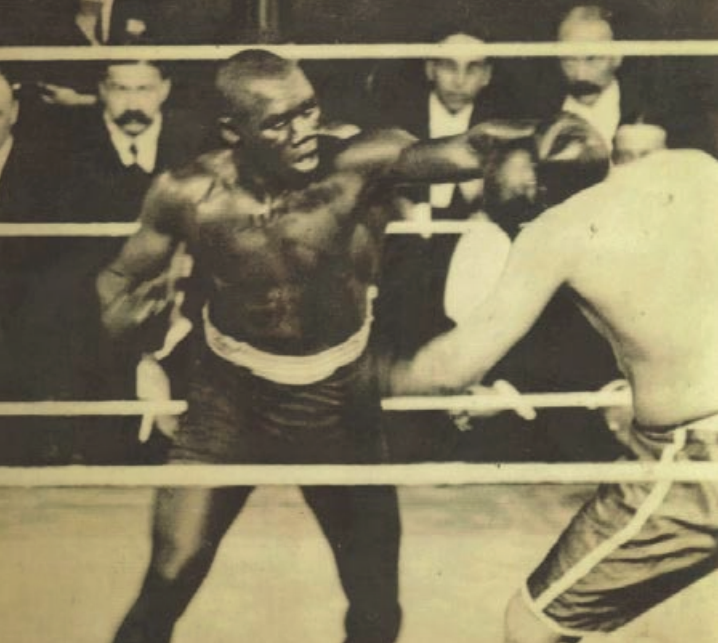
OF THEM ALL!

By
JAMES BUTLER
(The Famous Boxing Authority)

SAM LANGFORD, the Boston Tar Baby, black as coal, swift as a panther, cunning as a fox, strong as an ox, with punching powers that were shattering and terrific, and an almost incredible capacity for receiving punishment, was easily the most amazing negro that ever stepped into the ring. He had been scarcely heard of until his sensational meeting with "Tiger" Smith, which developed from a fight to scientific slaughter until the referee stepped in and called a halt.

COLossal coal-black shoulders, punching lustily back against the ropes, those extraordinary gorilla-like arms, long, wide, displaying white teeth in a broad and dazzling smile, Sam Langford looks extra-

order to beat any rival to "He chartered a boat and boarded there before she docked. Langford and McQuillan agreed to come up to London with us, but when we got ashore we found that we had lost our money; we could not raise a half-penny between us. And there the four of us were stranded in Liverpool until Mr. Sullivan, in response to our frantic telegram, sent us £25. Langford's arrival in London was the a head check out of exasperated American cut, and a north-brown short work of sweeping him off his feet.



In 1909, Langford became **World Heavyweight Champion in England** by knocking out William "Iron" Hague after Jack Johnson backed out of their fight.



Langford was celebrated in **France** for his power, skill, and humor, befriending George Bernard Shaw and Pablo Picasso.



Langford's dominance in **Australia** led promoter Hugh McIntosh to declare, "Boxing will never see another Sam Langford."



In 1923, nearly blind, Langford became **Mexican Heavyweight Champion** with a first-round knockout of Jim "Kid" Savage.

In the early 1900s, boxing was a brutal, unregulated sport rife with corruption, racial segregation, and dangerous conditions. Amidst the chaos, Sam Langford rose as one of the greatest fighters the sport had ever seen. Just 5'7", he defied the odds, taking on and defeating much larger opponents with a blend of power, speed, and masterful technique. Known for his sharp wit and jolly nature outside the ring, Langford was feared inside it, a true force in every weight class he fought.

Born in 1886 in Weymouth Falls, Nova Scotia, Langford was the grandson of a former slave who had fled to Canada. Escaping an abusive home, Langford journeyed to Boston as a teenager, working as a janitor while learning to fight in back-alley bars and local gymnasiums. Without formal training, he developed his own unique style, darting around his opponents, utilizing his long arms and explosive power to dismantle even the toughest challengers. His rise to prominence was swift, and he soon earned the nickname "The Boston Bonecrusher."

Despite his dominance, Langford was denied a shot at the world heavyweight title due to the era's racial politics. White champions refused to face him, and even Jack Johnson, the reigning heavyweight king, avoided him, stating there were plenty of less dangerous white fighters for him to face. Undeterred,

Langford fought anyone willing to step in the ring, often conceding weight and size but still emerging victorious, proving himself the best, with or without a title.

Langford's brilliance was overshadowed by hardship. Underpaid, and asked to go easy on opponents, he fought on, often for scraps. By the 1920s, his eyesight was failing, yet he still won the Mexican Heavyweight Title while nearly blind. Eventually, he stopped boxing for his own safety, leaving the sport without wealth, recognition, or a title.

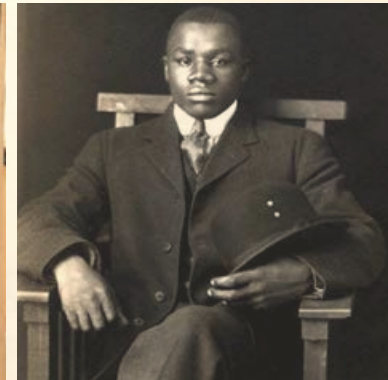
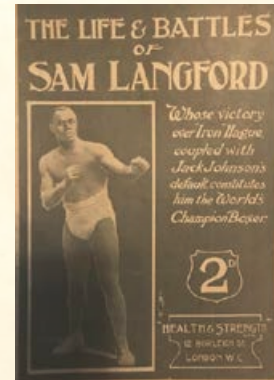
Forgotten and living in poverty, blind in a Harlem tenement, Langford's story seemed over...

Until 1944, when journalist Al Laney went searching for Langford, and what he discovered was nothing short of remarkable. Captivated by Langford's life, fights, and humor, Laney wrote an article that won Best Sports Story of the Year. Public donations followed, providing Langford comfort in his final years. Just ten weeks before his death, he was inducted into the Boxing Hall of Fame, the first non-champion enshrined. His official record stands at 314 fights, 210 wins, 53 draws, though many historians believe the true number is much higher, reflecting his relentless spirit and undeniable greatness. Langford was a great fighter in an age of great fighters!

FILM STRUCTURE

This documentary unfolds in five compelling acts:

- 1 Early Life & Introduction to Boxing** – Escaping an abusive home, his first fights, and the development of his unique style.
- 2 Rise to Fame & Unmatched Skill** – His dominance across multiple weight classes, legendary victories, and encounters with remarkable figures, including financier **J.P. Morgan** and artist **Pablo Picasso**.
- 3 The Barriers to Greatness** – How racism and boxing politics robbed him of a title shot.
- 4 The Decline & Rediscovery** – His failing eyesight, final fights, and descent into poverty.
- 5 Legacy & Recognition** – His rediscovery, Hall of Fame induction, and lasting impact on boxing.





INTERVIEWS & CONTRIBUTORS

CLAY MOYLE

Author of Sam Langford: Boxing's Greatest Uncrowned Champion

KEVIN SMITH

Historian and Founder of the Historical Society for Black Prizefighters

MIKE TYSON

Boxing legend and Langford admirer

LENNOX LEWIS

Former three-time world heavyweight champion

ANTHONY JOSHUA

Former WBA (Super), IBF, WBO, & IBO Heavyweight

MARVIN GILMORE

100-year-old friend of Langford

BRENDAN FOSTER

Langford's great-great-grandson

MONTE COX

Boxing historian

MIKE SILVER

Respected boxing historian and author

BEN HAWES

Collector of rare boxing memorabilia

BOBBY BISHOP

Researcher of overlooked fighters

COLLEEN AYCOCK

Boxing Historian & Author

WAYNE ROZEN

Historian of Early Boxing

THESE EXPERTS HAVE ACCESS TO UNSEEN LANGFORD FOOTAGE & PHOTOS

WHY A BOXING DOCUMENTARY?

BOXING IS BACK!

BOXING IS A **\$4 BILLION** GLOBAL INDUSTRY WITH **350 MILLION FANS** WORLDWIDE . . . AND GROWING.

- Female fans now make up 30% of the audience
- Major events generate \$250 million + in annual pay-per-view revenue.
- 1 million + monthly listeners tune into boxing-related podcasts.

Tone: Gritty, inspiring, historical.

Themes: Survival, equality, and the fight for respect.

Audience: Men and women 25–50 who love sports, history, and stories of resilience.

Comparable Titles: Unforgivable Blackness, When We Were Kings, The Last Dance.

WHY NOW?

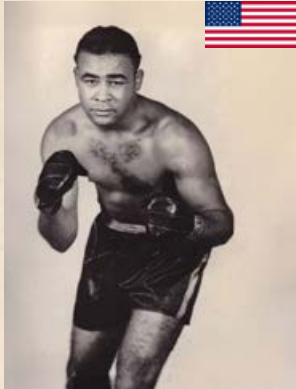
- Gen Z's #4 sport in the U.S., driven by viral clips and influencer coverage.
- The Canelo vs. Crawford fight (2025) drew 41.1 million viewers globally.
- Boxing was one of 2025's hottest fitness trends.
- The boxing equipment market hit \$1.68 billion in 2024.
- Women's boxing is surging, with growing participation and media buzz. The WBC Women's Summit is boosting fans via social media and community support.

CONCLUSION

Boxing's gritty history hasn't been told like this since Ken Burns' Unforgivable Blackness. **FORGOTTEN - THE SAM LANGFORD STORY** finally gives Langford his moment, blending rare footage, unheard stories, and a raw, no-bullshit look at the sport's past. More than a sports documentary, it's a powerful tale of injustice, perseverance, and unmatched talent, ensuring Sam Langford is remembered as one of boxing's true legends.

FORGOTTEN BOXERS THE SERIES

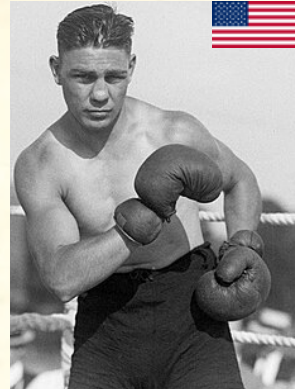
If successful, '**FORGOTTEN**' becomes a platform to bring the incredible stories of boxers who might otherwise be lost to time into the spotlight.



CHARLEY BURLEY 1917 – 1992

“Too Good for his Own Good”

A genius in the ring during one of boxing’s toughest eras, **Charley Burley** (fighting 1936–1950) was so skilled that champions like Sugar Ray Robinson and Jake LaMotta avoided him, and his peak years coincided with WWII and mob-controlled politics. A man of principle, he boycotted the 1936 Berlin Olympics in protest of Nazi Germany and later worked as a garbage collector when boxing politics shut him out, yet his integrity and talent made him impossible to ignore... a true symbol of greatness denied.



HARRY GREB 1894 – 1926

“The Pittsburgh Windmill Who Defied the Impossible”

Known as “The Pittsburgh Windmill,” **Harry Greb** was a ferocious middleweight who fought relentlessly, often against men 40 pounds heavier. A wild, fearless fighter and notorious womanizer, he stayed in shape simply by fighting. Historians believe he stepped into the ring over 400 times. Greb handed Gene Tunney the only loss of his career in 1922, won the world middleweight title in 1923, and often fought while blind in one eye. He died aged 32 from Heart Failure while undergoing injuries from a car accident, leaving behind one of boxing’s most extraordinary and untamed legacies.



PANAMA AL BROWN 1902 – 1951

“The Man Who Opened the Doors”

Al “Panama” Brown was the first Latin American world-boxing champion, dominating the bantamweight division in the 1920s and 1930s and breaking barriers for fighters from Panama and the Caribbean. Known as a true gentleman in the ring, he combined skill, elegance, and sportsmanship while living openly as a gay man in Paris, mingling with artists like Jean Cocteau. Despite dying penniless in New York, Brown’s career and dignity inside and outside the ring paved the way for generations of Latin American fighters.



BEAU JACK 1921 – 2000

“From Shine Box to Spotlight and Back Again”

Born Sidney Walker, **Beau Jack** got his nickname from his grandmother, who affectionately called him “Beau Jack.” He rose from shining shoes on Georgia’s streets to caddying for golf legend Bobby Jones, who helped launch his boxing career. Two-time world lightweight champion, he headlined Madison Square Garden more than any other fighter of his era. Despite friendships with stars like Frank Sinatra, fame and fortune faded, and he ended his days once again shining shoes in Miami; a heartbreaking full circle for one of boxing’s most beloved underdogs. In his later years, he campaigned for a pension plan for boxers so future fighters would not suffer the same financial hardships he did.

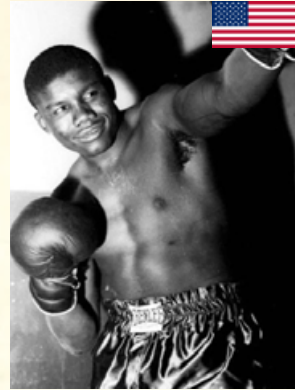
FORGOTTEN BOXERS THE SERIES



KID AZTECA 1913 – 2002

“The Eternal Warrior of Mexico”

A legend in Mexico, **Kid Azteca** fought professionally for over 30 years, scoring more than 100 knockouts. Known for his granite chin, fearless heart, and relentless style, he became a national hero, taking on all challengers well into his late forties, and is credited with inventing the left hook to the liver. Though his fame faded internationally, in Mexico he remains a folk icon.



JIMMY BIVINS 1919 – 2012

“He Survived the Ring but Not Family”

During World War II, **Jimmy Bivins** was a top heavyweight who defeated legendary opponents, but didn't fight for a title belt. A quiet, working-class hero in Cleveland, he embodied the spirit of athletes who never gave up despite an unfair system. Tragically, in his later years, he was abused and starved by his daughter and son-in-law, yet he remains the only boxer ever simultaneously ranked No. 1 contender in both the light-heavyweight and heavyweight divisions.



BARNEY ROSS 1909 – 1967

“Three-Division Champion, War Hero, Legend”

A three-division world champion and Jewish war hero, Barney Ross rose from Chicago's tough streets to dominate the ring. He enlisted in the Marines during World War II, earning a Silver Star and Presidential Citation, then returned home to face his toughest fight: a deadly Morphine addiction, which he ultimately overcame through sheer determination. His life was so extraordinary that it inspired the film *Monkey on My Back*. A symbol of courage and redemption, Ross's story transcended boxing . . . a fighter who never stopped fighting.



STEVE SPIRO (Writer) is a London-born screenwriter and former amateur boxer whose deep passion for the sport, and its overlooked legends, led him to discover Clay Moyle's biography of Sam Langford. Moved by Langford's extraordinary story, Spiro was determined to bring it to the screen. What began as a single conversation with Moyle quickly became both a book option and the start of a lasting friendship.

ALFONSO MAIORANA **DIRECTOR (DGC, CSC ASSOCIATE)** **& CO-WRITER**

ALFONSO MAIORANA – Director (DGC, CSC associate) is an award-winning Canadian filmmaker and cinematographer with over 30 years of experience. He began in Montreal directing music videos and shorts, with personal projects like *The Big World* and *Annabelle* screening at international festivals.

His latest documentary, *Goddess of Slide: The Forgotten Story of Ellen McIlwaine*, premiered at the 2024 Calgary International Film Festival, winning the Audience Choice Award. It also earned Best Director Runner-Up and Best Documentary Runner-Up at the Albuquerque Film + Music Experience.

As Co-Director, Co-Writer, and Cinematographer of *Rumble: The Indians Who Rocked the World* (Sundance 2017), Maiorana received the Special Jury Award for Masterful Storytelling. The film won three Canadian Screen Awards and top honors at Hot Docs, DOC'N ROLL (UK), and the Biografilm Festival (Italy).

His cinematography credits include *Mohawk Girls*, *The Tournament*, and 2nd Unit DP work on *The Smurfs*, *I'm Not There*, and *Jack Ryan*.

He is currently developing *The Last Trombone Player* with Soul Flicker Films.

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