

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACTS:**

Kerry Gardner

865.621.0320

[Kerry@ChoicePublicity.com](mailto:Kerry@ChoicePublicity.com)

Maggie Rheney

731.394.2139

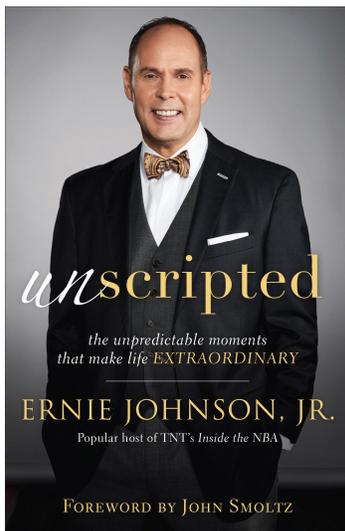
[Maggie@ChoicePublicity.com](mailto:Maggie@ChoicePublicity.com)

**BELOVED SPORTS JOURNALIST AND “INSIDE THE NBA” HOST ERNIE JOHNSON, JR. TAKES FANS BEHIND THE SCENES IN NEW BOOK**

**NEW AUTOBIOGRAPHY, “UNSCRIPTED: THE UNPREDICTABLE MOMENTS THAT MAKE LIFE EXTRAORDINARY,” SHARES THE JOY, HARDSHIPS, LOVE AND FAITH FROM A LIFETIME OF UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS**

*“Truth is, I have started and failed to finish many books. But I finished UNSCRIPTED in three days, which in and of itself is a major thing for me. But more importantly it’s a testament to this: Never will I find a finer man than Ernie Johnson, whose profound humility and love for God and his family are so evident here.”*

- ***From Foreword by John Smoltz, Baseball Hall of Famer, former Atlanta Braves pitcher and television sports analyst***



**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** – April 4, 2017 – For the first time, three-time Sports Emmy Award-winner, father of six, husband and popular host of TNT’s “Inside the NBA,” Ernie Johnson, Jr., is giving fans an unprecedented look at his extraordinary career in sports and his life off camera in his moving and highly anticipated autobiography **UNSCRIPTED: The Unpredictable Moments That Make Life Extraordinary** (Baker Books; April 4, 2017; ISBN: 9780801074103; \$24.99).

Johnson is one of the most recognized voices in sports broadcasting, but more meaningful than the historic sports moments he’s witnessed are the unscripted moments that have shaped his career and his life. “We’re all so focused on sticking to the script from one day to the next, one meeting to the next, one sales call to the next, that we blow right by the unscripted moments that can profoundly impact not just our

lives but also the lives of those with whom we share the planet, the workplace, or a home. If there's one thing life has taught me, it's not to *fear* the unscripted but to *embrace* it," Ernie writes.

**UNSCRIPTED** is Johnson's untold story, the life he lives after the lights are turned off and the cameras stop rolling. Sports fans, cancer survivors, fathers and sons, adoptive parents, those whose lives have been touched by a person with special needs - **UNSCRIPTED** is for anyone who loves stories about handling life's surprises with grace. With his signature humor and masterful storytelling, Johnson shares the moments and lessons that have defined his life, including:

- **His relationship with his father.** The backbone of **UNSCRIPTED** is Johnson's bond with his father, famed broadcaster, marine and former Braves player Ernie Johnson, Sr. From growing up at a professional league ballpark to having Hank Aaron ask about his little league team, Johnson, Jr. shares personal stories from his childhood and his treasured relationship with his father.
- **Parenting.** Raising six children has offered plenty of lessons to Johnson and his wife Cheryl Deluca-Johnson. In **UNSCRIPTED**, Johnson shares the wisdom, laughs and hard lessons they've faced and learned through it all, from raising a child with a fatal disease to their child with special needs joining the basketball team to Johnson's "Father of the Bride" moments when his oldest daughter got married.
- **Witnessing some of the greatest moments in sports history.** From Jack Nicklaus' final swing in a major competition to Steve Kerr's 2003 Western Conference Final performance to Ben Curtis rising from anonymity to claim the famed Claret Jug, Johnson gives sports fans an intimate look at some of the greatest moments he's witnessed during his storied career.
- **Battling cancer.** In 2003, Johnson began a very public battle with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. In **UNSCRIPTED**, he shares his journey to remission and the life-changing lessons he learned along the way.
- **Adoption.** Johnson details the journey his wife took to Romania to adopt their son Michael, the adoption of their daughter Carmen from Paraguay and the adoption of their two youngest children, Allison and Ashley.
- **"Inside the NBA."** Johnson shares what it's like to sit at a desk with some of basketball's greatest, stories from the show's hilarious antics, Charles Barkley's decision to take a seat at TNT's table and more.
- **Faith.** Johnson's unwavering faith has been the guiding light through the many personal hardships he's faced. "I stand in awe on a daily basis of the way God orchestrates life – how he connects the dots in ways I could never dream of if only I have the eyes to see and the heart to feel," he writes.

**UNSCRIPTED** brings to life the extraordinary way Johnson lives each day with intention, love and faith. Readers will be inspired to slow down and enjoy the moments Johnson refers to as blackberries – “unpredictable moments that make life extraordinary.”

“ . . . for the most part, they can’t be predicted. They just happen. And hopefully, you’ve got a front row seat to watch them,” Johnson writes. “But here’s the thing – you have to be present, and you have to be on the lookout, because they can pop up at any time, any place. And they have the power to change your perspective and in the process change your life . . . or somebody else’s.”

**About Ernie Johnson, Jr.**

Ernie Johnson Jr. is a three-time Sports Emmy Award winner and host of TNT's "Inside the NBA" with Charles Barkley, Kenny Smith, and Shaquille O'Neal. He is the studio host for NBA TV's popular "Fan Night" and a studio host for Turner and CBS's NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship coverage. He is the lead play-by-play announcer for Turner's coverage of Major League Baseball and the PGA Championship, and has also covered the National Football League, The British Open, Wimbledon, and the Olympics. In 2007 Johnson was presented with the first-ever honorary John Wooden Keys to Life Award, presented by Athletes in Action, which is awarded to individuals who exemplify Wooden's "Seven Keys to Life," including character, integrity, and faith. In 2015 he was recognized with a Musial Award, presented in honor of Stan Musial's legacy by celebrating iconic "good sports" and the year's greatest moments in sportsmanship. In 2016 his alma mater, the University of Georgia, honored him with the Grady College of Journalism John Holliman Lifetime Achievement Award as well as the Bill Hartman Award for Lifetime Achievement from the UGA Athletic Department. Johnson lives in Braselton, Georgia, with his wife, Cheryl, and their six children, four of whom are adopted.

###

# ERNIE JOHNSON, JR.

 @TurnerSportsEJ

 @ernie.johnson



Ernie Johnson, Jr. is one of sport's most respected and loved personalities. The three-time Sports Emmy Award winner and host of TNT's "Inside the NBA" has helped audiences break down games and belly laugh for decades. Ernie is also the host for NBA TV's popular "Fan Night" and a host for Turner and CBS's NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship coverage. He is the lead play-by-play announcer for Turner's coverage of Major League Baseball and the PGA Championship, and has covered the National Football League, The British Open, Wimbledon and the Olympics.

In addition to his professional accolades and lifetime achievement awards, Ernie has earned honors recognizing his incredible actions off-camera, including the first-ever John Wooden Keys to Life Award and a Musial Award, both of which salute characteristics such as integrity, faith, and good sportsmanship.

Maybe more impressive than his professional fame and recognition is Ernie's innate ability to connect with people on a human level. His willingness to discuss topics such as the adoption of his and his wife Cheryl's children, including their special needs son Michael; the death of his father and best friend, iconic sportscaster and pitcher Ernie Johnson; and his own battle with non-Hodgkin lymphoma has endeared him and given hope to millions.

In his new book, **UNSCRIPTED: THE UNPREDICTABLE MOMENTS THAT MAKE LIFE EXTRAORDINARY**, Ernie takes readers behind the scenes of those very moments. With grace and humility, Ernie gives readers a look at TV's most popular shows and broadcasts, as well as into the privacy of his own home to share hard-won lessons in being open and slowing down to savor moments that really matter. UNSCRIPTED takes readers back to Ernie's early days, offering intimate insight into his athletic career, first jobs in TV, falling in love, his close relationship with his father and more. While the book is full of warm tales from Ernie's youth and hilarious outtakes featuring coworkers Charles Barkley, Kenny Smith, and Shaquille O'Neal, UNSCRIPTED does not stick solely to life's happy surprises. From the death of his father, the adoption of their special needs children, the health scares of his son Michael, to his battle with non-Hodgkin lymphoma and much more, Ernie shares the gut-wrenching side of weathering the unexpected with grace, wit, and wisdom.

Ernie lives in Braselton, Georgia, with his wife, Cheryl, and their six children, four of whom are adopted.