

The Promise Keeper Movie Hometown Premier in Chicago

CHICAGO, IL. August 7, 2006 – “After screenings in Hollywood, LA, Atlanta, Boston and San Francisco, our film is coming home!” said Gregory Whitehead, executive producer of Woolly Head Productions’ first feature film, The Promise Keeper. “I’m thrilled to announce our Chicago premier as part of the Black Harvest International Festival of Film and Video at The Gene Siskel Film Center,” said Whitehead from his office on North Dearborn. In the supernatural mystery/drama, a Chicago attorney races to stop a supernatural creature before it destroys his life and his daughter for their broken promises.

2000-Year-Old Myth

The Promise Keeper movie springboards from a 2000-year-old myth. Nail fetishes were used in certain West African villages when a bargain was struck, or a solemn oath was made. The promise maker would drive a nail into a fetish, which had been crafted by a local shaman.

Modern Day Chicago

After an unusual statue arrives in a current-day Chicago law firm, three attorneys fall under the influence of a supernatural entity. After one of the lawyers is killed, the burden falls on the founding partner, Bernard Gregory, to unravel the mystery. Along the way, Bernard discovers that his 14-year-old daughter Tina has driven a nail and sworn a sacred oath. The lives of everyone that Bernard loves depend on what he does next. “This film’s premise is fantastic,” added Whitehead. His Chicago law firm is one of the locations in the film.

Cast

Chicago actor Ric Walker plays attorney Bernard Gregory in the film. He leads a cast of emerging actors with Chicago stage experience that include lead Terrina Reese as attorney Ranada Kelly and supporter Ric Arthur as attorney Miguel Alvarez. The Promise Keeper also introduces actress Lakeisha Woodard as Tina Gregory, Bernard Gregory’s 14-year-old daughter. “I like the range of emotions the actors created,” said producer Jocelyn Cooper. “This film is a great springboard for these actors, and I’m sure we’ll continue to see great work from them.”

Black Harvest International Festival of Film and Video

The *12th Annual Black Harvest International Festival of Film and Video* is The Gene Siskel Film Center’s celebration of the black experience on film and video. From August 3 through 31, a harvest of 49 Chicago premieres makes *Black Harvest* the Midwest’s most spectacular black film event. As always, the opportunity to meet the filmmakers for discussion is the centerpiece of *Black Harvest*. More than 30 personal appearances are confirmed for this year’s festival, including directors, producers, screenwriters, and actors.

Panel Discussion: *How to Get a Movie Made*

The Black Harvest panel discussion *How to Get a Movie Made* on August 13 is a must for any aspiring independent: seasoned filmmakers share real information with the audience in interactive discussion and relate their own experiences in taking a film from script to screen on a low budget. The Promise Keeper writer-director, Martin Whitehead is scheduled to participate. “The city of Chicago is one of the characters in our film,” said Whitehead, “and I’m happy to have a chance to discuss our experiences filming here.” To learn more about Black Harvest, visit www.siskelfilmcenter.org.

Screenings and Panel Discussion

Panel Discussion: Sunday, August 13, 3:00 pm

Screening: Friday, August 25, 8:15 pm.

Screening: Tuesday, August 29, 8:15 pm

Location: The Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 North State Street, Chicago, Illinois 60601. Tel: 312.846.2600

SOURCE: Woolly Head Productions, www.promisekeepermovie.com, 360-630-0429