

## **The Promise Keeper Movie Premieres in Beverly Hills and San Francisco**

CHICAGO, IL. AND LANCASTER, PA. May 22, 2006 - Woolly Head Productions announced today that the company's feature film, The Promise Keeper will premier in June at the Hollywood Black Film Festival and at The San Francisco Black Film Festival. "It's an honor to have our project premier in these two important festivals," said Producer Jocelyn Cooper, "and on behalf of the entire cast, crew and production staff, I'd like to thank the selection committees of both festivals for their support of our film." In the supernatural thriller/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," said first time feature director Martin Whitehead. 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 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," said Gregory Whitehead, the director's brother and executive producer on the project. Whitehead's 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 regional stage experience that include lead Terrina Reese as attorney Ranada Kelly and supporter Ric Arthur as attorney Miguel Alvarez. The Promise Keeper also introduces supporting actress Lakeisha Woodard as Tina Gregory, Bernard Gregory's 14-year-old daughter. "The acting in this film is superb," added Ms. Cooper. "I particularly enjoy the performances of Ric Walker and Lakeisha Woodard; they're fantastic together."

### The Hollywood Black Film Festival (HBFF)

HBFF is an annual 6-day celebration of black cinema drawing together established filmmakers, popular film and TV stars, writers, directors, industry executives, emerging artists and new audiences from Southern California and around the world. Past attendees include John Singleton, Spike Lee, George Tillman, Tina Andrews, Reuben Cannon, Anthony Anderson, Eriq LaSalle, Blair Underwood, Sanaa Lathan, Forest Whitaker, Bill Duke, and Nicole Ari Parker. The festival has become an annual Mecca for the established and emerging Black Hollywood creative community. To learn more about HBFF visit [www.hbff.org](http://www.hbff.org).

### The San Francisco Black Film Festival (SFBFF)

The SFBFF mission is to celebrate African American cinema and the African cultural Diaspora and to showcase a diverse collection of films - from emerging and established filmmakers - that highlight the beauty and complexity of the African and African American experience. SFBFF believes film can lead to a better understanding of, and communication between, people of diverse cultures, races, and lifestyles, while simultaneously serving as a vehicle to initiate dialogue on the important issues of our times. To learn more about SFBFF visit [www.sfbff.org](http://www.sfbff.org).

### Ostrow and Company

"The Promise Keeper is a carefully crafted and imaginative film," said Page Ostrow, President of Ostrow and Company. "I'm glad to see that it's being recognized on the festival circuit for both its commercial promise and artistic value." Ms. Ostrow recently signed on to the project as producer's representative. She is a veteran entertainment industry executive who has arranged financing and or negotiated distribution for over 125 feature films and documentaries. To learn more about Ostrow and Company visit [www.ostrowandcompany.com](http://www.ostrowandcompany.com).

### Screenings

Beverly Hills: Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 3:45 p.m. at the Fine Arts Theater, located at 8556 Wilshire Boulevard, Beverly Hills, California 90211. A ten-minute short will screen before Whitehead's feature.

San Francisco: Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM at the Artaud Theater, located on 450 Florida Street, San Francisco, CA 94110.

SOURCE: Woolly Head Productions, [www.promisekeepermovie.com](http://www.promisekeepermovie.com), 360-630-0429