

A Woolly Head Production

A Martin Whitehead Film

The Promise Keeper

Starring: Ric Walker, Ric Arthur, and Terrina Reese

Introducing: Lakeisha Woodard

Executive Producer: Gregory Whitehead

Producers: Martin Whitehead and Jocelyn Cooper

Art Direction: Kendra Rasmussen

Casting: Elliot Domalewski

Editor: Jeremy Bird

Photography: Bo Hakala

Producers: John W. Boshier, Kate Grady, Sabrina McClure

Writer & Director: Martin Whitehead

Visit the Website: www.promisekeepermovie.com

The Promise Keeper

The Cast

Bernard Gregory	RIC WALKER
Ranada Kelly	TERRINA REESE
Miguel Alvarez	RIC ARTHUR
Tina Gregory	LAKEISHA WOODARD
Mrs. Ripol	ARLENE COONEY
The Creature	CRAIG S. BAILEY
Tina's Mom	VITORIA FULBRIGHT
York Melton	JAMES BYTHER
Bike Messenger	KEVIN M. ANDERSON
Cecelia	CHARISSA WHEELER
Inappropriate Man	JOHN WILLIS
Mover	MARCO GODFREY
Beautiful Woman	KATIE FICKER
Police Officer	KATHERINE DUGHI
Female Detective	CHRISTINE DRAGON
Male Detective	MARTIN WHITEHEAD
Suitors	
Filmmaker	RICO STAMPER
Evil Man	SIMEON "SIMBO" HENDERSON
Hannibal	RICHARD COOPER
Green Party	ALFIE OLSON
Lawyer	DWAYNE WILLIAMS
Voice Talent	
Ranada's Sister	STEPHANIE S. GREEN, ESQ.

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The Promise Keeper

The Filmmakers

Executive Producers GREGORY WHITEHEAD
JOCELYN COOPER
MARTIN WHITEHEAD

Producers JOCELYN COOPER
MARTIN WHITEHEAD

Producers JOHN W. BOSHER
KATE GRADY
SABRINA MCCLURE

Director/Writer MARTIN WHITEHEAD
Casting ELLIOT DOMALEWSKI
Art KENDRA RASMUSSEN
Photography BO HAKALA
Editor JEREMY BIRD
Original Music JOE HOGAN
Assistant Camera JOHN BLACK
Substitute Assistant Camera TONY SANTIAGO
AD/Unit Production Manager KATE GRADY
Gaffer WILLIAM E. COLEMAN III
FX Make-Up KRIST NEUMANN
Glamour Make-Up ZSOFIZ OTVOS
Sound Supervisor BRIAN APOLINAR
Script Supervisor AMANDA TOYE
Key Grip BENJAMIN SHIPP
Grip MIKE CAVANAUGH
2nd Assistant Director/Co-Producer JOHN W. BOSHER
Assistant UPM/Co-Producer AMANDA TOYE
2nd Assistant Camera GEOFF REISNER
Fight Coordinator DAVID SAMO
Idol Design TOM GRADY
Casting Assistant MICHAEL TAYLOR

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The Promise Keeper

Log Line

A supernatural entity threatens the lives of three attorneys through the use of their drives and compulsions.

Mythology

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 the fetish. In the promise keeper tradition, a local shaman crafted the totem.

Synopsis

The Promise Keeper film springboards from a 2,000-year-old tradition and asks a simple question. What if one particular promise keeper entity had the power to enforce bargains and punish whoever broke a promise? Fourteen-year-old Tina summarized the situation best: “This is a dangerous toy to have in a law firm. Someone could get hurt!”

After the statue arrives in a modern Chicago law firm, each partner falls under the deadly influence of The Promise Keeper. After one of the partners is killed, the burden falls on 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.

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The Promise Keeper

FAQ: An interview with Director/Writer Martin Whitehead

Q: Tell me a little about your film.

A: In *The Promise Keeper* a supernatural entity threatens the lives of three attorneys through the use of their drives and compulsions.

Q: Is the film based on a true story?

A: Our film springboards from a 2,000-year-old African tradition [of] nail fetishes. We ask the question — what would happen if a powerful, malevolent promise keeper entity made its way from Africa to the Caribbean to a thoroughly modern Chicago law firm? Where of course...

Q: Lawyers!

A: Right. Where the lawyers couldn't keep a promise if their lives depended on it.

Q: Sounds cool.

A: After the statue arrives, promises are made, and the lives of the law firm partners start to unravel.

Q: And then...

A: One of the partners is killed. It falls to our hero Bernard to unmake the entity. As Bernard starts to unravel the mystery, he finds out that his 14-year-old daughter Tina has made a promise. At that point in the film, the lives of everyone that Bernard loves depend on what he does next!

Q: Cool. Ok. So, this film was made in Chicago.

A: This film was written and produced in Seattle, filmed in Chicago, with postproduction in Chicago and New York. [Ed. Note: After the date of this interview, post production services were rendered in Seattle, Washington by well known regional post facilities Clatter & Din and Flicker & Blur.]

Q: How long was the shoot?

A: We shot the film during a three to four week period. All preproduction and principal photography took three months.

Q: How did you find your cast and crew?

A: We found the majority of our cast and crew through the Internet.

Q: Is that unusual?

A: Well, the film was shot in Chicago, some of the scenes at my brother's law firm, and we used WEB Sites like Mandy.Com and Craigslist.org to find and recruit talent.

Q: How was that?

A: Yeah. It worked out great. Modern technology really made this film.

Q: How so?

A: Well, first we shot on high-definition video which proved to be an affordable, fast option for us versus film.

Q: Is high-definition video a new technology?

A: Well. Newer. Filmmakers like Robert Rodriguez [editors note: Spy Kids & Sin City] and George Lucas [Star Wars Revenge of the Sith] are using it all the time.

Q: How else has modern technology helped the film?

A: As I suggested, the Internet made it possible to find the best Chicago area cast and crew in a fraction of the time it would have taken even two years ago.

Q: Well, let's move on. I understand that there were a number of unexplained events that happened on the set.

A: Well, I guess.

Q: After The Promise Keeper statue arrived.

A: Well, there were some equipment failures we couldn't figure out. Some "ghost images" if you will, in some of the dailies. Oh, and the fire alarm on one of our sets.

Q: There was a fire?

A: No, there wasn't a fire, just a fire alarm. I was never quite sure...

Q: I understand that a member of your crew believed he was cursed and had a nervous breakdown on the set.

A: Hey. That's unfair. That's overblown.

Q: Well, can you clear it up? Did somebody have a breakdown on your movie set? What happened?

A: I don't have any further comment on this.

Q: Well, what else can you tell me about The Promise Keeper curse?

A: There's no such thing as a promise keeper curse. Thanks.

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The Promise Keeper

About The Cast

Ric Walker is **Bernard**: Ric is an accomplished Chicago area actor with a score of industrial, theatre, and screen credits to his name. This is Ric's second lead in a feature film.

Ric Arthur plays **Miguel**: Ric is a former marine and accomplished Chicago stage actor. This is Ric's first supporting role in a feature film.

Terrina Reese is **Ranada**: You might pass Terrina in the airport as her acting and modeling career takes her from LA to Chicago and to Germany, London, or Spain. This is Terrina's second lead in a feature film.

Lakeisha Woodard plays **Tina**: At twenty, Lakeisha is already an accomplished theatre actress and dancer whose performances speak for themselves. Woolly Head Productions is pleased to introduce Lakeisha in her premier feature film.

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The Promise Keeper

Internet Film Making

An interview with Director/Writer Martin Whitehead

Q: Most independent filmmakers make their first film with a close-knit group of friends. But your story is a little different.

A: We found the majority of the crew for our project using the Internet.

Q: Why's that?

A: Well, the project was written and produced in Seattle, photographed and casted in Chicago and finished in Pennsylvania and New York. [Ed. Note: After the date of this interview, post production services were rendered in Seattle, Washington, by well known regional post facilities Clatter & Din and Flicker & Blur.]

Q: And you went to film school at NYU?

A: Right. So it was important to tap into the local filmmaking communities in each of those cities.

Q: So you used the Internet.

A: We used sites like Craigslist.org and Mandy.Com and one of the others on the list I showed you [see side bar] to identify cast and crew.

Q: So, how did it work out?

A: It worked out great. We used our applications from the web to develop and qualify contacts. At the end of the day, 90-95% of the crew was found through the web or using contacts we developed through the web.

Q: Was using the Internet easier than relying on more traditional methods and networks?

A: Not easier; just different. Having relied on the Internet, it was more important to see work samples and check references [see dos and don'ts listed below]. When I use my more traditional network to find crew, everyone I talk to about a job or role comes with a de facto reference.

Q: So, what about the cast?

A: Similarly, we used the Internet to post roles. We supplemented our posting with ads in one or two of the Chicago actor magazines. And, of course, we also pulled from the established contacts of our casting director, Elliot Domalewski.

Q: How did it work out?

A: Well, we posted and then hosted open calls. It worked out great. I'm very happy with the acting and because we had open calls, we were able to use our creativity in casting certain roles.

Q: For example?

A: Well, the Miguel role was written for an overweight actor...

Q: But Ric Arthur is a former Marine who looks great. He's far from fat.

A: [Laughs] Right. Ric read for the role and substituted "short" for "fat" in the sides. He's great in the film! And that's an actor we may not have considered using if we had relied on more traditional casting methods.

Q: He's going to be a big star.

A: I agree. He's a real up and comer. And Ric Walker who plays Bernard is also great.

Q: I love him in the scenes with Tina.

A: Right. Rick really shines in the scenes with Lakeisha Woodard who plays his daughter Tina. They're great together. And this is Lakeisha's first film.

Q: TX Martin.

A: TX.

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The Promise Keeper

A List of Web Resources

National

- [Craigslist.Org](#) — The single best web resource for finding crew and talent.
- [Mandy.Com](#) — A close second. Particularly strong in Chicago, NY, and LA.
- [IFP.Org](#) — You have to join the Independent Film Project to post positions on the IFP web site, but it's worth it. New York and LA have more positions posted than other regions. IFP is a great organization for making contacts and developing skills before you make your first film.
- [SagIndie.Com](#) — Even if you don't go SAG for your feature, it pays to be informed. The SAG independent representative in Chicago is great.

Chicago

- [ReelChicago.Com](#) — A great site for the scoop on Chicago independent film and links to the Chicago film office.
- [Colum.Edu](#) — Follow the links to the Columbia College Career Office, a great resource for production staff, crew, and interns in Chicago.

Seattle

- [WigglyWorld.Org](#) — The web site for the Northwest Film Forum is a great resource.
- [IndieClub.Com](#) — Support network and posting.
- [SeattleComposers.Org](#) — The Seattle Composer Alliance.
- [WhatcomFilmAndVideo.Com](#) — The Whatcom Film and Video Group is the most supportive and inclusive arts organization I've found in the Pacific Northwest.

Vancouver, B.C.

- [PraxisFilm.Com](#) — A center for screenwriters. This is an excellent site for help to develop your script. For a nominal charge a reader with expertise in your genre will read your script and provide notes. Very helpful.
- [WomenInFilm.Ca](#) — Vancouver Women in Film and Video. Good networking and support for women and anyone else.

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The Promise Keeper

A List of Dos and Don'ts to Consider When Recruiting for Cast and Crew Using the Web

Do

- Develop a system for handling responses and stick to it.
- Write clear descriptions and include what you can pay, if any amount at all. It saves a lot of time and avoids time consuming questions.
- Sell the sizzle: tell the world what's unique or special about your project.
- Publish a log line of your project.
- Keep your posting short and to the point.
- Ask for and check three references. If you don't, you'll regret it.
- Look for regional clubs and organizations that have web postings.
- Trust your instincts.
- Try to get back to everyone who writes you.

Don't

- Waste time on applicants who can't follow the directions you posted.
- Waste time on applicants who seem angry in their responses or feel that applying for a job is beneath them.
- Take it personally if people don't respond. Try reposting a more succinct or informative ad or try another site more appropriate to your project, crew needs, or region.

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