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Award-Winning Film *Amazing Grace* Releases on DVD

The true story that changed the lives of millions releases on DVD November 13, 2007, while the movie has sparked powerful humanitarian movements

CENTURY CITY, Calif. – Fox Home Entertainment is releasing the unforgettable story of the birth of the anti-slavery movement and one of the most beloved hymns of all time when *Amazing Grace* debuts on DVD November 13, 2007.



Amazing Grace chronicles the “must see” (*O, The Oprah Magazine*) story of William Wilberforce, the pioneer who maneuvered his way through 18th century politics to abolish the slave trade in the British Empire and changed the world.

Dubbed an “Indie hit” by Hollywood trades and insiders since its release in theaters, which drew more than \$31 million at the worldwide box office, a number of humanitarian movements have gained momentum supporting the movie, including efforts to end modern day slavery. Seven amazing moments for *Amazing Grace* include:

- 6,000 churches around the world—from Greece to Grenada, from Norway to Nigeria—joined together worldwide on “Amazing Grace Sunday” to sing the timeless hymn and pray for the end of modern day slavery.
- After viewing scenes from the movie, 4,000 local, national and international leaders joined renowned singer Whintley Phipps in the singing of “Amazing Grace” at the 2007 National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C.
- At an Australian Federal Parliamentary screening of *Amazing Grace*, a letter from Prime Minister John Howard announced that “in the 2007-2008 Budget, the government committed a further \$38.3 million over four years to extend and expand the government's strategy to combat people trafficking.”
- Inspired by the movie, more than 125,000 people—mostly students—signed The Amazing Change petition to end modern day slavery. The names on the petitions were presented at an October 2007 White House event.
- Private screenings and presentations of *Amazing Grace* with the President and First Lady, Members of Congress, the U.S. Department of State, 91 members of Parliament and the House of Lords, the British Ambassador to the U.S. with delegates from African and Caribbean nations, and before countless governments, festivals, conferences and organizations.

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- The U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives passed resolutions commemorating the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the British slave trade and honoring the life of William Wilberforce.
- Theaters reported audiences giving *Amazing Grace* a standing ovation and spontaneously singing “Amazing Grace” during the closing credits.

In support of the film, 75 diverse organizations worked together to carry-on Wilberforce's vision of justice and mercy. *Be a World-Changer Small Group Bible Study Guide*, a five-week series, is a study that helps churches, corporations and campuses serve their communities. Visit www.world-changers.info or www.amazinggracemovie.com for more information.

Directed by Michael Apted (*The World Is Not Enough*, *Coal Miner's Daughter*) from the original screenplay written by Academy Award® nominee Steven Knight (*Dirty Pretty Things*), the film stars Ioan Gruffudd (*The Fantastic Four*), multi-award winner Albert Finney* (*Erin Brockovich*, *A Good Year*), Golden Globe nominee** Michael Gambon (*Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*), Rufus Sewell (*The Illusionist*), Grammy Award winner Youssou N'Dour and Ciarán Hinds (TV's “Rome”).

Amazing Grace DVD Special Features:

Amazing Grace boasts interactive study guides and discussion tools for a deeper look into this historically-based story. The *Amazing Grace* DVD is presented in widescreen format with English Dolby Digital 5.1 plus English, Spanish and French subtitles. Additional special features on the DVD include:

- Audio Commentary with Director Michael Apted and Ioan Gruffudd.
- “How Sweet the Sound: The Story of Amazing Grace,” a half-hour documentary providing an in-depth look at the making of the film and relevance to today.
- “Finding Freedom,” a tour of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, providing factual information about modern-day slavery practices.
- Interactive Discussion Tools and Study Guides. The discussion guides provide thought-provoking questions for use in classrooms or Bible study groups.
- Music video of Grammy Nominee Chris Tomlin's version of “Amazing Grace.”

*Emmy: Outstanding Lead Actor in a Miniseries or a Movie – *The Gathering Storm*, 2002

Golden Globe: Best Performance by an Actor - *The Gathering Storm*, 2002; Best Motion Picture Actor - Musical/Comedy - *Scrooge*, 1970; Most Promising Newcomer – Male - *Tom Jones*, 1963

**2002 Best Performance by an Actor in a Mini-Series or a Motion Picture Made for Television [Path to War](#)

About Amazing Grace:

Street Date: November 13, 2007
Price: \$29.98 U.S.
Catalog Number: 2244493
U.S. Rating: PG
Total Run Time: 111 minutes
Closed Captioned: Yes

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About Bristol Bay Productions LLC

Bristol Bay Productions finances and produces feature films in all genres—dramas, comedies, thrillers and action adventure—that tell uplifting stories appropriate for audiences of all ages. Bristol Bay’s films come from a number of sources: popular books that have engaged millions, as well as drawing upon the lives of influential people, timeless heroes, themes and events that inspire us all. Because of their broad appeal, Bristol Bay’s films are rated G, PG and PG-13.

About Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment

A recognized global industry leader, Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment LLC (TCFHE) is the worldwide marketing, sales and distribution company for all Fox film and television programming on VHS, DVD and Blu-ray Disc (BD) as well as acquisitions and original productions. The company also releases all products around the globe for MGM Home Entertainment. Each year TCFHE introduces hundreds of new and newly enhanced products, which it services to retail outlets -- from mass merchants and warehouse clubs to specialty stores and e-commerce - throughout the world. Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment LLC is a subsidiary of Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation, a News Corporation company.

Bio for Micheal and Chip Flaherty:

Micheal Flaherty is the president of Walden Media, a company he co-founded with his former college roommate, Cary Granat, to produce films, books and interactive programs that tie directly into school curricula. Acclaimed for such films as *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*, *Charlotte's Web*, and *Bridge to Terabithia*, Walden Media aims to recapture imagination, rekindle curiosity, and demonstrate the rewards of learning. Producing both original works and adaptations of acclaimed children's literature, Walden Media projects are enhanced by comprehensive outreach and supplemental programs for teachers, librarians and parents. Upcoming releases include *Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium* (2007), and *The Water Horse* (2007).

In 2001, Flaherty joined his Tufts University roommate, former president of Miramax's Dimension Films Cary Granat, in founding Los Angeles based Walden Media, a subsidiary of The Anschutz Company. Walden Media seeks to marry the worlds of entertainment and education, offering audiences various ways to immerse themselves in the subject matter of its television, film, new media and publishing products. As company president, Flaherty guides Walden's vision across all business units. Flaherty lives in Lexington, Mass. with his wife Kelly, his son Christian, his daughters Eileen and Reagan, and his dog Jumbo.

"Chip" Francis X. Flaherty, Jr. serves as Executive Vice-President at Walden Media, LLC and has so served since Walden Media was founded in 2000. Walden Media (www.walden.com) is a media company dedicated to building a multi-dimensional learning environment through a variety of platforms including film, publishing and the Internet. The bulk of Walden Media's film productions have been faithful adaptations of beloved books, including *Holes*, *Because of Winn-Dixie*, *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, *Charlotte's Web*, and *Bridge to Terabithia*. Upcoming films include *Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium* and *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian*.

Mr. Flaherty is a frequent guest on radio and television where he comments on the film industry in general and, more specifically, Walden Media's films and publishing projects and its increasing role in the entertainment industry.

Prior to his tenure at Walden Media, Mr. Flaherty served the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as an assistant district attorney and, later, as an assistant attorney general. While serving as an assistant attorney general, Flaherty issued decisions addressing over \$1 billion in publicly bid contracts. Flaherty, a graduate of The College of the Holy Cross and the father of four young children, resides in a suburb just outside of Boston, Massachusetts.

Suggested Interview Questions

Amazing Grace

1. What is the storyline of the movie *Amazing Grace*?
2. Who are the main actors and actresses in *Amazing Grace*?
3. How was the movie received at the box office? What awards did it receive? How was it received in the media?
4. There was a lot of collaboration from over 75 diverse organizations behind this movie. Why was there such universal appeal to the project?
5. Many have been inspired by seeing Wilberforce's story. What are some of the humanitarian efforts that have been sparked by this movie?
6. What is the *Amazing Grace* campaign for social justice?
7. What has been the response of the political leaders around the world after watching *Amazing Grace*?
8. What are some of the areas in the world affected by modern-day slavery?
9. Who wrote the song "Amazing Grace"? Where did the song originate?
10. What are some of the special features on the *Amazing Grace* DVD?
11. One the features of the DVD is having small group studies to discuss *Amazing Grace*. Why is it so important that this movie is a conversation starter?
12. Who was behind the scenes making the movie happen?

**To schedule and interview, contact Ben Laurro at Pure Publicity at
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