

HARGROVE ENTERTAINMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HARGROVE ENTERTAINMENT ACQUIRES CONTROVERSIAL
DOCUMENTARY ON RIGHT-WING APOCALYPTICISM:

SILHOUETTE CITY

SLATES A SEPTEMBER THEATRICAL RELEASE

Hargrove Entertainment announced today that it has acquired the controversial new documentary film on right-wing apocalypticism, *SILHOUETTE CITY*, by first-time filmmakers Michael W. Wilson and Natalie Zimmerman. The New York-based distributor plans to open the film theatrically in September in conjunction with a tour for the companion book, *A Kingdom At Any Cost*, which will be released by Parkhurst Brothers/University of Chicago Press in August.

SILHOUETTE CITY is an immersive journey through the recent history of American apocalypticism. Using archival video, movement propaganda and original investigative material, the film tracks the movement of apocalyptic Christian nationalism and its most extreme adherents from the margins to the mainstream, the military and beyond.

In the midst of a sudden loss of power on the political right and a destabilizing economic crisis, an apocalyptic right-wing populism has gathered force. According to Political Research Associates, the leading right-wing watchdog organization:

"When the Right isn't in power, some right-wing groups become increasingly violent...In the midst of a global economic meltdown, right-wing populism has even greater appeal. We're watching as the Right mobilizes resentment against gays and lesbians, people of color, immigrants, Muslims—tactics that frequently find a receptive audience among people hurt by a faltering economy. Already, organized White supremacists are blaming Jews, a perennial standby in scapegoating, for Wall Street's crisis.

Today, the conditions are present for a perfect storm of bigotry and reaction."

SILHOUETTE CITY is an exploration of the apocalyptic style

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of reactionary extremism in America by providing a unique window into the foundational ideas, organizational structure and psychological dynamics of apocalyptic movements. If current events are prompting a resurgence of conspiracy culture and anti-government paranoia, the future of the American Right is at the fringes of contemporary apocalyptic Christian nationalism. In the age of a networked Christian Right, movement propaganda has the potential to reach a greater speed and audience than ever before. The film examines the striking ideological and rhetorical similarities between The Covenant, The Sword & The Arm Of The Lord (CSA)—a group that provided the model for militia group activity in the 1990s—and the mainstream Christian Right of today. It reveals how the apocalyptic intensity and rhetoric of final warfare are symptoms of those impulses opposed to cultural openness—and as the formal and conceptual methods of propagandizing their struggle are laid bare—the CSA provides a case study in grassroots response to right-wing apocalyptic impulses. Globalization, rapid worldwide economic expansion and the subsequent decline have rallied religious extremists internationally to join in a fight against a common enemy: modernism and secularism. This sense of urgent desire for radical closure seeks to find its expression—whether it be grassroots organizing, hate speech or direct violence.

The film is structured as a temporal diptych that begins with the story of a Christian survivalist group active in the '70s and '80s, as recounted by one of its former members, and then moves forward to the current post 9-11 era where militant Christianity has become the dominant influence in the lives of millions of Americans.

SILHOUETTE CITY features a wide array of interviews and appearances, including Kerry Noble, a former Christian Militia leader; Mike Huckabee former Arkansas Governor and 2008 presidential candidate; Chris Hedges, former New York Times Middle East bureau chief; Mikey Weinstein, founder of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation; and Dr. James Dobson, Founder and Chairman of Focus On The Family.

Additional interviewees include former Air Force Chaplain MeLinda Morton; Teen Mania Founder and President Ron Luce; Harvard Medical School lecturer in Psychiatry Robert J. Lifton; Coral Ridge Ministries Founder Dr. D. James Kennedy; World Harvest Church Founder Rod Parsley; best-selling author Tim Lahaye of the 'Left Behind' book series; and, Rick Scarborough, Founder and Director of Vision America.

Also interviewed in the film is Michelle Goldberg, author of "Kingdom Coming: The Rise Of Christian Nationalism." She

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noted, SILHOUETTE CITY "is a transfixing and important film (that) deserves the widest possible audience." Blake Rutherford, a contributor to InContention.com, considers the film "impeccably researched... and a tour de force."

The Co-Founder of Talk To Action (a Religious Right Watchdog organization), Bruce Wilson (no relation), commented, "There have been many superb documentaries in the last few years about religion and politics, but my own personal opinion is that Michael Wilson's SILHOUETTE CITY stands above the pack...I give it the highest recommendation."

"As a filmmaker you hope to find a distributor that will love your film and have the passion and persistence to nurture it into the marketplace with great care," said Natalie Zimmerman. "We are very excited, and feel very fortunate, to have found that distributor in Hargrove Entertainment. Michael and I look forward to working with Peter and his very talented team so that SILHOUETTE CITY can reach the widest audience possible."

Peter M. Hargrove, head of Hargrove Entertainment, says, "One of my goals as a distributor is to discover films that open our eyes and more fully illuminate seemingly familiar subjects and issues. I want to make these films more readily available to the broader public -- to facilitate greater understanding and the potential for a more educated public discourse. Ignorance is not bliss, knowledge is power. Michael Wilson and Natalie Zimmerman have made a film that will make people more aware of the pitfalls of intolerance and totalistic world-views. We look forward to instigating numerous conversations among friends, families and total strangers in the months to come with the release of this thought-provoking film, SILHOUETTE CITY."

SILHOUETTE CITY received its World Premiere at the Miami International Film Festival, where it screened in competition. Additional festival screenings have included Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival, Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, San Francisco Documentary Film Festival, Bermuda International Film Festival, Kansas International Film Festival, Chicago Underground Film Festival and Little Rock Film Festival.

In their book, "A Kingdom At Any Cost," Wilson and Zimmerman expand on SILHOUETTE CITY themes through a broad array of in-depth interviews, essays, and photographs. The book will be officially introduced to the trade during the May 28-31 Book Expo America at the Javits Center in New York. Additional information is available at www.pbros.net, and may be ordered through the University of Chicago Press, www.press.uchicago.edu.

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ABOUT HARGROVE ENTERTAINMENT

Hargrove Entertainment is a full service entertainment company established in 1988. The company specializes in marketing and distribution, obtaining production financing, licensing and supplies program publicity to both producing entities and licensees.

CONTACT FOR THE FILM:

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YEAR OF PRODUCTION: 2008

RUNNING TIME: 88 minutes

PROJECTION FORMAT: Beta-SP, DigiBeta, DVCam, DVD

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: Natalie Zimmerman & Michael W. Wilson

PRODUCER: Natalie Zimmerman

PRODUCER & DIRECTOR: Michael W. Wilson

CAMERA/SOUND: Michael W. Wilson

EDITOR: Michael W. Wilson & Holen Sabrina Kahn

COMPOSER: Ori Barel

SOUNDMIX: Stereo
