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THE TRUE STORY BEHIND THE "MISSISSIPPI BURNING" MURDERS

NESHOBA

THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

HAS ITS US THEATRICAL PREMIERE IN NEW YORK ON AUGUST 13 AT CINEMA VILLAGE
FOLLOWED BY LOS ANGELES ON SEPT 10

Q&A WITH FILMMAKERS AND FAMILY MEMBERS OPENING WEEKEND

In 1964, a mob of Klansmen murdered civil rights workers James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner in the small Mississippi county of Neshoba. These young men, two Jews from New York and an African-American from Mississippi, were in the Deep South helping register African-American voters during what became known as "Freedom Summer." Although the Klansmen bragged about what they did, no one was held accountable until 2005, when the State indicted the mastermind of the killings, Edgar Ray Killen, an 80-year-old Baptist preacher and notorious racist.

The new documentary ***NESHOBA: THE PRICE OF FREEDOM*** tells the story of these three American heroes and the Mississippi County still divided over the meaning of justice 40 years after their murders. The film takes an unflinching look at ordinary citizens struggling to find peace with their town's violent, racist past in today's America.

Filmmakers Micki Dickoff and Tony Pagano gained unprecedented access to Killen, following him from shortly after his indictment through his trial. For the first time, the film captures the outspoken views of a Klan member charged with a civil rights murder and takes viewers on a journey into the mindset of a man who still feels the murders were justified as "self-defense" of a way of life.

Dickoff, an Emmy award-winning filmmaker and social activist, was haunted by the slayings of the three civil rights workers, kids only a few years older than she was at the time. Teaming with Pagano, an award-winning director of photography, they began shooting on the 40th anniversary of the killings in Neshoba County, Mississippi where the three civil rights workers were slain. Pagano makes his feature directorial debut on *NESHOBA*.

Through intimate and surprisingly candid interviews with Killen, the families of the victims, and black and white Neshoba County citizens with diverse points of view, the film explores whether the prosecution of one unrepentant Klansman constitutes justice and whether healing and reconciliation are possible without telling the unvarnished truth.

NESHOBA

87 minutes, color and B/W, DigiBeta, Stereo, 2010

PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY Micki Dickoff and Tony Pagano | **WRITTEN BY** Micki Dickoff
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS Tony Pagano and Micki Dickoff | **CO-PRODUCER** Christie Webb
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY Tony Pagano | **EDITED BY** Micki Dickoff and Tony Pagano
MUSIC BY Chris Davis

"POTENT... RIVETING." -Dennis Harvey, *Variety*

"GRIPPING." -Eleanor J. Bader, *The Independent*

"EXCELLENT." -Kim Voynar, *Movie City News*

"FASCINATING." -Kelly Vance, *East Bay Express*

"The tools used to tell the tale (particularly old newsreels, family photos and seldom-seen crime scene and autopsy photos) are masterfully employed. Within the first 15 minutes, Dickoff and Pagano milk tear ducts (iconic newsreel footage of a young Ben Chaney weeping as he sings "We Shall Overcome" at his brothers funeral has lost none of its power to devastate), and then use that emotion to fuel the rest of the film." -Ernest Hardy, *LA Weekly*

"Peels back the layers of simmering rage and blinding denial that linger in Neshoba County, Miss. It's a patient film, full of disparate voices, and it captures the process of justice in action. Just as important, it digs deep into the question of how wildly different sectors of the community view that process." -Chris Vognar, *Dallas Morning News*

WINNER: BEST OVERALL FILM & BEST DOCUMENTARY- Texas Black Film Festival

WINNER: BEST DOCUMENTARY- Boston Film Festival

WINNER: BEST DOCUMENTARY- Indie Memphis Film Festival

WINNER: BEST DOCUMENTARY- Ft. Lauderdale International Film Festival

WINNER: BEST MISSISSIPPI FILM- Oxford Film Festival

WINNER: BEST HUMAN RIGHTS FILM- Canada International Film Festival

WINNER: SPECIAL JURY AWARD- WorldFest Houston

WINNER: SILVER LEI AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN FILMMAKING-
Honolulu International Film Festival

NYC PRESS SCREENING

Wednesday, July 28th 2010, 6:00 pm

Magno Review 2, 729 7th Ave. @ 49th St.

RSVP by July 23rd to kelly.hargraves@firstrunfeatures.com

Press materials are available at: firstrunfeatures.com/neshoba_press.html

For more information please visit: neshobafilm.com