

Reconciliation: Mandela's Miracle a film : documentary Reconciliation: Mandela's Miracle a film by Michael Henry Wilson

by Ron Gilbert

The title of this film says it all. Yes! Nelson Mandela is a miracle and an inspiration. In America we had Martin Luther King and in South Africa they had Nelson Mandela, who has this fortitude and determination and he never lost hope even after spending 26 years in prison. He is a precious gift to everyone. Oscar-winning director Clint Eastwood's voice is at the opening of this documentary and his words are "I have always thought that Nelson Mandela was a fascinating character and of course his wonderful presence and a sort of a million-dollar smile and a personality that makes people feel happy when they are around him. He still has this great charismatic presence which is what this all about. The way he handled South Africa is unique and found a way of utilizing Rugby during apartheid and inspired the whole country to get behind him". Clint is on the set of his film "Invictus" discussing this and we view clips of his film and the 1995 World Cup Rugby match and he talks about Mandela's dream to unite his country which is a very tough job. From then on you know that you are about to see a film that you will never forget. I could never put into words that way it affected me. Director Michael Henry Wilson has incorporated vintage footage of Mandela back in 1964 and interviews and also clips of the film "Invictus" in such a way that your eyes are glued to the screen because you do not want to miss a moment. He has detailed the events that lead up to what the people of South Africa have coined "Mandela's miracle," a strategy that resulted in a peaceful transition from apartheid to a democracy which was driven by the notion that even the most terrible tyranny can be overcome through reconciliation, as both the oppressed and the oppressors need to be liberated from the jaws of prejudice and injustice. A message that sticks in my mind is said in the film "we won't be free until we are all free". In Clint's words "The world needs people like him."

Clint Eastwood will be presented with an Award on November 15, 2010

This film will be screened at the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles on Sunday, November 14, 12:30 pm, Hertz Theater and Tuesday, November 16, 8:30 pm, Wosk Theater