

'Reconciliation: Mandela's Miracle' a clarion call for racial harmony

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Michael Henry Wilson directed this informative hagiography of Nelson Mandela, the jailed freedom fighter turned South African president who almost single-handedly transformed his country from a repressive apartheid state to a thriving democracy.

The director's background is in movie-industry docs — such as *In Search of Kundun* with Martin Scorsese — and he frames much of his Mandela thesis around the 1995 Rugby World Cup, whose events Clint Eastwood dramatized in 2009's *Invictus* (Eastwood is one of the film's recurring subjects).

If you've seen *Invictus*, the revelations about Mandela's role in the unifying event will feel a little like déjà vu.

Reconciliation is most moving when describing the prison conditions Mandela and other political dissidents had to endure for dozens of years — and their wide-eyed emergence into a new technological world upon their release.

As the title indicates, the movie is a clarion call for mutual understanding, empathy and racial harmony that transcends South Africa alone.

Ultimately, though, the film proves that, despite South Africa's disgraceful history, there is nothing more miraculous than human forgiveness.

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Screens at 4:30 p.m. Monday at Muvico Parisian at CityPlace, 545 Hibiscus St., West Palm Beach. See pbifilmfest.org for details.

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