



NEWS RELEASE
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SHOWEAST TO SCREEN “THE GREAT DEBATERS”
FOR NATION’S EXHIBITION COMMUNITY

NEW YORK – It was announced today that "The Great Debaters", directed by, and starring, Denzel Washington and Forest Whitaker, will be screened on Thursday morning, October 18th at 10:30 a.m. at this year's ShowEast convention in Orlando Florida, announced Mitch Neuhauser, Co-Managing Director of the annual convention. "The Great Debaters" is produced by The Weinstein Company and will be released nationwide by MGM on December 25th.

“We are thrilled about working with Denzel Washington as an actor and director and Oprah Winfrey, Todd Black and Joe Roth have done a superb job producing the film” says co-chairman Harvey Weinstein. “We are very proud of ‘The Great Debaters’ and excited for the exhibitors to see this poignant film.”

“It was an honor to debut Denzel Washington’s directorial effort, ‘Antwone Fisher’, for the industry in 2002 at ShowEast and now to be able to showcase his next film, for us, is a great privilege”, noted Neuhauser. “This is sure to be one of the breakout hits at this year’s convention and to have the support of one of today’s top talents, such as Denzel Washington, is a terrific vote of confidence”.

From two-time Academy Award® winner Denzel Washington and an ensemble cast lead by Washington that includes Academy Award® winner Forest Whitaker, comes "The Great Debaters." Inspired by a true story, "The Great Debaters" chronicles the journey of Professor Melvin Tolson (Denzel Washington), a brilliant but volatile debate team coach who uses the power of words to shape a group of underdog students from a small African American college in the deep south into a historically elite debate team. A controversial figure, Professor Tolson challenged the social mores of the time and was under constant fire for his unconventional and ferocious teaching methods as well as his radical political views.

In their pursuit for excellence, Tolson's debate team receives a groundbreaking invitation to debate Harvard University's championship team. The film is directed by Denzel Washington and stars Washington, Forest Whitaker, Jurnee Smollett, Nate Parker, Denzel Whitaker, and Kimberly Elise. "The Great Debaters" was written by Robert Eisele and Tom Epperson and produced by Todd Black, Kate Forte, Oprah Winfrey and Joe Roth.

ShowEast 2007 will screen “The Great Debaters”, as well as other holiday-release screenings such as “MGM’s “The Mist” and the Weinstein Company’s “Grace is Gone” as part of its annual convention which attracts theatre owners/operators and distributors from the U.S., Latin and South America, the Caribbean, and Europe each year.

ShowEast 2007 will take place from October 15-18, 2007 at the Orlando World Center Marriott. It will feature numerous screenings of upcoming major films, sponsored events, timely and informative seminars and the ShowEast Trade Show. An estimated 1,500 members of the motion picture industry are expected to attend. ShowEast, now in its 23rd year, is produced by the Nielsen Film Group, a division of Nielsen Business Media.

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