

Beat: Entertainment

- THE BIRTH OF A NATION - The enslaved man who led a Slave Rebellion in 1831

To be released on January 11, in FRANCE

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USPA NEWS - The Birth of a Nation is a 2016 American period drama film based on the story of Nat Turner, the enslaved man who led a slave rebellion in Southampton County, Virginia, in 1831. The film is co-written, co-produced and directed by Nate Parker...

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Directed by : Nate Parker

Produced by : Nate Parker, Kevin Turen, Jason Michael Berman, Aaron L. Gilbert, Preston L. Holmes

Screenplay by : Nate Parker

Story by : Jean McGianni Celestin, Nate Parker

Starring : Nate Parker, Armie Hammer, Aja Naomi King, Jackie Earle Haley, Penelope Ann Miller, Gabrielle Union

Distributed by : Fox Searchlight Pictures

Release dates : January 25, 2016 (Sundance), October 7, 2016 (United States), January 11, 2017 (France)

Running time : 120 minutes

THE STORY :

'The Birth of a Nation' follows Nat Turner (Nate Parker), a literate slave and preacher, whose financially strained owner, Samuel Turner (Armie Hammer), accepts an offer to use Nat's preaching to subdue unruly slaves. Recognized as unusually bright at an early age, Nat Turner was taught to read and eventually groomed as a preacher for his fellow slaves in Southampton, Virginia. Even though he had to pick cotton, he didn't have it as bad as many of his color did. Nat can even exercise a degree of influence over Samuel, as when he suggests that Samuel buy the attractive teenage slave Cherry (Aja Naomi King) so he, Nat, can marry her.

When Nat is discovered to have baptized a white man, it's simply too much for the local bigots, who have him whipped something fierce. Slowly but decisively, Nat's personal scales of justice begin to tilt the other way. And he is to be radicalised by white men raping his wife and other slave women...

OUR REVIEW :

The film offers up more than enough in terms of intelligence, insight, historical research and religious nuance to not at all be considered a missed opportunity. The uprising itself is staged like a military skirmish leading to a big Braveheart-style battle in a kind of farmyard enclosure. 'The Birth of a Nation' is naturally trying for something very different from Tarantino's 'Django Unchained'.

'The Birth of a Nation' presented itself as an indispensable document not only of the country's brutal past but also of its inflamed and polarized present.... Can going to a movie be a moral obligation ? A political gesture ? There are occasions when various interested parties make us believe so ! Definitely, the supporting cast is solid and makes it worth to be watched.

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