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Squaw Valley – Lake Placid Celebrate Anniversaries

MOVIE REVIEW

A MOST BEAUTIFUL THING



"A Most Beautiful Thing", narrated by Academy Award-winning artist, Common, executive produced by NBA stars/Olympians Grant Hill and Dwyane Wade, along with Grammy-winning producer, 9th Wonder, and written/directed by award-winning filmmaker Mary Mazzio (herself an Olympic rower), chronicles the first African American high school rowing team in this country (made up of young men, many of whom were in rival gangs from the west side of Chicago), all coming together to row in the same boat.

The film takes a deep dive into the backstories of these young men, examining the issues of trauma and violence. As the team's captain, Arshay Cooper, reflected, "when we were on the water, we were in a place where we could not hear the sound of sirens or bullets, and that allowed us to shape

a different vision for ourselves, of who and what they could become.

These young men came together, after 20 years out of the boat, to race this past summer, not only to celebrate the team's founding, but the fact that they are still alive. In an amazing gesture, they also reached out to Chicago Police Department officers to join their team. What then transpired was unexpected for all involved.

The film features Olympian David Banks, IOC member/Olympian Anita DeFrantz, Olympian/Olympic coach Mike Teti; and is funded by Olympians Tyler Winklevoss, Cameron Winklevoss and Ginny Gilder.

What's Happening: The film will be released theatrically on June 12 (in Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, Boston, Oakland, Philadelphia, Miami and Washington D.C.).

Even more exciting, on Feb. 26, Representative Danny Davis (Chicago), along with other members of Congress, convened a panel/screening of the film, co-hosted by the Congressional Black Caucus, the Motion Picture Association and the Recording Association. The film will hopefully be used to help launch possible legislation on the urgency to address trauma in low income communities, particularly as it relates to children.

The Trailer: www.AMostBeautifulThing.

Note: 50% of all profits from film screenings will be donated to support inclusion efforts in sports as well as trauma research in low income communities.)







Scenes from "A Most Beautiful Thing"