

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**"LONG NIGHT'S JOURNEY INTO DAY"**

**Academy Award nominated Documentarians Frances Reid and  
Deborah Hoffmann Offer an In-depth Look at  
South Africa's Struggle for Post-Apartheid Justice**

In the wake of apartheid's bloody past, South Africa chose an unprecedented approach to healing the nation's and its people's collective wounds. The solution came in the creation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), led by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, which sought to foster understanding among apartheid's victims and perpetrators and set the historical record straight. The commission's efforts and some of its most compelling cases are the subjects of "LONG NIGHT'S JOURNEY INTO DAY," a feature documentary from Academy Award nominated filmmakers Frances Reid and Deborah Hoffmann.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's goal was to seek a justice that would be restorative rather than retributive. It was a process that would both test and sustain the courage of thousands who would attempt to find peace, healing and redemption while facing down the modern scourge of apartheid.

The cases profiled in the documentary include the killing of American Fulbright scholar Amy Biehl; the police murders of the "Cradock 4" and of another group of seven young men from a Cape Town township; and three women killed in a car-bombing committed by anti-apartheid activist Robert McBride. With intimate access to key TRC leaders, including Desmond Tutu, as well as to individuals participating in several key cases, filmmakers Reid and Hoffmann offer a rare and moving look at the devastating effects of South African apartheid.

Amy Biehl was a young idealist, an American Fulbright scholar who felt drawn to South Africa to help fight apartheid. Her slaying in 1993 by four young black men in a Cape Town suburb was international front-page news and a blow to the image of the anti-apartheid movement. But in keeping with the spirit of the movement, Amy's parents, Peter and Linda Biehl, traveled to South Africa to support amnesty for her killers during their TRC hearings and to meet in friendship with the family of one of the young men responsible for her death.

The next story focuses on Eric Taylor, a white man and a former security forces officer who requested amnesty for his part in the murders of the "Cradock 4," a highly effective group of black anti-apartheid activists. He admits to his guilt and hopes for forgiveness from the victims' families. But that forgiveness will not soon be forthcoming.

Robert McBride is a bright young man from the ghetto who became a leading African National Congress activist and was responsible for detonating a car bomb, which killed three white women in a Durban bar. Like Eric Taylor he admits to his crimes. But while Taylor sought to maintain the status quo, McBride says he sought to subvert it. His apology to his victims' families is met with hostility.

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Finally, Thapelo Mbelo, a black police officer involved in the murders of the seven township youths, talks frankly with the victims' mothers about the murders. At the hearing, TRC officials play a police video of the murder scene, prompting a heart-rending outpouring of grief from the victims' relatives. The survivors speak of their loneliness and isolation after their sons' murders. And one woman reveals that she only learned of her son's fate when she saw his lifeless body displayed on the evening news.

"For us, making 'Long Night's Journey Into Day' involved the intensity of witnessing history in the making as the unique process of the Truth and Reconciliation hearings unfolded," said Reid. "We felt challenged to create a documentary that spoke to an American audience while remaining true to those in South Africa who trusted us to tell their stories."

"The personal toll that apartheid has taken on individuals on both sides of these amnesty hearings is quite extraordinary," said Hoffmann. "We owe all the people who opened up to us for this film a huge debt of gratitude for sharing what were some of the most painful and private moments any human being could be expected to experience."

Reid, who directed, produced, and photographed "LONG NIGHT'S JOURNEY INTO DAY," has been making documentary films for over 30 years. Among her best known are "Skin Deep," an exploration of race relations on college campuses, and Oscar nominated documentary short "Straight from the Heart" (1994). Director and editor Deborah Hoffmann has been working on documentary films for more than two decades. Her "Complaints of a Dutiful Daughter" received an Academy Award nomination, as well as an Emmy, a DuPont, and a Peabody Award.

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