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Baltimore Conference & Screening of Child Sexual Abuse Film

Baltimore, MD – January 2, 2013: The Royal Circle Foundation announces the Baltimore screening of the award winning feature film, **“WOLF” (Exodus Filmworks - 2012)**, by Director, Writer, and Filmmaker, **Ya’ Ke Smith**, which addresses child sexual abuse in the Black church. The film will premiere in Baltimore on Friday evening, March 22, 2013 as part of the events being held in conjunction with the first national conference on **“Child Sexual Abuse & Trauma in the African-American Community: The Shame, The Blame, & The Solutions”** convening at the downtown Baltimore Hilton Hotel (401 W. Pratt Street- Baltimore, MD 21201) from **March 22 –23, 2013**.

The film tells the story of an African-American family struggling with the discovery that their son has been sexually molested. As they struggle to deal with the betrayal of the clergyman, their son heads towards total mental collapse because of his love and admiration for his abuser as the pastor struggles with his own past demons.

“WOLF”, is the fifth and first full length film directed and written by **Ya’ Ke** whose films have received worldwide acclaim being screened at over eighty (80) film festivals nationally and internationally including **The Cannes International Film Festival, Pan-African Film & Arts Festival, The Sedicorto Film Festival Fori**, to name a few, as well as having been shown on **HBO** and **Showcase**.

Professor Ya’ Ke who teaches film at the University of Texas (Arlington) says, “Writing this film is the most difficult thing I’ve ever done.....I wanted to make sure that I approached it (child sexual molestation) with grace, not judgment. This film is not meant to criticize churches nor is it meant to dismiss Christianity as some faux religion where all people are preyed upon. My hope is that it will shed light on the vicious cycle of sexual abuse so that the victims can understand that they are not alone and can step out of the shadows of silence.”

Tickets for the film screening which includes a pre-screening reception and post screening discussion by the director, himself as well as registration for the entire

two-day conference which will bring together the nation's leading experts in the fields of psychiatry, psychology, nursing, social work, mental health, addictions and pastoral counseling as well as law and public policy officials to address this national public health epidemic and chart a course for meaningful solutions, can be viewed and ordered at the Foundation's website located at the following web address: <http://www.royal-circle.org/id6.html> or by contacting the program chairperson by phone at: **(410) 752-2943 or 410-637-5474** for more information.

"If you still believe in the power of film, watch WOLF"

- Film Slate Magazine-

Tickets are very limited and early bird registration ends **January 30, 2013.**

Corporate sponsorships, program advertisements as well as exhibit space for organizations, associations, and businesses are also available with application forms located on the Foundation's web page listed above. Continuing education credits for professionals in health care and social services have been applied for and are currently pending.

The conference, **"Child Sexual Abuse & Trauma in the African-American Community: The Shame, The Blame & The Solutions"** being sponsored by the **Royal Circle Foundation** in association with the **Black Psychiatrists of America, The Office of Minority & National Affairs (American Psychiatric Association)** and **The Black Mental Health Alliance (Baltimore)**, will also feature an **"Inspirations" Awards Dinner & Luxury Auction** on Saturday evening, March 23, 2013 as a major 2013 fundraiser for the Foundation's **Youth Violence Prevention Program** that targets "at-risk" youth by providing them with positive cultural and educational experiences as well as cross-cultural exchanges.

Included among the luxury items to be auctioned are: an autographed baseball by President Obama, autographed boxing gloves of Muhammad Ali, autographed guitar from Carlos Santana, as well as autographed photographs, albums and sheet music by Michael Jackson and Whitney Houston.

Program Chairperson, **Dr. Patricia Newton** says, "If you care about our children, you must attend this conference and film screening. And if you care about their future, please endorse the fundraising efforts associated with it by showing your support of the Foundation's **Youth Violence Prevention Program** and participate in the awards dinner as well as the auction. It's time for the **"Conspiracy of Silence"** related to childhood trauma and sexual abuse in our community to end."

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