

What People are saying about

THE PACT

From Viewers

Jarvis Cooper, 35

This piece was uplifting, motivating, and refreshing. I've heard The Doctor's story before but I was glad that I had the opportunity to expose my 12 year old to this story.

Lisa King, MD, 40

It has really challenged me to do more to help kids realize that they are limited only by bounds placed on them by themselves.

Erica Austin, 17

It made me want to work even harder towards my goals. It made me realize how much potential I have and how I can also make a difference.

Blake Garrett, 23

It was very refreshing to see "doing the right thing" actually glorified and given creditable substance.

Lanisha, 17

It showed me that I can come from nothing to something; it was a great influence.

Loren, 15

The documentary contained things that teenagers would relate to and it inspires the urban youth to pursue their goals.

Nathan Williams, 12

I feel like if I stick to what I want to do, I can do anything.

Kirena Wormley, 14

The point of the film was to encourage people to dream big and understand that your circumstances don't define what you are capable (of). The film did inspire me because it shows that people my age do have the willpower to rise above our expectations.

Sharon Lane, 40

Your background does not determine your outcome. Dedication, discipline, and goals in combination with prayer will help you reach your goals. Overall, the film is inspiring. The Three Doctors are positive role models for young people and adults alike.

**Luis Portillo
New Zealand**

I think *The Pact* is a moving, brilliant, and remarkable piece of a small fraction of society that refuses to go down even though the rest of America stopped caring years ago.

From the moment the documentary opens with that wonderful graphic of the highway, we know that we are about to go places we've never been before or haven't been in a long time, at the same time I got the feeling that I was going to witness a story that needs to travel, a story that needs to be spread around, a kind of gospel if you will, people need to know about it, from that moment I was hooked.

I thought it was very effective showing them after the book was released, another filmmaker would have chosen just showing the story on how they got to University until the moment they graduate and leave it there on a happy ending. Showing them in the present day gives a different meaning and tone to their story. It's not just about reaching personal goals and triumphs but about making sure that their example is put to good use, and how their story influences not just a few but a lot of youngsters in a society lacking role models, all represented in Malique, one could say. Having him as a character is very effective at getting the point across that the three doctors are indeed having a positive effect on younger people.

There are some incredible moments caught on camera, like Sampson's mother at the beginning when she's on the street, Malique's mother and his sister, Rameck and his sister in the car, such intimate moments captured without feeling intrusive.

Technically, I also thought it had some very good things, the music is superb, loved it, as well as your audio mix (so rich) and editing.

I see *The Pact* as a love letter to the triumph of human spirit.

From Festivals

From: Film Slam
Subject: The Pact

You have no idea how well The Pact is going over with the High Schools. I am calling to ask you (actually beg you) if we could add one more screening day to the FilmSlam (High School Students). We had a principal call today several times begging me to add another day so that he can bring his entire senior class.

Can we add one more screening date??

Warmly,
Beth Radisek
FilmSlam Coordinator
Cleveland International Film Festival

From: Film Slam
Subject: The Pact-FilmSlam

It couldn't have gone any better. A teacher walked out at the end and said, "every person should see this film, it was extraordinary"! I was so pleased as you can imagine. I love having the kids come out so pleased with what we have picked for them.

HUGE SUCCESS. Can't wait till today's screening.

Warmly,
Beth
Radisek
Programming Assistant, FilmSlam/Volunteer Coordinator
Cleveland International Film Festival

Stacy Spikes, Urbanworld Film Festival, founder

It's heartwarming- I think of it like [Steve James' epic, award-winning 1994 doc] "Hoop Dreams," but with a good ending. "Hoop Dreams" was a tragedy, but this is a success story, where you see that the will of the individual really can overcome any odds. It's just three kids saying, "We are going to become black doctors." And they make it!

From: Karen Toering [mailto:Karen@langstoriarts.org]
Subject: The Pact Screening - Thanks

Hey Andrea,

Our Underground Railroad screening of "The Pact" was a success for our group, bringing a diverse audience of about 150 teens, elders and community together for an inspiring evening. We had the pleasure of welcoming students from Lincoln High School in Tacoma, WA (30 miles south of Seattle) who came to see the film. Turns out that the entire 9th grade class at Lincoln was reading "The Pact." How fortunate!

Our audience truly enjoyed the film and were engaged, amused and inspired by the compelling story of the three doctors. The venue, Mt. Zion Baptist Church was also deeply appreciative of the quality of the work, with several members in attendance who might not have seen the film otherwise. Additionally, the screening sparked conversations among church members about using film to build their community outreach efforts.

Be well,
Karen Toering
Program Director

Inquiries from Schools and Community Organizations

From: Kelly Ward

I teach in an inner city elementary school that serves students at the poverty level. I hope that by watching this video viewers (faculty and students) will see possibilities in our own neighborhood. I found it to be both inspiring and riveting.

Sincerely,
Kelly M. Ward, Speech Therapist

I showed my students The Pact as a surprise, and I will never forget the expressions on their faces when they saw the three doctors and their families. Their faces showed that they finally realized "this is real." And if the doctors are real to them, so are their accomplishments, their strength and their message of hope. That to me was the film's source of power. It validated the experience because to them, if they read it it might be true, but *if they see it* it MUST be true."

Tania C. Lopez
Florida International University

"We loved it, and the kids really responded in a positive way. Those that are open to change were the ones who were most impressed. I would say it was over 60%, which I find really good because of the length of the film. Remember this is the instant gratification and video game generation whose attention span is lacking."

Patsy Scates
Louisiana State Youth Opportunities Unlimited

“It showed me that I can come form nothing to something; it was a great influence.”
Lanisha, Age 17

From: Sharon Ravin
Subject: The Pact

My special education English classes (high school juniors and seniors) are mesmerized by "The Pact". This is not nearly enough to satisfy the interest my students have in this story. Although my students are at the other end of the spectrum of academic ability, the lessons of friendship, perseverance, and positive relationships have deep meaning for them. Thank you in advance for a prompt reply.

Sharon Ravin

From: Preisel Constance
Subject: The Pact

Dear Andrea and Terri,
I am a literacy coach for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights School District in Ohio. For Teacher Appreciation Week, one of our buildings principal purchased the book, The Pact, for her teachers. This story hits home because many of our students live in impoverished conditions and struggle with things that most children take for granted (breakfast, warm clothes, medicine, and on and on). But despite the home life, our teachers are working very hard to make a difference and are doing so as reflected in our state testing scores!

Respectfully,
Connie Preisel, Literacy Coach

Subject: Request for Video

Dear Ms. Kalin,

I am the founder/director of a boys program which focuses on math and science as they are applied in everyday life-but the concept is loosely based on "The Pact". We operate an eight-week summer program for 5th grade through 10th grade boys, as well as an after-school program which allows us to keep our hands on them throughout the year. The 3-doctor's story has been very inspirational and has been the topic of our opening week's discussion since our inception in

the summer of 2004. We have tried to create a network of support that encompasses the community, the schools, the parents, the churches, and their peers.

I was looking at the website and noticed that you have a video which would provide a little different presentation than we've done in the past. How can we get a copy of the movie for our students?

Regards,
Isaac Thompson
Executive Director
Fisk University Community Alliance
THRUST Math & Science Enrichment Program

Date: Thu, 8 Jun 2006 11:19:22 -0400 [Thursday June 08, 2006 11:19:22 AM EDT]
Subject: Question about The Pact

Hi,

My name is Angela Wood and I am a reading and English professor at Howard Community College in Columbia, MD. My department has chosen The Pact as our Fall 2006 semester reading book for all of our developmental English courses. I have assigned The Pact previously to my classes and I suggested it as our department-wide book choice due to its effect on my students. This book really speaks to my students, many of whom have similar backgrounds and similar dreams, as the three men in the book.

Thank you for your consideration, and thank Spark Media for bringing this inspiring story to film!

Sincerely,
Angela Wood

From: Linda C Griffith
Subject: RE: The PACT
Hi Andrea,

I saw the film this weekend and loved it.
How do we arrange to have the film and doctors visit our campus????

Linda Carter Griffith
Dean, Community and Multicultural Development
Phillips Academy