

WINDY CITY TIMES

AIDS Film Nominated for NAACP Award

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2004 Rap-it-Up Black AIDS Short Subject Film competition winner *Walking on Sunshine* written and directed by first time filmmaker Tracy Taylor (28, Los Angeles) was nominated for an NAACP Image Award. The film was part of the first time Rap-It-Up Black AIDS Short Subject Film Competition sponsored by the Black AIDS Institute, Black Entertainment Television (BET) and Kaiser Family Foundation to raise awareness about the magnitude of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Black communities and motivate members of the community to take action to stop further spread of the disease. Screenwriters were encouraged to use their creativity to evoke a 'fresh' and culturally unique angle on these issues in a way that would resonate with their community.

'We're thrilled that the NAACP has nominated *Walking on Sunshine*,' said Phill Wilson, executive director of the Black AIDS Institute. 'Given the disproportionate burden the HIV/AIDS pandemic places on Black women, it is only fitting for the NAACP to acknowledge the importance of this film about Black women and AIDS.'

Walking on Sunshine depicts two sisters who put themselves at risk for contracting HIV in different ways. The film premiered on BET in December for World AIDS Day.

'I'm delighted that the NAACP has recognized *Walking on Sunshine* in the category of Outstanding Television Movie, Mini-Series or Dramatic Special,' said filmmaker Tracy Taylor. 'The film speaks to the AIDS epidemic and its impact on Black women. Here's hoping that this nomination will help to get the film seen by its target audience, Black women. It's my sincere prayer that this film helps the number of Black women contracting HIV to drop.'

Walking on Sunshine is scheduled to screen in the 13th Annual Pan African Film and Arts Festival in Los Angeles Feb. 17 at 1 p.m. and Feb. 21 at 11:15 a.m. Both screenings will take place at the Magic Johnson Theatres in collaboration with the Black AIDS Institute. See www.paff.org .

The Institute is developing a discussion guide for the film and planning a national tour of the film at historically Black colleges and universities and women's group. Anyone interested in sponsoring a screening and discussion should contact the Black AIDS Institute at (213) 353-3620 or info@BlackAIDS.org .