

Hidden secrets

An interview with David A.R. White '88-'89

Homosexuality, abortion and promiscuity are just a few of the issues pioneering Christian filmmaker Pure Flix Entertainment tackles in their upcoming theatrical release, "Hidden Secrets."

"Our story is about real people with real struggles. Christians deal with these issues every day," said producer and co-star **David A.R. White '88-'89** ("Mercy Streets," "The Moment After"). "We know that in churches around the country we find people who have either had an abortion, struggled with homosexuality, or given in to sexual temptation, yet we would rather not talk about it. With 'Hidden Secrets,' we decided it was time to tear off the blinders, and let people see that these issues affect Christians. We want people to see that there is hope and redemption, no matter what the issue. We also wanted to approach these topics in a humorous way, because laughter helps in dealing with life when it gets tough."

The plot of the film centers on the sudden death of a Christian "hometown hero," and the longtime friends and family that gather for his funeral. Together for the first time in years, some begin to reveal hurts and mistakes they have been hiding from one another.

"Hidden Secrets" will hold its national premiere in more than 200 theaters in 26 markets for the date of April 30 only. Screenings were previously held in select markets on February 28 and March 1 with audiences and critics both expressing approval for the film. It will later be released in DVD. [Read more...](#)

We were able to ask David some questions:

Moody Alumni: Did you always want to be an actor or producer?

DARW: *Since I was in high school, I wanted to pursue a career in the film industry, just had no idea how to do it.*

MA: Since acting seems like such a fun thing to do, what do you do for fun, apart from work?

DARW: *I think the answer is, I enjoy long walks along the beach at night and candlelit dinners, I'm kidding of course. I have a 10 month-old boy; when I'm not working I try to enjoy time with my family and friends.*

MA: What in your life experience has prepared you for producing/acting in films?

DARW: *On the acting side, I guess since I never had a drama class before I started, my imagination was the biggest component in helping to start my acting career. Producing, on the other hand, is all about leadership and communication. I think having a father who is a pastor and brothers and sisters in missions helps. I was forced to communicate with all sorts of people growing up. Plus, there are a lot of different personalities in governing a church. People skills are a big plus.*

MA: Have you felt support from any other Christians in the TV and film industry?

DARW: *Sure, we have many Bible studies, that center around Christians in the media, out here in L.A. I have a lot of great Christian comrades.*

MA: What is your motivation behind producing films such as "Hidden Secrets?"

DARW: *I wanted to do a 20-30 [year-old] something ensemble piece that dealt with modern day issues that were plaguing our society. I wanted to take real characters in real situations centering around Christ's forgiveness and hope.*

MA: What do you want to accomplish with such films?

DARW: *The goal of our company, Pure Flix Entertainment, is to*

make films that inspire. Films that draw people to higher levels of insight to who God is and the purpose He has for their life.

MA: How did you choose this particular script?

DARW: *We created it with some amazing writers, Sean Paul Murphy and Timothy Ratajczak. We wanted to deal honestly with abortion, homosexuality, and stem cell research, to name a few of the hot topics, but wrap them around a compelling story.*

MA: Are all of the actors in "Hidden Secrets' Christians?

DARW: *No, however on this one, we did have quite a few that were.*

MA: What was your experience with the other actors in the film? How did they react to the message of the film?

DARW: *It's always an interesting thing to bring non-Christians into a Christian film arena. A lot of times, their perception of Christianity gets completely blown away. Hopefully, that is because we love them and they see the love of Jesus inside of us. We try to minister not only in front of the camera but behind it as well. We see a lot of cool things that the Lord does along the way.*

MA: What is your philosophy on film and how Christians should or shouldn't engage with films?

DARW: *That is too long to go into. If you have a chance, I wrote an article on it and it is downloadable on [my website](#) under the news and media section, under articles, entitled "Quality Christian Filmmaking - an Oxymoron or just Moronic?"*

MA: How can we pray for you?

DARW: *Wisdom is what I need. There is a lot of power in the media; I want to use it wisely. Thank you for taking the time with me.*