



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Public Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 13, 2006

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Filmmaker Thomas Allen Harris Will Screen His Documentary Film “Twelve Disciples of Nelson Mandela” on March 5 at Public Library

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego Public Library and award-winning documentary filmmaker Thomas Allen Harris will screen his latest film, “The Twelve Disciples of Nelson Mandela,” on Sunday, March 5 at 3 p.m. in the third floor auditorium of the Central Library, located at 820 E St. in downtown San Diego.

“The Twelve Disciples of Nelson Mandela” is based on the story of the first wave of South African exiles who left Bloemfontein in 1960 to keep the anti-apartheid movement alive from East Africa, Europe, America and Cuba. In their heroic journey, this group of 12 – and the thousands of young South African freedom fighters that would follow them – helped to create a global seismic shift that ultimately toppled the apartheid system in South Africa. One of the Disciples, Pule Benjamin Leinaeng, was the filmmaker’s father. “The Twelve Disciples of Nelson Mandela” is ultimately a story about family and displacement – a son's relationship to a father, and a father's relationship to a fatherland.

Director and filmmaker Thomas Allen Harris will be present at the screening to discuss his film and the journey of reconciliation he embarked when confronted with the death of his stepfather who raised him as son but whom he could never call “father.” B. Pule Leinaeng (“Lee”) was an African National Congress (ANC) foot soldier, who sacrificed his life for the freedom of his country. As part of the first wave of South African exiles, Lee and his 11 comrades left their home in Bloemfontein in 1960 to broadcast to the world the brutality of the apartheid system and to raise support for the ANC and its leaders, Nelson Mandela and Oliver Tambo.

Drawing upon the memories of the surviving disciples and their families, young South African actors portray the harrowing events of the exodus and exile and in so doing, forge their own reconciliation between the generations.

For more information, call the Central Library at 619-236-5800 or visit the Library on the City’s Web site at <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library>.

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