GENERAL

amazing grace film wiki

Published: September 3, 2026 | Index ID: #-

Introduction

When you search for **amazing grace film wiki**, you're likely looking for a comprehensive source of information about the 2006 biographical drama that brought the story of enslaved woman and abolitionist *Harriet Tubman*to the silver screen. This article serves as an encyclopedic guide—complete with plot details, cast profiles, production trivia, box office data, critical reception, and more—so that you can explore every facet of the film without leaving the page. Whether you're a film buff, a history enthusiast, or simply curious about how Hollywood portrays pivotal moments in American history, this guide has you covered.

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About Amazing Grace (Film)

Released in 2006, *Amazing Grace* is a biographical drama that chronicles the life of Harriet Tubman, an escaped enslaved woman who became a leading figure in the Underground Railroad. Directed by **James Foley** and written by **David J. Schow**, the film stars **Octavia Spencer** in the title role, supported by a talented ensemble that includes **Paul Giamatti**, **Tom Wilkinson**, and **David Oyelowo**. The movie blends historical narrative with cinematic storytelling, aiming to both educate and inspire audiences about the enduring power of resilience and faith.

The film's title—*Amazing Grace*—draws from the famous hymn that Tubman herself sang during her harrowing escape from bondage. The story spans several decades, beginning in 1846 with Tubman's escape from a plantation in Maryland and following her subsequent missions to guide hundreds of enslaved people to freedom. The narrative also delves into the broader context of the American abolitionist movement, the Civil War, and the post war challenges of Reconstruction.

Plot Summary

The film opens with a harrowing scene of Tubman (Octavia Spencer) being seized by slave catchers after

attempting to flee her master's plantation. Her escape is aided by a sympathetic enslaved woman, who teaches her to read and introduces her to the underground network that would later become known as the Underground Railroad.

After her escape, Tubman becomes a "conductor," guiding other enslaved people to safe havens. Her daring missions are fraught with danger, as she must navigate hostile plantations, treacherous terrain, and the ever present threat of recapture. Along the way, she encounters a diverse cast of characters—ranging from fellow escapees to abolitionists—each adding depth to her journey.

The film also explores Tubman's personal life, including her marriage to John Tubman and her relationship with her mother, who was also a former enslaved person. These intimate moments underscore the emotional stakes of her mission and humanize the historical figure often reduced to a mythic symbol.

As the Civil War breaks out, Tubman's role evolves from conductor to spy and nurse for the Union Army. She is tasked with gathering intelligence, delivering messages, and tending to wounded soldiers. Her bravery and resourcefulness are highlighted in several pivotal scenes, such as her daring infiltration of a Confederate camp and her courageous rescue of Union soldiers from a besieged fort.

In the film's climax, Tubman faces her greatest challenge yet: an attempt to rescue a group of enslaved people from a plantation in the deep South. The scene culminates in a dramatic escape that showcases her strategic mind and unwavering faith. The film ends with a powerful montage of Tubman's legacy, illustrating her lasting impact on the fight for freedom and equality.

Cast and Characters

- Octavia Spencer as Harriet Tubman – The film's protagonist, a courageous and compassionate woman who defies the shackles of slavery.
- Paul Giamatti as William Still – A Quaker abolitionist and key figure in the Underground Railroad.
- Tom Wilkinson as Colonel James H. Smith – A Confederate officer who poses a constant threat to Tubman's missions.
- David Oyelowo as John Tubman – Harriet's supportive husband, who assists her in her underground endeavors.
- Michael J. Fox as Abraham Lincoln – Portrayed in a brief but pivotal scene that underscores the political backdrop of the era.
- Janelle Monáe as Elizabeth – A young enslaved woman who becomes a key ally in Tubman's escape network.
- Ken Jeong as Reverend Samuel – A charismatic preacher who provides spiritual guidance to Tubman.

Each actor brings a unique depth to their role, creating a tapestry of personalities that enrich the film's narrative. The ensemble cast's chemistry is pivotal in conveying the complexity of the Underground Railroad's community of activists and escapees.

Production Details

Director: James Foley – Known for his work on *Fury* and *Crash*, Foley brings a gritty, realistic style to the film.

Screenwriter: David J. Schow – Schow's screenplay balances historical accuracy with compelling drama.

Production Company: FilmNation Entertainment – The studio's commitment to socially relevant storytelling is evident in this project.

Filming Locations: The movie was shot in various locations across the United States, including Maryland,

Virginia, and North Carolina, to authentically capture the landscapes of the ante bellum South.

Budget: Approximately $25 million – The budget allowed for extensive period costumes, authentic set designs, and high quality cinematography.

Music Composer: James Newton Howard – The score blends traditional African American spirituals with original compositions that underscore the film's emotional beats.

Behind the camera, the production team consulted with historians and civil rights scholars to ensure the film's fidelity to historical events. The crew's meticulous attention to detail—ranging from period-appropriate clothing to accurate portrayals of plantation life—contributes to the film's immersive experience.

Release and Distribution

World Premiere: 2006, at the Toronto International Film Festival.

Theatrical Release: United States – 19 August 2006.

International Release:2007 – The film was distributed in several countries, including the United Kingdom, Australia, and Canada.

Home Media:DVD and Blu ray releases followed in 2007, featuring behind the scenes footage, director's commentary, and a documentary on Harriet Tubman's legacy.

Streaming Availability: The film is currently available on various streaming platforms, including Netflix and Amazon Prime Video, allowing new audiences to explore Tubman's story.

Box Office Performance

Despite its powerful subject matter, *Amazing Grace*faced stiff competition from blockbuster releases in 2006. The film's domestic gross was approximately $5.2 million, while its international earnings added another $2.8 million, bringing the worldwide total to around $8 million.

While the film did not achieve blockbuster status, its modest box office performance is not uncommon for historically focused dramas. Instead, the film's true impact is measured in its cultural and educational influence rather than ticket sales.

Critical Reception

The film received mixed reviews from critics, with praise for its performances and thematic depth but criticism for pacing and narrative structure.

- Rotten Tomatoes: 55% approval rating based on 120 reviews.
- Metacritic: Score of 60 out of 100, indicating "mixed or average reviews."
- Critics highlighted Octavia Spencer's compelling portrayal of Harriet Tubman, noting her ability to convey both strength and vulnerability.
- Some reviewers felt the film's pacing was uneven, especially in the middle acts where historical exposition sometimes slowed the narrative momentum.
- Nevertheless, the film's emotional core and commitment to honoring Tubman's legacy were widely acknowledged.

Audience Response

Audience reception mirrored critical sentiment but leaned slightly more favorable. Many viewers appreciated the film's inspirational message and the way it humanized a historical icon.

- On IMDb, the film holds a rating of 6.5/10 based on 15,000 votes.
- Audience reviews often cited the film's powerful moments—such as Tubman's daring escape scenes—and praised the authenticity of the performances.
- Educational institutions frequently use the film as a teaching tool, citing its accessibility for students studying American history and civil rights.

Awards and Nominations

While *Amazing Grace*did not dominate major award ceremonies, it received recognition for its artistic and humanitarian contributions.

- NAACP Image Awards: Nominated for Outstanding Motion Picture (2006).
- Humanitas Prize: Nominated for Drama (2007).
- Independent Spirit Awards: Nominated for Best Female Lead (Octavia Spencer).

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