

# PRINCE AMONG SLAVES

THE AMAZING TRUE STORY OF AN AFRICAN PRINCE ENSLAVED IN THE AMERICAN SOUTH



## PRINCE AMONG SLAVES VIEWING PARTY TOOLKIT

### FROM THE EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

Dear Hosts,

Thank you for your commitment to join us on February 4th as we gather around the country with our families and friends to watch *PRINCE AMONG SLAVES* on PBS\*.

As our country begins to commemorate "African American History Month," it is an opportune time for us to learn more about the past struggles and contributions of the African American community.

*PRINCE AMONG SLAVES* tells a small sliver of the African story, but one that is very important for Americans to know, not only for intellectual reasons, but because Abdul Rahman Ibrahima Sori, Prince of Futa Jallon, is an important person to know, ethically, morally, personally.

Abdul Rahman was an African Muslim prince who was captured in 1788 and sold into slavery. He endured the horrific Middle Passage and remained enslaved for 40 years before finally being freed, never once losing his sense of dignity or hope for freedom.

Knowing him enriches our understanding of the human spirit and offers an important lesson about what matters in life. That alone makes it a story worth knowing something about.

Thank you again for your participation. We hope you enjoy the film.

Sincerely,

*Alex Kronomer and Michael Wolfe*

P.S. If you miss the airing of film on PBS in February, DVD's will be made available in March for anyone interested in hosting a viewing party. You can receive a free *PRINCE AMONG SLAVES* DVD by calling (888)786-0444.

\* Please check local listings at <http://www.pbs.org/stationfinder/index.html>

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## TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL EVENT

- Secure a location with enough space for your viewing party. Most people host screening parties at their houses, but community centers or religious centers may be more suitable if it will be a larger gathering.
- Decide on a start and end time for your party. Leave a few hours free for socializing and discussion. Make sure to check your local listings to find out when *PRINCE AMONG SLAVES* airs in your local area.
- Invite your guests and publicize the event 1-2 weeks in advance. Use e-mail or telephone for small groups and post flyers for larger groups.
- Make your gathering a cultural learning experience by incorporating an African theme into your party. You can serve authentic African food and play authentic African music.
- Introduce interesting facts and trivia about *PRINCE AMONG SLAVES* to your guests. You can find a fact sheet for the film at: <http://upf.tv/upf06/Films/PrinceAmongSlaves/Film/FactsSheet/tabid/273/Default.aspx>
- Prepare for a post-viewing discussion by reading through the suggested questions below. Background information on the film is available at: <http://upf.tv/upf06/Films/PrinceAmongSlaves/tabid/77/Default.aspx>
- Publicize your screening party at other social events, such as a Super Bowl party which takes place the day before the *PRINCE* airing.
- Always call or e-mail your guests the day before or the day of to remind them of the event.

## SAMPLE PROGRAM

08:30-09:00 PM	Greet everyone and offer light snacks. Share your names and socialize.
09:00-10:00 PM	Introduce the film and conduct your trivia games or activities.
10: 00-11:00 PM	Watch the film.
11:00 PM	Discuss the film. Invite participants to support the film by ordering a copy of the DVD by calling (888) 786-0444.

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## INVITATIONAL TOOLS

1. **E-mail:** Send an e-mail to all invitees. Include pertinent information such as your address, phone number and e-mail address. Consider using free online programs that send out invitations, track responses and send out reminders, such as Evite ([www.evite.com](http://www.evite.com)) or Facebook ([www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)).

You can copy the sample text provided below:

*"Subject: Getting together to watch "Prince Among Slaves"*

*Hi! I hope this reaches you well.*

*I'm hosting a screening party for the documentary, "Prince Among Slaves" and I wanted to invite you to come.*

*As you may already know, the film is about the true life story of Abdul Rahman Ibrahima Sori, Prince of Futa Jallon. In 1788, he was captured and sold into slavery. He endured the horrific Middle Passage and remained enslaved for 40 years, yet never once losing his sense of dignity or hope for freedom.*

*I think it is an important story for us to know. There are many lessons we can learn from his inspiring story.*

*The one-hour film is going to air on PBS on Feb. \_\_\_ at \_\_\_, so please come to \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_.*

*We plan on watching the film and then discussing it together. We'll also have refreshments and play trivia games. It'll be fun!*

*Let me know by \_\_\_\_!"*

*Thanks  
(Name and contact information)*

2. **Phone:** Today, when nearly everyone has access to a personal cell phone, picking up yours and calling can be an extremely effective invitational tool. You may even find out about people's availability right then and there!

3. **Post a flyer:** If your gathering will be a large one and will be hosted at a community or religious center, posting a flyer with all of the relevant details is a great publicity tool. To track how many people will be in attendance, ask interested individuals to register by e-mailing you. To download a sample flyer, [click here](#).

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## POST-VIEWING QUESTIONS

Now that you have finished watching the film, bring your family and friends together to discuss the film. The discussion should be causal and conversational so that your guests feel comfortable relating their own experiences and feelings.

1. What is one lesson you can take from Abdul Rahman's story?
2. What was it about Abdul Rahman's faith and character that sustained him?
3. Share a story from your life or a story found in your faith tradition and culture that helps to guide you in overcoming oppression and adversity.