



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Martin Luther King, Jr.
National Historic Site
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National Park Service News Release

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The Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site and the Atlanta Film Festival honors Black History Month with the Film Screening of *Pip & Zastrow: An American Friendship*, exhibition *Bobby, Martin & John: Once Upon An American Dream* and *Birth Home Open House*

On Tuesday, February 9, 2010, at 7:00 p.m., in cooperation with the Atlanta Film Festival, join director Karin Hayes of Urcunina Films as she introduces and screens her film, ***Pip & Zastrow: An American Friendship*** at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site. Also in attendance will be Mr. Zastrow Simms who will elaborate on his personal stories featured in the film. This free 90-minute documentary will be shown in the Visitor Center Theatre and is open to the public.

This film focuses on two top high school athletes, Pip Moyer and Zastrow Simms, in their segregated schools in Annapolis, Maryland, in 1948, where blacks and whites lived side by side, but federal laws kept them from eating in the same restaurants, attending the same schools, even going to the same beaches. They each had a competitive nature which drove them to scope out the other, and the two became fast friends. By 1968, Pip, who had become the town's young mayor, and Zastrow, who was in jail, came together in the streets of Annapolis after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The trust they had built over the years enabled the two men to save the city from riots that erupted across the country. In 2005, 71-year-old Zastrow campaigns for his first "official" public office. Pip tries to help his old friend, even as he succumbs to the devastating effect of Parkinson's disease. As their lives cross paths over a span of six decades, a life-long friendship emerges that is full of humor, compassion and heartbreak which demonstrate the vision of a truly united America.

Prior to the screening visitors can view the exhibition presently being featured in the D.R.E.A.M. Gallery which is ***Bobby, Martin & John: Once Upon An American Dream***. We welcome visitors to explore this exhibition which is an archival of *LOOK* magazine photographs taken by Stanley Tretick that chronicle the courage and struggles of three of America's greatest leaders: Martin Luther King, Jr., John F. Kennedy and Robert F. Kennedy, all of whom were assassinated as they campaigned on behalf of the American public in the exhibit. These men inspired millions in America and in many countries with their hopes and dreams of a more peaceful and better world. This photographic exhibition is opened through Sunday, February 28, 2010.

In observance of Black History Month, visitors can tour the Birth Home of Martin Luther King, Jr. without a reservation on Wednesdays and Fridays, from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. These open house tours allow more visitors to experience the home that Dr. King lived in from birth to age twelve and to explore the community and family life that guided this future Civil Rights leader. To tour the home, visitors should meet the Park Rangers on the front steps of the Birth Home.

For more information contact us at (404) 331-5190 ext. 3017 or visit www.nps.gov/malu.

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