

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 31, 2017

**OAKLAND/BAY AREA PRODUCED FEATURE
DOCUMENTARY FILM, “GINA’S JOURNEY: THE
SEARCH FOR WILLIAM GRIMES” – NARRATED BY
KEITH DAVID – TO SCREEN AS AN OFFICIAL
SELECTION OF THE 15TH ANNUAL OAKLAND
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

WHAT: Oakland International Film Festival screening of “Gina’s Journey: The Search for William Grimes”

WHEN: Thursday, April 6, 2017, Screening at 5:00PM

WHERE: The Grand Lake Theater, 3200 Grand Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610

OAKLAND, CA – The film, “Gina’s Journey: The Search for William Grimes” has been named as an official selection of the 15th Annual Oakland International Film Festival. Narrated by veteran actor and voice artist Keith David, “Gina’s Journey” follows the quest of one woman, Oakland resident Regina Mason, in tracing the steps of her ancestor, who traveled along the Underground Railroad to freedom and authored the first fugitive slave narrative in U.S. history.

See the official film trailer at: www.GinasJourney.com

Produced by Your Media 2, a local Oakland/Bay Area production company, the film is based on the Afterword of the authoritative edition of the book, *Life of William Grimes, the Runaway Slave*, written by Regina Mason and published in 2008 by Oxford University Press. The Afterword, “My Long Road Back to William Grimes” reveals Mason’s 15-year path to authenticate her ancestor’s story and the intense personal sacrifices that made editing and publishing a new edition of the Grimes narrative possible.

In making the film, Director and Producer Sean Durant sought to convey not only Mason’s long road to uncover her past, but also the unimaginable conditions that faced William Grimes as he struggled to free himself from slavery. To this end, Durant - who himself was raised in Oakland and still resides in the Bay Area - chose to use artfully-crafted re-enactments combined with current-day Mason reflecting on her own story and a masterful narration by Keith David. The result is a compelling and provocative documentary film from first time feature filmmaker Durant.

“Gina’s Journey: The Search for William Grimes” world premiered with two sold out screenings in February 2017 at the 25th Annual Pan African Film Festival in Los Angeles. The film was additionally screened as an Official Selection of the Houston Black Film Festival in March 2017.

“Gina’s Journey” is an Official Selection of the 2017 Oakland International Film Festival, which runs April 4th through the 8th. The festival celebrates its 15th anniversary this year with an impressive array of films, www.oiff.org.

Visit “Gina’s Journey: The Search for William Grimes” at www.GinasJourney.com.

For press inquires, including a link to a private screener for reviews, please contact:

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