

FEATURE FILM • HISTORICAL DRAMA • BASED ON A TRUE STORY

JOHN NEWTON

The wretch who wrote Amazing Grace.

LONDON 1732 ✦ THE GUINEA COAST ✦ WESTMINSTER 1807



THE CONFESSION



THE SAILOR



THE TRADE

FROM THE LOG • AND FROM THE CONFESSION

~~"...the greatest loss of cargo due to my negligence as watchman. Ten souls perished while I slept at my post. The financial cost to the voyage was considerable..."~~

"A living child was placed in my arms. Its mother lay dead below. An order was given. *I obeyed it.*"

— FROM THE SCREENPLAY

LOGLINE

Haunted by one unforgivable act aboard a slave ship, a young sailor is himself sold into slavery in Africa, survives a storm that breaks him open, and spends forty years running from the confession that — placed at last in the hands of William Wilberforce — helps end the British slave trade and gives the world its most beloved hymn.

GENRE & TONE

- Unflinching redemption epic
- Maritime survival & period intrigue
- Faith without softness
- A confession as the climax

In the tradition of Amazing Grace (2006), Les Misérables, Unbroken — told from the guilty man's side of the rail.

CORE CHARACTERS



JOHN NEWTON
THE WRETCH

Sailor, slave, slaver, minister.
Carries one act he cannot name for
forty years — and must.



MARY
THE RECKONING

His wife and conscience. "You have
written everything that costs you
nothing." She demands the true
confession.



TOMMY
THE WITNESS

The boy with the stone at the
window. Lifelong friend who saw
it all — and carries the hymn to
America.



PRINCESS PEYE
THE MIRROR

The trader who owns him. Speaks
five languages, controls a coast, and
asks the one question he cannot
answer.



WILLIAM COWPER
THE BROKEN POET

Suicidal, brilliant, still here against
his own wishes. Together they
write the Olney Hymns.



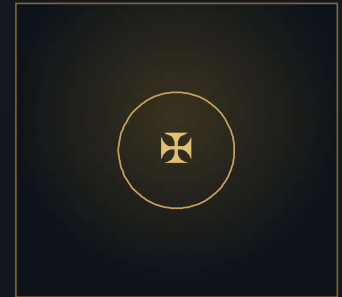
WILBERFORCE
THE ADVOCATE

Has Quakers, poets, and good
consciences. What he needs is a
man who was there.



SIR WM. BENNETT
THE EMPIRE'S FIXER

Fights the bill not with arguments
but with empty benches, quiet
rooms, and withdrawn money.



THE MOTHER & CHILD
THE UNNAMED

A hummed melody through the
grate of a hold. The debt the whole
film pays.

THE VOYAGE — STORY AT A GLANCE

1732-41

THE BOY

A mother dies, a
father hardens, and a
locked window ends
with two boys pressed
into the Navy.

1745

THE CHILD

Asleep on watch
aboard the Pegasus.
Ten dead below. An
order at the rail —
obeyed.

1745-48

THE SLAVE

Sold at Sherbro for a
bag of coin. Owned
by Princess Peye, he
learns what a chain is.

1748

THE STORM

The Greyhound
nearly founders off
Donegal. Five words
left to him: "Lord,
have mercy on us."

1750s

THE TILLER

Freed — and he goes
back to the trade.
Mary turns away.
Then one morning,
so does he.

1764-88

THE PULPIT

Olney, Cowper, the
hymns. A sermon
names the trade evil
— and Wilberforce
comes asking for the
truth.

1807

THE VOTE

Read plainly to the
Commons: 283 to 16.
A king takes notice. A
dying man hears. The
song sails west.

WHY IT WORKS

- ☛ **The most-sung song in the English language** — the story behind one of the world's most recognised hymns, with recognition built into the title card.
- ☛ **A parliamentary climax anchored in the historic 1807 abolition vote** — won, on screen, by a dying man's confession.
- ☛ **Redemption that never lets its hero off the hook** — grace here costs everything, which is exactly why it lands.
- ☛ **A prestige, faith, and historical-drama crossover:** the audience that carried *Amazing Grace*, *Les Misérables*, and *Unbroken*.
- ☛ **The coda is the marketing:** the melody passing hold to field to march to a full church, present day.

KEY THEMES

- ☛ Grace is not leave to forget
- ☛ What the word "trade" is built to hide
- ☛ Confession as an act, not a feeling
- ☛ Who pays the cost of the truth
- ☛ A song as a soul's ledger — settled in public

SIGNATURE VISUALS



THE PEGASUS AT NIGHT
— A LULLABY THROUGH
THE GRATE



SHERBRO ISLAND —
SOLD FOR A BAG OF COIN



THE STORM OFF
DONEGAL — "LORD,
HAVE MERCY"



THE EMPTY PEWS — A
CONFESSION FROM THE
PULPIT



PARLIAMENT & THE
PAMPHLET — 283 TO 16

A WRETCH. A CONFESSION. THE SONG THE WHOLE WORLD KNOWS.

WRITTEN BY ANDRE KEMP

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