



FIRST RUN FEATURES ACQUIRES GODFREY CHESHIRE'S
"MOVING MIDWAY"

Film to Open in New York on September 12
and Throughout the South and the Nation in the Fall

New York, NY — First Run Features is pleased to announce the acquisition of **MOVING MIDWAY**, Godfrey Cheshire's richly observed film about his family's Southern plantation in transit. The film, which explores the impact of plantations both real and mythical on American culture and race relations, will open in New York on September 12, followed by wider openings in the South and around the country in the fall.

"We're very pleased to be distributing Godfrey's wonderful debut film," said Marc Mauceri, Vice President, First Run Features. "We've been fans of his criticism for more than a decade, and to see him make the leap from film critic to film maker is very exciting. We're looking forward to working closely with him on releasing his rich, multi-layered film to audiences around the country."

"As as a critic I've long regarded First Run as the nation's premiere distributor of documentaries," said Cheshire. "Their catalogue, including the films of Ross McElwee and Michael Apted's *Up* series, is truly extraordinary. I'm honored to be in such illustrious company."

MOVING MIDWAY recently premiered at the 2008 New Director/New Films Festival, jointly curated by the Film Society of Lincoln Center and The Museum of Modern Art. Critics and audiences enthusiastically received the film, with *The New York Times* hailing it as "an extraordinarily rich documentary, which takes up the agonies and ironies of Southern history with remarkable wit, empathy and learning."

In **MOVING MIDWAY**, award-winning film critic Cheshire uses the relocation of his family's North Carolina plantation house to embark on a surprising journey. While observing the elaborate, arcane preparations for the colossal feat of moving a centuries-old house over fields and a rock quarry, unexpected human drama — from both the living

and the dead — emerges. Some fret over how Mary Hinton, past mistress of Midway and now a ghostly presence, will react when the house gets trucked across the landscape. And a chance encounter leads Cheshire and his cousins to discover a previously unknown African American branch of the family. Through movies and music, Cheshire examines the Southern plantation in American history and culture, and how the racial legacy from the past continues into the present.

MOVING MIDWAY is written and directed by Godfrey Cheshire. The film is produced by Cheshire, Vincent Farrell, and Jay Spain. Executive Producer is R. B. Reeves. The Chief Historian / Associate Producer is Robert Hinton, a professor at NYU and the descendant of Midway slaves. The cinematographer is Jay Spain and the film is edited by Ramsel Fendall and Greg Loser. The composer is Ahrin Mishan, with blues songs by Algia Mae Hinton.

About First Run Features

First Run Features was founded in 1979 by a group of filmmakers to advance the distribution of independent film. Under the leadership of the late Fran Spielman, First Run Features quickly gained a reputation for its catalog of daring independent fiction and non-fiction films. First Run remains one of the largest independent distributors in the United States, releasing 10-12 films a year in theatres nationwide and around 50 DVDs annually.

The First Run legacy includes films by such notable directors as Spike Lee, Michael Apted, Rose Troche, Sven Nykvist, Jane Campion, Ross McElwee, Michael Winterbottom, Barbara Kopple, Peter Jackson, Dariush Mehrjui, David O. Russell, Lizzie Borden, Claude Chabrol, Jan Svankmajer, Claire Denis, Benoit Jacquot, Radley Metzger, Victor Nunez, George Sluizer, Michael Sporn, Monika Treut, Oren Jacoby, Allan Miller, Eugene Jarecki, Alex Gibney, Martin Doblmeier and Michael Verhoeven.

In 2001 First Run was honored with a major retrospective at The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York City. The latest releases from First Run Features include “For the Bible Tells Me So,” “Constantine's Sword,” “Praying with Lior” and “A Jihad For Love.”

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