

On William Wilberforce's 267th Birthday, Amazing Grace Invites a New Generation to Discover His Historic Story

Amazing Grace Celebrates the Enduring Legacy of William Wilberforce as He Continues to Inspire Audiences Around the World

NASHVILLE, TN, UNITED STATES, August 24, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- This year, the birthday of British abolitionist William Wilberforce, is marked by the re-release of the acclaimed historical drama [Amazing Grace](#), celebrating the enduring legacy of one of history's greatest champions of human dignity and chronicling his extraordinary fight to abolish the British slave trade.

More than two centuries after Wilberforce helped change the course of history, his life continues to inspire new generations through an extraordinary example of courage, perseverance, servant leadership, and unwavering moral conviction. At a time when many are searching for examples of character, purpose, and principled leadership, *Amazing Grace* reminds audiences that meaningful change is rarely immediate. It is achieved by individuals willing to remain faithful to their convictions despite opposition, setbacks, and personal sacrifice.

More than a historical drama, *Amazing Grace* is a timeless story of faith, hope, resilience, friendship, sacrifice, and the belief that one person can leave an extraordinary impact on the world. The film is re-released by its producers to introduce William Wilberforce's remarkable journey to students, families, educators, churches, community organizations, and audiences everywhere, inspiring conversations about leadership, compassion, courage, and the responsibility each generation has to shape a better future.

First released in 2007 to critical acclaim by Walden Media, Samuel Goldwyn Films and Roadside Attractions, *Amazing Grace* stars Ioan Gruffudd as William Wilberforce alongside Benedict



Amazing Grace

Cumberbatch, Albert Finney, Michael Gambon, Rufus Sewell, Ciarán Hinds, Romola Garai, and Youssou N'Dour.

Directed by Michael Apted (Coal Miner's Daughter, The World Is Not Enough, The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader) and written by Academy Award® nominee Steven Knight (Peaky Blinders, Dirty Pretty Things), the film was produced for Walden Media by Terrence Malick and Ed Pressman under Sunflower Productions, alongside Patricia Heaton and David Hunt for Four Boys Films, with Ken Wales, Mark Cooper, and Jeanney Kim.

Set in late eighteenth-century England, *Amazing Grace* chronicles Wilberforce's decades-long campaign to abolish the British slave trade. Facing political resistance, repeated legislative defeats, declining health, and widespread public indifference, Wilberforce remained unwavering in his belief that every human life possesses inherent dignity and worth.

The film also highlights the influential roles of John Newton (Albert Finney), the former slave trader turned minister and songwriter of "Amazing Grace," whose personal transformation helped shape Wilberforce's calling; Prime Minister William Pitt the Younger (Benedict Cumberbatch), who championed reform within Parliament; and Olaudah Equiano (Youssou N'Dour), whose firsthand account of slavery helped awaken the conscience of a nation.

William Wilberforce's greatest achievement was not simply changing a law, it was demonstrating how one person, guided by conviction and sustained by faith, can help change the course of history. His story reminds us that meaningful change rarely happens overnight. It requires courage in the face of opposition, faith during seasons of uncertainty, and the willingness to continue serving others when progress seems impossible.

Nearly 220 years after Parliament abolished the British slave trade, Wilberforce's example continues to encourage those striving to make a positive difference in their families, communities, workplaces, and the world around them. His life is a reminder that leadership is measured not by popularity or position, but by the courage to stand for what is right, even when the outcome is uncertain.

On what would have been his 267th birthday, *Amazing Grace* celebrates not only the remarkable legacy of William Wilberforce, but also the hope that his life will continue inspiring future generations to live lives marked by courage, conviction, compassion, perseverance, and service. *Amazing Grace* is currently streaming on Angel and is also available for rent or purchase on Prime Video, Apple TV, Google Play, and Fandango at Home, streaming for free from public libraries via Hoopla and Kanopy, and with Blu-ray editions available through Target, Walmart, and other major retailers.

Additional information and viewing options are available at AmazingGraceMovie.com.

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