

THE PACT

SYNOPSIS

A feature-length documentary film and community outreach project centered on the raw, powerful and ultimately inspiring journey of the authors of *The Pact: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill a Dream*, a NY Times bestseller.

THE PACT is the story of three black teenagers who come of age in Newark, New Jersey, and despite criminal records, crack-addicted parents and poverty become—doctors. But **THE PACT** is no Hollywood fairy tale. It's the gritty, provocative true-life story of three 31-year-old friends from the hood, Rameck Hunt, Sampson Davis and George Jenkins, who made a pact in high school to find a way to go to college and then medical school.



They not only accomplished this—two are physicians, one's a dentist—but they're now spreading the word to inspire other inner-city kids to stay off drugs, choose the right friends and take the educational route out of their urban nightmare. To stay true to their mission, this band of brothers formed a foundation to offer health education and mentoring to young people who face obstacles similar to the ones they so successfully hurdled.

Set in Newark, **THE PACT** unveils an explicit and troubling portrait of life inside one of the nation's poorest and most crime-ridden urban centers. The unflinching lens of our camera captures the blighted streets, the struggles of the community, the daily fight for survival forced upon kids from the very same neighborhoods of the doctors' childhood.



Stylistically, the documentary features bold first-person narratives and an observational approach to give viewers a true picture of the protagonists' unpolished past and their current struggles.

Fast forward. The three men, now in white coats, have chosen to live and work in the community, defying the street culture that nearly devoured them. We track Davis, an emergency room physician, who sometimes sees his old buddies flying by on bloodied gurneys; Hunt, who finds himself treating diseases crippling the health of minorities at staggering rates; or Jenkins, at a book signing of *The Pact*, where a young boy excitedly solicits the dentist's signature on the first book he ever bought.

THE PACT captures the pathos of the men's individual journeys, the integrity of their voices and the power of their rare friendship. Telegenic and expressive, Davis, Hunt and Jenkins engage viewers and at the same time defy our most basic assumptions. Their stories affirm the values that ultimately sustained and drove them: courage, tenacity and faith. And they give tribute to the life of the mind and its power to transcend race and class.

- Produced by Spark Media and Duke Media—the team that brought the world the award-winning documentary *Partners of the Heart*, **THE PACT** is currently airing on Public television stations nationwide. Like *Partners*, **THE PACT** will have a robust community outreach component to extend the life of the film beyond its original airdate and to reach as broad an audience as possible with the film's message of hope and friendship as an antidote to despair.



The documentary film's vivid and emotional portrayal of the grim and complex urban tapestry from which the doctors emerged will resonate with the community and beyond. This is a tale of enormous power, one that will appeal not only to the kids the doctors are eager to reach, but to all.

THE PACT will inspire, entertain and, we sincerely believe, make a difference.

✚ For more info about *The Pact*, the film: 202.463.6154, ext 139, or e-mail info@sparkmedia.org