



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Augusta, GA – September 21, 2021**

**HOLLYWOOD PRODUCER WITH AUGUSTA ROOTS, NICHELLE PROTHO PRESENTS  
LITTLE KNOWN STORY OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ACADEMY'S LOST CLASS  
OF 1968**

Augusta, Georgia's historic Imperial Theater will premiere a new and socially impactful documentary called *Two Classes of 1968* at a private screening on Saturday Oct. 2nd. The special screening will be held for cast & crew, as well as a small group of local leaders, historians, class alumni, and other special guests.

The film is about a group of idyllic African-American Catholic School students shocked by the abrupt closure of their beloved Immaculate Conception Academy High School, which was nestled inside a Black working class & professional neighborhood, called The Golden Blocks, in the Savannah River port of Augusta, Georgia.

Feeling abandoned by the school & separated from the nuns that had taught & nurtured them, this senior class became agents of social change when they accepted a history-making opportunity to integrate the esteemed Aquinas High on the hill. *Two Classes of 1968* is a coming-of-age story set under the bright lights of the Civil Rights Movement.

The film is narrated by Hill Harper (*The Good Doctor, Get On The Bus*) and has brief appearances by former Ambassador to the United Nations and mayor of Atlanta The Honorable Andrew Young, former principal ballerina with the Dance Theatre of Harlem Karen Brown, as well as Broadway and *Lion King* star Russell Joel Brown (both Augusta natives). Main Title art is by Augusta native Salonika Rhyne ([www.srdgallery.com/](http://www.srdgallery.com/)).

After the film's premiere in Augusta, it will be submitted to select film festivals. For more information and to follow the film's journey, visit <https://www.facebook.com/TwoClassesof1968>.

*Two Classes of 1968* was produced & directed by Nichelle Protho (*World Wide Nate: African Adventures, Undercover Brother*); written by Monice Mitchell Simms (2019 PGA Power of Diversity Workshop Alumna and BET+'s *Redeemed*) & Nichelle Protho; and executive produced by Aquinas High School 1968 alumni Terrye Thompson and Joseph Floyd. Reflecting on the project, Protho said, "I made this film to serve as a love letter from the Class of 1968 to their old neighborhood, to generations of ICA alumni who came before & after them, and to the spirited Franciscan Nuns who *taught them well*. They were kids who ventured out of their beautiful Black bubble, became accidental activists, and handled their unexpected assignment with dignity and grace." Terrye Thompson aptly summed up her experience as a member of the Class of 1968, "Sometimes learning disguised reveals itself maybe fifty years later."



Additional film producers also include Robert Lester Lowry, Darryl Wharton-Rigby (*Stay, Detention*), and Monice Mitchell Simms. The film was financed with support of alumni, historians, activists and friends.

"I'm passionate about being historically literate and intensely personal, and *Two Classes of 1968* is a critical contribution to the cultural preservation of the Black community of 20th century Augusta, GA," said Protho, "and I knew this was the right film to start making my contribution."

Joseph Floyd said, "I hope this film would depict an aspirational community with thriving businesses and social components and highlight one of the significant forces who stepped in to fill the void in public education; and how this preparation equipped a group of students for the next step in revolutionary change in a small southern town."

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There are a limited number of seats available for interested media at the screening and meet and greet at the Imperial. If interested, please contact Rhian with RedWolf as soon as possible. Space is delegated on a first reserve basis.

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Terrye Thompson



Joseph Floyd



Nichelle Protho



Robert Lester Lowry



Hill Harper



Salonika Rhyne

