

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **“BE THE MAN” WINS DIRECTORS GUILD AWARD**

LA MIRADA, CA, October 26, 2006 — *Be the Man*, a short film produced by New Renaissance Pictures and Biola University, has won the award for Best Film in the African-American category of the west coast Directors Guild of America (DGA) Student Film Awards—a competition designed to honor outstanding minority film students. The prestigious award is a first for New Renaissance Pictures and Biola University, eclipsing work this year from other popular film schools like USC, UCLA, and NYU.

The award—given to director Matthew Jones, currently a sophomore at Biola—includes a \$2,500 prize from the DGA and a \$1,000 grant from Kodak. The film will also play in Los Angeles at a DGA screening on November 14. *Be the Man* was selected for the award by a panel of African-American members of the DGA.

In *Be the Man*, 17-year-old Damien never realized that the only man he's ever looked up to might not be the best example of what it means to be a man. Damien's verbally abusive father has taught him to be strong, but that tough shell means trouble when Damien starts to treat his girlfriend the same way he's seen his parents interact. *Be the Man* dramatically explores a young man's coming of age in a harsh, sometimes cruel world. Learn more about the film at [www.bethemanmovie.com](http://www.bethemanmovie.com).

#### **About New Renaissance Pictures**

New Renaissance Pictures is the independent film production and distribution arm of the Sikora Media Group. Dedicated to creating and distributing both film and new media in creative and unique ways, New Renaissance Pictures is positioned at the center of the latest technological revolutions. Our goal is to move beyond the conventional or traditional, to find cutting-edge ways to use new technology for low-budget film production and effective mass media distribution. Learn more at [www.newrenaissanceonline.com](http://www.newrenaissanceonline.com).

#### **About Biola University**

Biola University, a private liberal arts Christian university, offers 145 regionally and professionally accredited academic programs leading to B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees. Biola is the only Christian university recognized as a National University by the Carnegie Commission of Higher Education. For more information on the programs and service of Biola, visit the website at [www.biola.edu](http://www.biola.edu).

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