



THE PROMISE

The Promise monthly bulletin brings you news about the film's theatrical release and social impact campaign, with updates from NGO partners, artists, and influencers.



It is 1914. As World War I looms, the vast Ottoman Empire is crumbling. Constantinople (today's Istanbul), its once vibrant, multicultural capital, is about to be consumed by chaos.

Michael Boghosian (Oscar Isaac), arrives in the cosmopolitan hub as a medical student. He is determined to bring modern medicine back to his ancestral village in Southern Turkey, where the Muslim Turks and the Christian Armenians have lived side by side for centuries.

Associated Press photojournalist Chris Myers (Christian Bale) has arrived in Constantinople ostensibly to cover geopolitics. Equally mesmerized by Ana (Charlotte Le Bon), an Armenian artist, he has followed her from Paris after the sudden death of her father.

When Michael meets Ana, their shared Armenian heritage sparks an attraction that explodes into a romantic rivalry even as Michael remains bound by a promise from his past. At the same time, as Turkey joins the war as a German ally, it turns violently against its own ethnic minorities. Despite their conflicts, everyone must find a way to survive — even as monumental events engulf their lives.

Watch the full trailer [here](#).

In Theatres: April 21, 2017

Directed by:
Terry George

Written by:
Terry George and
Robin Swicord

Produced By:
Eric Esrailian, Mike Medavoy,
and William Horberg

Starring:
Oscar Isaac , Christian Bale
Charlotte Le Bon

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The Social Impact Campaign

#keepthepromise

“Sadly, that tragedy, that genocide, was the first of the deplorable series of catastrophes of the past century, made possible by twisted racial, ideological or religious aims that darkened the minds of the tormentors even to the point of planning the annihilation of entire peoples.”

Pope Francis, June 24, 2016 Armenia

The term “genocide” was created by Raphael Lemkin, to describe the enormous crime perpetrated against the Armenian people in 1915. It was also applied to the Holodomor (mass starvation of the Ukraine under Stalin), the Holocaust, Cambodia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Rwanda and others.

The debate over many of the genocides since 1915 is a complicated one, as the international community struggles to define genocide versus mass atrocity and ethnic cleansing.

The argument over terminology has been taken advantage of by the perpetrators and supporters of some of our last century’s worst atrocities. Creating a fog of doubt over the

terms has lent itself to denial of events by those who committed or have justified the brutal mass murder of their countrymen.

Today, as the generation of eyewitnesses passes and is replaced by the incompletely informed or uninformed, as we fail to publicly acknowledge the events of history, we are living with the risk of history being rewritten in favor of the perpetrators.

The social impact campaign accompanying *The Promise* will educate the global public about the genocides and mass atrocities of the 20th and 21st centuries, the debate about the legal definition of genocide, and historical denialism. The impact campaign will inform and inspire people to take action so they become part of the anti-genocide movement led by human rights organizations and change-makers dedicated to ending crimes against humanity and bringing perpetrators to justice.

NEXT ISSUE: Highlighting Non-profit Partners, Upcoming Screenings, Film and Campaign Updates

For more information please contact:
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“It is sadly true what a cynic said: that we learn from history that we do not learn from history.

“And yet it is possible that if the world had been conscious of the genocide that had been committed by the Ottoman Turks against the Armenians, the first genocide of the twentieth century, then perhaps humanity might have been more alert to the warning signs that were being given before Hitler’s madness was unleashed on an unbelieving world.”

Archbishop Desmond Tutu