

SIGHT & SOUND™



A GREAT AWAKENING Production Notes

For additional publicity materials and artwork, please visit:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/15d-KR7CxMsZPbTXSNaGrNIv8VdpwW9Hnueg-3vgdUGs/edit?usp=sharing>

Rating: PG-13 for brief violence

Running Time: 128 mins

U.S. Release Date: April 3rd, 2026

A GREAT AWAKENING

Sight & Sound Films & Roadside Attractions

Official Site: www.agreatawakening.com

Publicity Materials: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/15d-KR7CxMsZPbTXSNaGrNIv8VdpwW9Hnueg-3vgdUGs/edit?usp=sharing>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/agreatawakeningmovie>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/agreatawakeningmovie/>

Hashtag: #agreatawakeningmovie

Genre: Historical Drama

Rating: PG-13 for brief violence

U.S. Release Date: April 3rd, 2026

Running Time: 128 mins

Directed By: Joshua Enck

Screenplay By: Jeff Bender, Joshua Enck, Jonathan Blair

Story By: Joshua Enck

Based On: Historical events and figures.

Produced By: Joshua Enck, Troy Thorn, Steve Buckwalter, Timothy Monaghan

Credits Not Contractual

SYNOPSIS: A GREAT AWAKENING tells the true story of an unlikely friendship between the Reverend George Whitefield and Benjamin Franklin that resulted in one of the most defining moments in American history. With the colonies on the brink of collapse, the Reverend George Whitefield ignites the first Great Awakening, uniting an entire generation with his thundering and faithful sermons and proclamations of liberty. In a miraculous turn of events, one of Whitefield's closest friends and greatest promoters becomes none other than Benjamin Franklin. With the nation's freedom hanging in the balance, the founders discover true liberty cannot only be written into law - it must be awakened in the hearts of the people.

ONE-LINE: A GREAT AWAKENING follows the unlikely friendship between George Whitefield and Benjamin Franklin as a spiritual revival ignites and awakens a generation to true liberty.

About the Film

A GREAT AWAKENING tells the remarkable true story of an unlikely friendship that sparked one of the most defining spiritual movements in American history.

At the center of the film are two men whose lives, and beliefs, could not have been more different: George Whitefield, the passionate evangelist who ignited a spiritual revival across the American colonies, and Benjamin Franklin, the brilliant printer, inventor, and statesman who described himself as a “thorough deist.”

Portrayed by Jonathan Blair, George Whitefield possessed one of the most extraordinary speaking voices of the eighteenth century, capable of reaching tens of thousands without amplification. In some gatherings, historians estimate that more than 30,000 people came to hear him preach, making Whitefield one of the first figures to unite the American colonies through a shared experience that transcended geography, class, and denomination.

Through his powerful preaching, Whitefield helped spark the first Great Awakening, a sweeping spiritual revival that spread throughout the American colonies from 1739 to 1770. His message carried a revolutionary idea: true liberty begins not in government, but in the human heart. Through Whitefield’s ministry, countless men and women encountered the life-changing truth that they could be born again, know their Creator personally, and experience the kind of freedom that no earthly system could provide.

As the film reveals, before the Revolution came a Revelation, a spiritual awakening that stirred a generation and helped shape the birth of a nation.

Opposite Whitefield stands Benjamin Franklin, portrayed by John Paul Sneed, whose sharp intellect and insatiable curiosity made him one of the most influential figures of the era. Though Franklin never fully embraced Whitefield’s faith, he was captivated by the evangelist’s conviction and influence. Through his printing press, Franklin became one of Whitefield’s greatest promoters, publishing his sermons and helping spread the awakening throughout the colonies.

Their unlikely friendship forms the emotional and historical backbone of A GREAT AWAKENING, revealing how two men with profoundly different beliefs could shape the spiritual and cultural landscape of a nation.

The story unfolds through the lens of the Constitutional Convention of 1787, where tensions run high and the fragile young nation appears on the brink of collapse. Surrounded by fellow delegates such as James Madison and Alexander Hamilton, an aging Benjamin Franklin rises to deliver one of the most unexpected speeches of the Convention — calling the divided assembly to prayer and reminding them of the spiritual foundation upon which the nation was formed.

As Franklin reflects on the journey that brought him to that moment, the film travels back in time to England, where George Whitefield’s story begins. While attending Oxford University, Whitefield wrestles with faith, identity, and purpose before discovering a deeply personal relationship with

Christ that would ignite a ministry unlike anything the world had seen. Alongside contemporaries such as John and Charles Wesley and accompanied by his trusted friend and travel companion William Seward, Whitefield became part of a growing movement that would cross the Atlantic and spark revival throughout the American colonies.

From England's university halls to the bustling streets of colonial America, A GREAT AWAKENING traces the intersection of faith, friendship, and history through sweeping settings and deeply personal moments. The film brings to life powerful scenes recorded in Whitefield's own journals, including preaching to vast outdoor crowds, proclaiming the Gospel to coal miners emerging from the depths of the earth, and addressing thousands gathered throughout the colonies.

Bringing this historic story to the screen became a collaborative effort for Sight & Sound. Filmed over 34 shooting days across four months, the production brought together more than 200 creatives and extensive team of outside contractors. In total, Sight & Sound's over 800 employees filled 166 cast roles and 207 crew positions, while hundreds more stepped in front of the camera as extras during the film's largest crowd scenes, ranging from 200 to nearly 500 performers at a time.

Several historic environments were recreated for the film, including a full-scale and historically accurate Constitutional Convention Hall constructed inside the Sight & Sound Theatre shop and a resurrection of Market Street in colonial Philadelphia built on Sight & Sound's backlot in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Additional filming took place across South Central Pennsylvania, including scenes shot along the Delaware River aboard the Kalmar Nyckel, a Swedish tall ship originally built in 1638, as within the walls of Oxford in England, where Whitefield's faith journey began.

One of the film's most powerful moments occurs during a gathering on Market Street, where the original hymn "Awaken Us Today", written specifically for the film, was performed live during production. As the cast and hundreds of extras joined in song, the moment became unforgettable for those on set, leaving many moved to tears.

Through epic historical settings, powerful performances, and a story rooted in both faith and friendship, A GREAT AWAKENING invites audiences to rediscover a pivotal chapter in American history, one that reminds us how the liberty written into law was first awakened in the hearts of the people.

America's 250th: Why This Film Matters Now

As America prepares to mark 250 years since its founding, A GREAT AWAKENING revisits a moment when a spiritual revival helped unite the colonies and shape the moral climate that influenced the birth of a nation.

Arriving in movie theaters April 3rd, A GREAT AWAKENING illuminates the silver screen when many Americans are reflecting on the nation's origins and deals; the main forces that shaped its identity.

While the American Revolution is often remembered through the language of politics and war, historians increasingly point to an earlier movement that helped prepare the colonies for the birth of a nation: the First Great Awakening. Decades before independence was declared, the revival stirred the colonies with a renewed sense of moral responsibility, shared purpose, and spiritual conviction. In a culture marked by division, the movement became one of the first experiences to unite people across geography, class, and denomination.

That spiritual awakening helped shape the moral and cultural climate that influenced the founding generation, reminding young and uncertain people that liberty begins not only in government, but in the human heart.

Today, as the nation once again finds itself wrestling with questions of identity, unity, and purpose, the story carries renewed relevance. A GREAT AWAKENING invites audiences to look beyond the political history of the founding era and rediscover the spiritual movement that stirred a generation long before the Revolution began.

The film also echoes a timeless truth reflected throughout history: renewal often begins with a single spark. One voice. One willing heart. The same God who moved through ordinary people during the Great Awakening continues to work through willing hearts today.

Though the film has been years in the making, its release arrives at a remarkable moment in American history. As the nation prepares to mark 250 years, A GREAT AWAKENING offers a timely reminder that before the Revolution came a revelation, an awakening that helped shape the soul of a nation.

Cast & Crew Information

Joshua Enck | President & Chief Story Officer

Joshua Enck joined Sight & Sound in 1995 as a stagehand with a passion for storytelling. Today, Joshua serves as President and Chief Story Officer, responsible for spearheading the unique creative process from current show production to future product development and leading Sight & Sound into the next chapter.

In addition to his executive duties, Joshua has produced and directed six Sight & Sound shows, including the record-breaking production JESUS. He pioneered Sight & Sound's initiative to begin filming stage shows for wider distribution in 2004. Since then, he has led the vision to expand Sight & Sound's ministry beyond the stage, including taking shows into movie theaters nationwide and the launch of Sight & Sound TV, a digital streaming channel with viewers from over 175 countries from around the world.

Today, Joshua is forging the way for Sight & Sound's newest endeavor, feature films. He not only wrote but also directed and produced Sight & Sound Film's very first feature, I HEARD THE BELLS, which debuted #2 in movie theaters nationwide. Joshua is currently serving in the same capacity for the entertainment company's next feature, A GREAT AWAKENING, set to release in 2026.

Joshua is married to Kristen, the 4th daughter of Sight & Sound founders Glenn & Shirley Eshelman. He and Kristen reside in Lancaster, PA with their 4 children.

Bio: Jonathan Blair | George Whitefield

Originally from Southern California, Jonathan is an award-winning actor and director who has received honors from places like the Riverside International Film Festival and the Los Angeles Film Festival. He has been blessed to share his work with audiences around the world, from New York City to Seattle, Puerto Rico, the United Kingdom, and Southeast Asia.

Jonathan has been performing with Sight & Sound since 2017, appearing on stage in MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS, JESUS, QUEEN ESTHER, and DAVID. In 2022, he took on the role of Charlie Longfellow in Sight & Sound Film's first full-length feature, I HEARD THE BELLS. Most recently, Jonathan is returning to the screen as George Whitefield in the ministry's next feature film, A GREAT AWAKENING.

When not performing, Jonathan also serves as a Content Creator and Writer for Sight & Sound's Story Team, supporting the ministry's mission to bring true stories of redemption to life that reveal the power of the Gospel.

Bio: John Paul Sneed | Benjamin Franklin

After graduating from Victory Bible College in Tulsa, OK, John Paul Sneed knew the Lord was calling him to combine his Pastoral degree with his gifts and talents in the performing arts. For more than 40 years, he has faithfully answered that call, sharing stories of faith through the power of live performance.

Today, John is an influential part of the Sight & Sound cast, appearing in a number of beloved productions including JESUS, QUEEN ESTHER, NOAH, and DAVID. Most recently, he portrayed the revolutionary printer, Benjamin Franklin, in Sight & Sound's newest feature film, A GREAT AWAKENING.

John is motivated by the inspiring messages behind these productions,

sharing, "I pray our audiences are refreshed in their spirit, entertained, and most importantly, that they would have an unforgettable encounter with Christ."

John and his wife are celebrating their 37th wedding anniversary this year. When not performing, John can be found with his wife, kids, and grandkids.

Bio: Katie Miller - VP of Brand Development

As the oldest grandchild of Sight & Sound's founders, Katie first stepped onto the stage when she was four years old, making her the first member of the family's third generation to be a part of the ministry. Throughout her 35-year tenure, Katie has served in various capacities within the company, including human resources, marketing, and business development.

Today, as Vice President of Brand Development, Katie spearheads Sight & Sound's growth initiatives and brings alignment to each of the brand's extensions through strategic partnerships, marketing, communications, and creative development. She also serves as primary spokesperson for the ministry, including on-camera host for all live broadcast events. Katie is passionate about connecting Sight & Sound's past to its future, introducing audience members from around the world to the Sight & Sound story.

About Sight & Sound

For the past five decades, Sight & Sound has been dedicated to bringing powerful stories of faith, redemption, and history to life through immersive storytelling on stage and screen. What began as a personal turning point for one Lancaster County farmer has grown into one of the nation's leading faith-based storytelling organizations, inspiring more than 30 million people with stories drawn from the pages of Scripture and history.

The company's origins trace back to Glenn Eshelman, a dairy farmer in rural Pennsylvania whose life took an unexpected turn when he lost his family farm and the vocation he had always known. Amid that uncertainty, Glenn turned to the artistic gifts of painting and photography he had nurtured since childhood. Together with his wife, Shirley, he began selling his artwork and scenic photographs, often out of the trunk of his car, while searching for a new path forward.

That path began to take shape in the 1960s when Glenn shared his photography during a presentation at a local church, combining projected images, music, and live narration. The emotional response from audiences revealed the power of storytelling through sight and sound, and soon Glenn and Shirley were traveling across the country presenting these multimedia experiences.

In 1976, the couple opened the Living Waters Theatre in Lancaster County, establishing the foundation for what would become Sight & Sound Theatres®. Over time, those early multimedia presentations evolved into large-scale theatrical productions that brought biblical stories to life with towering sets, original music, and immersive staging.

From its earliest days, Sight & Sound blended artistic mediums to create experiences that feel both theatrical and cinematic. Today, that creative foundation remains central to the company's identity: stage productions with the scope and visual storytelling of film, and films shaped by the emotional immediacy and craft of live theater.

Today, Sight & Sound operates two state-of-the-art theater locations in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and Branson, Missouri, welcoming more than one million guests each year. In 2020, the company expanded its reach globally with the launch of its streaming platform, Sight & Sound TV®, now viewed in more than 175 countries around the globe. Most recently, the company entered the world of feature filmmaking through Sight & Sound Films, continuing its mission to share stories that spark wonder and inspire faith.

Headquartered in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Sight & Sound remains a family-owned company led by the next generation of the Eshelman family and supported by a team of more than 800 artists, craftsmen, technicians, and storytellers dedicated to bringing the Gospel to life for audiences around the world.

Sight & Sound's Evolution into Film

As Sight & Sound's theatrical productions grew in scale and audience reach, the company began exploring new ways to share its stories beyond the walls of its theaters. With more than one million guests visiting each year, and millions more expressing interest from around the world, the question became: how might these stories travel even farther?

Sight & Sound first began by capturing its stage productions for DVD, taking early steps into filmed storytelling. Over time, the filmmaking approach evolved, with a major turning point coming in the filming of the 2018 production JESUS. By approaching the production with a more intentional cinematic style, the team discovered new ways to translate the power and scale of live theater to the screen.

The success of these filmed productions, along with the launch of the global streaming platform Sight & Sound TV, revealed something important: audiences around the world were truly hungry for these stories, and new technology made it possible to share them far beyond the walls of the theater.

That realization led to the creation of Sight & Sound Films.

The company's first feature project, I HEARD THE BELLS, began as a modest short film but quickly grew into a full-length theatrical release. Originally planned as a one-week event in partnership with Fathom Events, the film far exceeded expectations. Opening weekend, I HEARD THE BELLS debuted as the #2 film in the nation and remained in theaters across the country for four months.

Today, Sight & Sound's film division remains intentionally small and closely connected to the company's theatrical roots. The same artists, craftsmen, designers, seamstresses, and storytellers who bring productions to life on stage contribute their talents to the filmmaking process as well, working alongside outside partners in construction and production.

For Sight & Sound, the transition into film is not about chasing star power or spectacle. It is about continuing a mission that has guided the company from the beginning: telling stories that reveal how lives, and even history itself, can change the world when hearts are transformed.