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WEXNER CENTER HOSTS EXCLUSIVE MIDWEST SCREENING OF LEE DANIELS' *THE BUTLER* AUGUST 14

WRITER AND COLUMBUS NATIVE WIL HAYGOOD IN-PERSON

July 26, 2013—Columbus, OH—The Wexner Center for the Arts will host the Columbus premiere of *Lee Daniels' The Butler*, the latest film from Academy Award-nominated director Lee Daniels (*Precious*), on **Wednesday, August 14** at 6:30 pm at AMC Easton, 275 Easton Town Center. The star-studded new film, starring Forest Whitaker and Oprah Winfrey, will be introduced by Pulitzer Prize-nominated *Washington Post* journalist and Columbus native **Wil Haygood**, who wrote the 2008 *Post* article that inspired the film. Haygood will be joined at the screening by Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman, Wexner Center Director Sherri Geldin, and Wexner Center Foundation Trustees. Tickets are \$200 and are on sale now. The ticket price also includes a private reception with Haygood. Proceeds from the screening will go to support the center's upcoming *Blues for Smoke* exhibition.

Information about media availability from Haygood, Mayor Coleman, and Geldin will be sent closer to the event.

Notes Mayor Coleman, "Wil Haygood is just one example of the many talented individuals in the arts community who is proud to call Columbus home," said Mayor Michael B. Coleman. "This movie about the life of Cecil Gaines should serve as inspiration to all of us. And Wil Haygood's ability to tell the story should serve as an incentive for all young writers in our community to pursue their dreams."

Geldin says, "Everyone at the Wex is thrilled to present the Midwest premiere of this remarkable film whose all-star cast brings to vivid life one of the surpassing moral and political sagas of our time. That the very origin of the story rests with an article written for the *Washington Post* by Columbus native Wil Haygood makes it an even richer, more poignant



Forest Whitaker in *Lee Daniels' The Butler*.
Image courtesy the Weinstein Company

Exclusive Midwest screening of *Lee Daniels' The Butler*

Date and time:

Screening on Wednesday, Aug. 14 |
6:30 pm
Reception follows

Location:

Screening at AMC Easton, 275 Easton
Town Center
Reception at Smith & Wollensky, 4145
The Strand

Tickets:

\$200, all audiences
tickets.wexarts.org
To buy by phone, contact the Patron
Services Desk at (614) 292-8935.

occasion for this community, and we are honored to partner with the mayor in celebrating one of our most accomplished home-town talents.”

Lee Daniels' The Butler tells the story of Cecil Gaines (Whitaker), a White House butler who served eight American presidents over three decades and traces the dramatic changes that swept American society during this time and how those changes affected this man's life and family. The film's all-star cast also features Jane Fonda, Robin Williams, John Cusack, Alan Rickman, James Marsden, and Liev Schreiber.

More information: <http://wexarts.org/special-events/butler>

EVENT/SEASON SUPPORT

Support for the exclusive Midwest screening of *Lee Daniels' The Butler* is provided by **Kimberly A. Blackwell|PMM Agency; Michael B. Coleman, Mayor; Crabbe, Brown & James; Easton Community Foundation; Greater Columbus Arts Council; Greater Columbus Film Commission; Donna and Larry James; Renee and Alex Shumate; Genny and Lewis R. Smoot Sr.; and Smoot Construction.** Significant contributions for the Wexner Center's 2013–14 film/video season are made by the **Rohauer Collection Foundation.**

Generous support for visiting filmmakers presentations is provided by the **Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.**

The preferred airline of the film/video program is **American Airlines.**

The Wexner Center receives general operating support from **the Greater Columbus Arts Council, The Columbus Foundation, Nationwide Foundation,** and the **Ohio Arts Council.** Generous support is also provided by the **Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation** and **Wexner Center members.**

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