

A Ripple of Hope

a true story of personal courage and responsibility

Advised against appearing before an inner-city crowd in Indianapolis the night Martin Luther King was assassinated, Robert Kennedy delivered an extemporaneous speech that brought a sense of peace to the city. This film weaves together first-person accounts of that tumultuous day in 1968.



A Ripple of Hope, a one-hour high definition documentary, reviews the events that occurred in Indiana on April 4, 1968, and explores the enduring legacy of Kennedy's appearance in Indianapolis.

Honored by Heartland Film Festival, Harvest Moon Film Festival, OIAI Film Festival, New Orleans Film Festival and the Durango Independent Film Festival.



Covenant Productions, Anderson University

Directed by Donald Boggs; Cinematography by Mark G. Dawson; Associate Producers David Baird, David Armstrong, James Morehead; featuring Karl Anatol, Rozelle Boyd, Billie Breaux, Tom Brown, Julia Carson, Thurston Clarke, Tom Cochrun, Peter Edelman, Bill Gigerich, Hurley Goodall, Darlene Howard, Ronald Haldeman, John Lewis, Frank Mankiewicz, Vechel Rhodes, Sr., Michael Riley, John Seigenthaler, Sr., Evan Thomas, Jim Tolan, Jim Trulock, Adam Walinsky, and Jules Witcover

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Developed by Heartland Truly Moving Pictures to accompany *A Ripple of Hope*, recipient of the Truly Moving Picture Award, an honored distinction given to films that unlock the vast potential of the human spirit and enable us to view stories that display courage, integrity and hope, taking entertainment to a higher level.

TrulyMovingPictures.org

RippleofHopeMovie.com



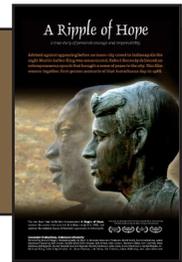
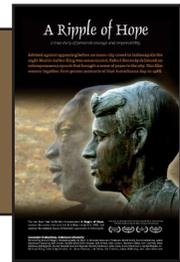


Table of Contents

Introduction	2
Discussion Points	
Setting the Story	3
Struggle for Peace	4
Take Action	5
Moving Moments	6



One Film Can

Heartland Truly Moving Pictures, a non-profit organization, recognizes and honors films and filmmakers whose work explores the human journey by expressing hope and respect for the positive values of life. We believe that one film can move us to laughter, to tears, or to make a difference. *A Ripple of Hope* is a movie that demonstrates that **One Film Can**.

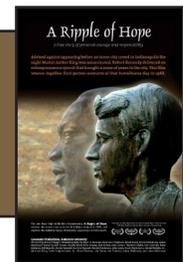
Synopsis

It was April 4, 1968. At 6:01 p.m., across the street from the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, a gunman fired a rifle—and the leader of the civil rights movement, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., lay mortally wounded. As news of King's assassination spread, American cities were engulfed in chaos and fear. Urban areas erupted in riots. Fires burned out of control. Dozens of people were killed. Robert F. Kennedy, meanwhile, was en route to Indianapolis, where at 9 p.m. he was scheduled to make a campaign appearance in an African-American neighborhood.

Pressing questions arose: Should Kennedy venture into the heart of the Indianapolis inner city and talk to the potentially volatile crowd gathered in a park? What could he say that would assuage their grief? Should he defy the Indianapolis city officials who ordered him to stay away? Would his life be in danger?

Kennedy didn't blink. Despite the violence raging across the country, he courageously kept his promise to speak, climbing up on a shaky flatbed truck and delivering a moving, extemporaneous plea for peace and reconciliation—a talk that eventually would be regarded as one of the great political speeches of the twentieth century.

A Ripple of Hope draws on interviews with Kennedy aides and associates, as well as “everyday people” who were in the crowd that night, to tell the story of an inspiring moment in American history that is extraordinarily relevant today. The film was produced by Anderson University's Covenant Productions and directed by Donald Boggs with music by Grammy Award winner John Colby.



Setting the Story

A Ripple of Hope details a single day in 1968, the day Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. However, 1968 was a year filled with numerous events that impacted American history.

Below is a brief outline of some of the significant events in 1968. Information adapted from PBS.org.

1968

January 31: The Tet Offensive begins. This was a military operation during Vietnam where the National Liberation Front for South Vietnam and the People's Army of Vietnam fought against the Republic of Vietnam, the United States and their allies, began.

February 2: Richard Nixon announces his candidacy for President.

March 16: Senator Robert F. Kennedy, announces he will enter the the 1968 Presidential race.

March 31: Lyndon B. Johnson announces he will not run for a second term in office.

April 4: Martin Luther King, Jr. is assassinated at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, TN. Robert F. Kennedy delivers his powerful speech and eulogy for MLK at 17th and Broadway in Indianapolis, IN.

June 5: Robert F. Kenney is shot in the early morning by Sirhan Sirhan after addressing supporters on the night of the California Primary. He died the morning of June 6.

August 8: Richard Nixon is nominated as the Republican Presidential Candidate at the Republican National Convention.

August 28: In a turbulent year for the Democratic party, and in the midst of protests, riots and some violent police action, Hubert Humphrey is nominated as the Democratic Presidential Candidate at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

October 11: Apollo 7 is launched into orbit for 11 days.

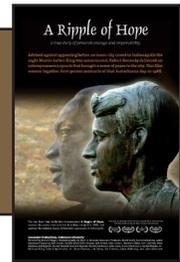
October 31: President Johnson announces that the US is halting all bombing in North Vietnam.

November 5: In a very close race, Richard Nixon wins the US Presidency.

December 21: Apollo 8 launches. It is the first US mission to orbit the Moon.

To learn more about 1968, visit the interactive timeline on the PBS website:

www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/rfk/sfeature/sf_1968.html



Struggle for Peace

The 60's were a time of turbulence. Not only was America at war abroad, but there was a great racial struggle taking place within the United States. The movement for equal rights for all continues today, but many changes happened in the 60's. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy both paved the way for many to gain equal rights in a peaceful manner.

With King's assassination, there were many riots across the United States -- a reaction that was ultimately very different than the peace that King preached. Kennedy's role in preserving the peace is demonstrated in *A Ripple of Hope*.

Discover more about King and Kennedy, and use the discussion points below to further explore what you learned in *A Ripple of Hope*.

To read King's Biography, visit:

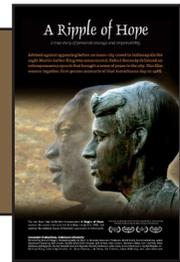
nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1964/king-bio.html

To read Kennedy's Biography, visit:

www.jfklibrary.org/Historical+Resources/Biographies+and+Profiles/Biographies/bio_kennedy_Robert_F.htm

Discussion Points

- After watching *A Ripple of Hope*, discuss some of the racial struggles that were present in 1968 that are not present today. What racial struggles still persist today, more than 40 years later? Are there new struggles today that didn't exist 40 years ago? What are they?
- Consider the different viewpoints of people interviewed in *A Ripple of Hope*. Discuss the differences and similarities in their experience and perspectives on April 4, 1968.
- As Robert F. Kennedy stands before a crowd on the verge of a riot, what do you believe was the most important part of his speech? What do you believe most resonated with those gathered? Why?
- When Kennedy speaks to the crowd, he states "For those of you who are black and are tempted to be filled with hatred and mistrust of the injustice of such an act, against all white people, I would only say that I can also feel in my own heart the same kind of feeling. I had a member of my family killed, but he was killed by a white man."
 - What impact do you believe Kennedy's understanding had on the crowd? Do you believe that understanding other's life experiences is a key component to racial reconciliation?



Take Action

Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.

Robert F. Kennedy, June 1966

Kennedy valued the importance of the role each individual plays in making the world and our nation a better place to live. Use the suggestions below to generate ideas on how you can help make a difference.

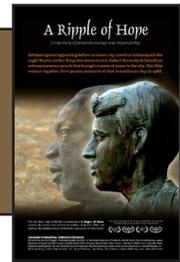
Action Ideas:

- Using the ripple concept in Kennedy's quote above, create a Pay-it-Forward project in which you do a good deed for someone, and then ask that they do something good for someone else. This can be as small as holding the door for someone or taking care of a neighbor's front yard. Or it can be much larger.
- Make sure to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. day as a day "On" and not a day off. Or take it a step farther and volunteer in your community all year long. Find opportunities in your area where you can volunteer your time in way that fits King's memory and intent.

www.volunteermatch.org
www.serve.gov
www.1-800-volunteer.org/1800Vol/OpenIndexAction.do

- Are there racial or political issues in your community that need to be tackled? Think about how you can shed light upon those things and what you can do in your own daily activities to help change people's perspectives on race and reconciliation.





Truly Moving Moments

A Ripple of Hope has been honored as a Heartland Truly Moving Picture Award-winning film. This award was created to honor films released theatrically that align with Heartland's mission to recognize and honor films and filmmakers whose work explores the human journey by artistically expressing hope and respect for the positive values of life.

These award-winning movies are made up of moving and inspiring moments – those moments that cause you to think, see something in your life differently or be inspired to do something. It's what makes the movie and its message remain with you well after you've left the theater.

Think about *A Ripple of Hope*. What were the moments that stood out to you? How did they make you feel? How will they cause you to think about things differently in the future? Share those Truly Moving moments with others at www.TrulyMovingPictures.org. Simply create a membership or login if you already have one and then search the movie list for *A Ripple of Hope*. You can leave your review of the movie or thoughts about this Truly Moving Picture in the "Thoughts and Reviews" section.



Photo credit: Indianapolis Star, April 4, 1968