



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**KENT FILM FESTIVAL TO SCREEN DIRECTOR KEVIN WILMOTT'S  
STIRRING NEW INDEPENDENT FEATURE FILM "BUNKER HILL"**

The fourth annual Kent Film Festival, held Thursday March 26 thru Sunday March 29, 2009 in Kent, CT is set to screen the rousing independent film *Bunker Hill*, from director Kevin Wilmott, as the festival's opening night feature Thursday at 8:00 pm in Community House Theater 1.

With overtones of western mythology and post-9/11 politics, *Bunker Hill* promises to be as entertaining and controversial as Kevin Willmott's last movie and Sundance hit, *C.S.A: Confederate States of America*.

Wilmott's latest is the story of disgraced former Wall Street executive Peter Salem (James McDaniel, *NYPD Blue*) who, released from prison, arrives in the small Kansas town of Bunker Hill to visit his estranged ex-wife Hallie, and their two daughters. Hallie (Laura Kirk, *Lisa Picard Is Famous*) and her new beau, town plutocrat McClain, want nothing to do with Salem.

When a mysterious event cuts the entire town off from the outside world, leaving cars and electrical devices dead, a reluctant Salem realizes he's the only one that can stop the power-mad McClain and his militia man brother Delmar from oppressing Hallie and the rest of the town in the name of security. The town's militant past is reawakened and forces coalesce to protect citizens from an unseen enemy, represented to some by Mr. Farook (Saeed Jaffrey, *Gandhi*), an elderly Pakistani immigrant who owns the local convenience store. The town's fear leads to the creation of a posse of gunmen, resulting in torture, illegal searches and eventually, murder.

"When writing fiction, you always hope that you're on to something that reflects what is actually going on in the world," says writer, producer and director Willmott, also a film professor at Univeristy of Kansas in Lawrence. "Bunker Hill tells a pretty wild story that is amazingly close to what has really happened to us since 9/11, right up to the recent presidential election campaign."

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IMDb (Internet Movie Database) reviews touts the film as a “great mix of contemporary politics and reinvented western iconography in a true ‘American movie,’ with sly echoes of Rod Serling, Sam Fuller, blacksploitation flicks and even TV's Gunsmoke abounding. Saeed Jaffrey steals the movie as Mr. Farook, an Indian immigrant with a love for American westerns and six shooters. Beautiful landscapes and an excellent supporting cast back up James McDaniel as Salem, the troubled urban man who becomes a modern western hero. Red State meets Blue State. Main Street becomes Front Street. Cowboy hats. Horses. Big emotions. Showdown and all.”

Co-star and associate producer for the film CT resident Laura Kirk will be on hand for what promises to be a provocative question and answer session following the Thursday night screening.

To preview the film trailer visit: <http://www.bunkerhillthefilm.com/site.html>

**For ticketing, schedule, directions and other festival information, please visit [www.kentfilmfestival.org](http://www.kentfilmfestival.org). Tickets on sale now; programs available at Kent Film Festival Sponsor establishments, and at the festival box office, 3 Kent Green Boulevard, Kent, CT. 203.681.5929.**

The Kent Film Festival is a not-for-profit arts organization dedicated to the development of film artists of independent spirit and uncommon vision.

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“Mixing contemporary, and highly resonant, political issues with the dramatic force of film genres such as the western and the post-apocalyptic thriller, Bunker Hill challenges viewers to think about how we might react if the country was faced with another terrorist attack.”

Chuck Tyron, The Chutry Experiment ( [www.Chutry.Wordherders.net](http://www.Chutry.Wordherders.net) )

“I know what I like, and Bunker Hill deserves great praise as a courageous and realistic film. It is a motion picture that I recommend to you.”

-- David Henderson, Clear Voices In A Cluttered World ([DavidHenderson.com](http://DavidHenderson.com))

“Most viewers of this film will inevitably be left to wonder if a chain of events like this one portrayed here is possible in modern America ... I applaud Kevin Willmott for encouraging citizens to use his work of art as a vehicle for discussion.”

-- Pam Pohly, [EverydayCitizen.com](http://EverydayCitizen.com)

“...a very interesting and inflammatory film... it digs into the tougher issues we face as Americans in the post-9/11 landscape. It also happens to dig into those issues in a compelling way, telling a unique and touching story.”

-- Ed Travis, [HollywoodJesus.com](http://HollywoodJesus.com)

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***Bunker Hill*** stars Emmy and Peabody Award winner, and executive producer for the film **James McDaniel** (NYPD Blue, Sunshine State, Edge of America). Co –starring are: CT resident **Laura Kirk**, associate producer (star and co-writer of the acclaimed feature film *Lisa Picard is Famous*); **Saeed Jaffrey** actor from India who has starred in more than 150 films, including *Gandhi*, *Passage to India*, *My Beautiful Launderette* and *The Man Who Would Be King*; Broadway, television and film star **Kevin Geer** (*American Gangster*, *The Contender*); and Blake Robbins (*Oz*, *The Office*, FOX's *24*).

After returning to Kansas from NYU Film School, African- American *Bunker Hill* director **Kevin Willmott** began writing, first for the stage, then for television and film. *CSA: Confederate States Of America*, written and directed by Willmott and produced by Rick Cowan, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. Presented by Spike Lee and IFC Films, the movie has generated critical acclaim during its theatrical run this year. Willmott's screenplays have been commissioned by Oliver Stone, 20th Century Fox and others. He co-wrote the NBC miniseries *The 70's* with Mitch Brian. *Ninth Street*, a feature film starring Martin Sheen and Isaac Hayes, co-starred and was written, produced and co-directed by Willmott.

Principal photography shot in several Kansas locations.

Singer / songwriter **Kelley Hunt**, renowned blues singer **Queen Bey**, indie rock band **Trucker**, **The Americana Music Academy** and others contribute music to the soundtrack.

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