



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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May 13, 2014

TO: Chief School Administrators of High School Districts
Charter School Lead Persons (High Schools)
Public High School Principals
Directors of Guidance
Nonpublic Advisory Committee Members

FROM: Stephanie James Wilson
Executive Director, Amistad Commission, NJ Department of Education

SUBJECT: **PRIVATE SCREENING OF FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES FILM: *BELLE***

In collaboration with Fox Searchlight Pictures, and as part of the Amistad Commission's ongoing mandate to survey, design, promote and create public awareness programs regarding slavery and the African slave trade, I am pleased to announce that the Amistad Commission will host a free screening of *BELLE*.

Dido Elizabeth Belle was the illegitimate Anglo-African daughter of Admiral Sir John Lindsay. She resided in the household of William Murray, 1st Earl of Mansfield, who was Lindsay's uncle and thus Dido's great-uncle. She was brought up as a free young gentlewoman at Kenwood House at the same time that her great-uncle, in his capacity as Lord Chief Justice, was called on to rule on cases affecting the legitimacy of the slave trade, most notably the Zong Case.

Presenting a private screening of this groundbreaking film is an effort to guarantee that New Jersey educators and community members understand the historical significance of a film like *Belle*, which is based on the life story of Dido Elizabeth Belle.

Thursday, May 15, 2014
AMC Loews Cherry Hill 24
2121 New Jersey Rt. 38
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. / Showtime begins at 7:00 p.m.
LIMITED SEATING -- YOU MUST RSVP TO:
<http://education.state.nj.us/events/details.php?recid=20857>

Another private showing is being scheduled for North Jersey. The date is tentatively scheduled for May 19 or 20 at a theater to be determined.

SW/IA/sf/x://amistad/12yrsaslave/belle.doc

c: Members, State Board of Education
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