



**Critical Acclaim For
P.O.V.'s "TWELVE DISCIPLES OF NELSON MANDELA"**

By Thomas Allen Harris

"A fascinating glimpse not just of the early campaigns of the African National Congress, but also of the way childhood memories can obscure larger truths. Making copious use of rare archival film and photographs, Mr. Harris traces [his father's] awe-inspiring journey."

Jeannette Catsoulis, *The New York Times*

"A history of the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa, told from the perspective of an extraordinary group of high school friends who left the country . . . to help build the ANC. . . . The entire movement, at one point or another, seemed to move through [Harris'] apartment in the Bronx."

Neal Conan, "Talk of the Nation," NPR

"Intensely personal yet historically expansive. . . . As if that weren't enough, the humane, aesthetically assured *Twelve Disciples of Nelson Mandela* all but rescues the early anti-apartheid movement from death by deification. . . . A complex, rousing portrait of a political movement."

Mark Holcomb, *Time Out New York*

"For filmmaker Thomas Allen Harris, this is a personal documentary."

David Bianculli, *New York Daily News*

"An important documentary."

Anita Gates, *The New York Times*

"Twelve Disciples of Nelson Mandela is Harris' deeply personal exploration of the life of Benjamin Pule 'Lee' Leinang, the South African stepfather who raised him, and who along with 11 other exiles, kept the nascent anti-apartheid resistance movement alive."

Jimmie Briggs, *Amsterdam News* (New York)

"The late Leinaeng's [Harris' stepfather's] real-life exploits play like a James Bond film. Harris' trademark elegant visual style . . . is put into the service of dramatic re-creations . . . while family photos and home video become potent artifacts in the transformation of grief into celebration."

Ernest Hardy, *LA Weekly*

"Intimate and intriguing."

Joanne Weintraub, *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*

"Inspiring."

***The Tennessean* (Nashville)**

"While outsized figures like Mandela or martyrs like Stephen Biko dominate such stories, *Disciples* stands out by celebrating the rank-and-file agitators. . . . *Twelve Disciples of Nelson Mandela* conveys faith that Africa can slowly rise above its problems by taking them one disciple at a time."

Curt Holman, *Creative Loafing* (Atlanta)

"Harris crafts a compelling and poignant work using a cast that had never acted in front of a camera and improvises from scratch."

Ron Wynn, *Nashville City Paper*

“Harris’ homage to his stepfather’s life and his own African roots is quite extraordinary.”

Boun Homratsamy, Out.com

“Thomas Allen Harris’ poignant, personal bid to better understand his late stepfather.”

Scott Huver, Hollywood.com