



## Critical Acclaim For 'Homegoings'

By Christine Turner

"The morbid meets the deeply spiritual in Christine Turner's assured documentary. . . . Ms. Turner captures the intimacy of solemn, heartfelt moments, and salutes a man who honors their value."

—**Andy Webster, *The New York Times***

"A tender PBS documentary. . . . Watching [funeral director Isaiah Owens'] gentle face . . . and hearing him explain that his interest in laying the dead to rest . . . we know instinctively that his presence on earth is a gift to all who meet him, living or dead."

—**Nancy deWolf Smith, *The Wall Street Journal***

"Exquisitely tender. . . . one of those rare opportunities to go toward the thing we fear most—death—and realize how much joy and comfort there is in it, when handled with grace and care. Thoughtful and enlightening."

—**Hank Stuever, *The Washington Post***

"Isaiah Owens has devoted his life to death, and it makes for a fascinating story. 4 stars (out of 5)."

—**David Hinckley, *New York Daily News***

"Isaiah Owens calls African-American funerals a 'sad, good time,' occasions where people cry about losing the deceased and sing with joy that their loved one has 'gone home' to be with God."

—**Barbranda Lumpkins Walls, *AARP Bulletin***

"Cleanse your TV karma . . . by turning to PBS for POV, the network's great series of independent films from documentarians who might not otherwise make it onto the service. . . . *Homegoings* is a look at funerals and undertakers in the African-American community."

—**Robert Bianco, *USA Today***

"There were time I laughed out loud and giggled, then there were times I was teary-eyed. . . . Very moving."

—**Anne-Marie Green, host, CBS News "Up To the Minute"**

"A lyrical, life-affirming film on the African-American way of death."

—**Robert Lloyd, *Los Angeles Times***

"*Homegoings* brings to life the beauty and grace of African-American funerals."

—**The Chicago Tribune**

"Rousing and revealing."

—**Jennifer Merin, *About.com***

"A poetically crafted exploration . . . poignant, inspirational and unexpectedly uplifting."

—**Lauren Wissot, *Filmmaker Magazine***

“When you watch *Homegoings* and hear Isaiah Owens the mortician describe death and funerals, suddenly you're not afraid to die any more. . . . When his name is mentioned even before the film starts [at the Apollo Theater], there's thunderous applause.”

—**Milton Allimadi, *Black Star News***

“The rich, traditional and unique world of African-American funerals is brought to life by prominent New York City funeral director Isaiah Owens.”

—***New Haven Register***

“A fascinating look at a Harlem undertaker and African-American funeral traditions.”

—**Basil Tsiokos, *What (Not) to Doc***

“A lovely documentary. . . . ‘I’ve been called to do this work by a higher power,’ Isaiah feels certain. . . . It’s this sense of justice and continuity that *Homegoings* makes especially vibrant.”

—**Cynthia Fuchs, *PopMatters.com***

“Filmmaker Christine Turner combines intimate interviews and compelling cinéma vérité to paint an enlightening portrait—that is both heartwarming and haunting—of not only the dearly departed, but also the man who serves them so well.”

—**Wilson Morales, *BlackFilm.com***

“The beauty and grace of African-American funerals are miraculously brought to life in *Homegoings*, honoring a rich palette of tradition, history and celebration.”

—**Kates-Boylston Publications, *South Carolina***

“Turner has managed to make these simple stories of death and mourning ring out with so much life. . . . Owens’ insight is simple, straightforward and oddly comforting.”

—**MySendoff.com**

“*Homegoings* is a moving portrait of a man and a people—and of the faith, hope and history that sustain them in the face of death.”

—***Chatham Southeast Citizen***