

Kimberly Steward up for Oscar gold with â??Manchesterâ??

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

By Kenya Vaughn

When Kimberly Steward was at home in St. Louis, Missouri making media rounds for the film â??Manchester by the Seaâ?• just ahead of its nationwide theatrical release this past October, she didnâ??t want to entertain the Oscar buzz surrounding the film.

The idea of it seemed too farfetched â?? too much of a fairytale ending for the first-time feature film producer.

â??If anything happens with any kind of awards, I will definitely be giving Oprah a shout out,â?• Steward said.

â??Manchester by the Seaâ?• was nominated for a Best Picture Academy Award making Steward the second African American woman producer to have a film in the running for the most coveted award of the film season. Oprah Winfrey is the other.

â??What she has done as a filmmaker and a producer has opened doors for me and so many others,â?• Steward said of Winfrey. â??If that actually happens, I will actually bow and curtsey to her because she paved the way.â?•

â??This is exciting and surreal,â?• Steward told The Huffington Postâ??s Zahara Hill. â??Iâ??m just beyond belief.â?•

With a diverse mix of nominees both in front of and behind the scenes, Steward has the chance to strike Oscar gold with her debut as producer/financier thanks to â??Manchester.â?•

â??As an African American woman, itâ??s important to have that representation off screen too,â?• Steward said of her role in bringing the film to mass audiences.

Steward and her K. Period Media (which she operates with producing partner Lauren Beck) put forth the necessary financing for the Kenneth Lonegran feature to see the light of day.

â??We had nobody except K Period,â?• Matt Damon said during a â??Produced Byâ?• panel. A fellow producer along with Steward, the concept of the film was Damonâ??s idea â?? and he was originally set to star in the drama. Scheduling conflicts meant that Casey Affleck would assume the role of Lee Chandler, a reclusive New England janitor forced to confront his painful past and mend broken familial ties.

The film â?? and Affleckâ??s performance in particular â?? was praised by critics from its premiere at Sundance last winter.

While at Sundance, Amazon paid $10 million for the filmâ??s distribution rights. Manchesterâ?• was believed to be a shoe-in for several honors for the next awards season.

First came the Golden Globes â?? where â??Manchesterâ?• earned a total of five nominations. Casey Affleck took home â??Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture â?? Drama.â?• Steward was the first person Affleck reached out to embrace when his name was announced at last monthâ??s ceremony.

Hats off to Kimberly Steward.

(Source: St. Louis American)

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1. #Sundance

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hollywoodglee