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As seen on *Yahoo! Finance*, May 25, 2005.



Ebony Tay Feels the Musical Love in 'Hate Crime'

Canadian Singer, Songwriter and Film Composer Blends Classical and World Beat Influences in Riveting Score to Controversial, Award Winning Indie Film by Tommy Stovall

LOS ANGELES--May 25, 2005-- Composing music several years ago for a short film about domestic violence in conjunction with the premiere of the Clint Eastwood film "Absolute Power," Canadian singer/songwriter Ebony Tay, then an upstart in the world of film composing -- received a life-changing piece of advice from the legendary actor/director: "Never work on anything you're not passionate about." Taking those words to heart just a few years later, Tay draws on some deep-seated personal life experiences to create a masterful, eclectic score for director Tommy Stovall's controversial new indie film "Hate Crime" (www.hatecrimemovie.com) -- which was recently named Best Feature at the 2005 Sedona International Film Festival.

In addition to composing the score to "Hate Crime," which features a soul-stirring blend of classical, African tribal music and religious choir influences, Tay also wrote the powerful and sweeping, gospel-flavored end credits theme "Jesus Was Crucified By A 45," featuring the Children of the World choir and some lyrics penned by Stovall himself. A DJ-driven Dance Club campaign is also in the works including having the track remixed by one of the biggest names in Dance culture.

Tay met Stovall through her good friend, actor and fellow Canadian Chad Donella ("Final Destination," "Shattered Glass" with Peter Sarsgaard), who had already been cast in "Hate Crime" as the troubled antagonist character Chris Boyd. The concept of the film, centered around prejudice and hostility towards gay people, struck an immediate chord. Several years earlier, Tay experienced the loss of a close relative after he was shunned by his prominent family upon disclosing his sexual orientation, which then led to his death; he had also previously been the victim of a violent hate crime.

Tay is currently mixing her indie album debut "Stories of the Firehorse," which is set for release June 15. An eclectic acoustic storytelling project spotlighting her brilliant songwriting and performing, the collection features top session musicians James Gadson (Otis Redding, Beck, Paul McCartney), Lenny Castro, John Pena, Matt Lawg (Alanis Morissette), Jeremy Rumonoz (who wrote "I Try" with Macy Gray) and Jamie Mulheulbrac (Seal).

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