



Help

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group, so I don't think I need to see the movie."

VD: First of all, film is a different medium. These characters actually come to life in the movie, and you get to feel them in a completely different way which is palpable. Plus, with a movie, you're able to share the experience with an audience. And [director] Tate Taylor did a great adaptation of the book. Because he's friends with [the book's author] Kathryn Stockett, he felt a great responsibility to stay true to the story, so he fought hard for everything that you see on the screen. Therefore, I'm urging people who might have read the novel to see the movie for the unique experience the film has to offer.

KW: My wife, Susan Doran, would like to hear your reaction to this quote from the postscript to the book: "There's no trickier subject for a writer from the South than that of affection between a black person and a white one in the unequal world of segregation. For the dishonesty upon which a society is founded makes every emotion suspect, makes it impossible to know whether what flowed between two people was honest feeling or pity or pragmatism."

VD: I think that is precisely what the movie is about. And I think that the reason why the book has been so successful is their unlikely friendship, because they're coming from two different worlds. They're coming from a place where they cannot trust each other, because of what each represents in terms of what the culture has dictated that

we should believe about each other. Then, all of a sudden, this idea of a book is put in the midst of all of that mistrust, and the requirement of our having to work together to finish the book literally forces us to have some sort of relationship with each other. I think that's why it works.

KW: Susan would also like to hear your reaction to Kathryn Stockett's recently saying she's proud of the South.

VD: I can't speak for the author, but I would guess that she feels proud of the progress the South has made because, growing up, she experienced a very different Mississippi than the one that exists today.

KW: Director/Professor Hisani Dubose says: I fell in love with your acting abilities ever since I saw you in Antwone Fisher. What type of roles are you currently looking for?

VD: Complicated women who are filled with contradictions.

KW: Larry Greenberg says: You are one of the few actresses to enjoy success in theater, film, and television. Do you view these as a continuum or as three distinct forms?

VD: Probably as a continuum.

KW: Rudy Lewis asks: What was it like working opposite Denzel Washington in the staging of August Wilson's Fences?

VD: It was a wonderful, beautiful experience working with the consummate professional.

REAL Prep

A small group of parents, students and educators gathered outside R.E.A.L. Prep Charter High School Friday Sept. 9 to express their disappointment that the school would not open as planned because of financial problems.



KW: Is there any question no one ever asks you, that you wish someone would?

VD: No, I think people ask me just about everything.

KW: The Ling-Ju Yen question: What is your earliest childhood memory?

VD: Meeting my 9 year-old sister for the first time when she came to live with us when I was 5.

KW: When you look in the mirror, what do you see?

VD: In one sentence? Gosh! I see a wise, confident yet insecure and ultimately proud, African-American woman?

KW: The Tavis Smiley question: How do you want to be remembered?

VD: Oh my God! I would love to be remembered as a person who used her life to inspire others in any way, shape or form.

KW: Thanks again for the time, Viola, and best of luck with all your endeavors.

VD: Thank you very much, Kam

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