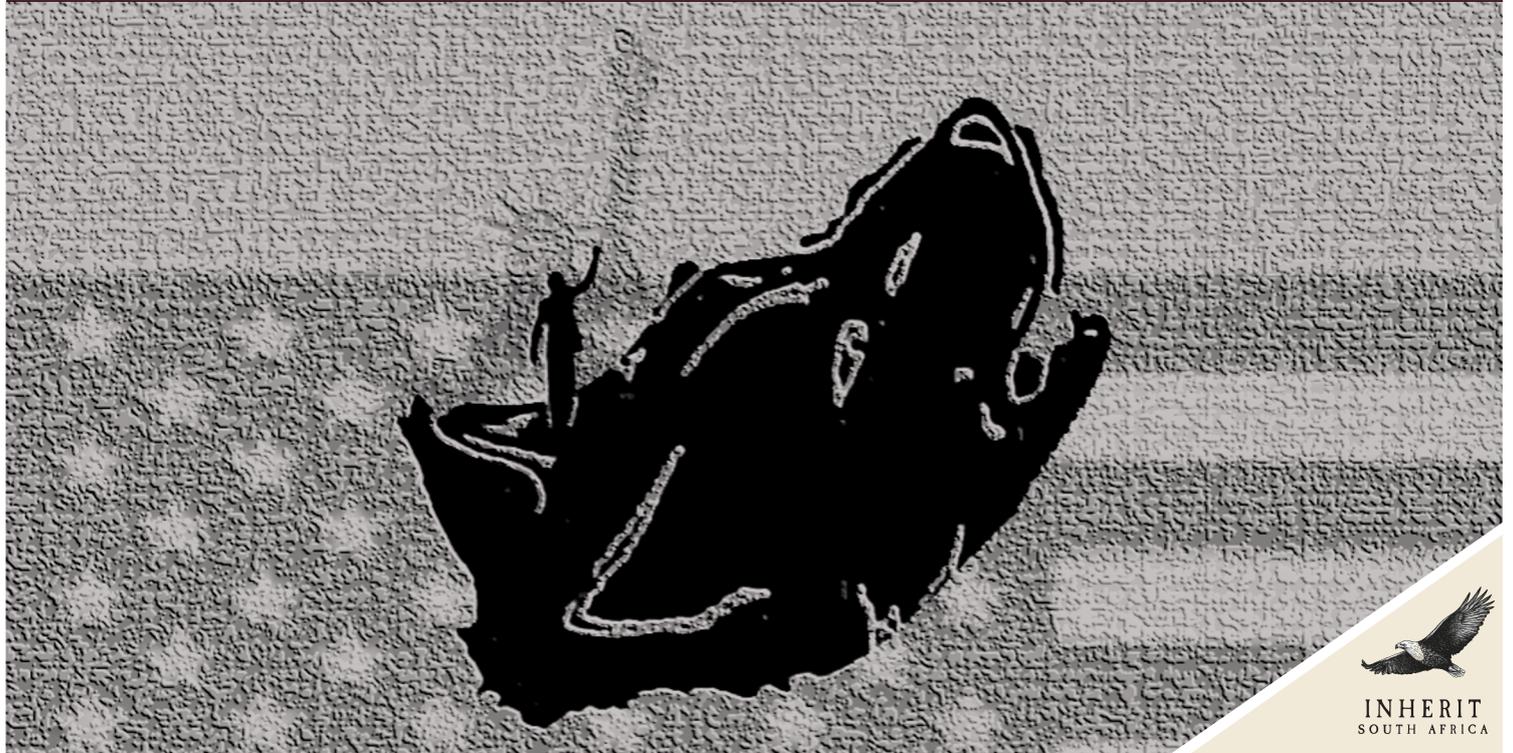


# WOLF BY THE EAR

A STORY OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THE UNITED STATES



INHERIT  
SOUTH AFRICA



## DETAILS

LENGTH:	90 MINS
PG:	15
INTERVAL:	OPTIONAL
IMAGES:	YES
SOUND:	YES
Q&A:	OPTIONAL

## SYNOPSIS

This is the story of two very different lands. They are 8,000 miles apart, with different peoples, sports, cultures and traditions. South Africa and the United States.

And yet, the basis for WOLF BY THE EAR is my considered belief that people of the United States are uniquely positioned to grasp the complexities of the South African story. For several of our core dynamics are shared – some to an almost uncanny extent.

Firstly, our histories are both alive. They are young and passionate. Diverse peoples from distant worlds reunited following Europe's expansion into the Atlantic. Our stories play out over vast tracts of land, which provided freedom and diluted the throttling class structures of European society.

Then came opportunity. Extraordinary pockets of it, and often with global implications. Cotton, diamonds, gold, and oil.

It all made for a potent recipe. A combination of freedom and opportunity, which would serve to unleash on our

peoples, the rawest characteristics of the human spirit: stories of violence and compromise; of prejudice and discrimination.

As Antony Thomas observes: the difference between good and evil, is opportunity.

By implication (and despite all our apparent differences) the stories which forged the national identities, of South Africa and the United States, are far too human to be unique.

Indeed, in this story you'll discover a port at the southern tip of Africa, named Kaapstad by the Dutch and then Cape Town by the British, just as Manhattan was named Nieuwe Amsterdam and then New York by the same peoples.

In our discovery of diamonds and gold, you will find yourself pinching the seeds of tobacco and cotton.

In our scramble for scarce labour, you will peer into a mirror reflecting your own stories of slavery and segregation.

Calling out from South Africa's wars for

freedom from an oppressive colonial power, you'll hear the battle cries at Lexington and Concord.

And in the mighty struggle of a people seeking racial justice, you'll hear the whisper of Jefferson's observing that all men are created equal.

In Shaka and Paul Kruger, in Rhodes and Mandela and you will discover elements of Lincoln and Sitting Bull; of Roosevelt, Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King.

This story aims to take American audiences beyond a lecture on South African history.

It offers instead an emotional attachment to the people of South Africa. An opportunity to forge a bond with a land so complex, very few people truly connect.

I believe you can.

And in the process, you may just discover some perspective on your own country, just as the remarkable story of the United States helped me to untangle the complexities of South Africa's past.

This is WOLF BY THE EAR.