

Barack Obama First-Date Movie 'Southside With You' Near Deal With Miramax, Roadside Attractions



EXCLUSIVE: [Southside With You](#), the film that chronicles the first date between future U.S. President [Barack Obama](#) and future First Lady Michelle LaVaughn Robinson, is near closing with Miramax and [Roadside Attractions](#) in a North American rights deal around \$2 million. They are finishing the deal in Berlin tonight, sources tell me. There is also a mid-seven-figure P&A and a substantial screen count that promises a wide release for one of the most popular films to premiere at Sundance, and this makes it one of the bigger deals from that festival.

The hope is to release in the summer, and the expectation is that it will have strong appeal with African-American and art house audiences. Stuart Ford's IM Global is finalizing the deal with WME Global. IM Global financed the film and will sell international rights this week at Berlin, where it screened for offshore buyers today. Miramax and Roadside teamed on the Ian McKellen starrer *Mr Holmes*, a prestige film hit that grossed nearly \$18 million in the U.S.

SOUTHSIDE WITH YOU -Scripted and directed by Richard Tanne, the film stars Tika Sumpter, Parker Sawyers and Vanessa Bell Calloway. It covers one day in the summer of 1989 — way before the stress of two historic White House terms turned his hair gray — when Obama wooed the future First Lady on a whirlwind date across Chicago's South Side. He famously arrived to pick her up in a beat-up old car with a hole in the floor, and their date — though she reminded him the entire day that it was not a date — included them watching Spike Lee's "Do The Right Thing". Along the way, two bright young public servants explore their differences and paths, and find a kinship.



The film has more of a [coming-of-age romantic vibe](#) than anything polemic, which made it catnip to audiences. The film was produced by Robert Teitel, Sumpter, Tanne, and the executive producers are Stuart Ford, Matt Jackson, Glendon Palmer, John Legend, Mike Jackson, Carrie Holt De Lama, Tracey Bing. Legend also produced and sings the end title song "Start."