



Contact: Jeannie Conner
info@squawvalleyinstitute.org
530.581.4138

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Images available upon request

Test-Screen of Locally-Produced Feature Movie Offered at Squaw Valley Institute Event

'Dam California' features local director, writer, producers and cast members

Olympic Valley, Calif. – Who hasn't wanted to play the roll of film critic? Well, thanks to [Squaw Valley Institute's](http://www.squawvalleyinstitute.org) upcoming test-screening at Resort at Squaw Creek of "[Dam California](#)" on Wednesday, November 30 at 7:00 PM, you'll have your opportunity. In fact, your feedback will be solicited and, perhaps, have an impact on the final cut of this feature-length that was created and produced by a team of talented Tahoe-based filmmakers.

The film itself, which has been filmed in locations from Reno to Lake Tahoe to Paso Robles, California, chronicles the fictional story of Iraqi veteran, Michael Rodriguez. Rodriguez comes home from two tours of combat duty to find his hometown on the brink of self-destruction. A corrupt politician has sold out his small farming town to an evil corporation controlling most of the county, and the state's water. The starving community is collapsing, while the corporation buys up the land of the failing farmers with plans to dam up the valley in which the town rests. Another character, Dr. Meghan Connors, played by Sarah Poynter of Truckee, plays a pivotal role in the corporate power structure's nefarious goals. While the film is a fictional account, and takes no political stance, it does address California water issues with an emphasis on the boiling battle of political, environmental, and agricultural war. Ultimately, the director and producers point out, the film is about the characters, placed in poignant, highly-charged circumstances.

While major films have been shot at Lake Tahoe, rarely has a feature length film had such abundant local ties. A young filmmaker with over 150 shorts to his name, Isaac Piche', the writer/director, grew up in the San Joaquin Valley, and has lived in North Lake Tahoe for 4 years. The executive producer, Lori Graf-Campusano has lived in Carnelian Bay/Truckee for 18 years, and Steve Mitchell, producer/cinematographer lives in Squaw Valley and has been a Lake Tahoe resident for 28 years.

"We expect the audience to view our movie and give us there honest feedback on what they thought of the movie," said executive producer, Lori Graf-Campusano.

Admission to the event is free, but space is limited. Donations to Squaw Valley Institute will be accepted. To RSVP, or for more information on this presentation, visit www.squawvalleyinstitute.org, or call 530.581.4138.

Squaw Valley Institute is a nonprofit organization dedicated to presenting programs having artistic, cultural and educational values. The Institute presents lectures, performances, forums, exhibitions and classes in the unique mountain environment of Squaw Valley, North Lake Tahoe, Truckee and surrounding communities, bringing together visitors, residents and friends in the truest sense of community.

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