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**SCREENERS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

## **KQED AND KTEH EXPLORE NATIONAL PARKS WITH LOCAL PRODUCTIONS AND EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH**

*KQED and KTEH produce two new documentaries to accompany  
Ken Burns's series The National Parks: America's Best Idea*

September 9, 2009, San Francisco, CA --- This September, local public broadcasting stations KQED (San Francisco) and KTEH (San Jose) proudly present a multimedia initiative celebrating our national parks and the premiere of the new Ken Burns series *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*. KQED and KTEH are producing two new documentaries featuring stories of Bay Area parks and the people who preserve them, from Golden Gate National Recreation Area to the oldest ranger in the country. KQED Interactive ([www.kqed.org/nationalparks](http://www.kqed.org/nationalparks)) and KQED Education Network will also participate through extensive programs, content, and outreach.

*The National Parks: America's Best Idea*, a stunning, new, 12-hour, six-part documentary series directed by Ken Burns and co-produced by Dayton Duncan, tells the story of an idea as uniquely American as the Declaration of Independence and just as radical: that the most special places in the nation should be preserved, not for royalty or the rich, but for everyone. Filmed over the course of more than six years in some of nature's most spectacular locales, the documentary is a story of people from every conceivable background who were willing to devote themselves to saving some precious portion of the land they loved. The series premieres Sunday, September 27 at noon with repeats at 4pm, 8pm, and 10pm. New episodes air each following evening at 8pm through Friday, October 2.

KQED and KTEH productions and educational outreach will supplement *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*, broadening the scope of the national series with stories that delve into the local experience. Both local documentaries and *The National Parks: America's Best Idea* will air this September and October on KQED Public Television 9HD and KTEH Public Television 54.

The local initiative will include:

### **TELEVISION DOCUMENTARIES**

*This Is Us: National Parks Special*

**Sunday, September 27 at 6pm on KTEH 54, Comcast 10**



Inspired by the Ken Burns series, *This Is Us* profiles the lives of seven South Bay citizens in this special half-hour episode, including:

- The oldest park ranger in the country, 88-year-old Betty Soskin, is a ranger at Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond.
- Ernie Pruitt is a 96-year-old rancher born in San Benito County. With his father, he helped to build Pinnacles National Monument during the Great Depression as an employee of the Civilian Conservation Corps.
- High atop the Gabilan Mountains in Pinnacles National Monument, biologists Gavin Emmons and Alacia Welch dangle from cliff tops in order to peer into remote nests of baby falcons and condors. Emmons and Welch work for the National Park Service with duties that include feeding, watching, and monitoring the California condors and prairie and paragon falcons. The condor program at Pinnacles plays a vital role in trying to save these magnificent birds.
- Dr. Masako Miura was born and raised in California and graduated from University of Southern California Medical School shortly before the attack on Pearl Harbor. Her entire family was interned at Manzanar, and she was one of the few physicians that could offer medical help to the people held behind barbed wire. Manzanar, one of ten Japanese internment camps in the United States, is now a National Historic Site.

***QUEST National Parks Special: Bringing the Parks to the People***  
**Tuesday, September 29 at 7:30pm on KQED 9HD**

“There was a vision. And there was a strategy. And then there was a commitment of a small but dedicated group of people that really believed in the green belt idea, and the power of the people to make the decisions about their own land.”

Martin Rosen, Founding Member & Director of The Trust for Public Land

*QUEST*, KQED’s local science, environment and nature series, examines one of the Bay Area’s best ideas—the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). *QUEST*’s half-hour special provides a complimentary Bay Area perspective to *The National Parks: America’s Best Idea*. In 1972, with the establishment of the GGNRA in the heart of the bustling San Francisco Bay Area, the very idea of what constitutes a national park began to change. Since then, a new urban parks movement has flourished in the United States, with the idea that preserving unique places around cities, with easy access for residents, is just as important as preserving America’s rural landscapes and remote wildernesses.

Alcatraz, Crissy Field, the Marin Headlands – these are just some of the dramatic landscapes that make up the GGNRA and bring nature into the daily lives of millions of



people in the Bay Area. *QUEST* talks to the people that struggled to preserve these urban public lands, the rise of nonprofit land trusts in protecting and restoring the Bay Area's open spaces, and how these vital places are used and maintained by the communities served by them. *QUEST* also visits ambitious wetlands restoration efforts that are modeled on the success of the GGNRA such as the East Shore State Park in Berkeley and the Yosemite Slough project at Candlestick Point State Park in San Francisco.

## **INTERACTIVE CONTENT**

“Share Your Story” – KQED is collecting stories from our community about their experiences in the national parks. People can submit their stories in written form online at [www.kqed.org/nationalparks](http://www.kqed.org/nationalparks). Users can browse through the pictures and stories about park experiences that visitors have shared with KQED.

The website will also host information on the local documentary productions, the national series, local screening events, educational resources, and related programming. Streaming of the local documentaries will be available after broadcast.

## **EDUCATION NETWORK**

### **Digital Storytelling and Community Mapping Project**

Part of a national community engagement campaign from PBS and WETA Washington, DC, KQED Education Network has created printed and online educational materials for the film for use by the PBS system nationwide. The resources will support formal and informal classroom educators with lesson plans and hands-on learning activities that can be used by a broad range of grades and disciplines. The focus of the materials will be on finding and telling the "untold" stories of local communities and the creation of student-generated digital media projects. Materials will be available at [www.pbs.org/nationalparks](http://www.pbs.org/nationalparks).

KQED Education Network conducted hands-on training sessions where educators learned how to use place-based storytelling techniques in order to conduct their own workshops for other educators and students. Approximately one hundred formal and informal educators participated in six workshops in the Bay Area, where they created collective maps that included digital stories and photos. KQED Education Network conducted workshops in Ohio, Florida, and Vermont for PBS colleagues and their partners.

KQED will also supplement the national series *The National Parks: America's Best Idea* with related programming throughout the month of September, underscoring the contributions of



Americans from a diversity of backgrounds. Premieres of these programs on KQED 9HD and KTEH 54 are detailed on the enclosed sheet.

*The National Parks: America's Best Idea* is supported locally by the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy; Institute at the Golden Gate; and The Yosemite Fund. Additional local support comes from Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund and Peninsula Open Space Trust. Special thanks also to QUEST's major funders, including the National Science Foundation; the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation; the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Foundation; and The Amgen Foundation.



***The National Parks: America's Best Idea* and National Parks local programs  
Premiere Dates on KQED 9HD and KTEH 54**

***The National Parks: America's Best Idea* on KQED 9HD**

Sunday	9/27/09	The Scripture of Nature	noon, 4pm, 8pm, 10pm
Monday	9/28/09	The Last Refuge	8pm and 10pm
Tuesday	9/29/09	The Empire of Grandeur	8pm and 10pm
Wednesday	9/30/09	Going Home	8pm and 10pm
Thursday	10/1/09	Great Nature	8pm and 10pm
Friday	10/2/09	The Morning of Creation	8pm and 10pm

***The National Parks: America's Best Idea* on KTEH 54 (Comcast 10)**

Airs weekly on Wednesdays, from 10/7/09 - 11/11/09 at 8pm

***This Is Us: National Parks Special***

Sunday, September 27 at 6pm on KTEH 54, Comcast 10

***QUEST National Parks Special: Bringing the Parks to the People***

Tuesday, September 29 at 7:30pm on KQED 9HD

**Related television broadcasts on KQED 9HD**

***Saving the Bay*** Robert Redford narrates this timely KQED production about one of America's greatest natural resources – San Francisco Bay. Thursdays, October 8 and 15, at 8pm

***American Experience: "National Conservation Corps"*** Within weeks of his inauguration, FDR proposed legislation, providing relief for one of every four unemployed Americans. The Civilian Conservation Corps provided jobs in natural resource conservation. Monday, November 2 at 9pm

***Botany of Desire*** Based on Michael Pollan's best-selling book about a plant's view of the world and how human desires are an essential, intricate part of natural history. Wednesday, October 28 at 8pm

***Forever Wild*** The glory of undeveloped wild places and the passionate tales of America's modern wilderness heroes. Friday, September 25 at 9pm

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### **About KQED**

**KQED** ([www.kqed.org](http://www.kqed.org)) is a service of Northern California Public Broadcasting, Inc. (NCPB). KQED Public Television, the nation's most-watched public television station, is the producer of local and national series such as *QUEST*; *Check, Please! Bay Area*; *Jacques Pépin: More Fast Food My Way*; and *Jean-Michel Cousteau: Ocean Adventures*. KQED's digital television channels include 9HD, Life, World, Kids and Vme, and are available 24/7 on Comcast. KQED Public Radio (88.5 FM in San Francisco and 89.3 FM in Sacramento), home of *Forum* with Michael Krasny and *The California Report*, is one of the most-listened-to public radio stations in the nation with an award-winning news and public affairs program service. KQED Education Network brings the impact of KQED to thousands of teachers, students, parents and the general public through workshops, community screenings and multimedia resources. KQED Interactive offers video and audio podcasts and live radio stream at [www.kqed.org](http://www.kqed.org), featuring unique content on one of the most-visited station sites in public broadcasting.

### **About KTEH**

KTEH Public Media ([www.kteh.org](http://www.kteh.org)) is a service of Northern California Public Broadcasting, Inc. (NCPB), broadcasting from San Jose in Silicon Valley. KTEH Public Television 54 (Comcast 10) was founded in 1964, serving its viewers with the best programming available from PBS, APT and other national distributors. Especially well known for its Mystery Night programs and popular British series and sitcoms, KTEH provides programming tailored to the needs and interests of its diverse viewing audience, while offering unique local productions such as *This Is Us*, *KTEH Cooks with Garlic*, *State of Silicon Valley*, *San Jose Mayoral Roundtable*, *video i*, its long-running weekly independent film and video series, and community-focused documentaries like *The War: Soldados*; *Dave Tatsuno*, *Movies and Memories*; and *Cadillac Desert*.