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Screeners available upon request

A Haunting Look at the Golden State in Four Acts with *California Is a Place on KQED's Truly CA*

Premieres on KQED Public Television 9 on Sunday, October 17 at 6pm

SAN FRANCISCO, September 29, 2010 – For some, the Golden State has become tarnished by crises like foreclosures, abandoned businesses, and issues on the border. But for others, especially young residents, the richness of the area still breeds opportunity. See the state of the California dream in a whole new way with four visually stunning short films from Drea Cooper and Zackary Canepari. **California Is a Place: The State in Four Acts** airs as part of KQED's documentary film series **Truly CA** Sunday, October 17 at 6pm on KQED 9.

Act One: Cannonball

Fresno was the epitome of the California Dream. Everyone wanted to own a car, a house, and a pool, and the world of credit made it all possible. But now, with foreclosures running wild, the dream is dry and thousands of pools in the back of foreclosed houses are festering in the hot Central Valley sun. For most people, this is tragic, but for some enterprising skateboarders, it's also an opportunity for escape.

Act Two: Big Vinny

He was a local celebrity who earned his nickname after doing a commercial for Round Table Pizza. And for over twenty years, Big Vinny was the voice and face of a successful used car business in Alameda. Today, everything has changed: the business is dead, the lots sit empty, and Big Vinny is out of work. But he still remembers the good times.

Act Three: Borderland

In some places, it stands 18 feet tall and looks like the gates of Mordor; in others, it looks like it was put together with a stapler. It runs from the Colorado River directly into the Pacific. It is physically confusing, politically puzzling, and ideologically complicated. But for Dick and Ron, both who live within a few miles of the California/Mexican border, defending it is a matter of protecting themselves and preserving their own beliefs.

Act Four: Scrapertown

In order to become a member of the Original Scrapper Bike Team, riders must be a resident of Oakland, CA, be at least 7 years or older, retain a 3.0 grade point average, and create their own Scrapper Bike. After ten rides, the Scrapper Bike King and his captains decide if a bike is up to standards and the rider can follow the guidelines. Only then are they considered members and honored with the Original Scrapper Bike Team Shirt. And membership offers more than camaraderie – for some, it can save their lives.

About Truly CA

Winner of five Northern California Emmy Awards, **Truly CA** is KQED's series of independent documentaries about life in the Golden State. Since 2007, select **Truly CA** films have been

presented by KQED to stations throughout California. It airs monthly on Sundays at 6pm on KQED 9. **Truly CA** is a KQED production presented in association with the **Bay Area Video Coalition** and the **San Francisco Film Society**.

About KQED Public Media

KQED Public Media (kqed.org) owns and operates public television stations KQED 9 (San Francisco/Bay Area), KTEH 54 (San Jose/Bay Area), and KQET 25 (Watsonville/Monterey); KQED Public Radio (88.5FM San Francisco and 89.3FM Sacramento), the interactive platforms kqed.org, kteh.org and [KQEDnews.org](http://kqednews.org), and Education Network. KQED Public Television, one of the nation's most-watched public television stations, is the producer of local and national series such as *QUEST*; *Check, Please! Bay Area*; *This Week in Northern California*, *Truly CA*, and *The Essential Pépin*. KQED's digital television channels include 9HD, Life, World, Kids and V-me, and are available 24/7 on Comcast. KQED Public Radio, 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 delivering more than fifteen local newscasts daily. KQED Interactive hosts KQED's cross-platform news service, KQED News, as well as offers video and audio podcasts and live radio stream at kqed.org. The Education Network brings the impact of KQED to thousands of teachers, students, parents and the general public through workshops, community screenings and multimedia resources.

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