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## **KQED'S *Truly CA* Explores a Would-be Utopia with *Commune***

Premieres on KQED Public Television 9 on Sunday, July 11 at 6pm

SAN FRANCISCO, June 15, 2010 –During the radical fervor of the 1960s and 1970s, utopian communities dotted the country, but by the 1980s, the idea of communal living was largely discarded. However, at California's influential Black Bear Ranch, free love, utopian dreams, and alternative lifestyles have been thriving for more than four decades. Experience the surprising endurance of communal living from the inside with **Commune**, airing as part of KQED's documentary film series **Truly CA** Sunday, July 11 at 6pm on KQED 9.

Premised on the idea of "Free Land for Free People," and financed by the largesse of Hollywood rock stars, the founders of Black Bear Ranch in Siskiyou County, California bought a rural, abandoned gold mine and turned it into a rough-hewn homestead. Soon the fragile bonds of human connection became frayed, especially when the group discovered that each person had a totally different idea of what utopia might look like...and that "free love" wasn't free after all.

Over the years, hundreds joined the community, and life would be complicated by growing conflicts about the role of women, child-rearing, proper communalist behavior, and the FBI. With unusual archival footage from the early days, and the candid present-day views of Black Bear members and their offspring, **Commune** is the first real insider look at communal living, and how seemingly small personal choices can create shock waves felt throughout the world.

**Commune** features actor Peter Coyote, herbalist Michael Tierra (*The Way of Herbs*), and Chinese medicine pioneers Efrem Korngold and Harriet Beinfield (*Between Heaven and Earth: A Guide to Chinese Medicine*).

### **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 Television**

KQED Public Television ([kqed.org](http://kqed.org)), a service of Northern California Public Broadcasting, Inc. (NCPB), is one of the nation's most-watched public television stations. KQED produces local weekly series in high definition, available on Comcast On Demand, including: *QUEST*; *Spark*; *Check, Please! Bay Area* and *This Week in Northern California*; and national series: *Jacques Pépin: More Fast Food My Way* and *Jean-Michel Cousteau: Ocean Adventures*. KQED's digital television channels include 9HD, Life, World, Kids, and V-me, and are available 24/7 on Comcast. Download programs for viewing and video podcasts at [kqed.org](http://kqed.org), featuring unique content on one of the most-visited station sites in public broadcasting.

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