



MEDIA ALERT

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**EXPLORE SAN FRANCISCO'S 1906 EARTHQUAKE WITH
*THE DAMNEDEST FINEST RUINS ON KQED'S TRULY CA***

Sunday, April 11 at 6pm

SAN FRANCISCO, April 5, 2010 – On April 18, 1906, a massive earthquake struck Northern California. During the next three days, the disaster went from bad to worse. Military and national guard and ‘special police’ were authorized to shoot suspected looters; dozens of their victims were innocent people. The military used dynamite in an attempt to blast fire breaks on wood frame buildings, further spreading the disaster. The official death toll of 478 was a serious undercounting of the victims – later investigations estimate the death count at four to six thousand.

Airing as part of KQED’s documentary series *Truly CA* (www.kqed.org/trulyca) and narrated by acclaimed actor Peter Coyote, *The Damnedest Finest Ruins* paints a riveting portrait of courage and chaos. Filmmaker James Dalessandro, author of the best selling novel *1906*, uses rare photos and actual film of the disaster to create a captivating story of human courage and political incompetence, underscored by the music of Italian tenor Enrico Caruso, who performed five hours before the disaster and barely made it out alive.

WHAT: *The Damnedest Finest Ruins*

WHEN: Sunday, April 11, 2010 at 6pm

WHERE: KQED Public Television 9

About *Truly CA*

Truly CA (www.kqed.org/trulyca) is KQED's series of independent documentaries about life in the Golden State. 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 San Francisco Film Society. Support for *Truly CA* is provided by the members of KQED.

About KQED Public Television

KQED Public Television (www.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 www.kqed.org, featuring unique content on one of the most-visited station sites in public broadcasting.

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