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**Truly CA explores the history of mountain biking, the life of a true political maverick, and the fate of the first hippie family**

-- Five new documentaries about life in the Golden State air this summer --  
-- Premieres Sunday, June 28 at 6pm --

June 11, 2009, San Francisco, CA --- KQED's award-winning independent documentary series **Truly CA** ([www.kqed.org/trulyca](http://www.kqed.org/trulyca)) returns this summer with an all new fifth season of films. True stories about life in the Golden State come alive in this showcase of local and national filmmakers. The season begins with **Klunkerz**, a history of mountain bikes that shows the multi-billion dollar industry and Olympic sport started with a handful of hippie cyclists in Marin. **Klunkerz** airs Sunday, June 28 at 6pm on KQED 9HD. **Truly CA** airs Sundays at 6pm this summer on KQED 9HD (one film, *Debate Team*, will begin at 5:30pm).

Viewers can explore the California stories of heroes, heartbreaks, and triumphs without paying the high cost of a summer movie ticket. This season, **Truly CA** features the people behind stories of California sports, politics, and conservation, as well as the tragic life of a promising young woman, and the eccentric world of college debate.

This season's films are:

- **Klunkerz – June 28 at 6pm**  
a film by Billy Savage  
In the late 1960s and early 1970s, a handful of hippie cyclists in Marin County literally reinvented the wheel, shaking up a 100-year-old American industry and creating a worldwide phenomenon in the process. Their obsessive tinkering with modified pre-WWII bicycles would ultimately lead to the birth of the modern mountain bike, now a multi-billion dollar industry and an Olympic sport. Using archival footage, still photographs, and interviews, *Klunkerz* tells the story of the earliest days of the sport from those who were there.
- **Pete McCloskey: Leading from the Front – July 5 at 6pm**  
a film by Robert Caughlan  
Narrated by Paul Newman, *Pete McCloskey: Leading from the Front* tells the colorful and inspirational life story of Pete McCloskey, a war veteran, lawyer, and former Republican Congressman. McCloskey has a history of challenging his fellow GOP party members, from the days of Nixon to his return to politics in 2006 to fight the corruption in Congress. His story offers an example of an authentic hero, who as an elected official follows his own moral compass regardless of the prevailing political winds.
- **This Dust of Words – July 12 at 6pm**  
a film by Bill Rose  
Thirty years after he last saw her, Stanford English Professor John Felstiner finds wonder and mystery in the life and death of a former student. Two decades after the prodigiously intelligent student left Stanford, Elizabeth Wiltsee was found sleeping in the doorway of a Central California church, apparently mute, adverse to all offers of help.

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She soon became part of the town, challenging the faith of those trying to help her while still displaying glimmers of her former self, but after telling another homeless woman she was “going home,” Wiltsee’s body was found seven months later.

- **Debate Team – July 19 at 6pm**

a film by B. Douglas Robbins

*Debate Team* explores the weird subculture of competitive college debate, a form of debate where competitors battle at 360 words per minute, carry around mountains of evidence, and end nearly every debate with nuclear war. The documentary follows teams from Michigan State, Harvard, West Georgia, and UC Berkeley as they vie for the national title at San Francisco State University. Not simply a chronicle of the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat, the film examines the nature of competition itself and the American obsession with championships and champions.

- **The Ghost Mountain Experiment – July 26 at 6pm**

a film by John McDonald

In 1930, eccentric artist and author Marshal South and his wife Tanya fled civilization in pursuit of a simple back-to-nature lifestyle. For seventeen years, they lived on a remote waterless mountaintop in the California desert and raised three children. The family survived the Great Depression and World War II, but isolation and betrayal eventually took their toll, leading to the disintegration of the marriage and the end of an experiment in primitive living.

## 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 9HD. **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 ([www.kqed.org](http://www.kqed.org)), a service of Northern California Public Broadcasting, Inc. (NCPB), is the nation's most-watched public television station. 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](http://www.kqed.org), featuring unique content on one of the most-visited station sites in public broadcasting.

## About BAVC

The **Bay Area Video Coalition** is the nation's largest noncommercial media arts center dedicated to providing access to media, education and technology. **BAVC** is a production facility, an affordable training center, a pioneer in technology-based workforce development and a critical resource for independent filmmakers.

## About San Francisco Film Society

The **San Francisco Film Society** is a nonprofit arts and education organization dedicated to

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celebrating film and the moving image in all its glorious forms. SFFS year-round programs and events are concentrated in four core areas: Celebrating Internationalism; Inspiring Bay Area Youth; Showcasing Bay Area Film Culture; and Exploring New Digital Media. The Film Society shows the best of world cinema year-round on its SFFS Screen at the Sundance Kabuki Cinemas; presents the longest-running film festival in the Americas, the SF International (April 2010); publishes a daily online magazine, SF360.org, featuring broad-ranging news and features on Bay Area film and media; annually reaches more than 7,000 students ages 6–18 with its acclaimed media literacy programs; and provides crucial support to the Bay Area filmmaking community through SFFS filmmaker services including FilmHouse Residencies, Fiscal Sponsorship, the Herbert Family Filmmaking Grants, SFFS Film Arts Forums and professional-level filmmaker classes.

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