

**TRIAL BY FIRE: Lives Re-Forged Lands Coveted Spot in DocuWeeks 2012 Showcase**

*Oklahoma native, teen race car driver Harli White, featured in Inspirational documentary:  
Theatrical runs in NYC and L.A. will qualify film for Academy Award consideration*

**TRIAL BY FIRE: Lives Re-Forged** has been chosen by the International Documentary Association's (IDA) for the prestigious **DocuWeeks 2012 Showcase**. The film was selected from among a handful of "outstanding new documentaries from around the world" for theatrical screenings this summer, which will allow it to qualify for Academy Award consideration.

**TRIAL BY FIRE: Lives Re-Forged**, celebrates the journeys of burn survivors who rise above their injuries to discover unexpected insights and a transformed worldview. The film, which features war veteran and popular celebrity, **J.R. Martinez** ("All My Children" "Dancing With the Stars") will be shown twice daily at the **IFC Center in New York City (Greenwich Village) Friday, August 3 – Thursday, August 9** and at the **Laemmle NoHo 7 Theater in Los Angeles (North Hollywood) Friday, August 10 – Thursday, August 16.**

Up and coming teen racecar driver, Harli White, (17) of Lindsay, Oklahoma, is also featured in the film and will attend the World Premiere in New York. At 12, during her very first race, Ms. White's wing sprint car crashed and burst into flames at the **I-44 Speedway in Oklahoma City**. She was pulled from the burning wreck by a fellow driver, Donnie Ray Crawford, and airlifted to **Shriners Hospital for Children** in Galveston, TX.

Ms. White made a remarkable recovery and managed to overcome her parent's strong objections to her returning to the racetrack, "I told them, if you won't let me race again, then I might as well have died in that crash. Racing is in our blood – it's what we do. It's what I love."

When **Director/Producer Megan Smith-Harris** heard about Ms. White, she knew she had to meet her. "Harli is a force of nature," says Smith-Harris, "and unlike any other young woman I have ever met. Her scars are of no consequence to her and she is a self-described 'adrenaline junkie.' Her determination to achieve her dream of being a professional race car driver is extraordinary."

Ms. White was one of three female drivers chosen to compete in the 2012 Chili Bowl in Tulsa, OK, and continues to be a rising star on the racing circuit.

In May, **Shriners Hospitals for Children**, a corporate sponsor of the film, held a private preview of TRIAL BY FIRE: Lives Re-Forged at Shriners Hospital for Children in Galveston, TX where Harli was treated for her injuries. Ms. White attended the screening with her grandmother and parents Michelle and Charlie White. The film received an enthusiastic reception and inspired a touching reunion between Ms. White and many of the doctors, nurses, and therapists who assisted in her recovery.

Ms. Smith-Harris, who had never met a burn survivor prior to undertaking the documentary, was motivated to make the film after seeing a photograph of burn survivors in a magazine. “I experienced a jolt of understanding that gave me instant empathy,” she recalls. “I realized accidents can happen to anyone at anytime. You think it’s just an ordinary day... until it isn’t.”

The film features other emotionally captivating stories – a distraught mother jumps through a window to save her son engulfed in flames, an oil refinery worker survives a major blast only to face even greater challenges, a house fire devastates a family of seven, and a high school chemistry class explosion derails the life of one of its most gifted students. Through extraordinary courage, grit, and determination, all re-forged their destinies by first imagining – and then embracing – new dreams. “These are stories that could save your life,” says Smith-Harris. “The film takes you on an emotional journey, one that doesn’t pull any punches but is ultimately, inspirational.”

TRIAL BY FIRE: Lives Re-Forged

*When you forge metal with fire, it becomes stronger.*

*It turns out the same is true of the human spirit.*

For further information, film clips or to schedule an interview with either Harli White, her parents, Michelle and Charlie White, or with Megan Smith-Harris, please contact:

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Website: <http://www.TrialByFireDoc.org>

IndieGoGo Campaign: <http://www.indiegogo.com/TrialByFireDoc>

Original Song “Hope Lies Inside”: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBkG-tbQP8>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/TrialByFireDoc>