

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**July 10, 2012**

**TRIAL BY FIRE: Lives Re-Forged - Inspirational Documentary**

**Selected for Prestigious DocuWeeks 2012 Showcase**

*Film features Fort Mill, SC high school senior, Connor McKemey and family*

**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.

War veteran and celebrity, J.R. Martinez ("All My Children," "Dancing with the Stars") is featured in the film, which follows the journeys of burn survivors who rise above their injuries to discover unexpected insights and a transformed worldview. **TRIAL BY FIRE** will be shown twice daily at the **IFC Center in New York City (Greenwich Village) Friday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> – Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup>** and at the **Laemmle NoHo 7 Theater in Los Angeles (North Hollywood) Friday, August 10<sup>th</sup> – Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup>** (Times TBA.)

**Connor McKemey**, a **Fort Mill, SC High School** senior is also prominently featured in the documentary and will be attending the World Premiere on August 3 in New York city with his family.

In 2008, Connor was burned over 90% of his body in a backyard fireplace accident and was given less than 1% chance of survival. After being treated at the **J.M. Still Burn Center in Augusta, GA**, Connor completed his rehabilitation at **Levine Children's Hospital in Charlotte, NC**. He made a miraculous recovery and today, Connor is an A student and a formidable opponent on the lacrosse field. His mother, **Karin McKemey**, who jumped through the family's living room window in an effort to save her son, was also burned in the accident. "Initially we were devastated, but we learned that burn injuries aren't the end of the world," she says, "they're just the beginning of a new one."

**Director/Producer Megan Smith-Harris** was immediately drawn to the McKemey's story because of their close-knit family dynamic. "They are an extraordinary family," says Smith-Harris, "and Connor's perseverance, optimism, and sense of purpose are inspirational."

The film features other emotionally captivating stories as well – a high school chemistry class explosion derails the life of one of its star students, an oil refinery worker survives a major blast only to face even greater challenges, a family of seven faces tragedy, and a young racecar driver makes a miraculous comeback after being pulled from her fiery wreck. Through extraordinary courage, grit, and determination, all re-forge 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."

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

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

TRIAL BY FIRE: Lives Re-Forged

For further information, film clips or to schedule an interview with the McKemey's or Megan Smith-Harris, please contact:

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

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

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