

WEST COAST PREMIERE of indie doc TRIAL BY FIRE: Lives Re-Forged
Film Chosen for Prestigious NYC and L.A. Oscar® Qualifying DocuWeeks Showcase
Inspirational Cast Members will attend Screening

TRIAL BY FIRE: Lives Re-Forged will have its West Coast Premiere at 5:20 p.m. on Friday, August 10 at the **Laemmle NoHo 7 Theater in Los Angeles (North Hollywood)** as part of the International Documentary Association's **DocuWeeks 2012 Theatrical Showcase**. The IDA chooses a handful of "outstanding new documentaries from around the world to help qualify for Academy Awards® consideration."

The film explores the journeys of burn survivors who rise above their injuries to discover unexpected insights and a transformed worldview and features U.S. veteran and actor, **J.R. Martinez** (Dancing With the Stars, All My Children). Mr. Martinez sustained serious injuries when his military vehicle ran over a roadside bomb in Iraq. "Being burned taught me so much," he says, "this is my body, these are my scars, this is my new uniform and I wear it every single day... and there's nothing I can do to take it off. I'm going to wear it as a badge of honor."

Cast members **Duane Wright**, a retired firefighter from Sacramento, CA and **Justina Page**, a burn advocate and author from Houston, TX and will also be in attendance along with Director/Producer **Megan Smith-Harris**, and Executive Producer, **Bill Harris**, both of **Pyewackitt Productions** based in Wilton, Connecticut.

Ms. Page was critically burned in a devastating house fire that destroyed her home, injured every member of her family, and claimed the life of one of her six young sons, Amos. Her personal tragedy inspired her to become a fire safety advocate and to pen the memoir, The Circle of Fire.

Mr. Wright was seriously injured while fighting a wildfire in northern California that went out of control due to high winds. Caught in a horrific firestorm while battling 100 foot flames, Wright barely escaped with his life and was left with 3rd degree burns to 40% of his body. He made a remarkable recovery but faced challenges reintegrating into society and accepting his altered appearance. Mr. Wright is now a social worker and provides peer support to other burn survivors.

The film features other emotionally captivating stories – 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, and a young race car 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 reclaiming their lives, and then their dreams.

“The film takes you on an emotional journey,” says Smith-Harris, “one that doesn’t pull any punches but is ultimately, inspirational.” Ms. Smith-Harris has developed a reputation for producing programs on provocative subjects that both challenge and enlighten viewers. She had never met anyone with a significant burn injury before starting **TRIAL BY FIRE: Lives Re-Forged**, and was motivated to make the film after seeing a photograph of burn survivors in a magazine. “As a filmmaker, you don’t always choose your subject,” says Smith-Harris, “sometimes your subject chooses you.”

TRIAL BY FIRE: Lives Re-Forged, also honors the firefighters, doctors and nurses who assist burn survivors in their recovery. The filmmakers have launched an educational and community outreach effort promoting burn awareness and fire safety, including a “Detector in Every Home” campaign with a goal to distribute free smoke detectors through fire departments across the country. “Simply put,” says Smith-Harris, “it’s a movement to help save lives and make the world a more welcoming place.”

The film will play twice daily at the Laemmle NoHo 7 Friday August 10 through Thursday, August 16. Show times can be accessed at <http://www.documentary.org/docuweeks2012%3Ff=14>

For further information, broadcast film clips - or to schedule an interview with Justina Page, Duane Wright or Megan Smith-Harris, please contact:

Bill Harris, Executive Producer

(203) 210-5295 | harris.bill@yahoo.com

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

Original Song “Hope Lies Inside”: <https://vimeo.com/42229310>

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

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/TrialByFireDocu>

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