

STOLEN PARADISE

OFFICIAL PRESS KIT

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO PRESENTS AN ADVANCED LABORATORY FOR VISUAL ANTHROPOLOGY PRODUCTION
A FILM BY JESSE DIZARD "STOLEN PARADISE" EDITED BY DAN BRUNS CINEMATOGRAPHY BY DAN BRUNS AND MATTHEW RITENOUR
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER BRIAN BRAZEAL DIRECTED BY JESSE DIZARD



PRESS CONTACT:

BRIAN BRAZEAL | DIRECTOR OF THE ADVANCED LABORATORY FOR VISUAL ANTHROPOLOGY | bcbrazeal@csuchico.edu | 530.898.4094
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO | 400 WEST FIRST STREET, CHICO, CA 95929

PRESS KIT

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ALVA | ADVANCED
LABORATORY for
VISUAL
ANTHROPOLOGY

30 MINUTES
SHORT LENGTH | DOCUMENTARY | 2018
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CONTACTS

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

DR. BRIAN BRAZEAL

TEL: (530) 898-4094 | E-MAIL: BCBRAZEAL@CSUCHICO.EDU

FILMMAKERS

DR. JESSE DIZARD

TEL: (530) 898-5583 | E-MAIL: JDIZARD@CSUCHICO.EDU

DAN BRUNS

TEL: (530) 828-6561 | E-MAIL: DDBRUNS@CSUCHICO.EDU

CSU, CHICO ANTHROPOLOGY DEPT. CHAIR

DR. GEORGIA FOX

TEL: (530) 898-6192 | E-MAIL: GFOX@CSUCHICO.EDU

MAILING ADDRESS

ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO
400 WEST FIRST STREET
CHICO, CA 95929

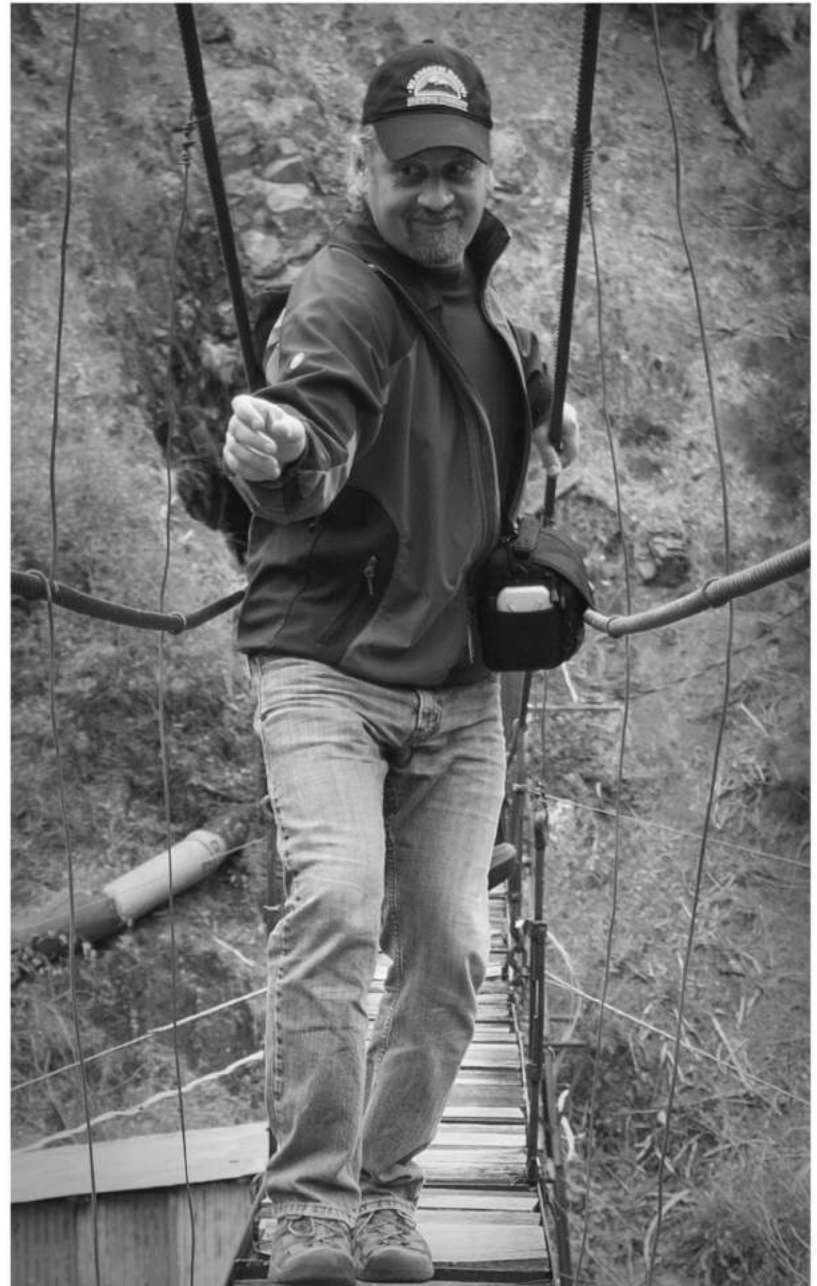
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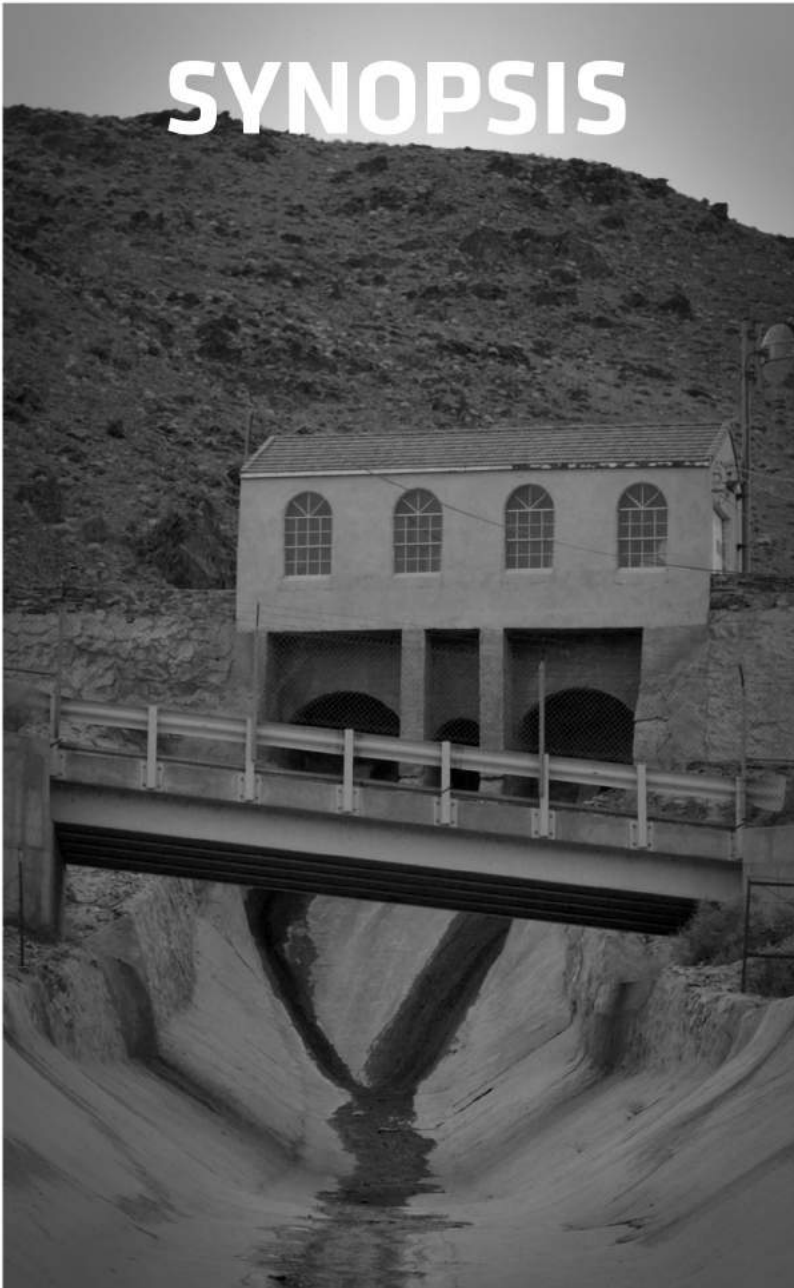
This project began while I was working on *Treading Water*, the story of groundwater in the N. Sacramento Valley. People kept referring to the Owens Valley as a tragedy that must not be repeated, and as a result I wanted to learn more about what made it loom so large in the minds of so many who live and work far from the Eastern Sierras. In my efforts to do so I had the good fortune to meet many dedicated and wonderful residents of Mono and Inyo Counties who shared their views and hopes and anxieties with me. They experience on a daily basis the reality of an entire ecosystem having been sacrificed to meet the needs of uncontrolled urban expansion hundreds of miles away in Southern California.



Jesse Dizard
Producer, Director



SYNOPSIS



“Stolen Paradise” is a cautionary tale about where California’s water comes from.

Aside from the technical details of reservoir site selection and the engineering virtuosity of dam and aqueduct construction, this film is concerned with putting contemporary circumstances into historical context and asks ‘how did we get here?’ Interviews with tribal members reveal the abiding sense of stewardship many feel is constitutive of their identity as Indian people not just ‘from’ this region, but profoundly ‘of’ it as well. Discussions with environmentalists demonstrate that beyond the passionate rhetoric, long-range priorities are essentially consistent with those of other interest groups, e.g., farmers, municipalities and even some industries dependent upon natural resources such as timber, tourism and commercial fisheries.

The stark landscape of the Eastern Sierras, Mono Lake and Owens Dry Lake illustrate the consequences of efforts in the early 20th century to move water from the Owens Valley to Los Angeles. Emphasis is on the results of 100 years of water transfers from this region averaging 5-7 inches of rain per annum, and the abiding sense of loss felt by the Paiute-Shoshone people whose ancestors first settled what is now the Owens Valley. Viewers are introduced to locals with unique insight into the grass roots impacts of decisions taken far, far away. Tribal elders speak about how reverence for the ecosystem has been replaced by market economies. Biologists share frank assessments of the economic consequences of mismanaged water resources. In short, oral histories from keen observers who are part of key transformations illustrate the relationships between people and water in rural and urban communities. They do this by focusing on recent changes wrought by settlement, dams and canals, irrigation pumps and reservoirs. These are just some of the impacts of modernization in California that have transformed the landscape as surely as earthquakes and volcanoes have transformed the region’s geology.



JESSE DIZARD
DIRECTOR

An Emmy® Award nominated Cultural Anthropologist interested in natural resource problems and the ways individuals and bureaucracies respond to them, Jesse sought conversations with those intimately involved in their communities' local and regional public policy debates over water and its future.



DAN BRUNS
EDITOR

Dan Bruns has been directing, shooting, and editing films and commercials for over 14 years. Through his job as Lab Tech for the Advanced Laboratory for Visual Anthropology and director of ALVA Studios, he has helped create several documentaries that have gone on to win multiple awards, including two regional Emmys. His films have been broadcast on PBS stations all across the United States.



FILM CREW

MATTHEW RITENOUR
CINEMATOGRAPHER

Matthew is an anthropologist and Emmy® Award director and filmmaker. He hopes to use his technical skills to help his fellow scholars find a wider audience for their research, and for others to have their voices heard.



**Q&A WITH
DIRECTOR
Jesse Dizard**

“This project aims to tell a familiar story from the unique perspective of Native Californians. Their voices offer a poignant counterpoint to those of many urban Californians who have little if any connection to the land upon which we all depend.”

Jesse Dizard

What distinguishes *Stolen Paradise* from other films about water in California? Despite the impressive amount of work that has been done on water in California, both written and in film, very little has explicitly addressed the perspective of Native Californian people. This film tries to do that.

Where was *Stolen Paradise* filmed? Alpine, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Mono, Orange, and Sierra Counties. The Los Angeles aqueduct passes through many of these counties, while views from others are evocative and illustrative of the landscape and topography associated with large-scale water transfers in California.



*...all those [dammed] rivers and reservoirs satisfy only 60 percent of the demand.
The rest of the water comes from under the ground.*

Marc Reisner, "Cadillac Desert", 1986

Total Running Time - 28:00

MPAA - Not rated

Aspect Ratio - 16x9, pixel size 4K 3840x2160p

Year - 2018

Website - <http://www.csuchico.edu/alva/projects/2018/Stolen-Paradise.shtml>

Production Company - The CSU, Chico

Advanced Laboratory for Visual Anthropology

Television Standard - NTSC

Shooting Format - R3D

Sound Format - Stereo

Framerate - 23.976fps

Subtitles - English

IN THEIR OWN WORDS



"The land, the people, the stories are all very much connected. One doesn't make sense without the other."

KATHY BANCROFT

**TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER
LONE PINE PAIUTE-SHOSHONE TRIBE**



"It's almost something that you worry about. About how much of our life is urban; the people who live in urban areas, and how distant they are from what really is the fundamental, biological, basis of life."

DAVID CARLE

**AUTHOR AND CALIFORNIA
STATE PARKS RANGER (RET.)**

IN THEIR OWN WORDS



“Science has no values what-so-ever. It’ll just tell you how much, or you know, a quantity but it won’t tell you if it’s right.”

SALLY MANNING
ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTOR
BIG PINE PAIUTE TRIBE



“Different parts of L.A., which were straight off desert, they turned it into wetlands. They had palm trees, and treated [the land] like they were in a rain forest.”

HARRY WILLIAMS
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BOARD
MEMBER, BISHOP PAIUTE TRIBE

GALLERY



FULL RESOLUTION STILL



FULL RESOLUTION STILL



FULL RESOLUTION STILLS





AN ALVA PRODUCTION 2018

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