SAVING THE SACRED
A COMMUNITY AND ITS TRIBES UNITE TO PRESERVE THEIR PAST

OFFICIAL PRESS KIT

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PRESS KIT

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28 MINUTES
SHORT LENGTH | DOCUMENTARY | 2019
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During the filming of “A Walk Through Time” in 2015, Dino Beltran and I got to know each other very well. We walked through vast parts of Anderson Marsh State Historic Park in 100 degree heat, filmed myriad interviews all across the state, and traveled to Sebastopol to record narration at a historical studio. Through this time together, I realized that Dino was a driven man. He was driven to learn his tribe’s language, to see his tribe grow economically, and most of all - to protect the Koi Pomo’s innumerable cultural sites all across the Clear Lake basin.

Though completing and distributing “A Walk Through Time” was a step in that direction, the Pomo still faced many challenges to protecting their sacred past. Undeterred, Dino and Sherry Treppa, of the Habematoolel Pomo of Upper Lake, came together to host a training course where the deputies of Lake County could learn how to properly recognize and stop cultural crimes.

Shortly after completing the course, Dino called me with some exciting news. They had just caught their first looter at Anderson Marsh. It was then that we decided to make a film about the Pomo’s successes of preventing, capturing, and convicting cultural crimes in the Clear Lake basin. “Saving the Sacred” is meant to be an inspiration for other tribes and counties who want to save their pre-historic culture while still allowing for normal county development.

Dan Bruns  
Director, Cinematographer, Editor
TAGLINE
A community and its tribes unite to save their past.

SHORT SYNOPSIS
The Clear Lake basin is home to some of the richest cultural and natural resources in all of California. Resources that are constantly threatened by looters and large-scale development. This is the story of how a community and the native Pomo who've lived there continuously for 14,000 years, came together to protect the land that they hold sacred.
DAN BRUNS
DIRECTOR

Dan Bruns has been directing, shooting, and editing films and commercials for over 12 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 and have been broadcast on PBS stations all across the United States.

DINO BELTRAN
PRODUCER

Dino is the Treasurer and Vice Chairman of the Koi Nation. He is a founding member of the Tribe and oversaw its successful federal recognition efforts. Dino also won a regional Emmy award for his work on “A Walk Through Time: The Story of Anderson Marsh.”

SHERRY TREPPA
PRODUCER

Sherry Treppa is the Chairperson for the Habematoel Tribe of Upper Lake. As Chairperson, Sherry is tasked with leading the efforts towards preserving the Tribe’s Pomo culture and inalienable right of sovereignty, while continually striving for economic self-reliance. Her work has led to a restoration of the Tribe’s land base and long-term financial stability.
"California’s AB-52, passed in 2014, makes it illegal to remove, deface, or destroy a Native American sacred site.”
California Environmental Quality Act

Total Running Time - 28 minutes
MPAA - Not rated
Aspect Ratio - 16x9, pixel size 4K 3840x2160p
Year - 2019

Television Standard - NTSC
Shooting Format - R3D
Sound Format - Stereo
Framerate - 23.976fps
Subtitles - English
Production Company - The CSU, Chico
Advanced Laboratory for Visual Anthropology
IN THEIR OWN WORDS

“I feel a great responsibility. The ancestors that have come before us have literally given their lives so that I can be here. So I think it's the least I can do to take care of them in the most respectful way possible.”

DINO BELTRAN
VICE CHAIRMAN
OF THE KOI NATION

“You don’t take artifacts or remains from the ground. It is like robbing your family’s grave.”

SHERRY TREPPA
CHAIRPERSON OF
HABEMATOLEL POMO OF UPPER LAKE
IN THEIR OWN WORDS

“So much has been taken from our people and this is all we have - and people keep taking it.”

CHRISTINA SNIDER
TRIBAL ADVISOR TO THE GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA

“And we don’t know how long this way of life will last. And people will have said, ‘well maybe we should have paid more attention to a way of life that lasted 10,000 or maybe even 20,000 years.’”

JERRY BROWN
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Advanced Laboratory for Visual Anthropology

An ALVA Production 2019

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