



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **California Film Awards to Bring in Local, International Filmmakers** *Annual award ceremony honors best in the film industry*

#### **Wampler's Ascent directed by Elizabeth Wampler wins the Grand Jury Prize Award**

(SAN DIEGO, CA) – **January 22, 2013** - More than 200 of California's and the world's best filmmakers are set to be on hand to receive recognition and awards for their filmmaking achievements on Saturday, Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the annual California Film Awards.

The event, which celebrates independent filmmakers and screenwriters, will bestow awards to American and foreign independent films in numerous categories.

“The California Film Awards has built a name for itself as one of the industry's preeminent awards events for indie film, honoring only the industry's most talented filmmakers and proudly acknowledging their work, creativity and achievements,” said James Nicholas, Festival Director of the California Film Awards.

The evening begins with a red carpet, and is followed by the Filmmakers Dinner and Awards Ceremony at the beautiful Bahia Resort Hotel in San Diego, California.

Filmmakers to be in attendance include:

Elizabeth Wampler, Director, “**Wampler's Ascent**” – Grand Jury Prize.

Steve Wampler, a man with severe form of cerebral palsy ascends the biggest rock face in the world, El Captain in Yosemite National Park. 20,000 pull-ups, 5 nights 6 days on the sheer face of the mountain and, with only the use of one limb, this is a story of terror and triumph. Steve Wampler's story is an American feel-good tale, which will leave the viewer inspired and happy.

Alex Galvin, Director, **“Eternity”** - Special Jury Prize.

Set in the near future, Eternity is about a police detective, taking part in a futuristic computer game, who must solve a seemingly impossible murder mystery in order to escape the game and save his own life. Visually stunning and epic in scope, Eternity is a low budget film that has achieved this through the incredibly hard work of all cast and crew, production companies, and the generosity of its sponsors and supporters.

Wilco de Groot, Director, **“Dance of Love”** - Special Jury Prize.

4 people from four corners of the world have their love for dancing zouk in common. They travel around, searching to find fulfillment in their lives through the dance. Each of them has a different background and a different goal, but during their travels their lives get mixed. Eventually they all find what they have been looking for.

John Morton, Writer, **“35 South”** – Best Screenplay

An Austin-based family man (speechwriter by day. comic by night) is recorded cheating on his wife with a young woman during a business trip to Dallas. The woman is able to steal the evidence from the would-be blackmailer, and the pair decides to head south together on I 35, not realizing the blackmailer is hot on their heels.

Franz Erian, Director, **“Life Without”** - Best Student Feature

Life Without is the story of one mans mental physical and emotional struggles to keep his fiancée on life support. This story spans four years of Jake Evan's life starting with the moment he hears, over the phone, his fiancée get into a car accident and ending with the must see climactic conflict between Jake's will to keep his fiancée alive and the hospital's desire to fill her bed with a paying Patient.

Bari Hyman, Best Supporting Actress, **“Damaged Goods”** directed by Franz Erian

Damaged Goods tells the story of Rich, a selfish and outspoken 35 year-old who entertains children as a dancing gorilla. While bringing joy to others, Rich must cope with his own personal tragedies – having been dumped by his long time girlfriend and harassed by his intrusively aggressive mother. Now Rich must re-enter the dating scene and re-evaluate himself in hopes of finding true love...all while struggling to overcome a rare sexual injury.

Tobin Halsey, Director, **“Small Market, Big Heart”** – Best Family Film

Small Market, Big Heart is a feature-length documentary that shares the compelling 26 year story of the people of Sacramento and their battle to get and keep a professional sports franchise, the Sacramento Kings. The story has many heroes, but one common theme: a community with a huge heart. It is an emotional journey that appeals to sports fans and non-sports fans alike because it shows the power of community and how ordinary people can come together to do extraordinary things through the platform of social media.

**Please visit our website for a complete list of this year's winners:**

<http://www.calfilmawards.com>

**About the California Film Awards:**

Based in one of America's most picturesque beach communities, the California Film Awards recognizes and celebrates important world cinema that represents the forefront of aesthetic, critical and entertainment standards in contemporary independent filmmaking and screenwriting. The California Film Awards honors new and cutting-edge American and foreign independent films in several competition categories. Partnering with notable film industry companies, film educators, directors, producers, and writers, the California Film Awards provides a forum for talented filmmakers to be recognized for their work, creativity, and achievements.

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