

California State of Mind: The Legacy of Pat Brown

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California State of Mind: The Legacy of Pat Brown

Synopsis

Short

During the most turbulent decade of our time, Governor Pat Brown brought California together to create a Superstate. Told from his granddaughter's perspective, a dynamic American dream story unfolds in this unique portrait of 'the Godfather of Modern California.'

Medium

In the turbulent 1960's, an ordinary man rose to face extraordinary challenges. Pat Brown's granddaughter and award-winning Director, Sascha Rice, gives an inside look into political power and a family dynasty called by some "the West Coast Kennedys." This premiere account of former Governor Pat Brown's life takes on startling new significance now that his son, Jerry Brown is Governor of California - again. An exciting tale of the West comes into focus as the filmmaker wrestles with the inherited optimism of her grandfather's legacy. The documentary gracefully pivots from a tumultuous decade in American history to the contemporary challenges that California faces today. This dynamic American Dream story follows the journey of a man overcoming seemingly insurmountable obstacles to shape the future of modern California.

Long

In the turbulent 1960's, an ordinary man rose to face extraordinary challenges. In *California State of Mind: The Legacy of Pat Brown* the premiere account of former Governor Pat Brown's life, his granddaughter and award-winning Director, Sascha Rice, gives an inside look into political power and into a family dynasty called by some "the West Coast Kennedys."

California has long been a symbol of the American Dream and in this dynamic new documentary an exciting tale of the West comes into focus as the filmmaker wrestles with the inherited optimism of her grandfather's legacy. Seven years in the making, the documentary takes on startling significance now that his son, Jerry Brown is Governor of California - again.

The film resonates on a national level as Pat Brown, called by Tom Brokaw the "Godfather of modern California," successfully tackles the same issues that elected officials struggle with today: education, transportation, growth, and water. The documentary gracefully pivots from a tumultuous decade in American history to the contemporary challenges of today. *California State of Mind* is much more than an examination of the past; it is a potential template for our nation to think about the pressing social problems with Pat Brown's special brand of can-do optimism, a quality that is sorely missing from today's political

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landscape.

By viewing this great historical figure through his granddaughter's eyes and with her unique graphic style and personal point of view, a compelling and entertaining biography powerfully launches Pat Brown's story into the 21st century. Director Sascha Rice deftly uses home movies, stunning archival footage, and revealing interviews with such notable speakers as Journalist Tom Brokaw, Former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, and the late former Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

The film had a great film festival run with numerous screenings including the prestigious Palm Springs Int'l Film Festival and the film jumped the Rockies--first with a sold out show in Sun Valley, Idaho, then a smashing success at the New York Doc Fest at the Paley Center, and the documentary will continue travel around the country as *California State of Mind* was selected to show at **The National Archives in Washington DC** in March.

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Crew Bios

Sascha Rice – Director/Writer/Producer

Director and co-writer of the romantic comedy *Mango Kiss*, which screened internationally at over 80 venues, Sascha Rice has received numerous awards including Park City Film & Music Festival's "Director's Choice Award: Gold Medal for Excellence."

Hilary Armstrong – Executive Producer/Producer

President of Fire of Life Films since 2006 and Development Director for "My California Now," Hilary Armstrong was appointed to the California Film Commission in 2010 by Governor Schwarzenegger. Ms. Armstrong serves on the board of trustees of The California Museum, which curates the California Hall of Fame awards, and was a founding board member of Cow Hollow Preschool in San Francisco.

Julia Mintz – Producer

Julia Mintz has produced and post produced programs for PBS, Discovery Channel, NASA, National Geographic, ThinkFilm, and Miramax. Mintz's recent acclaimed documentary projects include *Soundtrack for a Revolution*, which premiered at Cannes and the Tribeca Film Festival. The film was nominated for Writers Guild, Producers Guild, and International Documentary Association Awards, and was short-listed for an Academy Award® for Best Documentary Feature 2009. Feature documentary *Nanking*, which was short-listed for an Academy Award®, won Peabody and Emmy® Awards, and won the Editorial Award at its national premiere at Sundance. Also Emmy® Award nominee *The Life and Times of Frida Kahlo*. Mintz's feature documentary about the Jewish Partisans of World War II is currently in production.

Laura Nix – Writer

Writer Laura Nix recently produced festival hit *The Yes Men Fix the World*. Previously, she directed and produced numerous non-fiction presentations at Automat Pictures, which she co-founded. Her award-winning narrative feature *The Politics of Fur* played at 65 film festivals internationally. Her work has been shown on HBO, IFC, and the History Channel.

Lauren Giordano – Editor

Lauren Giordano was Senior Editor at Imaginary Forces and Prologue Films, and has edited shows at Fox, Universal, Paramount and Disney. Film work includes

NewPort South, Titus, and Mango Kiss. Lauren worked on the Reality-TV show, "Bands on the Run," which was nominated for an Emmy® for best editing.

Doug Blush - Editor

Doug Blush has worked in documentaries as a director, producer, editor, writer and cinematographer. Feature credits include the crossword-culture hit *Wordplay*, the Academy Award® shortlisted *I.O.U.S.A.*, and *Outrage*, about hypocritical closeted politicians. He is currently co-directing a documentary feature on new understandings of bipolar disorder entitled *Of Two Minds* with his wife Lisa.

Claire Chandler - Editor

Claire Chandler's feature documentary credits include the festival hit *The Yes Men Fix the World*, *The Light in Her Eyes* (in production,) and *Long Way Home: The Loving Story*. She was Associate Producer and Assistant Editor on BBC World's *Egypt: We are Watching You*, which aired in 180 countries, and served as Associate Producer of Content for the Pangea Day Film Festival.

Kim Carroll - Composer

Irish-born Kim Carroll was awarded a Sundance fellowship in 2009 and his credits include the thriller *The Colony* (Gold Medal at the Park City Music Festival), the popular web series "Hellholes," the 2009 Sundance feature *The Horse Boy*, and the crime drama *Across the Line* (starring Andy Garcia, Aidan Quinn, Gina Gershon). He currently lives and works in beautiful Topanga Canyon, California.

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Press & Quotes about the Film

Selected as one of **The Top10 Films** from the Newport Beach Film Fest

-Newport Beach Patch

“Rice’s use of archival footage has been integrated with immense skill, conveying the feeling at times that Rice is communicating with the governor directly.... The editing also deserves singling out for its masterful specificity.”

- Elliot Kotek, Moving Pictures Network

“There's an oft-repeated theme that the era, not the man, produced Brown's achievements. California still was in a postwar boom. Environmental protection wasn't on the radar. The population was half the current size. Land was cheap. Nonsense. To get anything done in government – then or today – requires a leader. Pat Brown filled the bill. For a California political junkie, it's **four stars.**”

- George Skelton - LA Times

“The story is told by his granddaughter and filmmaker Sascha Rice. Her intimate and thought-provoking documentary was both educational and fascinating to watch.”

- Tiffany Carter, Newport Beach Patch

“Pat Brown’s legacy: a fine documentary. In a time when the smart money has written off the state, an excellent and timely documentary, “California State of Mind – the Legacy of Pat Brown,” recalls the prosperous past and gives us a bit of hope for the problems confronting the late governor’s son, Jerry Brown.”

- Bill Boyarsky, LA Observed

“It is a daunting task indeed to try and encapsulate the life and career of somebody like Edmund G. “Pat” Brown, who served two terms as Governor of California from 1959 to 1967. Then as now, California was a bell-weather state, and Brown’s time in office was marked by an explosion in the state’s population, a massive aqueduct public works project, a revolutionary education master plan enabling thousands of students the chance to go to college, and changing dynamics within civil rights and social movements. For filmmaker Sascha Rice, the documentary meant that not only would she be making a film about one of the most influential people in California’s political history, but she would also be telling the life story of her grandfather. As his story unfolds, Rice – and the audience – gains a deeper understanding of the complexities of being Pat Brown, and what it means to a family that is often referred to as the West Coast Kennedys.”

- C.J. Perry, FilmSlate

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"There were the Kennedys and the Bushs but also the Browns. The documentary, *California State of Mind*, takes a unique plunge into to the heart of this west coast political dynasty. Rice... puts in perspective California in the 50s and 60s then in the full on process of change, and the California of today hit head on by the financial crisis." - Oriane Flechaire, *Le Ben Franklin Post* (France USA media)

"The Pat Brown story is an American dream story of humble beginnings with an incredible life's journey." - Sabina Dana Plasse, *Idaho Mountain Express*

"*California State of Mind – The Legacy of Pat Brown* is really terrific. It is intelligent and emotional. It reminds us all that there was a time when this country had real leaders with principles and courage."

- Tom Rosenberg, Producer of Academy Award winning *Million Dollar Baby*

"I was inspired and moved by *California State of Mind*. Everyone should see this movie as a reminder of how we must keep optimism alive in these challenging times." - Sherry Lansing, Chairman of UC Regents, former CEO of Paramount Pictures

"This is a brilliant, engaging film about a natural politician who was both a happy warrior and a great visionary. More than any other person, Pat Brown made California the Golden State in reality as well as name. The film captures that time and his courage. It moved me, made me laugh, at times tear up, and it made me remember the extraordinary years when California's greatest governor changed the state forever." -Robert Shrum, Senior Fellow NYU, Political Consultant

"While we marvel at Pat Brown's impact on California, we are reminded of how much of his great legacy is threatened today. This documentary, personal yet clear-eyed, is one that every Californian should see."

-Jessica Yu, Academy Award Winning Filmmaker

"I was deeply moved by *CALIFORNIA STATE OF MIND*. Pat Brown was a giant in California history and an inspiring figure whose positive energy is badly needed today. The film reminds us how lucky we are to live in this amazing state and how much we need leaders in the mold of Pat Brown. I think the film will reverberate with the idea that government service for the public good is a high and honorable calling. The film has re-ignited a smoldering flame of hope in me for our state, our country and our political system. I hope young people see it and begin to realize what can be achieved for the general good by a life of public service."

- Chris Vogler, Author *The Writer's Journey: Mythic Structure for Storytellers & Screenwriters*

California State of Mind: The Legacy of Pat Brown

Quotes from the Film

We must dare to dream, to do, and to build!

Gov. Pat Brown, 1960 Convention Speech

If you have the perseverance and commitment, each one of you can truly enhance the lives of other people, each of you can make a contribution, each of you can make a difference.

Gov. Pat Brown, 1988 Speech Granddaughter's Graduation

Government can't of course lift up everybody, we're can't get rid of death, sickness, hatred and worry, bigotry or any of these things that have existed. But we can provide people with the opportunity, we can equalize the opportunity.

Gov. Pat Brown Speech

My father was a very ah optimistic person when it comes to the ability of people through public institutions to create good ... he was a fair person, he didn't have any sense of bias or prejudice, he had championed civil rights...

Gov. Jerry Brown

Seeing the world through the lens of Pat Brown is very valuable. And we might learn something and might give us some ideas of how do we deal with the kind of world that we now confront.

Gov. Jerry Brown

A hundred years from now people will look back at the formation of the modern state of California and in bold print at the front of any of those chapters will be Edmund G. Pat Brown. Pat Brown was the godfather of modern California.

Tom Brokaw

Pat Brown's time as governor was a kind of a road map that lead to the issues that we're still dealing with now.

Tom Brokaw

He grew up as a boy in a time of optimism, of rebuilding San Francisco.

Kevin Starr

He knew that it was obligatory for California to lay down the foundations for the mega state that it was becoming.

Kevin Starr

In the wake of Pat's career, government became unpopular. People started to say that government was always a waste of money and if government's always a waste of money, why would we look to government to build anything? Pat would never have believed that.

Ethan Rarick

I think he would try to combat the notion that somehow government is the enemy. He would say, "make it your friend."

Warren Christopher

Without any question Pat Brown was the last great American political builder.

Karl Fleming

California State of Mind: The Legacy of Pat Brown

Director's Statement

California State of Mind - The Legacy of Pat Brown is an intimate portrait of Governor Edmund G. Brown – my grandfather. Fifty years later and at the beginning of a new century, California faces many of the same critical issues Pat Brown did when he was governor. Infrastructure is under great stress and neglected. Freeways and roads are congested and crumbling. Universities and the public school system are overcrowded and the quality deteriorating. Water and other environmental resources are shrinking as demand increases and pollution spreads. It's hard not to feel powerless in the face of such big problems.

The process of making this film has been a fantastic journey to discover how my grandfather built a 'super state' and along the way I uncover insights into politics, our family, and my role in the legacy. While the state water project is heralded as "the greatest public works project in world history," I try to understand how we can keep growing with the limits of today. My grandfather was an eternal optimist and he saw California as the pinnacle of the American Dream. It is my hope is that this great story of the West can inspire people throughout the nation.

While I wrestle with this inherited optimism, my aim is to engage people in history and to inspire particularly youth to be leaders and become involved in their communities around issues of thoughtful growth and the environment. The film is grounded in rich archival footage, a treasure trove of photographs, and never before seen home movies. I aim to launch Pat Brown's story into the 21st century with a contemporary soundtrack and unconventional storytelling. By viewing this great historical figure through my eyes and with a unique graphic style, I hope to offer a compelling and entertaining biography.

California State of Mind: The Legacy of Pat Brown

Funding

CALIFORNIA STATE OF MIND - The Legacy of Pat Brown received generous support from over 450 foundations, corporate Sponsors, and individuals internationally. We have received donations from The Annenberg Foundation, Edison International, James Irvine Foundation, PG&E, POM Wonderful, Sempra Energy, Armrod Foundation, Conrad Hilton Foundation, Zenith Insurance Company, Chevron Corporation, George Rice, The Armstrong Family Foundation, AT&T Foundation, Comcast, Dr. Prem Reddy Family Foundation, Morgan Family Fund, California Community Foundation, and the Kanbar Charitable Trust. For a complete list of funders please visit the film's website: www.patbrowndocumentary.com

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Public Television Distribution

KQED Presents and NETA are distributing the film for national public television.

About KQED

KQED (kqed.org) has served Northern California for more than 50 years and is affiliated with NPR and PBS. KQED owns and operates public television stations KQED 9 (San Francisco/Bay Area), KQED Plus (San Jose/Bay Area), and KQET 25 (Watsonville/Monterey); KQED Public Radio (88.5FM San Francisco and 89.3FM Sacramento); the interactive platforms kqed.org and KQEDnews.org; and KQED Education. KQED Public Television, one of the nation's most-watched public television stations, is the producer of local and national series such as QUEST; Check, Please! Bay Area; This Week in Northern California; Truly CA; and Essential Pépin. KQED's digital television channels include 9HD, KQED Life, KQED World, KQED Kids, and KQED V-me, and are available 24/7 on Comcast. KQED Public Radio, home of Forum with Michael Krasny and The California Report, is one of the most-listened-to public radio stations in the nation with an award-winning news and public affairs program service delivering more than eighteen local newscasts daily. KQED Interactive provides KQED's cross-platform news service, KQEDnews.org, as well as offers several popular local blogs, video and audio podcasts, and a live radio stream at kqed.org. KQED Education brings the impact of KQED to thousands of teachers, students, parents, and the general public through workshops, community screenings, and multimedia resources.

About NETA

The National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA, netaonline.org) is a professional association that serves public television and education by providing quality programming, educational resources, professional development, management support, and national representation. NETA distributes over 2,000 hours of programming each year to public television stations in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

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Contact

Fire of Life Films
2658 Griffith Park Blvd., #190
Los Angeles, CA 90039-2520

Sascha Rice
Director | Writer | Producer
sascha@sascharice.com
Tel: 310.415.5856

Hilary Armstrong
Executive Producer
hilary@patbrowndocumentary.com
Tel: 415.609.1898

www.patbrowndocumentary.com

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