

LAGFF Publicity Material for "PASSAGE INTO HISTORY"

SYNOPSIS (120 words)

"Passage into history" is a film about Ancient Nemea in Greece- the land of the mythical Hercules and the Lion. It is the story of an abandoned archeological site, forgotten Ancient Games, and Prof. Stephen Miller, the American archeologist who unveiled the past. As we discover this fascinating center of ancient Greek athletics and religion through Dr. Miller's eyes, people from all over the world are gathering for the Revived Nemean Games. They come to step into the past, hear their breathing in the Tunnel, feel the ancient earth under their bare feet, run in the Stadium, be crowned with wild celery- as did athletes over 2300 years ago. We follow their unique experience of a 'passage into history'.

LOGLINE (35 words)

2012, Ancient Nemea, Greece. An abandoned site, forgotten ancient Games, and the American archeologist who unveiled the past and made possible for us "a passage into history" through the Revival of the Nemean Games.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In 2012 we found ourselves in the valley of Nemea and very quickly realised that what has been happening there over the last 40 years is a "story" that has everything: good characters, suspense, humour, emotions, unexpected turns, a happy end, but also vision, seriousness, collaboration, hard work, and above all substance and achievements- all resulting in the uncovering of the tangible and intangible heritage of this site. We were impressed and charmed, and decided to tell the "love story" of Dr. Miller and the valley of Nemea, so that people, as many of them as possible, learn how he gave this valley 40 years of his life and the valley unlocked its secrets to him.

Q to producers: WHAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT THIS DOCUMENTARY?

A: We believe that "PASSAGE INTO HISTORY" is unique in many ways: it is the first, and only, documentary showing the modern revival of the Nemean Games, which were equal in importance in antiquity to the Olympic Games; it presents for the first time on film, the discovery, excavation and restoration of an important and attractive, yet little known, ancient Greek site; it has the authenticity of the archeologist responsible for all the above, Professor Stephen Miller, who presents his own discoveries in a very engaging way; it merges all of this into a story, told in a visually interesting way; it manages to involve the viewer and stir up emotions; it is potentially interesting for a younger public, as well as adults; it addresses a wide audience –including all those interested in history and/or archeology, and/or athletics, and/or culture, and/or travel off-the-beaten track. All in all, it is a documentary which brings history alive today, with a human interest angle, and makes excellent culture/ leisure/family viewing.