

California State of Mind: The Legacy of Pat Brown

Suggested Station Member Guide Text

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 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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