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Tonight – A World Premiere of Michael DeLeon's An American Epidemic and The San Francisco Premiere of Daniel Baldwin's The Wisdom to Know the Difference @ The REEL Recovery Film Festival – New People Cinema, San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA (June 12, 2015) – San Rafael-based Alcohol Justice and Studio City-based Writers In Treatment are pleased to announce tonight's line-up of premieres at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual REEL Recovery Film Festival & Symposium – San Francisco Bay Area.

Producer/Director **Michael DeLeon's** <u>An American Epidemic</u> will screen at 6 P.M. at the New People Cinema 1746 Post St., San Francisco, CA 94115. The new documentary presents a national perspective on drug misuse and outlines REAL solutions to solve the problem but only if there is REAL collaboration. *"This is going to take EVERYONE, Working Together, to end this crisis,"* said DeLeon.

Earlier in the day DeLeon presented a new "directors cut" of <u>Kids Are Dying</u> at the **Smith Rafael Film Center** in San Rafael. This documentary is about drug overdose and the overdose death epidemic in New Jersey which is worse than it has ever been in history. Parallels to problems in Marin County were explored in a compelling panel discussion that followed featuring **Matt Willis**, MD, MPH Marin County Public Health Officer, **Mark Dale** Founder, Families 4 Safer Schools, **Jennifer Golick** Clinical Director, Muir Wood Adolescent and Family Services, and **DeLeon**.

Tonight at 8 P.M. <u>The Wisdom to Know the Difference</u> will have its San Francisco Premiere at the New People Cinema. Written, produced, and directed by Daniel Baldwin, WISDOM is a story about one man's journey to bring his sobriety full circle and help a young girl kick a serious drug problem by kidnapping and secluding her in a desolate cabin.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual REEL Recovery Film Festival & Symposium – San Francisco Bay Area is four days of great films and discussions about substance misuse, treatment, & recovery. The event is being produced by Alcohol Justice and Writers In Treatment with generous support from the San Francisco Sheriff's Department, Duffy's Napa Valley Rehab, Center Point, Inc., West America Bank, Kaiser Permanente Community Benefits Programs - Marin/Sonoma Area, Marin County Mental Health Substance Use Services, Ghilotti Construction Company, KRON-TV, the Michael Basso Foundation, Muir Wood Adolescent and Family Services, KPOO-FM, North Bay Recovery Center, Hotel Kabuki, Book Passage Book Store, and many Bay Area individuals and families.

"In addition to reducing the stigma, and raising public awareness that addiction is not a moral failing but a devastating disease that, like other potentially fatal diseases, requires specialized treatment, the REEL Recovery Film Festival inspires and empowers people in recovery to become advocates for change," stated Michael Scippa, Director of Public Affairs for Alcohol Justice. "It's an honor and a privilege to provide a venue for creative and compelling films and discussions that help us achieve those goals."

Tickets are available exclusively through **BrownPaperTickets.com**. For more information about the festival, and to view a PSA featuring Michael Pritchard, go to: **FilmFestSFBay.org** *"The ticket price for most of the sessions is just \$10,"* stated Scippa. *"But if there are seats available we'll allow anyone admittance regardless of their ability to pay."* 

For media availability of filmmakers please contact Michael Scippa at 415 548-0492 or michaels@alcoholjustice.org



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