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American River, new documentary by Scott Morris, to Premiere at Montclair Film Festival

How does a powerful and once-celebrated river become one of the most contaminated in America? Can it be saved?

New Jersey, September 30, 2021 – *American River*, a new 86-minute documentary by Scott Morris, is slated for its World Premiere at the Montclair Film Festival on Saturday, October 23rd at 8:00pm. The film will be presented live at the newly reopened Clairidge Cinemas in Montclair followed by Q&A with the filmmaker. An additional matinee screening is scheduled for Sunday, October 24th at 2:00.*

American River is a cinematic adventure about an ambitious 4-day 80 mile kayak journey down New Jersey's Passaic River. The main character is Mary Bruno, an aquatic ecologist and writer who spent her childhood afraid of the polluted stretch of the Passaic near her home. Decades later, she returns to explore the river of her youth and tell its story. The film follows Ms. Bruno and river guide Carl Alderson as they travel from the Passaic's pristine headwaters to its toxic mouth in Newark Bay. Along the way, candid conversations with residents, experts and advocates reveal the Passaic's extraordinary history, geology and ecology – and the industrial disaster that poisoned the river for the past 60 years.

Three years in the making, *American River* was directed by seasoned filmmaker Scott Morris and based on Ms. Bruno's 2012 book, *An American River: From Paradise to Superfund*. S. Dillard Kirby is the Executive Producer. Many filmmakers from the New Jersey/New York area worked on the project including Producer Kelly Sheehan, Director of Photography Roger Grange and Consulting Editor Keith Reamer ACE. Scott's previous film is *Saving The Great Swamp: Battle to Defeat the Jetport*, narrated by Blyth Danner and currently distributed by American Public Television.

The Clairidge Cinemas are located at 486 Bloomfield Ave Montclair, NJ 07042. Tickets go on sale October 1st at <https://montclairfilm.org>. Mary Bruno and Carl Alderson will join Scott during the Q&As. To see the *American River* trailer, press kit and download images, visit <https://www.americanriver.film>.

*Per the festival: "We are requiring vaccinations and masks for all patrons, staff, volunteers and attending talent, and believe we can create a safe environment for in-person viewing.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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