

“THY WILL BE DONE” RECEIVES SECOND SCREENING by Tim Pompey - VENTURA BREEZE – DEC 2, 2009

Following the successful screening of the documentary “Thy Will Be Done” at the Ventura Film Festival in March, a second showing of the film has been scheduled at the Century 10 Theater in downtown Ventura for Thursday, December 17, 7 p.m. This showing is a fundraising event that will allow the film to continue its festival, distribution, and outreach efforts and offset some of the cost of those efforts. For more film info visit <http://venturafilmsociety.com>.

In the meantime, The Breeze caught up with director Jacob Cunningham and documentary subject Kevin Natale to discuss the film and its continued effect on both of their lives.

T: What’s the latest news regarding this film on the festival circuit?

J: Well, we have submitted to fifteen festivals now, not including the Ventura Film Festival. We’ve heard back from twelve and we’ve gotten twelve thumbs down. But we’re rolling with the punches. We were prepped for this by Lorenzo and some of the other film guys that have more experience with the film festival circuit, so it wasn’t a big blow. We were told: submit to twenty, if you get into one, be excited about it.

T: Kevin, since the film premiered last spring, what impact has it had on your life?

K: It’s been an amazing experience. I’ve only gotten the chance to talk to the people who have seen it, mainly the people in my community, and the response has been really positive. As far as my own personal life, it’s really motivated me and given me a picture of the kind of man that I want to become: a positive role model in my family, a positive role model in my community. Since the film, I’ve really realized I’m on the right track.

T: Jacob, how about you?

J: Personally, it’s been really reassuring, reaffirming. The reaction that we’ve gotten from everyone has been so much more than I was expecting when we set out to do this project. I’m just reassured I’m on the right path and doing what I’m supposed to be doing as a filmmaker. Whenever I think about the impact that it has already had on Kevin’s life, and potentially, so many other lives, it just makes it so much more than a film to me.

T: Kevin, how does it affect you emotionally to have this part of your life put up on screen for a wide public viewing?

K: To tell you the truth, I don’t shy away from letting people in. I live a very transparent life. If people are curious about my situation or things in my life, obviously I don’t expose everything to everybody, but I do and have always really thought that a really healthy lifestyle personally is to put things on the table. So, really, even before the film, I’ve never had a hard time letting people know how I felt.

T: Since this film is a fundraiser, can you give us a description of what it takes to get a film into a festival?

J: More than I thought. You need to have a website with a trailer and stills

taken around the shooting of the film. You need varying lengths of synopsis for the film. You need to have a director bio. And all of that not only needs to go on the website, it needs to be wrapped up in an electronic press kit. There also needs to be a cover letter adjusted for each festival. Then there are the entry fees, just for them to consider whether or not they want you in their festival. And some of them, even after you submit, you don't hear back. Submission costs alone range from forty to a hundred dollars per festival. It's very cost intensive and time intensive, no doubt.

T: Kevin, how has this film pushed you in new directions in your life?

K: Even before the film, I was directed in addiction counseling. I was already attending Oxnard College for their addictive disorders program. Since then, I've also transferred to Biola University with a focus on organization leadership. The degree from Biola is a managerial degree in running a nonprofit organization. It's also a Christian bible school, so it's got Christian biblical undertones, which is really close to my heart as well. With the Bachelor's program and the drug and alcohol counseling, I'll be able to combine those and hopefully open more doors. Again, through the process of the film, it was confirmation that I feel like this is where my passion lies, to help people struggling with addiction, and also having a connection with a higher power is important for people to have successful, meaningful lives.