



NEWS

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El Camino College Professor Instrumental in Award-Winning Film

El Camino College history professor Dr. Arthur Verge appears in the new documentary "Waveriders," a picturesque new surf film that is winning awards and the attention of moviegoers worldwide.

Using interviews, archive footage and photos, "Waveriders," explores the spectacular nature of big wave surfing in Ireland. The film is based in part on a short biography Verge wrote about legendary South Bay pioneering surfer George Freeth, the son of an Irishman and the world's first lifeguard.

Surfing history is brought into the film through Freeth, who went on to transform and popularize the sport in California.

"What an outstanding experience to be a part of this film, which really helped to show the connection between the roots of lifeguarding and those of surfing," said Verge, who is also a noted historian and lifeguard. "I'm especially proud that the film captures the importance of George Freeth, whose legacy continues to this day. The awards the film has won has been icing on the cake."

The film by Joel Conroy recently won the George Morrison Feature Documentary Award at 6th Annual Irish Film & Television Awards on Feb. 14. "Waveriders" also won the prestigious audience award for best film at the Dublin International Film Festival – the only honor awarded at the festival. The film had three successful screenings at the recent Santa Barbara Film Festival and is scheduled for release throughout Ireland and the United Kingdom on April 3. A release in the United States is expected at a future date.

"Conroy paints a beautiful, compelling, and oddly timeless picture of what it means to be a member of the surfing tribe," writes Ethan Stewart in a review published in the *Santa Barbara Independent*. "Even better, somewhere along the way, as monster waves roll across the screen and the connectedness of generations is revealed, a hopeful and surprisingly meaningful picture of humanity emerges."

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