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AN UNCOMMON KINDNESS: Saint Damien of Molokai Returns to the Big Screen at Newport Beach Film Festival

*Award-winning documentary
narrated by Robin Williams reintroduces audiences to a timeless story
of courage, compassion, and humanity.*

Newport Beach, Calif. - October 2025 – AN UNCOMMON KINDNESS: Saint Damien of Molokai, the award-winning documentary narrated by the late Robin Williams, returns to the big screen in a newly restored version at the Newport Beach Film Festival. The film, produced by Blue Rider Pictures, tells the extraordinary true story of Father Damien, the Belgian priest who devoted his life to caring for exiled patients with Hansen's disease (formerly leprosy) on the remote Hawaiian island of Molokai.

Originally honored with a CINE Golden Eagle Award, the film has been meticulously remastered in 4K with updated footage and historical enhancements, reawakening its message of courage and compassion for a new generation of viewers.

Robin Williams' original narration - not AI generated - was recorded following his collaboration with Blue Rider on a planned feature film about Father Damien. Williams worked tirelessly to ensure absolute accuracy in pronouncing Hawaiian names like Queen Lili'uokalani, Kalaupapa and Kamiano (the Hawaiian name for Damien). His voice performance, filled with empathy and precision, remains one of his most affecting.

The film features music by Keola Beamer, whose lyrical Hawaiian compositions lend the film both reverence and authenticity. Artists and historians from around the world - including Dietrich Varez, Richard Cook III, and Anwei Skinsnes Law - contributed to the project, along with the Kalaupapa Historical Society, the Bishop Museum, and Hawaiian residents who participated in filming, including the late Richard Marks, known worldwide for his tours of Kalaupapa.

Quotes

“Of the more than 200 films I’ve produced or financed, AN UNCOMMON KINDNESS is the one that has stayed with me the most,” said Walter Josten, producer and founder of Blue Rider Pictures. “Robin brought such authenticity and humanity to the project-it reminded us that compassion is still the highest form of courage.”

“Father Damien’s story reminds us that compassion is not a passive emotion - it’s an act of defiance. His courage challenges us to live with greater empathy, even when it’s inconvenient or uncomfortable.” - Jeff Geoffray, Producer

“This story challenges how we see dignity and disease,” added Daniel Marra, co-director and co-writer. “It’s not only about Father Damien’s faith-it’s about what we owe each other when the world looks away.”

Festival Details

Go to www.saintdamien.com.

AN UNCOMMON KINDNESS: Saint Damien of Molokai

Screenings: October 17, 20, and 23, 2025

Venue: Newport Beach Film Festival – Lido Theater & Big Newport

Tickets & Info: www.NewportBeachFilmFest.com

The film screens alongside two other Blue Rider productions – THE NEGLECTED and SATISFIED - as part of the festival’s spotlight on independent documentary storytelling.

Credits (Abbreviated)

Directors: Stephanie J. Castillo, Walter Josten, Daniel Marra

Producers: Stephanie J. Castillo, Jeff Geoffray, Walter Josten, Daniel Marra, Patricia Josten, Patrick Josten, Edwin Santiago, Philip Braun

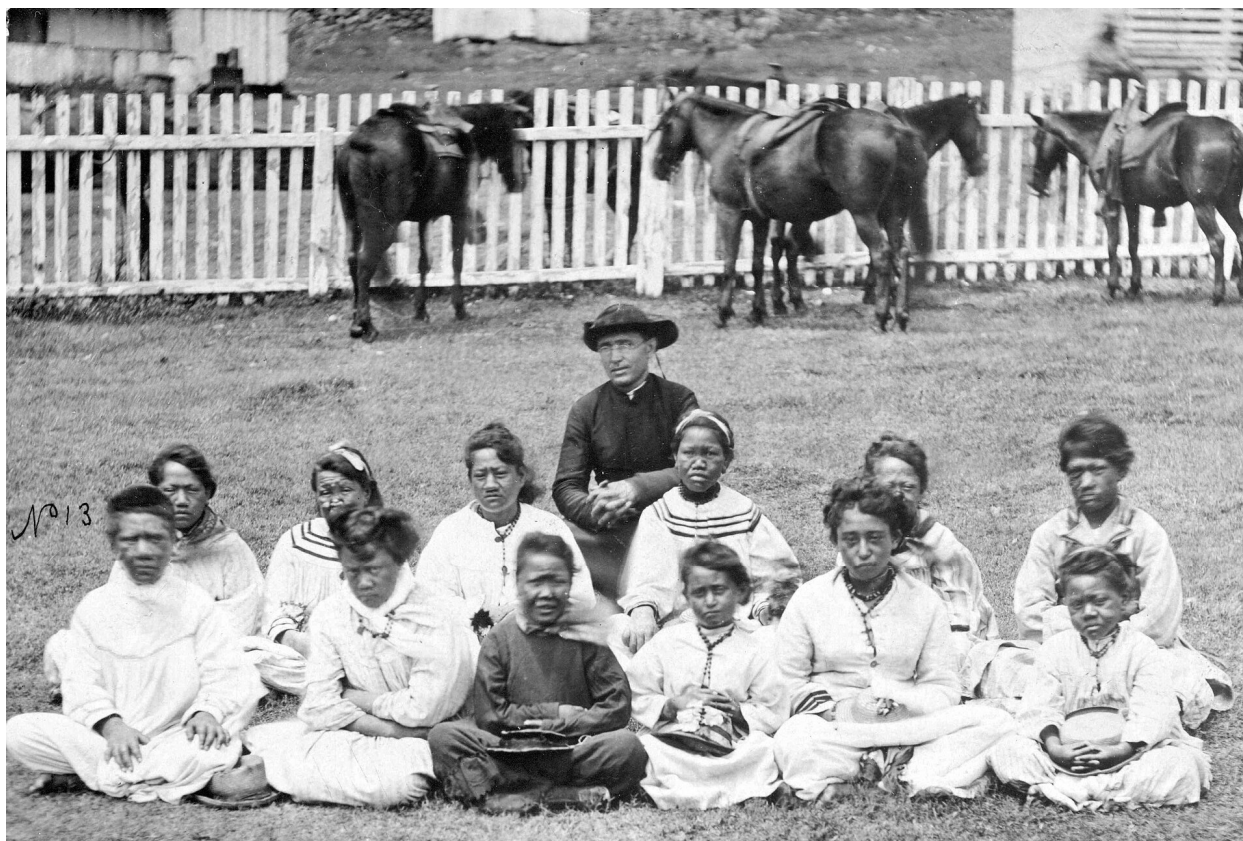
Narrator: Robin Williams

Music by: Keola Beamer

Historical Consultants: Anwei Skinsnes Law, Gavan Daws, Kalaupapa Historical Society.

About Blue Rider Pictures

Founded by Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Walter Josten, Blue Rider Pictures has produced more than 200 feature films and documentaries worldwide. The company is known for its commitment to human stories that bridge art, empathy, and history.



Father Damien with the Kalawao Girls Choir at Kalaupapa, Molokai, circa 1878

For media requests, interviews, or screeners, please contact:

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For more information go to:

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