



# Aria Pictures

Making movies our own way

ARIA PICTURES presents

# THE GOLDEN TREE

a GERALD MARTIN DAVENPORT film

ARIA PICTURES PRESENTS A GERALD MARTIN DAVENPORT FILM "THE GOLDEN TREE"

BILL BETTENCOURT ROB TILLITZ JASON MICHAEL SHANNON JOSEPH BALDRIDGE  
CAREY WHITE JR. NOBLE L. ENGLE ALEX HARRIS KYRIE SIERRA DAVENPORT GARY UDELL  
KARLY AVVA TONI CORBETT DAN L. WALTERS MARK HOFFMAN NOLAN BOURASSA  
STEVEN SOMMER ADRIEN BOURASSA MEGHAN MALIA BIRD AMBER DEANN GRACE ROSE  
COURTNEY LEONARD-MAYE ARIA LEVEN DAVENPORT STEVE DAKOTA YINIQUE MYO-FLORES  
HALEY HICKS SUSAN SLAVEN ROB HAYES ARAMIS LIAM CLAIRE ELIZAMETH

MUSIC COMPOSED AND PERFORMED BY DANNY GRAY CINEMATOGRAPHY BY BRENDAN BROOKS

CO-PRODUCER SANDY SCHMIDT PRODUCED BY TAMARA DAVENPORT

WRITTEN, DIRECTED, AND EDITED BY GERALD MARTIN DAVENPORT

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# **THE GOLDEN TREE**

A story about a father who piques his daughter's interest about the discovery of their historic relatives during the Sacramento gold rush, and when she finds a journal written by her great great, great, great uncle William Wimmer, a treasure hunt begins.

## **THE PAST COMES TO LIFE**

A group of 28 actors and 17 crew members began a journey to revisit the past and tell it through the eyes of a young boy who grows up during the dangerous, wild, and unpredictable times of the old west.

A fantastic ensemble of volunteer actors and crew made the epic climb to complete this film without ever knowing each other and not only doing it with integrity but with honor and humility.

Without any rehearsals, auditions, or tests the newly formed team battled the elements of water, distance, and time without missing a beat. As a filmmaker it was truly a joy and a privilege to be part of the cast & crew of THE GOLDEN TREE that I will call my family.



## **IT IS "NOT" A DOCUMENTARY**

THE GOLDEN TREE is not a documentary; rather it is a thoroughly researched story about events that actually happened, and where there might have been some gaps in recorded history, the filmmakers took creative liberties to fill in the blanks — based on their interpretation of facts published in nearly a dozen reference books.

Nearly a two year long cinematic journey began in May of 2009 and in April of 2010 Access Sacramento selected the story as one of ten screenplays (45 were submitted) to be produced for A Place Called Sacramento Film Festival.

The Director produced the movie as a 20th birthday gift to his son Aria Leven Davenport who plays William Wimmer (19) in the film.



No studio or sound stage was used in the making of THE GOLDEN TREE. The film was lensed at five authentic locations: Sutter's Fort in Sacramento, North Star House Properties in Grass Valley, along the South Fork of the American River in Lotus, in Nevada City, and along the Yuba River at Bridgeport.

The film spotlights some of the famous, not-so-famous, and infamous people who lived in Northern California during the mid-1800s: James Marshall, John Sutter, Anna Dubelt Sutter, Samuel Brannan, Rafael Escobar, the Richard 'Rattlesnake Dick' Barter Gang, and the Wimmer Family: Jennie, Peter, George, Sarah, William, Benjamin, and Martha Jane.





**“THE GOLDEN TREE, by Gerald Martin Davenport, delved into the history of the Sacramento region while bringing family together.”**

**- Ron Cooper, Access Sacramento**

**“I swear I was watching one of those classic Hollywood westerns of the past... the acting, cinematography, and the music took me back.”**

**- Maynard Walkaberry, premiere patron**

**“...what delight returned to me as I remembered having visited Sutter’s Mill drive through the area. Thank you for sharing...it was really enjoyable to watch, and you did a great Sutter impersonation, Mark Hoffman, the accent and all.”**

**- a viewer in Brigham City, Utah**







**"You are a great director and you are going to direct the movie that makes me famous, I have that feeling."**

- Rob Tillitz, Actor [Henry] and owner of The Cedar Room Bar

**"You did a fantastic job on the film, the DVD and the event Gerald! My wife and I had a wonderful time. I sincerely hope we have an opportunity to work together again! Best wishes"**

- Rob Hayes, Actor [Zeke]

**"Thank you for a special Premiere event!!! We all enjoyed the film and the festivities! Best wishes to you, your family and your film endeavors! Please keep us updated! Karly would love to do another film with you. She thoroughly enjoyed working with you and the experience!"**

- Tracy Avva, parent of Karly and additional casting credit





**“Gerry. That was quite an event....lots of organization. I liked the concept -- love “digging” into ancestry. So much fun. Looked like everyone was having a good time telling the story. Where will you go next?”**

**- Peggy Levine, North Star Historic Conservancy**

**“Thank you for a Wonderful Experience! I loved the movie and the event. You and your friends are wonderful people. I would be honored to work with you again. You did a great Job!”**

**- Susan Slaven, Actor [Sarah Wimmer 1859] and Slate Girl**

**“Working with Gerald and his talented team was an experience I’ll never forget. Acting with the beautiful Yinique Myo-Flores, who plays Mee Lien, my character’s strong willed and outspoken attaché to China in 1859, made me feel like I’d traveled in a time machine back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century”**

**- Steve Dakota, Actor [Samuel Brannan - California’s first millionaire]**



**“Dearest Gerald...You are a person of a Golden Heart : ) I would love to and look forward to working with you, any project, any day. From the first day I felt very welcomed and became part of your family. YOU set the tone for this wonderful team work environment and I appreciate so much all the hard work you put in to make the story so enriched. We all looked really great and it was a beautiful film.**

**It was an amazing experience when I first met you and I wondered how can a person be so nice and be thoughtful for everyone and a great director as well. Your creative work was precise and beautifully captured. Warmest Regards...”**

**- Yinique Myo-Flores, Actor [Mee Lien]**

**“Three of us from Wolf Creek Lodge co-housing went to see your film today. Congratulations! You did a nice job and involved many talented people in your project plus doing some good in the community. You had a full house, too.”**

**- Magdalene Jaeckel, Member of Wolf Creek Lodge Co housing in Grass Valley**

## **A STATEMENT FROM THE DIRECTOR**

It humbles me so, and more than I already was before starting this project, to be able to work with such great people — whom allowed me to be a part of their lives and have enriched mine with their grace, warmth, and love — a rare, but possible, encounter that each one of us is blessed to experience at least once in our lifetime.

I do not follow many philosophies or ideologies but the ones I do, I take to heart, follow with conviction, and pass along to everyone I meet. One such philosophy that I morally believe in is be as honest and sincere with everyone you meet and anything you do; and that was one of the main threads I brought to the production, and in so doing, the energy, enthusiasm, eagerness on set was contagious.

It did not matter to anyone that it was 103 degrees out, we got flooded out by the rising river, we had been there all day, we had to wait many times for cars to go by, or the crew never took a break; the actors and crew were there to do a job because they were not just hired help, they had a stake in the film to make it the best that it can be.

That philosophy was also a driving force in the creation of the story. My respect for history and the people was a guiding factor when writing THE GOLDEN TREE; the characters, people, places, and events all lined up as though it were writing itself and that purpose weaved itself through the entire production as we painstakingly took the time to meticulously give full attention to every detail about the past.

My goal is to share my passion for storytelling with those involved in the storytelling process and the audience — to touch their souls, hearts, and minds so the journey will continue with them well beyond the “cut to black.”

- *gerald martin davenport*

# **CREW**

## **written, directed, and edited by GERALD MARTIN DAVENPORT**

Discovering the power of entertainment at the age of three, Creative Guru, Gerald Martin Davenport has pursued his dream with many kinds of art which has culminated to film where he can use all his skills, knowledge, and talents together to share his love for great storytelling.

## **cinematography and produced by BRENDAN BROOKS**

A man of many talents and interests, Camera Op/Equipment Man, Brendan Brooks, by day, is an Owner of an Auto Shop that has been around for 70 years, and by night or any time he feels like, is an aspiring filmmaker videographer. Brendan's motto is "let's get it done."

## **produced by TAMARA DAVENPORT**

Always collateral damage in any of her husband's projects, Producer/supporting Glue, Tamara Davenport, never intends to get involved, but she ends up being one of the main motivating forces. Although she supports Gerald's endeavors, Tamara is waiting for that elusive big break to help with the daily grind of life.

## **produced and production audio by JIM HECK**

Having interests in films, television, photography, and electronics, Producer/Audio Genius, Jim Heck took his first step into the world of filmmaking on THE GOLDEN TREE when he volunteered to do the production audio. Jim's world is filled with many adventures including helping out those he cares about.

## **script supervised by MEGAN ALICIA ENGLE**

With aspirations of being in the entertainment business, Script Supervisor/Slate Girl, Megan Alicia Engle, loves the behind-the-camera process of creation in film, animation, and television. Although she has tendencies to be in front of the camera, her goal is to eventually write and direct. She is now a PA for Lucas Film.

## **music composed and performed by DANNY GRAY**

With a background in classical music and a love for the cinematic, Danny Gray creates instrumental music based upon haunting themes, vivid imagery, and the fusion of musical styles. While his primary interest is in scoring for motion pictures and television, his works span various genres; compositions include instrumental and vocal concert works, contemporary rock/jazz, theatrical and cinematic music, and inspirational songs.



# CAST

## **ROB TILLITZ as “Henry”**

Rob Tillitz is an ex commercial salmon fisherman turned writer, innkeeper, and actor. Rob has appeared in a handful of local films. Rob owns the Cedar Room bar in Carmichael which is available for movie makers to shoot barroom scenes.

## **JASON MICHAEL SHANNON as “Richard ‘Rattlesnake Dick’ Barter**

Jason Michael Shannon has been acting in Sacramento and the Bay area since 2008. He discovered his passion for acting after college when he began taking his Halloween costumes and characters more seriously. Jason has had an array of small parts in t.v., multiple independent films, movies and theater.

## **GARY UDELL as “Dad”**

Gary Udell is thrilled to be part of the “THE GOLDEN TREE” cast and working once again with Gerald Davenport. A Sacramento native, Gary began acting in local theater before moving to the Bay Area where he developed his acting in film, television, and commercials.

## **KYRIE SIERRA DAVENPORT as “Sierra”**

Kyriè is an 18 year old sophomore at Longwood University who has a passion for acting and understanding human actions. She graduated with the first class of Ghidotti Early College High School in Grass Valley, CA and also received her Associate's degree in Liberal Arts. She is currently at school working on her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology.

## **MARK HOFFMAN as “John Sutter”**

Despite showing prodigious aptitude for performing arts in music and drama at an early age, making a profession of it was discouraged by parents who advised, “You can’t make a living doing that; be a doctor.” So, Mark made his living primarily as a clinical psychologist. When Mark's son showed similar prodigious aptitudes, he was not going to discourage him but fostering his growth as a performer led Mark back into theatrical endeavors.

## **MEGHAN MALIA BIRD as “Anna Dubelt Sutter”**

Meghan began her acting training her freshman year at Sierra College — a fellow actor in a college production introduced her to the world of film acting and she has never looked back; though she continued training as well as appeared in a few small roles, she waited until she graduated with her business degree from CSUS.

## **COURTNEY LEONARD-MAYE as “Beatrice”**

Courtney Leonard-Maye graduated from Western Career College as a Medical Assistant and is majored in acting at American River College.

## **ARIA LEVEN DAVENPORT as “William Riley Wimmer” in 1859**

At 6'4" and 20 years of age, Aria is seen as ideal for sports; however, his interests and hobbies take him on a far different path exercising the mind; though... he does play sports occasionally. Spending his time with creative activities has involved him with things such as, music, aviation, art, games, reading, writing, and a fair bit of dramatics. Aria is an accomplished pilot, a skilled guitarist, and an avid gamer.

## **STEVE DAKOTA as “Samuel Brannan”**

In addition to Samuel Brannan in “THE GOLDEN TREE” Steve portrays Max in the film “Butterscotch” as part of this year's A Place Called Sacramento (PCS) Film Festival. His past PCS film appearances include the next door neighbor in “POV-K9” and the reality TV show host in “Lost: Sacramento.” Steve studied acting with Janis Stevens as well as improv & theater games with Pam Downs at American River College, and improv with Charlie Holliday at the Mosaic Acting Studio.

## **HALEY HICKS as “Victoria Marie”**

Haley Hicks has been singing, acting, and making people laugh since she was old enough to talk. Born in Sacramento in 1994, Haley is a real California girl; she has played many roles in the musical theater from small church choir parts to the lead as Peter Pan.

## **ROB HAYES as “Zeke”**

In late 2006, Rob and his wife Michelle were discussing ways to participate in a shared experience when they were presented with the opportunity to audition for the musical “Scrooge” in Rocklin. Rob was given the role of Jacob Marley. Since then, Rob has played Horace Vandergelder in “Hello Dolly” The Wizard in “The Wizard of Oz” Sid Sorokin in “Pajama Game” Ted Farley in “Smile (Elly)” Henry Ford in “Ragtime” The King in “Big River” Merlin in “Camelot” Roy Hubley in “Plaza Suite” Bill Sykes in “Oliver” Harold Hill in “The Music Man,” and Roy Cohn in “Angels in America.”





BEHIND-THE-SCENES with Brendan Brooks (Camera/DP/Producer) and Jim Heck (Production Sound/Producer)

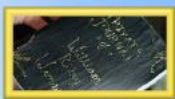
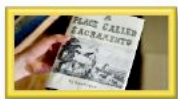


BEHIND-THE-SCENES with Megan Alicia Engle (Script Supervisor/Slate) and Brendan Brooks



BEHIND-THE-SCENES with Meghan Malia Bird (ANNA DUBELT SUTTER), Aria Leven Davenport (WILLIAM WIMMER/PA/more), Gerald Martin Davenport (Writer/Director/Editor), Brendan Brooks, and Jim Heck





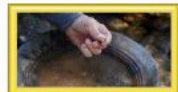
THE GOLDEN TREE is an epic heart touching story about a Dad and his two daughters who discover their family tree has roots to the California Gold Rush in 1848.

While searching for more information Sierra, the oldest daughter, comes across a mysterious journal written by her great, great, great, great uncle.

Inside the journal Sierra reads about what life was like back in the mid 1800's for her uncle and family; she also finds a map of Sutter's fort and it's surrounding area that show where gold was buried under a tree — THE GOLDEN TREE!



THE GOLDEN TREE is not a documentary about the Gold Rush in Northern California, nor is it a cheap reenactment of the events.



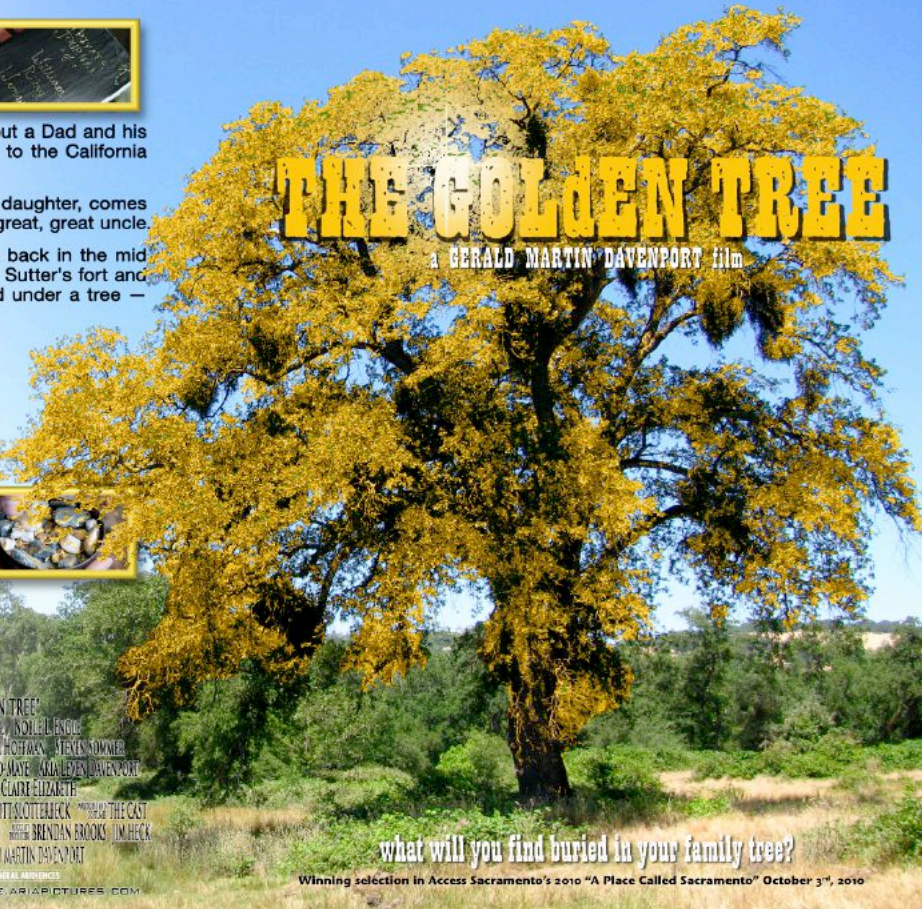
Buried Inside this DVD you will find:  
 • Original 10 minute film  
 • 42 minute version  
 • A behind-the-scenes slideshow by Jim Heck  
 • Trailers, interactive menus, and more.

Presented in 16:9 widescreen format.

ARIA PICTURES PRESENTS A GERALD MARTIN DAVENPORT FILM "THE GOLDEN TREE"  
 EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: BILL BETTENCOURT, ROB TILITZ, JASON MICHAEL SHANNON, JOSEPH BALDOLLO, CARLY WHITE, INSULLE ENGLE  
 PRODUCED BY: ALEX HARRIS, KIRIE SIERRA DAVENPORT, GARY UDELL, KARYL AWA, TONI CORBETT, DAN L. WALTERS, MARK HOFFMAN, STEVEN SOMMER  
 WRITTEN BY: MEGHAN MALLA BIRD, ADRIEN BOULASSA, NOLAN BOULASSA, AMBER DEANN, GRACE ROSE, COURTNEY LEONARD-MAYE, KYLE LEVEN DAVENPORT  
 DIRECTED BY: STEVE DAKOTA, YINIQUE MORA-FLORES, HALEY HICKS, SUSAN SLAVEN, ROB HAYES, ADAMIS LIAM, CLAIRE ELIZABETH  
 CASTING BY: MEGAN ALICIA ENGLE, NOLAN ENGLE, KIRIE SIERRA DAVENPORT, KYLE LEVEN DAVENPORT, GARY UDELL, JIM HECK, JARAP HOSBIE, SCOTT SCOTTER HECK, MICHAEL THE CAST  
 COSTUME DESIGNER: DANNY GRAY  
 MUSIC BY: TAMIARA DAVENPORT  
 EDITOR: SANDY SCHMIDT  
 EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: GARY UDELL, MICHELE BURRIS, BRIAN BRENDAN BROOKS, JIM HECK  
 PRODUCED BY: ARIA PICTURES  
 WRITTEN BY: GERALD MARTIN DAVENPORT  
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 WWW.THEGOLDENTREE.ARIAPICTURES.COM

# THE GOLDEN TREE

a GERALD MARTIN DAVENPORT film



what will you find buried in your family tree?

Winning selection in Access Sacramento's 2010 "A Place Called Sacramento" October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010

## TECHNICAL SPECS

2010 - 2011 / HD 1920 x 1080 60i / color / 16x9 /  
 5.1 Dolby Digital Surround / 42 minutes

## ENJOY IT ON BLU RAY

THE GOLDEN TREE is now available on Blu Ray, in full HD, as an addition to the [Petite Chardonnay](#) disk, which also includes the WATERING hole in full HD, as well as, previews and more.

The disks are hand made one at a time; there are no mass-produced cost savings.

SEND \$30 TO:  
 Gerald Davenport  
 Post Office Box 1983  
 Grass Valley, California 95945

And a return address.





## **FULL CAST & CREW**

<b>BILL BETTENCOURT</b>	Arlen
<b>ROB TILLITZ</b>	Henry
<b>JASON MICHAEL SHANNON</b>	Rattlesnake Dick
<b>JOSEPH BALDRIDGE</b>	George Skinner
<b>CAREY WHITE JR.</b>	Rafael Escobar
<b>NOBLE L. ENGLE</b>	Romero
<b>ALEX HARRIS</b>	Cyrus Skinner
<b>GARY UDELL</b>	Dad
<b>KYRIÈ SIERRA DAVENPORT</b>	Sierra
<b>KARLY AVVA</b>	Brooke
<b>TONI CORBETT</b>	Great Great Grandma Cecilia Wimmer
<b>MARK HOFFMAN</b>	John Sutter
<b>DAN L. WALTERS</b>	James Marshall
<b>NOLAN BOURASSA</b>	George Wimmer
<b>STEVEN SOMMER</b>	Peter Wimmer
<b>ADRIEN BOURASSA</b>	William Riley Wimmer [1848]
<b>MAGHAN MALIA BIRD</b>	Anna Dubelt Sutter
<b>AMBER DEANN</b>	Jennie Wimmer
<b>COURTNEY LEONARD-MAYE</b>	Beatrice
<b>GRACE ROSE</b>	Sarah Wimmer [1848]
<b>ARIA LEVEN DAVENPORT</b>	William Riley Wimmer [1859]
<b>STEVE DAKOTA</b>	Samuel Brannan
<b>YINIQUE MYO-FLORES</b>	Mee Lien
<b>HALEY HICKS</b>	Victoria Marie
<b>ARAMIS LIAM</b>	Benjamin Franklin Wimmer
<b>CLAIRE ELIZABETH</b>	Martha Jane Wimmer
<b>SUSAN SLAVEN</b>	Sarah Wimmer [1859]
<b>ROB HAYES</b>	Zeke

written, directed, and edited by	GERALD MARTIN DAVENPORT
produced by	TAMARA DAVENPORT
executive producers	BRENDAN BROOKS
	JIM HECK
cinematography, camera, and lighting by	BRENDAN BROOKS
music composed and performed by	DANNY GRAY
production sound by	JIM HECK
	STEVE STUBBS
	ARIA LEVEN DAVENPORT
	JEREMY HECK
	TAMARA DAVENPORT
script supervisor and slate	MEGAN ALICIA ENGLE
gun wrangler	NOBLE L. ENGLE
art work & set decoration	ARIA LEVEN DAVENPORT
	KYRIÈ SIERRA DAVENPORT
	TAMARA DAVENPORT

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## **THE GOLDEN TREE**

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