

Warren Miller Modern Media Award

“Buried: The 1982 Alpine Meadows Avalanche”

Realization Films

“Buried: The 1982 Alpine Meadows Avalanche” is a compelling documentary about memory, tragedy and the terrifying power of nature.

The massive avalanche, the 3rd deadliest in US history, descended on Alpine Meadows Ski Resort triggering a desperate five-day search for eight missing people, the miraculous rescue efforts and the traumas that still haunt the survivors today.

Through interviews and outdoor footage, both modern and archival, it creates a sense of the horror and scale

of the disaster in the Lake Tahoe area. The stunning recreations put the viewer as close to an actual avalanche as anybody would ever want to get.

This documentary was made at the right time. The forecaster and the ski patrol members were young adults in 1982, so they’re still alive, ranging in age from their mid-60s to early 70s.

Their memories are so vivid, but they have also had the time to come to grips with all they did and saw and each of them have had to deal with their feelings in the aftermath.

