

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**TELEVISION ACADEMY FOUNDATION TO COLLABORATE
WITH NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL ON FIRST
NATIONAL COLLEGE STUDENT ONLINE EVENT TO ADDRESS
TV'S PORTRAYAL OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS**

**Thousands of Aspiring Young Screenwriters Expected to Participate
When Registration Opens for Virtual Event 'Access: Behind the
Screens with *Paradise* Writer Stephen Markley'**



Stephen Markley



Daniel Hinerfeld



Meredith Milton

(LOS ANGELES – Jan. 15, 2026) — The Television Academy Foundation today announced it will present, in association with the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), a free, virtual event for media arts students and early career professionals: "Access: Behind the Screens with *Paradise* Writer Stephen Markley" Wednesday, Jan. 21, 11 a.m. - noon PST / 2 - 3 p.m. EST.

The live discussion will feature environmental experts from "[Rewrite the Future](#)," NRDC's initiative to support Hollywood creators in representing environmental topics on screen (nrdc.org/RewriteTheFuture). NRDC is a global advocacy organization with over 3 million members that uses science, law and policy to solve environmental problems. By thoughtfully and organically integrating the subject into plots, character profiles, locations and scenes, ecological narratives can help raise awareness and broaden public understanding.

Leading the discussion are *Paradise* series writer and bestselling *The Deluge* author Stephen Markley whose writing often explores environmental themes; two-time Emmy-winner and Rewrite the Future Director Daniel Hinerfeld; and Rewrite the Future Creative Director and former studio executive and producer Meredith Milton.

"We're proud to partner with NRDC to offer this free event to spark awareness and dialogue," said Tina Perry, chair of the Television Academy Foundation. "This conversation embodies the Foundation's commitment to empowering aspiring storytellers with the tools, perspectives and inspiration they need to tell impactful stories that reflect the world around us."

[Access: Behind the Screens](#) is the Foundation's education program that offers behind-the-scenes access to the television industry for students and early career professionals through masterclass workshops and panel discussions with top industry professionals.

Students can register for the online discussion at TelevisionAcademy.com/access-bts/register.

About the Television Academy Foundation

The Television Academy Foundation is dedicated to inspiring tomorrow's Emmy winners today by discovering and championing future television leaders. Through its celebrated nationwide programs — including its [Internship Program](#) and [College Television Awards](#) — the Foundation opens doors for emerging talent, empowering them to launch careers in television. The Foundation also produces [The Interviews: An Oral History of Television](#), an extraordinary archive that preserves the stories of the industry's most influential voices. Together, these initiatives inspire creativity, foster inclusion and shape the future of television. For more information on the Foundation, please visit TelevisionAcademy.com/Foundation.

About NRDC

NRDC (Natural Resources Defense Council) is a leading international environmental advocacy organization. Visit us at nrdc.org and follow us on X [@NRDC](#).

About Rewrite the Future

Rewrite the Future leverages NRDC's environmental expertise to help creators tell entertaining stories about our climate-altered world and the path toward a better future. Visit us at nrdc.org/RewriteTheFuture.

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